



# THE VALLEY PATRIOT

"Congress shall make no law..."

valleypatriot.com

2004

A New England Press Association Award Winning Newspaper

2012

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

FEBRUARY, 2012  
VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2  
Edition 100!

274 Prospect St. Lawrence  
FLAVORFRESHBRAND.COM

Merrimack Valley's Preferred  
Memorial Provider  
See Our Ad P. 11

Exhaust Problem?  
No Problem!  
**LOW COST  
EXHAUST**  
PAGE 14

CONGRATULATIONS  
ON TURNING  
**100**  
~State Rep. Linda Dean Campbell

**Consoli  
Wilshusen**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
SEE OUR AD P. 5

## OUR 100TH EDITION!



Valley Patriot Owners: Tom Duggan (President and Publisher), Ralph Wilbur (Owner of Graphic Industries), and Doctor Charles Ormsby, (Professor at The University of Massachusetts, Lowell), as they prepare for the printing of the 100th edition of The Valley Patriot . ....**SEE PAGE 3**

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

<b>Jeff Katz</b> on Chuck Turner, P. 5	<b>PuppyGirl Kate Whitney PAGE 31</b>
Veterans.....1, 39, 44	
Thinking Outside the Box.....2	
Paying Attention! with Tom Duggan.....3	
Jeff Katz-OpEd.....5	
Andover-North Andover.....6-7	
Lowell-Dracut.....8	
Methuen.....9-15	
Jack's Irish Craic.....15	
Massachusetts.....13,20	
Lawrence.....16,17	
Georgetown-Haverhill.....17	
Tea Party/Politics.....19-41	
Tom Duggan's Notebook.....22,23,42	
Local Political Cartoonist.....23	
World Views.....26	
The Doctor is IN.....27	
Pennie Hale & Food.....29	
Cooking with Colleen.....29	
Sheila's Recipe Corner.....29	
Puppy Girl & Tracy Zysk.....30-31	
Dr. Sung.....32	
LIVE THE WOW!.....33	
2004 Looking Back.....34	
2006 Looking Back.....38	
<b>GARDNER, N. CENTRAL MA.....40-41</b>	
National.....13, 43	
Guest Submissions.....46	
	<b>Christine Morabito TEA PARTY PAGE 19</b>
	<b>Pennie Hale Let's Talk About Food PAGE 29</b>
	<b>Dani Langevin Lesbian Columnist PAGE 26</b>
	<b>The Doc. is IN Dr. Rami Rustum PAGE 27</b>

## VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

### Hero in Our Midst: T/Sgt. Alfred E. Dusey, USAAF (ret.)

Helen Mooradkian  
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

Nineteen-year old Technical Sergeant Al Dusey, USAAF, 8th Army Air Force, of Andover, Mass., flew on 23 strategic bombing missions with the 447th

Heavy Bomb Group during WWII. Three of them were history-making events: support for Allied ground troops in the decisive Battle of the Bulge, and two massive bombing assaults, the largest ever, on "The Big B," Berlin.

He had dreamed of becoming a pilot since the age of 14. He became part of the greatest air power over Europe and took part in its fiercest battles.

Al served with the 708th Squadron as top-turret engineer/gunner and crew chief on a B-17 Flying Fortress, dubbed "Ol' Boomerang," based in England's Rattlesden Air Field, near the village of Bury St. Edmunds. He was in charge of twin 50-caliber machine-guns.

When he first arrived in England in December 1944, Europe was experiencing weeks of unusually severe snowstorms, heavy fog and the coldest temperatures on record. Taking advantage of this, Hitler had launched a "surprise attack" against U.S. and British ground troops in the Battle of the Bulge (sometimes called the Ardennes Offensive), and the Allies were suffering horrific losses trapped without any air support.

Suddenly the weather cleared on Christmas Eve 1944, and the 8th Army Air Force launched a massive air attack on German military sites to support ground troops. That Christmas Eve Al flew his first combat mission. Their target was an airfield in Zellhausen, Germany. They hit it "smack center."

The Battle of the Bulge, which continued to the end of January, was the largest land battle for the U.S., a turning point in the war. It covered an 80-mile front that stretched from southern Belgium through the Ardennes Forest, down to the middle of Luxembourg.

When the crew of "Ol' Boomerang"



T/Sgt. Alfred E. Dusey, USAAF (ret.), 8th Air Force, Andover, flew in decisive air offensives in WWII, including the Battle of the Bulge and two raids on military sites in the heart of Berlin. His 23 successful combat missions earned him the Air Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters, WWII Victory Medal, and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal. Andover presented him with a plaque for his many years of contributions to the town's veterans.

DUSEY: PAGE 44

Visit our retail showroom for tremendous savings on new and used furniture!

## The Office Exchange

"Your Office Furniture Resource"

425 Merrimack St., Lawrence, MA 01843

TEL: (978) 681-5001 \* Fax: (978) 681-5011

Our Retail Outlet has the  
**BEST PRICES IN THE VALLEY**  
On New or Pre-Owned Furniture  
for your home or office

Open: M-TH 8AM-3PM,  
FRI 8AM-1PM



Offering new, Refurbished  
& Pre-Owned Office  
Furniture & Panel Systems

theofficexchange.com email: Info@Theofficexchange.com

Installations, Relocations, Liquidations, Buy-Back Solutions... Home or Office!



# Why Isn't the Unemployment Rate Zero?

... or, there goes the government screwing things up again!

**Doctor Chuck Ormsby**  
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR/COLUMNIST

We are so used to hearing about the rate of unemployment that we have come to think that a significant percentage of the workforce (those who are able and desiring to work) being unemployed is normal. But it is not.

In a free market economy people are only unemployed if they don't want to work; i.e., they choose not to work because they prefer to do something else and forego the opportunities available to sell their labor.

On the demand side, there is never a lack of things that people want or services that people want performed. Everybody has desires and corresponding amounts that they are willing to pay to satisfy those desires.

On the supply side, everyone has skills or capabilities to make things or perform various services and there are corresponding amounts that they are willing to accept for their products or services.

The free market is where these demands and supplies meet and auctions are conducted to provide the most compatible matches of suppliers and consumers.

Compatibility has many dimensions: price, convenience, quality, timeliness, safety, trustworthiness, reputation, payment terms, future guarantees, etc. The auction is complicated because life is complicated. That is just the way it is.

The auction always includes, for all participants, the option of not participating in any economic trade/transaction and doing something else. We'll refer to that option as "going to the beach."

Deciding to not work because the opportunities offered to you are less attractive than going to the beach is understand-



able. You may have sufficient resources saved so that the most favorable employment income offered would render you less happy than going to the beach. There is nothing wrong with that.

It is just as understandable that someone will forego the opportunity to acquire a product or service (i.e., hiring someone) because the lowest offered price is greater than what he is willing to pay. We experience this hundreds of times each week when we walk through Walmart or our local Lamborghini dealership and decline to purchase over 99 percent of the items offered. The same is true when we consider hiring prospective employees.

It is perfectly natural that some people choose not to work for the benefit of others for some period of their lives. They have merely decided that not working (going to the beach or, alternately, working for themselves or their family or a charity) maximizes their happiness.

These individuals have taken themselves out of the labor market and they are not part of the pool of individuals that the unemployment rate is based upon.

The unemployment rate measures the percentage of those who have a serious desire to work, yet are unemployed because there are no opportunities for employment. For this group, the free market unemployment rate should be very close to zero ... consisting only of those who are terminated by their employer and who are in the process of identifying the best available opportunities for being re-employed.

What is not normal is for any significant percentage (say over one to two percent) of those seriously desiring to work to be unemployed at any given time. All unemployment above this level – 80 to 90 percent of those currently unemployed – is due to government interference in the labor market.

It is hard to conceive of any mechanisms and/or policies that would effectively discourage employment that the government is not aggressively pursuing today as it wrings its hands and loudly professes to be concerned about unemployment.

What does the government do to cause unemployment?

- It penalizes those who hire employees (imposing healthcare and retirement requirements, extracting unemployment taxes, decreeing sick-pay, vacation, disability and family leave benefits, all while enforcing government-mandated work rules)
- It subsidizes the option of being unemployed through government mandated unemployment benefits (it subsidizes going to the beach)
- It restricts employment in hundreds of professions through licensing (over 100 professions are licensed in Massachusetts) and/or setting arbitrary employment limits, such as limiting the number of available taxi medallions (e.g., 13,237 today in NYC compared to almost 17,000 in 1937!)

- It outlaws some professions altogether (e.g., gaming, prostitution)
- It imposes minimum wage rates, discouraging employment in entry-level jobs
- It encourages and empowers labor cartels (unions) that artificially raise the cost of employment while reducing productivity (and thus profitability, and, as a result, the incentive to hire)
- It imposes costs on employees (income taxes, Social Security, FICA, union dues, etc.), thus reducing the benefits derived from employment

By constantly interfering in the free market, the government substantially reduces the profits that can result from adding employees (even given all of the factors outlined above), thus further curtailing job creation

And finally, by imposing all of these costs, it substantially raises the costs of the goods and services that result from employment and therefore reduces the demand for those goods and services ... and, you guessed it, that eliminates the need for the labor needed to produce them.

I would offer a list of all the ways that the government encourages job creation and employment, but other than creating a consistent legal framework that supports private property rights, there is none. (Note: For those who are fans of government jobs, it should be noted that every extra-constitutional government job created destroys two private sector jobs, not to mention causing an accompanying loss in productivity.)

The free market only needs the government to fulfill its legitimate functions as outlined in our federal and state constitutions – and nothing more – and unemployment will virtually disappear. In fact, if government got out of the way, overall employment would increase much more than just putting the current unemployed to work. With a healthier private economy, many people who currently choose not to work will be attracted back into the labor market, both because employment opportunities will expand and because real wages will increase.

Isn't it about time to free the American people, let our citizens go back to work and banish President Obama to the beach? I hear there are very nice beaches on the island of Elba.



*Dr. Ormsby is an ex-member of the N.A. School Committee. He is a graduate of Cornell and has a doctorate from MIT. He is currently a Professor of Mathematics at UMASS, Lowell.*

You can email him at: [ccormsby@comcast.net](mailto:ccormsby@comcast.net)

The Valley Patriot is published monthly before the tenth of each month by the Valley Patriot, Inc., PO Box 453, North Andover, MA 01845. Copyright (c) 2012, Valley Patriot, Inc. All rights reserved. Subscriptions are \$50 per year and sent via U.S. Mail.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Valley Patriot, Inc., POB 453, North Andover, MA 01845.

**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.

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.

*The Valley Patriot is printed by Graphic Development in West Hanover, Mass.*

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

**PHONE:** (978) 771-4091  
[www.valleypatriot.com](http://www.valleypatriot.com)

#### News tips

Phone in anonymous news-tips to (978) 683-3952, or you may email tips to us at [valleypatriot@aol.com](mailto:valleypatriot@aol.com). We respect the anonymity of our sources if requested.

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

#### Editorial Board:

**President/Publisher:** Tom Duggan, Jr.  
**VP/Director:** Ralph Wilbur  
**Editor:** Charles Ormsby  
**Copy Editor:** Linda Lemerise

## PEST-END, INC. EXTERMINATORS

15 PELHAM STREET, METHUEN

We Make Ants Say "UNCLE"

- General Pest Control For Over 40 Pests
- Residential Interior & Exterior Services
- Home Protection Plan (Yearly Interior & Exterior Agreement)
- Exterior Protection Plan (Yearly Exterior Agreement)
- VA & FHA Wood Destroying Insect Report (Received Day Of Service)
- Bee, Wasp, Hornet & Yellow Jacket Treatments
- Sentricon Termite Elimination System
- Termite Treatments
- Preconstruction Treatments
- Mold Prevention
- Squirrel Trapping
- Food Processing Facilities

**We Specialize in BedBugs**



### VISIT OUR NH LOCATIONS

82 PLAISTOW ROAD, PLAISTOW, NH  
603-382-9644

92 WEST BROADWAY, DERRY, NH  
603-425-1995

**Quick, reliable service since 1977**

### Specializing in the control of

- \* ANTS \* COCKROACHES \* TERMITES
- \* FLEAS \* SILVERFISH \* RATS \* MICE
- \* BEES, ETC



PAYING ATTENTION! with TOM DUGGAN



# The Valley Patriot, 100 Editions Later

LOOKING BACK AT NEARLY 8 YEARS AND 100 EDITIONS OF EXCLUSIVE NEWS AND VIEWS!

Tom Duggan

VALLEY PATRIOT PRESIDENT, PUBLISHER

## LOOKING BACK AT OUR FIRST EDITION

Next month The Valley Patriot will celebrate our 8th anniversary. It's quite a milestone considering that the experts in the industry, and the local pundits predicted our doom from day one. I remember how they belly laughed when we announced the unveiling of a "real newspaper". In the next edition we will reprint more of our best stories and submissions over the last eight years (as we have done in part one of this two month celebration of milestones.)

This month, just one month shy of our eight year anniversary we hit an even bigger milestone. This edition of the Valley Patriot that you are holding in your hand is our 100th edition.

We have covered a lot of news stories, printed a lot of columns and conducted numerous investigative reports since then. We've had many honors and awards bestowed upon us and along the way we've taken our share of hits.

Yes, it's been a wild ride for sure.

Shootings, stabbings, political corruption, fires, political campaigns, lengthy and substantive debates about taxes, public policy, educational concepts and saving puppies.... You could say we've

seen it all.

But, through nearly eight years and the 100 editions we have published, we are most proud of being able to educate the public about what is going on around them and hopefully making them better and more involved citizens.

We are constantly asked how we do it. How do we produce a paper this size every month and grow consistently every month?

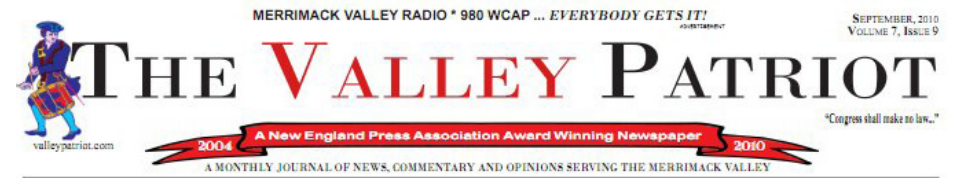
It's because other newspapers have editorial agendas that they weave into their news coverage, and we don't. They slant their news to create good guys and bad guys, and we don't. They have sacred cows among elected and appointed officials whom they protect and refuse to expose when involved in wrongdoing.

We do not.

### OUR GOAL IN 2004

We had a lot of dreams and expectations when the first edition of The Valley Patriot rolled off the printing presses at Graphic Development in Hanover, MA back in March of 2004. We had already sold enough advertising to sustain the paper for six months by the time our first edition hit the streets. But we had no idea the avalanche of adversities who would seek us out as we moved forward.

A special thank you to Keith Wlodyka of the Daily Dose Café at Sal's Riverwalk (formerly the owner of Tower Hill Vari-



## Bank Robber Suicide

HERO COPS TRY TO SAVE MAN WHO TRIED TO KILL THEM



PAGE 29

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Cahill Charges State DOR Officials with Conflicts of Interest with Lawrence Finances  
**PAGE 13**

Letters-Press Releases	2-5	The Doc. is Dr. Rami Rustom	PAGE 33
Massachusetts	4-13	Hansen Comedy Corner	PAGE 44
North Andover	5-7	Puppy Love	PAGE 42
Lawrence	10-12	Kate Whitney	PAGE 42
Tom Duggan's Notebook	14-15, 30-31	Tom Connors	Live the WOW! PAGE 35
Local Political Cartoonist	16	Beth Daigle's TV Review	PAGE 44
Jack's Irish Craze	19		
Methuen	18-21		
Haverhill	22		
Georgetown-Borford	23		
Andover-Croft	27		
National	28		
Lowell	29		
SECTION II	33		
The Doctor is In	34-35		
Healthy Body & Soul	34-35		
Simple Wisdom	36		
Senior-Kids	36		
Tips	40-42		
Puppy Love	40-42		
THE VALLEY VIBE	43-44		
Sports	45		
Veterans	46-48		
Business Cards	50-51		

ety) for advertising with us in our very first edition and committing to staying with us even before we had a product to show him. So too, did Leo Lamontagne of Leo's Auto in South Lawrence. Not only has Leo been an advertiser since the very first edition but he has stayed with us through every edition of our 100 issues (except one month when I forgot him)

With solid support from the business community behind us we set out to create a newspaper that would serve those in the community who had no voice. We wanted to open up our paper to those who were prohibited by local editorial boards (like the Eagle Tribune) from expressing their opinions the way *they* wanted to. We don't edit letters to the editor, other newspapers do. We don't change any content in article or column submissions, they do. And we don't choose what to print and what not to print based on the opinion being expressed. We don't care whether a writer wants to trash us or disagree with our views on an issue.

We believe our job is to give you the vehicle to express yourselves and let others dispute and debate it in their own letters and columns if they so choose.

We also believe our job is to tell the story of our local veterans, police officers and firefighters in every edition. It's something sorely lacking in local newspapers given the heroism these individuals are (or were) involved in.

We were determined from day one, to be a newspaper that would investigate and report, not make up stories using nuances to embarrass public figures that we don't like. But as determined and optimistic as we were, we never dreamed that the little, 16 page leaflet we were calling a

100TH EDITION, page 18

## Dr. Vaso Hatzigiannis D.D.S. Joins Dr. Joseph P. Beninato D.M.D., P.C.

After spending 6 years in Connecticut and previously working in Methuen (from 2007-2008) Dr. Vaso Hatzigiannis has returned to the Merrimack Valley as the new partner of Joseph P. Beninato in the bustling Sal's Riverwalk, on Merrimack St. in Lawrence.

Dr. Vaso takes the place of the retiring Dr. Howard Smith, who grew up in Lawrence, received his Bachelor's Degree from Merrimack College in North Andover, was a clinical instructor at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in the Craniofacial Pain Center for the past twenty years.

Dr. Vaso hails from Greece. She came to the United States to go to college in 1993 and attended Brown University for her undergrad degree and graduated from Tufts Dental School. Dr. Vaso is married with two children and lives in Boxford.

Dr. Vaso is accepting new patients for any dental work or aesthetics you need (crowns, veneers, root canals), and she does accept children as clients.

**SEE HER AD ON PAGE 27**



THANK YOU LEO'S AUTO FOR BEING WITH US SINCE OUR VERY FIRST EDITION!

**WE TAKE AAA**

**LEO & SONS**

**AUTO REPAIR**

**We Do Inspection Stickers!**

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

**157 So. Broadway, Lawrence**

**(978) 687-1155**

**Major Credit Cards & Personal Checks Accepted**

**LUBE, OIL & FILTER SPECIAL**

**\$10.00 OFF**

Up to 5 qts. of Oil 10W30

**\$10.00 OFF**

**Wheel Alignment**

4 Wheel Alignment Extra



**Thank you to The VALLEY PATRIOT TEAM!**  
Thank You for being an advocate for seniors and veterans through 100 issues!



**Benjamin Boulter**  
Executive Director

TEL: (978) 685-2220  
FAX: (978) 685-2236  
1 Gleason St.  
Methuen, MA 01844

[www.MethuenVillage.com](http://www.MethuenVillage.com) - [boulter@slr-usa.com](mailto:boulter@slr-usa.com)



**Prudential**  
First Choice Realty

184 Pleasant Valley Street,  
Suite 1-102, Methuen, MA 01844

**Dave Guselli**  
Broker/Owner

Office: 978-689-8006  
Fax: 1-866-284-2733  
Cell: 978-852-5481

[daveg@prufirstchoice.com](mailto:daveg@prufirstchoice.com)

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

Rock Solid in Real Estate  
2010 J.D. Powers Award Winner



**PERSEVERANCE  
PAYS OFF!  
CONGRATULATIONS  
ON YOUR  
100TH EDITION.**



**MONARCH LOFTS**  
STYLISH, ECO-FRIENDLY APARTMENTS

210 MERRIMACK ST.  
LAWRENCE, MA 01843

978.683.3550

[WWW.MONARCHLOFTS.COM](http://WWW.MONARCHLOFTS.COM)

**STAR Pizza**

FAMILY RESTAURANT

**BREAKFAST SERVED!!**  
6am-3pm



**Get a Free Valley Patriot  
with any food delivery!!!**

**(978) 683-0472**

Fax (978) 689-4966

**WE DELIVER!  
... BREAKFAST TOO!!!**

**CATERING SERVICES  
AVAILABLE**

[WWW.STARPIZZAOFNORTHANDOVER.COM](http://WWW.STARPIZZAOFNORTHANDOVER.COM)

Subs - Lunch - Dinners - Ice Cream - Slushies - Desserts - Hot Coffees & Sodas

**15 First Street - N. ANDOVER - Across from Town Hall - Downtown**



**Michaud Insurance Agency, Inc.**

105 Haverhill Street  
Methuen, MA 01844

978-685-2549

1-877-233-2275

Auto ~ Home ~ Umbrella ~ Business



**F**or over 30 years we have been bringing Merrimack Valley families,  
individuals and businesses superior products and customer service.

Call us or just stop by, we are here to make it easy for you.

We are Mobile!  
[WWW.MICHAUDINSURANCE.MOBI](http://WWW.MICHAUDINSURANCE.MOBI)

• Hours  
• News Blog  
• Facebook

• Call Us  
• Twitter  
• About Us

• Find Us  
• Services  
• Leave a Message



For more information check out our website  
[www.bestinsurancemerrimackvalley.com](http://www.bestinsurancemerrimackvalley.com)



**Safety Insurance**  
AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS



# The Sad, Surprising Tale of Chuck Turner

Jeff Katz

RADIO TALK SHOW HOST/TALK 1200AM

It is a very rare occasion when I am surprised by a politician's action. At this point in my life, I'd like to think I've seen it all. Growing up in Philadelphia, where we routinely had 75% or higher voter turnout from cemeteries, I learned that death did not automatically disqualify you from that warm fuzzy feeling you get upon casting a ballot. I've seen politicians of all stripes caught engaging in shakedowns.

I've watched elected officials violate the public's trust and laugh about it. So called public servants who never met a bag of cash they weren't willing to snatch, sometimes as part of some nefarious plot and sometimes because they were bored. But I just don't think I've ever seen anything like former Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner.

You surely recall the tale of Mister Turner. Picked up a degree in community temper tantrums from the hallowed halls of Harvard and then went to work, and I am making those annoying air quotes as I type "work", as a community disturber. His resume consists of various and sundry protests and marches and

really not much else. He continually told people in Roxbury that everything ailing them was the result of racism and bigotry. Turner was never interested in helping anyone achieve anything on their own. Instead his stock and trade was pandering to and advocating the worst racial bigotry imaginable.

Turner parlayed his community agitation into a spot as the City Councilor for Boston's District 7 which included Roxbury, Fenway and South End neighborhoods. He joined the council in 1999 and in his long career feeding at the public trough, the one notable piece of legislation offered by him was a measure dealing with special status for the so-called transgender community.

Most of what Turner accomplished, oh no there are those annoying air quotes again, while he served on the City Council came outside the chambers. Who can forget when he accused the Council President of "institutional racism" when debate was limited on an issue. How about that proud moment when Turner claimed that Condoleezza Rice serving as the Secretary of State for President George W. Bush was "similar in my mind to a Jewish person working for Hitler in the 1930s." And of course,

his crowning moment when he pimped fraudulent photos which he claimed showed U. S. military members raping Iraqi women.

Now the eighty grand or so he was pulling down for the greatest no show job in the Commonwealth was not enough. So Turner engaged in what he called a "preacher's handshake" and of course a miracle happened, because at the end of the grip there was \$1,000 in Turner's previously empty hand. Now if that were the usual occurrence, I've got to think that more people would attend church regularly. After his conviction and subsequent ranting and ravings, he was kicked off of the council and eventually wound up as a guest at Club Fed.

Now Turner, a/k/a/ inmate 80641-038 claims that the Boston City Council removed him from office too quickly. Well sure, he acknowledges, he had been convicted, but he had not yet been sentenced when his fellow profiles in courage showed him the door. Because of that, he now claims that he

is entitled to \$11,000 in back pay. You know the sad thing is that he'll probably win in court. I assume that the settlement will be provided to him in small unmarked bills...maybe by a preacher.

You can email Jeff at: [jeffkatz@clearchannel.com](mailto:jeffkatz@clearchannel.com)



Congratulations to the Valley Patriot TEAM on publishing 100 Issues  
~ Jeff Katz

## PASQUINA & THEBAUD

Attorneys At Law

Specializing in  
Workers'  
Compensation  
& Social Security  
Disability



Paul R. Thebaud

Phone: (617) 723-3030  
Fax: (617) 723-8995  
E-mail: [paul@pasquinlaw.com](mailto:paul@pasquinlaw.com)

183 State St., 2nd Floor  
Boston, MA 02109



HEATING, VENTILATION, AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION

Mike Minicucci  
Owner

T: (978)-360-4857  
E: [MPMmechanical1yahoo.com](mailto:MPMmechanical1yahoo.com)

LICENSED AND INSURED

## Uncontested Divorces starting at \$799.00\*

Recently voted #1 in Legal Services by WCCM.

For more than 20 years, Dick Consoli and Krista Wilshusen have worked to help couples make a fair and reasonable settlement of their affairs without unnecessary heartache, headaches or expense.

978-682-9643 ~ [www.consolilaw.com](http://www.consolilaw.com)  
30 Massachusetts Ave. North Andover, MA  
Exit 43 off Rt. 495 ~ Hablamos español

\* plus court fees

**Consoli & Wilshusen**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



# Andover Department of Community Services

**Bradford Ski & Snowboard Club-** DCS' Bradford Ski & Snowboard Club is in full swing and enjoying the unseasonably warm weather this winter. We are three weeks into the popular after school program for elementary and middle school students. The annual program begins each January in conjunction with the Bradford Ski Area and goes for six weeks. Check out some of our photos on our Facebook page.

## ADULT PROGRAMS:

The Language of Wine, Wine Sense, Lentils, and Extreme Couponing. Each course has its own unique structure to learn about different wines, explore the flavors of lentils, or to begin the journey of couponing.

Picture Framing, Italian Conversation I & II, French Conversation I, II & III, Zumba, and Baking Essentials

REGISTER Online: [andoverma.gov/dcs](http://andoverma.gov/dcs), Phone: 978-623-8274

Check out our Facebook page for updates, additional pictures, and program information.

Summer programs are filling up quickly. Get registered today!

Tuition varies for each course and is specified in each course description. Tuition must be paid at the time of registration. We do not prorate. VISA and MasterCard are accepted. Checks should be made payable to the "Town of Andover."

Non-Residents: There is an additional \$10 fee per course for non-residents. This fee is waived for those who work or attend

school in Andover, one session workshops, trips and courses priced \$15 or less.

**TODDLER PROGRAMS:** Check out our outstanding toddler programs run by Jessica Miele to get some quality time with your little one(s).

Music for Tots focuses on the wonderful world of song, rhythm, and movement. Participants will learn basic music skills

through a variety of children's songs, musical instruments, and movement activities.

A different musical instrument will also be made at each class. Additional toddler programs starting this week:

Little Palls Play Group, Tiny Tykes Basketball, and Soccer

## YOUTH PROGRAMS:

Youth dance programs begin January 30th with Miss Bev. Courses include Baby Ballet, Ballet & Tap, Dance for Fun, and Baton Twirling. Ages as young as 20 months-10 years old can enjoy their respective classes. A recital will be held for the spring classes which start in April.

Kid's Taekwondo, Create a Children's Book, Russian for Youngsters, Valentine's Cupcakes, Better Your Letters, Young Artist's Painting Studio, Basic French, Hip Hop & More, Jubilee, and Spanish Conversation II.

For more info: Janice Coppolino, Andover Department of Community Services Town Offices, 36 Bartlet St., Andover, MA 01810, 978-623-8274

## Congrats on publishing 100 ISSUES!



## Northeast Storage Corporation

*"Committed to Service and Affordability"*

466 Sutton Street  
North Andover, MA 01845

**Karen M. Montijo**  
Site Manager  
Notary Public

Cell: 978-902-7187  
Office: 978-738-0200  
Fax: 978-327-5012  
Email: [northeast466@live.com](mailto:northeast466@live.com)

# Activities From the North Andover Senior Center

The Department of Revenue has planned an extensive two-month series of presentations to educate taxpayers 65 and older about the benefits of the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit. For tax year 2011, the credit is worth as much as \$980 for eligible taxpayers 65 and older who either own or rent their home. The credit is refundable, meaning that if a taxpayer does not have an offsetting state tax liability, or has a liability that is smaller than the credit, they receive a check from the Commonwealth for either the entire credit or for the portion left after taxes are paid. Seniors who live in public or subsidized housing are not eligible for the credit. In tax year 2009, 80,566 taxpayers received \$61.1 million in tax credits, an average of \$759 per taxpayers. For more information on how the credit works and is calculated, Brian Lynch, of DOR's office of Advocacy, Training and Communication, will conduct a session on the credit at the North Andover Senior Center, the date to be announced.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** Indoor Flea Market Saturday, March 24, 2012, Call the NA Senior Center and reserve your table space. 5 ft. tables: \$15.00, 12 ft. tables \$30.00.

**Boston Flower Show:** Thursday, March 15, 2012, Seaport World Trade Center, "First Impressions" Ticket and transportation \$22.00, Lunch on your own at the

"No Name Restaurant", have a bowl of their famous fish chowder or enjoy a light lunch overlooking Boston Harbor.

## SUPPORT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS:

**MEMORY SUPPORT GROUP:** The Merrimack Valley Memory support Coalition is continuing the series of support groups for those with a diagnosis of dementia and their care partners. A new group will begin in mid-March and continue until June. If anyone is interested in participating in these support groups they should call Donna Delaney at 978-688-9560 to learn more and to book a screening. The coalition members have been trained by the Alzheimer's Association of Massachusetts.

**NEW PROGRAM:** **GIRL TALK with Lu,** started January 18, 2012, 12:30-1:30, no fee. Call to sign up. The group will explore life's transitions and related women's issues.

**VALENTINE BREAKFAST:** Come

## ZUMBA WITH TALLIE!



**Mon 3:30-4:30 Zumba Basic (Mary), Wed 3-3:45 Zumba Gold w/Tallie, Wed 4-5 Zumba Fitness w/Tallie, Thu 4:30-5:30 Zumba Fitness w/ Tallie, Sat 9:30-10:30am Zumba Fitness w/ Mary.**

join us for a special Valentine Breakfast featuring "Just Harry" a One Man Ensemble. Tuesday morning February 14,

9:00-10:30. Tickets now available \$3.00.

**VALENTINE PARTY:** Hosted by the Lawrence Elks February 17th at 11:30-3:30. Tickets will be sold at the North Andover Senior Center starting January 2, 2012. Tickets are \$6.00/ with transportation \$7.00 R/T. Tickets limited to North Andover Seniors only.

**FREE MEMORY SCREENING:** February 23, 10:30-1:30 at 15 minute intervals, call Center for appointment.

**STRESS RELIEF:** Wednesdays from 2-4 pm, 20 minute sessions with Miriam Smith, Pranac Healer. \$5 donation to the Senior Center.

**FOOT CARE SCHEDULE:** Dr. Connolly is scheduled to see clients on the 2nd Wednesday of every month starting January 11th from 1 - 4 pm by appointment only; \$30 fee.

**BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC:** Held every Wednesday, 9 to noon.

**SHINE VOLUNTEERS:** offer free, confidential counseling on all aspects of health insurance to North Andover residents on Medicare. Call the North Andover Senior Center and ask for a SHINE appointment, on either the 1st, 3rd or 4th Tuesday of the month from noon to 2 pm (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders).

**Mr. FIX IT:** Here at the Senior Center. 1st and 3rd Monday every month 12-3 pm

# Retail Space for Rent/Lease

## Lawrence's Fastest Growing Business Corridor

- \* On Merrimack St., South Lawrence
  - \* Near the N. Andover line
  - \* Thriving area near Sal's Riverwalk & Monarch on The Merrimack
- Ideal Location for Nail Salon**  
**Possible Drive up Window**

Address: 265 Merrimack St. - Phone: 978-687-9572



**1200-1600 square feet**  
**Ideal for small business /office**

**Next Door to "T" Train Station & Bus Terminal -High Traffic St.**

**Plenty of Parking!**



# Exchange Club Police Officers, Firefighters of the Year



PHOTOS: PORTRAITEFX

(Above left) Andover Police Chief Brian Pattulo with Police Officer of the Year Detective Gregory Scott, Sharon Birchall, President Elect of the Exchange Club of Lawrence, Police Officer of the Year, Detective Frank Fitzpatrick, Rick Blain, Event Chair & MC. (Above right) No. Andover Police Officer of the Year David Patenaude and Police Chief Paul Gallagher.



PHOTOS: PORTRAITEFX

(Above left) North Andover Fire Chief Andrew Melnikas, Firefighter Steve Sentementes Sharon Birchall, President Elect of the Exchange Club of Lawrence Firefighter Jeff Gartside Firefighter Ryan Nicolosi Lt. Robert Kilcoyne Rick Blain, Event Chair & MC Firefighter Dan Ryan (Not Pictured). (Above right) Andover Fire Chief Michael Mansfield with Firefighter of the Year: Firefighter Wayne Merola.

### CONGRATULATIONS ON PUBLISHING 100 ISSUES!

What I appreciate most about The Valley Patriot is that you give us real news without an editorial spin, but you also promote the conservative values we need to turn this state around and become more informed and involved as citizens.

*Paul Adams*  
State Representative (R) Andover

## Eli's Place

267 Merrimack St - Lawrence, MA 01843- (978) 687-7986

Celebrating 100 editions of The Valley Patriot!

ACROSS FROM MONARCH AND SALS! ElisPlace.net

\*We think Tommy should buy a round of coffee the next time he comes in!

### TO TOM DUGGAN & THE VALLEY PATRIOT TEAM:

### CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 100TH EDITION!

Your hard work and dedication to the truth has not gone unnoticed by the people of The Valley!  
*Thank you!*

**Alex Vispoli**  
Andover Selectman

### Happy 100th Edition and many more!!

**LAWRENCE**  
978-975-7500

**BOSTON**  
617-367-9082

FROM....  
**SHELDON A. FINE**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

100 BRICKSTONE SQUARE  
SUITE G-4  
ANDOVER, MA 01810

TEL: 978-475-9886  
FAX: 978-475-9889



# There's a 'Lot to Like' about Merrimack Repertory Theatre

George DeLuca

VALLEY PATRIOT LOWELL COLUMNIST  
COMETOLOWELL.COM

This is my first article for The Valley Patriot. As the producer of ComeToLowell.com, I cover most of Lowell's happenings, venues and eateries. I plan to use this column to provide such information to the readers, so that you can consider the offerings of the City of Lowell, and perhaps plan a visit with your family and friends.

My maiden article is about the Merrimack Repertory Theatre (MRT) at 50 East Merrimack Street. I've attended most of their productions over the last two years, and highly recommend it as a world class theatrical venue. I recently interviewed MRT Marketing Manager, Dan Berube and I'd like to share our discussion with you.

**GD:** Can you describe the planned improvements to the MRT?

**DB:** The renovations that are taking place this summer are going to significantly improve the theatre-going experience of our audience members. The seats in Liberty Hall will be completely replaced. The new seats will be more comfortable, with increased hip-room and leg-room. The side balcony seats, which currently don't face the stage, will be reduced from three rows to two, and the seats in that section will be movable, so individual attendees can adjust their viewing angle. The lobby of the theatre will be remodeled and sealed off from the main theatre to reduce noise bleed. The MRT box office, which is currently located in the basement of Liberty Hall, will be moved to the first floor, making it more accessible to our patrons.

**GD:** How does this season's turnout

compare to last season's or previous seasons? Are you seeing a trend with regards to attendance over the last several years?

**DB:** We have been fortunate that attendance has been steady over the last several years, thanks to the strong productions on stage. Season subscription renewals were very strong this year, much higher than the national average. We greatly appreciate the continued support from our audience in the Merrimack Valley, and are always looking at ways to expand that audience, especially to groups of students and seniors.

**GD:** Do you expect your planned presence in Worcester to improve demand for tickets in Lowell? What's your timeline?

**DB:** We are at the very beginning of exploring how much demand there is for professional, resident non-profit theatre in Worcester. We have been approached by a group of enthusiastic theatre-lovers who are very interested in MRT sharing our productions with Worcester, and we are very hopeful there are many people in the Greater Worcester area who share their excitement. Remounting any production in a second venue is a complex process, and everyone understands this is a multi-year process. Depending on interest, an initial showcase production in Worcester in 2013 is a strong possibility.

MRT is fully-committed to serving Lowell with outstanding professional theatre for decades to come. By sharing productions with Worcester, MRT will be able to produce artistic works of increased size and scope, which will benefit audiences in both cities.

**GD:** Can you tell people a little about the upcoming play, actors, staff, etc.?

**DB:** We are very excited about our next

production, Daddy Long Legs, which runs February 9-March 4. This is the first musical we have staged in four years, and it is absolutely beautiful. Set in 1912, Daddy Long Legs is the story of Jerusha Abbott, an 18 year old orphan who is given the opportunity to attend a university thanks to the generosity of one of the trustees of the orphanage. There are only two conditions – she must remain anonymous, and she must write him letters with updates on her progress. Jerusha assumes her benefactor is very old, and nicknames him, "Daddy Long Legs". In fact, he is not much older than she is, and once he begins reading Jerusha's letters he is completely charmed by her, making his choice not to write back more difficult than he ever imagined.

We are very fortunate to have Megan McGinnis and Robert Adelman Hancock, who originated the roles of Jerusha and Jervis in the World Premiere of Daddy Long Legs at the Rubicon Theatre Company in California performing the roles at MRT. Megan McGinnis has previously appeared on Broadway as Belle in Beauty and the Beast and Eponine in Les Misérables. John Caird, who won Tony Award for Les Misérables, wrote the book and directs the show. The music and lyrics for Daddy Long Legs were composed by Paul Gordon, who also composed the music for Jane Eyre. We have posted a few song clips on MerrimackRep.org to give audiences a preview of the production.

**GD:** Anything you'd like to say to people in The Valley Patriot readership that may not know much about MRT?

**DB:** If you haven't been to MRT, Daddy Long Legs is a perfect first intro-



duction. You will find the productions on MRT stage are as exciting and professional as anything in Boston, but for a much more affordable ticket price with easier, less expensive parking. We even offer a "Pay What You Can Night" for the first performance of each show. On that day, starting 3 hours before show time, anyone can come down to the box office and name their ticket price for that evening's show. It is a wonderful way to see theatre if you are on a budget. The Pay What You Can Performance for Daddy Long Legs is February 9 at 7:30. Tickets for all performances are also available at MerrimackRep.org or by calling 978-654-4678.

## Dracut Public Events

compiled by Connie Molinaro

### PUBLIC MEETINGS

Thu. Feb. 9 Capitol Planning 6:00pm  
Wed. Feb. 15th Council on Aging 2:30pm  
Tue. Feb. 28th Bd of Selectman 7pm  
Tue. Feb. 14th: Bd. of Selectman 6pm.  
Wed. Feb. 22nd Planning Board 7pm  
Thu. Feb. 9th FINCOM Eldridge, 10am

Locations for all meetings: [www.dracut-ma.us/calendar](http://www.dracut-ma.us/calendar)

### SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Junior High Variety Show LVJH 7-9pm  
Special Education PAC mtg (Dracut High Library 6:30-8:30pm)  
Fri. Feb. 10th Junior High Variety Show LVJH 7-9pm  
Mon. Feb. 13th School Committee Harmony Hall 6:30pm Executive session -  
School Committee Open mtg Harmony Hall 7pm  
Tue. Feb. 14th PTO MTG Campbell School 7pm  
Wed Feb. 15th PTO Mtg Brookside School 7pm  
Feb. 20-24 School Vacation District Wide  
Mon Feb. 27th School Committee MTG Harmony Hall 6:30pm  
Exec. Session School Committee open MTG Harmony Hall 7pm  
Tue Feb. 28th PTO MTG Greenmont Ave Sch  
7pm - PTO MTG High Sch. 7pm  
Kindergarten Registration Campbell School 6pm  
Wed Feb. 29th Kindergarten Registration Brookside 6pm

### SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Fri. Feb. 10th 9:30am Christmas Tree Shop & Denny's  
Mon. Feb. 13th 9:30am Valentine Continental Breakfast & Love Songs  
Tue. Feb. 14th 10:00am Grocery Shopping  
Wed. Feb. 15th 2:30pm DCOA Board Meeting  
Thu. Feb. 16th 1:30-3:45pm Nurse Nancy  
Fri. Feb. 17th 9:30am Kohl's & China Buffet  
Mon. Feb. 20th Closed Presidents Day  
Tue. Feb. 21st 10:00am Grocery Shopping  
Wed. Feb. 22nd 1:00pm Senior Club Meeting  
Thu. Feb. 23rd 1:30-3:45pm Nurse Nancy  
Fri. Feb. 24th 9:30am Home Goods & 99 Restaurant  
Tue. Feb. 28th 10am Grocery Shopping  
For a more details: [councilonaging@dracut-ma.us](mailto:councilonaging@dracut-ma.us)



Pictured Left To Right Is Lowell Vice Mayor Kevin Broderick Congratulating This Years "Super Bowl Drawing Winner", Lowell Resident Chuck Stepanian Who Drew The Winning Ticket As His Last Official Duty As Vice Mayor. The Prize was An All Expenses Paid Trip For Two, To This Year's February Super Bowl Game In Indianapolis Indiana. This Year's Drawing Also Saw Another Milestone Reached, As Over \$500,000 Has Been Raised For The Lowell Lions Club Charities. **This Was The Most Money Raised In A Single Fund Raiser, In The 21 Year History Of The Drawing.**

CONGRATULATIONS TO

THE VALLEY PATRIOT...

100 issues of breaking news, investigative reports,  
commentary and information serving the community!

FROM ALL OF US AT 980AM, WCAP RADIO

**980 WCAP**

**Everybody Gets It!!!**

**980WCAP.COM**







# For Young Mom, Beating Breast Cancer Gave A Whole New Meaning to Birthdays

Cecilia P. Calabrese

VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER - AGAWAM SELECTMAN

In the May 2008 issue of The Valley Patriot, we brought you the inspiring story of a then 31-year-old mother of two undergoing her battle with breast cancer. Veronica Calixto continues to inspire others as she is enjoying life with her husband, Johnny and 2 daughters, now ages 11 and 6 years old.

Veronica told me that following our story about her she was overwhelmed with positive feedback from customers and acquaintances of hers that said they had no idea she was undergoing treatment for breast cancer. "Many were sincerely saddened to know and offered much compassion and encouragement. To this day many of them still ask how I'm doing," she told me.

"Many thanked me for sharing my story and for raising awareness. Some would talk to me about their sister, mother, or friend that was recently diagnosed. Best of all, were the strangers who were diagnosed or survivors who contacted me after reading the article to thank me." Veronica recounted.

Veronica's spirit of compassion extends to her 11 year old daughter, Mikhayla, who has donated her hair to Locks of Love twice and is doing it again for a 3rd time.

I asked Veronica how she has been doing since we ran our original story in May 2008. "I've been doing great!"

Veronica told me. She completed 6 weeks of radiation therapy in the summer of 2008 and continued with her chemo for 18 months total, which ended in the spring 2009. She goes back to Dana Farber every 3-6 months for follow up appointments. Veronica reports that all is good and her energy levels are back, including her hair, which she reports started growing back during summer 2008. "It seemed to take forever, but finally came back to the way I like it," she explained.

Now at age 35 she told me that birthdays have a whole new meaning and she looks forward to them every year. Her greatest challenge however was getting over the worry, wondering if and when the cancer might come back. "It's always in the back of my mind," Veronica explains. "The worry can consume you and I know I can't dwell on it. I thank the Lord every day I was given a second chance at life and remind myself I need to live in the present, enjoy today and not worry about tomorrow."

Veronica is the Vice President & Marketing Manager of Peoples United Bank; working in Methuen and Lawrence. She has worked there for the past 8 years. She is also the immediate past president of the Methuen, MA-Salem, NH Rotary Club and serves as their Foundation Chair. Veronica volunteers at various Rotary-sponsored events throughout the year such as the upcoming Special Olympics at Salem High School.



Veronica's busy life does not stop there. She is a member of the Methuen Board of Trade and serves on their Scholarship Committee. In addition, Veronica also participates in the Susan G. Komen For the Cure Foundation three-day event, annually. Together with her friends, Veronica has helped raise over \$30,000.00 for breast cancer research.

When asked what she learned about herself during cancer treatment that she didn't know before Veronica was emphatic in her response: "THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT" she said. "Don't sweat the small stuff!" Veronica learned that she is strong and that after going through what she had to endure during her treatments, she really can handle anything that comes her way. Veronica explains that any cancer survivor can attest that no matter how bad things seem it could be worse.

Veronica's personal goals going forward are to be healthy; be here for her family; and to make her daughters proud (I'm sure they are!). She aspires to travel the world.

Veronica dispenses the following advice for all women, especially young women: "do a self exam every month. Early detection will save your life! Most women in their 20's and 30's don't ever think this can happen to them. It happened to me at the age of 31. I had no family history of breast cancer."

Veronica shares this message with her facebook friends on a monthly basis. "I've had a few thank me, telling me they wouldn't have found a lump and sought treatment otherwise" she explains.

Through social media, like facebook, Veronica has been able to be a sounding board for other women going through breast cancer treatment. She remembered when she was diagnosed, she just wanted someone to compare her situation to and get answers she might not be able to find elsewhere. "I just wanted to know I would overcome the cancer and survive as they had."

Another vital piece of advice Veronica wishes to share with others going through cancer treatment is to be your own advocate. "Ask your doctors lots of questions, explore all your options and know you will come out of this a much stronger person."

One example of how she took her own advice came before she underwent surgery. She was weighing her surgical options after being recommended she should have a lumpectomy instead of a mastectomy because, her doctor reasoned, she was "too young" to have a mastectomy. "I went with my gut feeling and got the mastectomy," Veronica recounts. Afterward, she discovered she made the choice that saved her life. "The cancer had spread to over 90% of my tissue, which was undetected through MRI and mammogram. Had I not opted for the mastectomy, my outcome would have been very different."

*Cecilia Calabrese is an attorney and a member of the Agawam City Council. If you would like to contact Cecilia about this or other stories, please email: cececalabrese@yahoo.com.*



## The Methuen-Salem Rotary Club donates \$4K to the YMCA

The Methuen, MA-Salem, NH Rotary Club recently presented a check to the Methuen branch of the Merrimack Valley YMCA. The check was presented by Rotarians, Cheryl Parent and Veronica Calixto to Anne Whalen, the Executive Director of the Merrimack Valley YMCA in Methuen for their Stewards of Children, Darkness to Light program.

The Stewards of Children, Darkness to

Light program is a child sexual abuse prevention program being administered by the Merrimack Valley YMCA in Methuen. Rotarians from the Methuen, MA-Salem, NH Rotary Club will be partnering with staff of the Merrimack Valley YMCA

in Methuen to initiate and promote this program. The 2 1/2 hour workshops being held at various times and locations around Methuen, are designed to educate adults on how to recognize, prevent and react responsibly to sexual abuse of children. The workshops will be open the public,

including service organizations serving the community of Methuen. The goal is to train 2.5% of the adult population in Methuen by May of 2012.

The Club donated \$2,000.00 of its own funds and applied for a matching grant from Rotary District 7930. The grant funds are made available from Rotary International to local Rotary Clubs partnering with local non-profit organizations

such as the Merrimack Valley YMCA implementing programs to benefit the community.

For more information regarding how you can sign up for an upcoming workshop, please contact Anne Whalen, Executive Director of the Merrimack

YMCA in Methuen, 978-683-5266. The Methuen, MA-Salem, NH Rotary Club meets at Jocelyn's Restaurant in Salem, NH Fridays at 12:15. For more information regarding the Methuen, MA-Salem, NH Rotary Club, please visit our website, [www.methuensalemrotary.org](http://www.methuensalemrotary.org)



**Have a news tip or story idea?**  
**Call our anonymous tip line**  
**(978) 683-3952**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
VALLEY PATRIOT!**

**THANK YOU FOR EDUCATING  
THE PEOPLE OF METHUEN!**

... BECAUSE GETTING AN EDUCATION DOESN'T  
END AT THE CLASSROOM DOOR.

**EVAN CHAISSON**  
METHUEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE



# VALLEY MONUMENTS

BUILDING MEMORIES THAT LAST FOREVER

MONUMENTS  
CEMETERY LETTERING  
MARKERS  
CARVINGS  
SCULPTURES, & ETCHINGS  
MONUMENT CLEANING  
LANDSCAPE GRANITE  
ACCESSORIES

ANY DATE (EXAMPLE: 2012)  
ENGRAVED \$75

SIMILAR SAVINGS ON  
ALL ENGRAVING

Translator available by appointment

1111 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, METHUEN, MA 01844  
EMAIL US AT INFO@VALLEY-MONUMENTS.COM  
PHONE: 978.685.8500 - FAX: 978.685.8510

BUSINESS HOURS: MON-FRI: 9-5PM, SAT: 8-12PM  
OR ANY TIME BY APPOINTMENT.  
WWW.VALLEY-MONUMENTS.COM

A FAMILY BUSINESS FOR FIVE GENERATIONS

Where Creativity Meets Affordability

Merrimack Valley's Preferred Memorial Provider



No Fancy Claims Just Facts

Every Day Price

\$80 any 4 numbers

Example: 2011  
Standard Date

Monument Sales

Bronze Markers

Civic Memorials

Mausoleums

Columbariums

Cemetery Lettering

Memorial Restoration

## Colizzi Memorials, Inc.

217 Merrimack Street

Methuen, MA 01844

Phone (978) 674-7035

Fax (978) 674-7037

colizzimemorials@comcast.net

Monday - Friday

9:00AM - 5:00PM

Saturday

9:00AM - 2:00PM

Sunday & After Hr. Appointments Upon Request

www.colizzimemorials.com



## Armed Citizen Training

For when you are forced to act

Providing the education & training necessary to all  
individuals interested in Firearm Safety,  
Concealed Carry & Personal Protection

Mass LTC Courses Offered Monthly  
at 355 Merrimack St., Lawrence



NRA Certified Instructor  
MA State Police Certified Instructor  
Sig Sauer Certified Instructor  
Sig Sauer Academy Adjunct Instructor

Contact Scott Jenkins,  
Certified Firearms Instructor  
(508) 523-5105  
armedcittraining@aol.com

WHOLESALE PRICES TO THE PUBLIC

New in HAVERHILL.... Get all your supplies locally at:

# Quintana

Free  
delivery for  
local businesses!

## Wholesale Outlet

Monthly  
Billing!

ATTENTION CLEANING COMPANIES!!

\* Lowest Paper Prices

\* Lowest Chemical Prices In-Stock

### Janitorial Supplies

Commercial or Household use:

\* cleaners \* floor strippers \* waxes  
\* brooms \* mops \* dusting rags \* sponges \*  
buckets \* gloves \* soaps/detergents \* ice melt



\* OPEN SATURDAYS!!!

Open: Mon-Fri 9AM to 5PM, Sat: 8:30AM-1PM

558 River St., Haverhill \*800-499-1000 > Next to Ralph Pill & Giovanni's

EXHAUST PROBLEM? ..... NO PROBLEM!

## LOW COST EXHAUST



50 Winthrop Ave in Lawrence  
(by the Water Fountain)  
978-687-7044

SEE OUR COUPON ON PAGE 14

Winter is HERE Refurbish your shoes & uggs!!!

Bring in this ad and get \$5 off any shoe repair

# J & W Shoe Repair and Leather Service

All Kinds of Shoe  
& Leather Repairs

- \* Pocketbook Refurbishing
- \* Custom Shoe Dying
- \* Orthopedic Shoes
- \* Suitcase & Luggage Repair
- \* All Kinds of Zipper Repair
- \* Name Brand Pocketbook Repair



We  
refurbish  
UGGS

Better QUALITY  
WORK than any  
other shoe repair  
shop BAR NONE!

139 Main St., North Andover, (978) 685-2325 - OPEN: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 - 5pm & Sat. 8:30 - 4pm





# Gaythorne Hall

*Perfect for: Weddings - Showers  
Anniversaries - Birthday Parties  
Banquets - Company Meetings*

**Our large hall holds 250 people.  
Our small hall holds up to 60 guests.**

METHUEN KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

462 BROADWAY, (RTE. 28) METHUEN \* (978) 686-1291

## New England Primary Care Associates

### Rula M. Youssef, M.D.

Board Certified Primary Care Physician

**is now ...**

**ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS**

~ Se Habla Espanol

**(978) 685-2455**

**Location:** 50 Prospect Street # 101, Lawrence, MA 01841

**Right next to Lawrence General Hospital**

**Affiliated with  
Harvard Medical  
School Departments  
Serving the Entire  
Merrimack Valley**



## Merrimack Valley Pain Management Associates, P.C.

- State-of-the-art multi-disciplinary pain center
- Up-to-date treatments of various pain conditions
- Team of experts in pain management headed by:  
~ Dr. Rami Rustum

**Various pain conditions are treated,  
including but not limited to:**

Complex Regional Pain Syndromes \* Cancer pain syndrome \* Post amputation pain syndrome \* Compression Fractures \* Disc Herniation \* Chronic Pain Syndrome \* Headaches \* Neuropathy \* Low back pain \* Neck Pain \* Radiculopathy \* Post herpetic neuralgia \* Diabetic Neuropathy \* Myofascial pain syndrome \* upper and lower limbs \* Fibromyalgia \* Facet arthropathy \* Sacroiliac joint pain and dysfunction \* Pelvic pain

**(978) 685-2455**



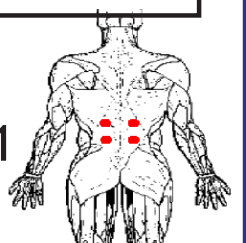
**Location:** 50 Prospect Street # 101, Lawrence, MA 01841

**Email:** [merrimackpaincenter@gmail.com](mailto:merrimackpaincenter@gmail.com)

Merrimack Pain Associates.....Dedication in pain management



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





# THE PEOPLE’S SEAT!

## U. S. Senator, Scott Brown Kicks off Re-election Campaign



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

(L) Valley Patriot Publisher Tom Duggan with former Channel 5 Anchor, (and Mrs. Scott Brown) Gail Huff. (R) United States Senator Scott Brown (daughter Ayla by his side) greets the crowd during his re-election speech in Mechanics Hall in Worcester last month.

**Cecilia Calabrese**  
VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER - AGAWAM SELECTMAN

On a cold January night in 2010 the Country’s political landscape changed forever with the election of Scott Brown (R-Wrentham) to the United States Senate. Two years ago the Commonwealth of Massachusetts made history having elected a Republican to complete the remaining term of the “Liberal Lion”, Senator Ted Kennedy.

Now the incumbent, Senator Brown kicked off his re-election campaign two-years to the day of that fateful election at Mechanics Hall in Worcester, a fitting venue for such an event. It was in Mechanics Hall that Scott Brown held his final election rally for his run against his 2010 Democrat rival, Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley.

A standing-room-only crowd greeted Senator Brown on January 19, 2012 for his kick-off address. As he stepped to the podium, a stir of excitement filled the room in anticipation. The Senator be-

gan by recounting how the 2010 Special Election was supposed to go. “Which Democrat would move into the seat? For years, everyone knew what the deal was in this state: You get chosen by the machine, you go along to get along, please the right people, and the rest is easy.”

Senator Brown reminded his supporters that elections aren’t suppose to be easy. Just as his election to the U.S. Senate in 2010 was a hard-won battle, so too will his re-election bid. “We won two years ago because we respected voters enough to give them a choice...it is your choice, and it sill is the people’s seat.”

A cautionary note punctuated his opening, “since 2010 the attitude of the political machine hasn’t changed. They didn’t like being challenged then, and they really don’t like it any better now. They want to get things back to normal as quickly as possible...for them it means we go back to one party, one way of thinking, one way of voting-just going in lockstep and doing what you’re told...it’s got to stop here. It’s got to stop now.”

Senator Brown highlighted the challenges all Americans face today and emphasized that these challenges must be tackled and debated during this current election year. “A lot of people these days feel like they’re up against tough odds because we still have a jobs crisis in this country...government policies have failed...with new liabilities like Obamacare, they have added a debt crisis as well...the credit rating of the United States is downgraded, and that’s where the tax and spend attitude in Washington has taken us.”

“Our campaign will always be about ‘We the People’”, Senator Brown promises.

Class warfare; the ‘us’ against ‘them’ mentality; and pitting groups of people against each other are the hallmarks of the establishment candidates, Senator Brown opines. In contrasting his campaign with those of others posturing to challenge him in November, Senator Brown highlighted his campaign based upon his independent

record as our United States Senator and the independent spirit of the Massachusetts voter. “I’ll take those advantages any day over the political machine,” he said.

Senator Brown described his service in the United States Senate: “I pledged to work with colleagues in the delegation and I have done so. I told the voters that I wouldn’t just be another loud, angry partisan, because Washington has too many of those already. I promised to be an independent voice for you, because Washington has too few of those serving right now...I always remember why I am there and who sent me. I am still nobody’s senator but yours.”

Focusing on his now famous “Brown 41” theme from the 2010 Special Election, Senator Brown told his supporters that he has been the 41st vote to stop a bad idea, but that he is equally proud during times when he was the 60th vote to pass a good one.

Turning to the fiscal integrity of the

**BROWN: PAGE 32**



# Emily’s Bakery

*We are open: Monday - Saturday: 6AM to 5PM \* Sunday - Closed*

**Now Available at the Meat House**

223 Lincoln Ave, Haverhill, MA. 01830 \* phone/fax: (978) 374-9603  
Write us at: [emilys@comcast.net](mailto:emilys@comcast.net)



## READER DISCOUNTS

Thank you Keith Wlodyka for advertising in our very 1st edition in 2004!

TRADITIONAL  
TOWER HILL SUBS  
HOMEMADE SALADS  
FRESH MADE SOUPS  
WRAPS  
BAGELS • MUFFINS  
BREAKFAST PANINIS  
& SANDWICHES  
FRESH BREWED  
PREMIUM COFFEE



inside Pentucket Medical  
500 Merrimack Street, Lawrence  
Mon-Fri 7:30am-3pm

**CONGRATULATIONS VALLEY PATRIOT  
ON YOUR 100<sup>th</sup> ISSUE**

We're saving your readers 100 pennies  
\$1.00 OFF ANY WRAP, PANINI or SUB  
with this ad

expires 2/29/12



Owned & operated by the Wlodyka family, who brought  
you those great subs for 28 years at Tower Hill Variety

[dailydosecafe.com](http://dailydosecafe.com) 978-557-8601

**K & C Contracting, Inc. in Methuen**  
**Congratulates The Valley Patriot**  
**on Publishing 100 Editions!**



- \* Remodeling & repair
- \* Kitchens and bathrooms
- \* Roofing and Siding!
- \* Additions & MORE!!

**VALLEY PATRIOT READERS WILL  
SAVE UP TO 15-20% off ROOFING  
SIDING & WINDOWS!!!**

[kandccontracting.net](http://kandccontracting.net) (978) 476-4450

**Three Dogz Diner... Overlooking the Waterfalls in Lawrence (The Old Sam's Steak-Out)**



LET THREE DOGZ DINER CATER YOUR NEXT  
TAILGATE PARTY W/YOUR CHOICE  
OF SOUTHERN BBQ MENU

13 South Broadway, Lawrence

**VOTED BEST - BBQ  
& BEST BREAKFAST 2012**  
Best of the Best Market Surveys

\*Deliveries Available

[threedogzdiner.com](http://threedogzdiner.com)

HOURS: MON-FRI. 6:30 AM- 3PM, SAT. + SUN 7:30 AM- 2PM,, PHONE 978-208-4348 - FAX 978-208-4368

# Exhaust Problem... No Problem!

Proud to be a part of your 100th Edition... and your 101st... and your 102nd...

Come in and  
See HENRY!

16 Years of  
Serving the  
Merrimack  
Valley



**\$20 OFF  
Exhaust Work  
for Valley  
Patriot  
Customers\***

\*repairs of \$100 or more



# LOW COST EXHAUST

50 Winthrop Ave in Lawrence (by the Water Fountain)

Give us a call at 978-687-7044

Coupon expires March 7, 2012



# Random Thoughts with Ronnie Ford

Ronnie Ford  
VALLEY PATRIOT OPINION COLUMNIST

Bruin’s goalie Tim Thomas has the right stuff, stood up for his opinion and didn’t join team mates to meet the president. He exercised his freedom of speech and movement. Let his team-mates bask in the Glory of being the Champs and seen at the White House. It doesn’t change the fact that he was one of the main reasons the Bruins won. It was an opportunity for the president to have a TV and photo op. Seems he never met a camera he didn’t like. Some wouldn’t even walk across the street to see this president. Good for you Tim Thomas!! A tip of the hat to you. More people should stand up for what they believe. Just remember, anyone can visit the White House, it is ours!

Willie, is an embarrassment to himself and the city. Some of the Lawrence City Council and School Board and some of the police are in Willie’s back pocket. I hope they all carry a roll of toilet tissue with them at all times, so they can be ready to wipe all the gluteus maximus they have so carefully been doing. They certainly will need it. What price power? How can you do your hair in the morning, how can you shave and look at yourself and see what you have become? Shameful. Cyphers all! (Look up the words Willie) You are all an embarrassment to the City of Lawrence. Have you no shame? I guess

not, cause all you will get is a slap on the wrist, or a tee hee, we put one over on them! All of you who are culpable should resign. Do yourself and the City a favor. We certainly will not miss you. You can be sure you would not get the accolades that the late Kevin White, Mayor of Boston received. None of you are worthy of carrying his coat! Just remember, the feet you kiss on the way to the top, are the same feet that will kick you on the way down!

In March, the citizens of Salem, NH will vote. On the ballot is the question should Salem have curb side trash pickup? A majority of yes votes would increase the taxes, and knowing the Board of Selectmen, they would increase it year after year ad nauseam. Plus on pick up day, the containers and stuff would be all over the roads as it is now with private pick up, even if they give you super duper receptacles. If you want all benefits that Massachusetts has, (better known as Taxachusetts), move back here. And consider each candidate before voting. This year it is especially important to look every candidate over, City, Town, State and Federal.

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

Comments may be sent to Ronnie at [radiotalk@comcast.net](mailto:radiotalk@comcast.net)



# The Merrimack Valley Irish Connection The Connaught Rangers

Jack Doyle, County Sligo  
VALLEY PATRIOT IRISH COLUMNIST

It is estimated that 250,000 men from Ireland both north and south fought in the two World Wars. Of those between 35,000 and 50,000 died. Many of the men from County Sligo who fought and died in the wars joined the Connaught Rangers, so called because of the province in which it was formed. Other regiments that local men joined included the Irish Guards and the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

The Connaught Rangers was founded in 1793 by Colonel, the Hon. John Thomas Burgh, a brother of Henry, 12th Earl of Clanricarde. Their headquarters was based at King House, Boyle which was sold to the British Army in 1788 for use as a military barracks. The Rangers wore a red uniform with green lapels; their emblem was the crown above the harp and their motto “Quis Seprait, (Who will separate [us]? while their nickname was “The Devils Own”, They saw service in four continents, and fought in the Boar War, the Crimean War, the Peninsular War and the First World War, where they died in the hundreds at Somme, Ypres and Gallipoli.

The Connaught Rangers served in two regiments from 1793 - 1884 as the 1st Battalion, 88th Regiment of Foot and from 1881 - 1922 as the 1st. Battalion regiment of Foot.

Soon after the outbreak of the 1st World War, a Sixth Battalion of Connaught Rangers was raised. Recruitment meetings were held in Sligo, Ballymote, Ballisodare and Collooney. According to The Sligo Nationalist newspaper the recruiting officers met with a great reception. The recruitment meetings were to be a regular feature of Sligo life for the remainder of the war as far as enlisting went they seemed to have been well received at first. A further recruitment drive saw bands

and speakers in Geevagh, Ballymote and Collooney.

During October and November 1914, Connaught Rangers were prominent during the first battle of Ypres. There were many Sligo casualties. They included



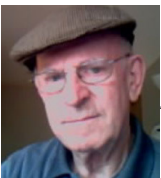
Michael Quigley, Terence McGure and James Reynolds from Ballymote and James Crefin from Riverstown. During the autumn of 1914, the Fifth Battalion of the Connaught Rangers had been raised. After training in Ireland and England they were sent out to the Aegean Sea.

They landed on the shores of the Gallipoli Peninsula and took part in the Sulva Bay landings on August 6th, 1915. There were particularly fierce attacks on August 21 and 22. At least six County Sligo members of the regiment were killed. These included James Kearns, of Sooney. It is estimated that 2,500 Connaught Rangers died in the Great War.

The next service for the First Battalion was in far away Mesopotamia, now Iraq. Among those killed here were John Torsney of Riverstown who died in May 1916.

Throughout the rest of the war the 1st Battalion remained in the Middle East. The fortunes of war took them to the fight against the Turks in Palestine and then, after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire they moved in as garrison at Nazareth where they remained until the end of the war. Stories of the conflict in Ireland were filtering through to the soldiers and in 1920 88 men mutinied at Jullundar in protest against Black and Tan atrocities in Ireland.

\* The Connaught Rangers, pp.211/212  
The Riverstown Story, County Sligo.



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](mailto:Jack5772@comcast.net)



Dave Guselli  
Broker/Owner

Office: 978-689-8006  
Fax: 1-866-284-2733  
Cell: 978-852-5481

[daveg@prufirstchoice.com](mailto:daveg@prufirstchoice.com)



**Prudential  
First Choice Realty**

184 Pleasant Valley Street, Suite 1-102, Methuen, MA 01844

Rock Solid in Real Estate  
2010 J.D. Powers Award Winner

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



## Fall ~ Winter Menu

Come in and join in the excitement for our NEW Fall and Winter Menu! Great new Entrees, Salads, Desserts, Drinks and Wine.

With the busy schedule in mind, try our NEW Cottage Express Lunch!

Live Entertainment Every Saturday Night!

With the Holidays just around the corner, think of us for your holiday gatherings. Call for more information and available dates. 978-208-4347 ext 3



You can check out the new menus on line at:  
[www.theirishcottagepub.com](http://www.theirishcottagepub.com)

**Open Breakfast, Lunch &  
Dinner 7 Days a week.  
1111 Riverside Dr. Methuen**



**The Claddagh Pub  
& Restaurant Inc**

399 Canal St, Lawrence  
978-688-8337

Great food, Music and Atmosphere.  
Great Charity Event Packages Available.

**Private Functions  
Up to 600  
Accommodated.**

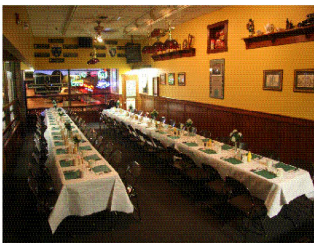
Call Paul  
978-423-1001

*Best Party Packages  
in the Merrimack Valley*

Trivia Nights Wednesdays

**#1 Party Package  
in Merrimack Valley**

Private Room  
40 to 80 people  
Hint of Italy Buffet  
Sound System and Mic  
(Includes Weekend Access to Live Entertainment in Main Room)



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



# Exchange Club Police Officers, Firefighters of the Year



PHOTOS: PORTRAITEFX

(Above left) Lawrence Police Officers of the Year: Joseph Padellaro and David Levesque with Police Chief John Romero. (Above right) Lawrence Firefighters of the year: Capt. Robert Wilson, Firefighter Francis Skusevich (SKIII!) Chief Jack Bergeron, Capt. Eric Zahn, Firefighter Pasqual Ruiz and Lt. Paul Maccarone

## Time to let it Go and Time to Move on!

Peter Larocque

VALLEY PATRIOT POLITICAL COLUMNIST

First, I want to thank the Recall President of "Uniting Lawrence" Mr. Josue Hernandez and all his fellow organizers and supporters for their valiant effort to Recall the Mayor of Lawrence, Mr. William Lantigua.

On behalf of the Lawrence citizens that I have spoken to we appreciate all your hard work that you all have made in the last several weeks and months. For the sacrifice of time spent away from your families soliciting signatures we say thank you. I still very much believe that Mayor Lantigua needs to be and should be Recalled, but at some point reality must be faced and it just isn't going to happen, I will explain why I believe this later in this column.

I have very proudly signed the Recall Petition twice for reasons that I have stated many times before.

The key reason for me is that I do not believe that any Mayor, which includes Mayor Lantigua, has the right to take an established and sitting Deputy Chief of Police and demote him or her to Captain and replace him or her with a campaign supporter or anyone else who also happened to be a Sergeant in that same Police Department.

No Mayor should mess with Public Safety!

This one single act by Mayor Lantigua eight days after being sworn in as Mayor, set the tone and sent a message to all Lawrencians, law abiding and the not so law abiding which was, "I am King and I can do anything I want to, to anyone I want to and nobody is going to stop me! Public Safety is not an important issue to me as your Mayor." So yes I would love to see this Mayor removed and replaced, but the reality of it ever happening is far

from actually ever happening.

The reason why I believe that this Recall of the Mayor of Lawrence is just wishful thinking is because the city officials responsible for processing the petition after it is submitted to the city clerk's office all work for the same Mayor of which the petitioners wish to Recall. One reason for the failure of the Recall stated by Mr. Hernandez is that city officials "haven't played FAIR".

Why is this so surprising? Do you really expect them to? We are asking them to validate a petition that would most probably put them out of a job.

I think self preservation plays a part in this don't you think? People will always do their utmost to protect that which puts food on their table. If the Recall petition were ever to be successful, the incoming Mayor would most likely and should clean house and get rid of everyone who was supporting the corrupt former Mayor. Now who among us would like to be involved in an act that would most likely result in the loss of employment?

Also could mean loss of Health Care and most likely ability to pay College tuition for their children. So when I hear the President of Uniting Lawrence talking about Fairness not being played by City Officials my response to that is why would you expect something different? Life isn't Fair!

When I lost my re-election bid for School Committee in 2009 I felt that it wasn't fair. But the voters in my district had their say and chose someone else, that's the reality I had to face and eventually I just had to let it go. So it is with this Recall Petition, the reality of it ever being successful is very unlikely although unfair, it is time to let it go.

My recommendation to Uniting Law-

**LAROCQUE: PAGE 18**



## The Many Contradictions of Mayor Willy Lantigua

Jamison Tomasek

VALLEY PATRIOT OPINION COLUMNIST

The Mayor of Lawrence, everyone must admit, is an interesting character. Some people love him, some hate him. Some really, really hate him. I for one am fascinated by how he seems at times to show two completely different sides to his character.

He's always being mentioned or talked about by the media, but they never can get hold of him for comment. By the way, why do all sorts of people seem to have his cell phone number, but not the Eagle Tribune? He is unavailable for comment, yet when it suits him in a public forum (like a School Committee meeting) he rambles on about nothing for thirty minutes or more.

He seems to know everybody, especially people who are pulled over for traffic violations, who respond to an officer's "license and registration please" with "I know Willy." However rarely does anyone say, "I was talking with the mayor and he said this or that." Who does he actually talk to or are people too nervous to repeat his words?

He has a strong interest in the democratic process, and clearly relishes running elections, but once the voting is over he doesn't seem to care about democracy at all. He appears to view democracy as a means to further exercise executive power. He doesn't even seem to tolerate minority or differing opinions well, even when he controls the majority, like the City Council.

He is the mayor of a city with tens of thousands of dwellings, but he had no home address.

He works in government, an organization that generates vast paperwork, but he has left hardly any paper trail in his life.

He is a member of a party, the Democrats, that believes in having lots of rules and regulations, but when it comes to complying with a number of rules he can't be bothered in the slightest.

As a legislator he was known as a supporter of family values, but it is clear that he doesn't carry that concept into his own messy family life, except that he makes certain that everyone in his family (including the ex-wife) has a government job.

He's got numerous state and federal agencies on his trail, but no one seems to know anything and in fact everything went quiet some time ago. He claims to know nothing about it.

He works in a city and lives in somebody else's condo, but he drives a giant pickup truck. I can't see him shopping at Home Depot or picking up some mulch with it.

So what to make of him? You can't make this stuff up, and I'm sure if indictments come out we will know a lot more about what he's doing when not in the public eye. I predict that despite of all this Lantigua will win re-election in 2013 in the great tradition of James Michael Curley, who was re-elected mayor of Boston in 1945 while under indictment. Happy 100th Edition Valley Patriot!

### Northern Process Servers Serving all Civil Process

**Ronald Bertheim**  
Bonded Constable  
Notary

252B Pleasant St.  
Methuen, MA 01844

northernprocess@comcast.net  
www.northernprocessservers.com



Tel 978-685-0093  
Fax 978-689-3377

**Valley Patriot Tip-Line (978) 683-3952**

ALL TIPS ANONYMOUS





Stacie L. Whittier left of *Georgetown*, Secretary of the *Salisbury* Lions Club receives a pin from Immediate Past District Governor Jeannine Gentlemen of Lions District 33N (Notheast Massachusetts). Stacie was the Lions Zone 7Co--Chairperson during 2010-2011 and the District received the District Excellence award so each officer on the cabinet received a pin. Zone 7 consists of Lions Clubs in Billerica, Dracut, Lawrence, Lawrence Latin, Lowell, Methuen, Tewksbury, UMASS. Lowell and the Billerica & Dracut Leo Clubs. Stacie is serving as Zone 1 & 2 Co-Chairperson with Ted Irvin, Treasurer of the Salisbury Lions this year representing Beverly, Danvers, Essex, Ipswich, Lynnfield, Magnolia, Melrose, Peabody, Reading, Wakefield and the Reading Leo Club.

GEORGETOWN TODAY

At 11% Enrollment, It’s Time to Change the Republican Team

Lonnie Brennan  
VALLEY PATRIOT OPINION COLUMNIST

I love sports, and as my bride will tell you, my favorite is politics. I watch political debates the way she watches the Bruins (complete with cheers and jeers). So, let me put this in sports terms: if the stands remained empty as your team continued an on/off 20+ year losing streak, you would fire the management and change the players, right? So why do we keep re-electing the same Massachusetts Republican State Committee members who have driven the Republican Party enrollment to 11%?

On March 6, 2012 you have an opportunity to go and vote at the Presidential Primary Elections. Buried down on the ballot someplace after you’ve waded past all the presidential names, you’ll find an obscure group called State Committee Member. This is the group of 80 members who are the voice of the MassGOP. They set the tone, they set the rules and they set the party platform. They elect a chairperson to represent the Republicans and they decide how and in what manner to get out their message and support their candidates. I’ve looked through the listing and can happily say that anyone on the committee worth keeping, the exception of Linda Rapoza in Fall River, does not have an opponent, so the dozen or so good ones on the committee should continue to serve. (For example, Sheila Richardson from Dracut should sail to re-election and I hope you all vote for her).

As for the remainder, if your state committee member has an opponent, vote to change the team. Vote for the opponent. It’s that simple. Even if you personally like the person or recognize the name as a popular name, vote against him or her. You can’t make the situation any worse than it already is, and the upside will be a chance to re-constitute a new MassGOP state committee, and perhaps turn the tide.

That’s right, even though I really do like, personally, several of the current players the Republican state committee is dysfunctional to the core and has most seriously contributed to a repetitive cycle of

always doing the same thing and always getting the same results, and resulting in 11% voter enrollment as Republicans in Mass. In contrast, thanks to the Tea Party folks, the Republican Party benefitted in 2010 despite the non-attention of the current state committee as the Tea Party folks helped propel several new Republican state representations to the state house. Indeed, my state committeewoman, who I dearly love, did not meet my new state



representative until two weeks AFTER he was elected. She is a hard worker with 17 cities and towns, and her priorities and actions obviously kept her busy elsewhere. Fortunately, the Tea Party (big cheers go out to Michael

Mosca, Ted Trip and many others from the Merrimack Valley Tea Party and its various stages of organization) picked up the slack.

For those keeping score, I just generated another 200+ enemies (current incumbent state committee members and their gaggle of supporters). Let me repeat, I might personally like some of the current players, but they don’t pass well together, they don’t ring up points together, they have resulted in an unfocused, diffused, distracted Republican message.

So, when you go to the polls, look to vote for Sheila Mullins, Kim Incampo, Alex Veras, Carlos Armando Hernandez, Amy Carnevale, Michael Benn, Michael ‘Iron Mike’ Farquhar, Tim Sullivan, Rob Aufiero, or Steve Aylward, depending on which town or city you live in. Yes there are others, but these are closest to this newspaper’s growing 22,000+ circulation.

With 9 out of 10 voters actively choosing NOT to join the Republican team, you really reach a point where you have to ask: are they (the voters) wrong, or is there something fundamentally wrong with the Massachusetts Republican State Committee?

Well, as Dianne (my bride) is oft to quote: ‘if you always do what you’ve always done, you’ll always get what you’ve always got’. You are the change. The change is within you. Vote against the incumbents. Change the team.

Top 40 Highest Paid Lawrence Employees

\*SOURCE: Lantigua Administration

Name	Department	Gross	Notes
David Kelley	Police	\$ 195,203.58	Sup. Officer, Ret.
Roy Vasque	Police	\$ 176,875.99	Superior Officer
Mary Lou Bergeron	School	\$ 175,000.00	Asst. Super.
Shawn Quaglietta	Police	\$ 160,030.70	Superior Officer
John Romero	Police	\$ 154,180.38	Police Chief
John Dushame	Police	\$ 144,020.61	Superior Officer
Denis Pierce	Police	\$ 138,751.52	Superior Officer
Shawn Conway	Police	\$ 138,711.99	Superior Officer
Melix Bonilla	Police	\$ 136,186.42	Superior Officer
Michael Driscoll	Police	\$ 134,204.22	Superior Officer
John Mcinnis	Fire	\$133,108.33	
Daniel Fleming	Police	\$ 132,599.84	Superior Officer
Sean Burke	Police	\$ 131,229.17	Superior Officer
Scott McNamara	Police	\$ 130,355.25	Superior Officer
David Levesque	Police	\$ 130,254.69	Patrolmen
Jack Bergeron	Fire	\$ 129,714.53	Fire Chief
Steven Scheffen	Police	\$ 129,050.30	Superior Officer
Kevin Nigohosian	Police	\$ 126,512.31	Patrolmen
Jose Martinez	Police	\$ 126,228.89	Superior Officer
Francis Martin	Fire	\$125,349.97	
James Raso	Police	\$ 125,304.19	Superior Officer
Stephen Takesian	Police	\$ 124,311.43	Superior Officer
Brian Murphy	Fire	\$ 123,632.15	
Joseph Padellaro	Police	\$ 123,400.12	Patrolmen
John Marsh	Fire	\$ 121,995.88	
Michael Simard	Police	\$ 121,254.35	Superior Officer
Daniel Kennedy	Fire	\$ 120,666.49	
Michelle Gugliuzza	School	\$ 120,000.00	Asst. Superintendent
James Crocker	Police	\$ 119,566.15	Superior Officer
Michael McCarthy	Police	\$ 116,778.21	Superior Officer
Timothy Dube	Police	\$ 116,521.41	Patrolmen
John Grant	Fire	\$ 114,353.97	
Joseph Cerullo	Police	\$ 114,253.99	Patrolmen
Mark Ciccarelli	Police	\$ 114,216.96	Superior Officer
Robert Wilson	Fire	\$ 113,616.64	
Robert Dibenedetto	Police	\$ 110,978.10	Superior Officer
James Loffredo	Fire	\$ 110,347.97	
John Fornesi	Police	\$ 110,345.73	Patrolmen
William Colantuoni	Police	\$ 110,206.09	Patrolmen
Mary Toomey	School	\$ 109,979.08	Principal

THANK YOU FOR PUBLISHING 100 ISSUES

For eight years the Valley Patriot has been outshining, out-performing, and proving the skeptics wrong. While other publications seem to be cutting back on news coverage and shrinking the size of their paper, The Valley Patriot has quite noticeably grown every single month since publishing your first edition in March of 2004.

Thank you Tom for giving we, your readers, 100 editions of the very best news, commentary, Tea P2arty information, public notices, health and wellness advice, and of course... PUPPYGIRL!

~ State Senator Bruce Tarr





# OUR 100TH EDITION: FROM PAGE 3

“newspaper”, would become as large or as successful as it has become today.

We never dreamed that advertisers from all over MA and NH would be calling us in such large volume that we would have to hire sales girls to handle them. We couldn't have imagined employing delivery drivers every month, or editors, photographers, a local political cartoonist, ad designers, distribution contractors, or warehouse workers.

We knew the potential was huge, but we never thought that we would have contracts with superstores like Market Baskets, Big Lots, Sal's Pizza, Hannaford's Supermarkets or CVS.

And we certainly never foresaw the day when an angel would drop out of the sky (as it happened back in 2007), when we met the (now) icon and mascot of The Valley Patriot: PuppyGirl, Kate Whitney from Boxford (page 31).

That first month in 2004, we published a sixteen page newspaper that encapsulated everything we knew other newspapers were lacking. We printed 2,000 papers and we delivered to a total of 25 locations in Lawrence, Andover, North Andover and Methuen.

Today we deliver to 35 cities and towns, average about 48 pages per edition, and have between 20-25,000 readers every month.

In fact, starting this month we begin delivering to eight new communities in the North Central Massachusetts: Gardner, Leominster, Fitchburg, Townsend, Westminster, Hubbardston, Templeton, and Winchendon.

## HOW WE GOT HERE: THE EAGLE TRIBUNE CREATES A MONSTER

The concept for the Valley Patriot was born as the result of an experience I had with the Eagle Tribune in the fall of 2003.

Thanks to an anonymous source, I had come into possession of various receipts and sign-off sheets from the Lawrence School Department showing that five Lawrence School Committee members

(Noah Shannon, Pedro Arce, Suzanne Piscitello, Nancy Kennedy and George Gonzalez) had all dined out with Superintendent Wilfredo Laboy and his staff after school board meetings.

They run up tabs worth over \$1,200.00. The receipts and expense reports showed that the school committee members, who were dining out, were also members of the finance committee and signed off on their own expenses, so nobody would find out.

In other words, school board members (who had the responsibility of going through the school department bills and making sure there was no inappropriate spending), were using money slated for Lawrence School Children and stuffing their faces at the most expensive restaurant in Lawrence: One Mill Street.

I made copies of the documents, verified their authenticity, and gave them to a friend at the Eagle-Tribune thinking, as bias as they are, this story was just too big to screw up or to pass up. Especially, since I had done all their homework for them.

But the response I got from my mole at the Trib was, to say the least, astonishing.

“They aren't running the story.”

“What? Why?”

“They love Wilfredo Laboy”

“They do? Well, what the hell does that have to do with anything? These people are stealing money from school children, and stuffing their faces. That's not a story?”

“They said they aren't writing any story that makes him look bad, sorry dude, He's a sacred cow. I tried, believe me.”

It takes a lot to surprise me, even more to make me stunned. But at that point I was beyond incredulous. I hung up the phone and said to the person next to me; “I've had enough. If the Trib's going to cover up a story like this to protect their sacred cow, just imagine what else they are covering up. We need to start our own newspaper.”

With the vision and assistance of Dr. Chuck Ormsby, Ralph Wilbur and others,



Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan receiving the Public Service Award from John Lenotte of the American Legion in front of the Korean War Memorial in Haverhill. (2008)

Through all the awards, citations and honors we have received over the last 100 editions, none mean more to us than those we get from veteran's organizations. This Public Service Award was presented by American Legion Commander John Lenotte (above right) in June of 2008. Thank you John Lenotte for writing our American Legion column every month. Thank you as well to Air Force Sgt. Moore for bestowing upon us a Public Service Award in 2007, and The US Army 2nd Air Battalion, 1st Training Brigade for presenting us with an award in 2009.

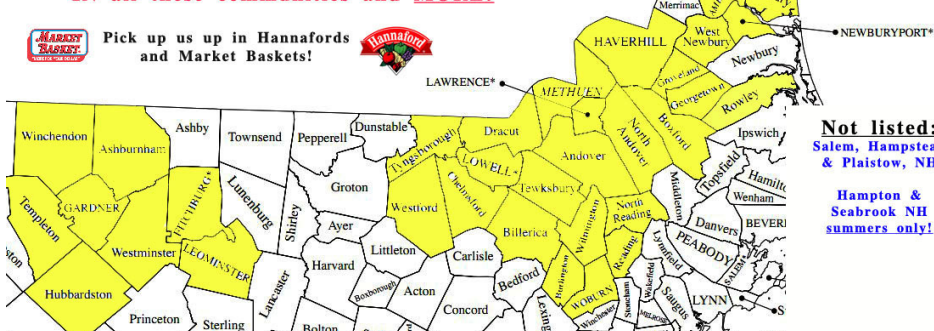
we set in motion a plan to create our own newspaper with the one goal of winning over readers by simply publishing the truth. We figured, as long as we don't do what all the other newspapers were doing, we couldn't fail. And our strategy worked.

When the very first paper hit the

streets eight years ago, the headline read: “School Committee Bills Taxpayers for Fine Dining” (see full story: page 34).

NEXT MONTH: We will celebrate our 8th anniversary and we will continue to republish some of our best stories and submissions.

## Where Can You Find The Valley Patriot? IN all these communities and MORE!



The Valley Patriot distributes approximately 20,000+ newspapers each month to the following communities: Lawrence, Andover, North Andover, Methuen, Middleton, Boxford, Rowley, Haverhill, Georgetown, Groveland, Lowell, Dracut, Tyngsboro, Billerica, Chelmsford, Tewksbury, Westford, Acton, Newburyport, Woburn, Burlington, Reading, North Reading, Salem NH, Plaistow NH, Hampstead NH, Amesbury, (Salisbury, Seabrook, & Hampton Beach in the summer) Gardner, Leominster, Fitchburg, Townsend, Westminster, Hubbardston, Templeton, and Winchendon.

## LAROCQUE: FROM PAGE 16

rence is that instead of focusing all their effort in trying another Recall Petition, they should focus their effort on making the Public Aware of How this Corrupt Mayor came into Office in the first place and the need for Voter I.D. in the City of Lawrence. This could and would be a more worthy endeavor and more likely to be a successful way to Unite the City of

Lawrence!

Isn't this what you stand for in the first place, a United Lawrence? This is just a suggestion and I am fully aware that the ultimate decision is yours to make. Please choose wisely. I am praying for you and praying for a United Lawrence!

God Bless you all!

## CONGRATULATIONS ON 100 GREAT EDITIONS!

**To get the right home, you'll need the right home loan.**



**Let me help you find the home loan that's right for you.**

**Contact me today to learn more.**



**Lance Adie**  
Mortgage Loan Officer  
NMLS ID: 40037  
978.853.6512  
lance.adie@bankofamerica.com  
<http://mortgage.bankofamerica.com/lanceadie>

**Bank of America Home Loans**

The Clarity Commitment® summary is provided as a convenience, does not serve as a substitute for a borrower's actual loan documents and is not a commitment to lend. Borrowers should become fully informed by reviewing all of the loan and disclosure documentation provided. Clarity Commitment is not available on all products. Credit and collateral are subject to approval. Terms and conditions apply. This is not a commitment to lend. Programs, rates, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Bank of America, N.A., Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender. © 2010 Bank of America Corporation. ARL344C1 00-62-2221D 04-2011

**A Unique Miracle**  
Beauty, Healing & Wellness Salon

Se Habla Espana



**30% OFF**

(New Clients Only)

Specialties

Ethnic Cuts & Styles,  
Organic Color & Highlighting,  
Massage, Facials & Waxing

132 Main Street  
North Andover, Ma 01845  
(978)688-9227

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

\*Cannot be combined with any other offers or promotions.



# Lifting the Veil on Welfare Fraud

Christine Morabito

MERRIMACK VALLEY TEA PARTY

If there is one thing Massachusetts excels at it is rewarding bad behavior. Exhibit A: the lack of oversight applied to entitlement programs.

Take EBT cards. While in many cases these cards are used for their intended purpose, the system is a magnet for waste, fraud and abuse. One need only visit the social networking site Twitter and search “EBT cards” or “food stamps” for a candid look at what we are dealing with. Be warned – reading the shameless posts may produce nausea and vomiting in the reader – definitely not for the squeamish.

There is no end to the public display of drinking parties courtesy of EBT cards or offers to trade them for a wider variety of goods than can be found on EBAY. But the prize goes to the gentleman (and I use that term loosely) who generously offered to sire children for complete strangers in exchange for this valuable commodity.

Here is the problem: In our well intentioned effort to remove the stigma attached to entitlement programs, the pendulum has swung so far in the opposite direction that some people are now flaunting their entitlements and creating an underground culture where blatant fraud is being committed.

The absence of oversight is easy to understand. These programs are funded by taxpayer dollars; therefore the government has no incentive whatsoever to root out waste. They can simply raise taxes when they run out of money and you and I are called heartless for denying aid to the poor and downtrodden if we dare to

protest.

There is no better example of how liberal social policy is implemented. As Rush Limbaugh is fond of saying, we are not allowed to look at the results of these programs or their unintended consequences. We are only to consider the intention. If the intention was honorable, it doesn't seem to matter that we are making people hopelessly dependent on the government. Sadly, in the mind of liberal politicians this dependency translates into votes.

Thanks to the efforts of State Senators Steve Baddour and Bruce Tarr, Massachusetts is now considering the results and the consequences. Both have sponsored bills to address this serious issue. Since welfare reform is often considered the third rail of politics, the Senators are not without their critics.

One proposal being considered is equipping EBT cards with a photo, so that these cards cannot be sold or traded on the black market. There is also a provision to prevent cards from being used to withdraw cash at ATMs or to purchase tobacco or alcohol. State Representative Shaunna O'Connell has proposed similar legislation and should be commended by the taxpayers.

Apparently, the most controversial piece of this reform is a requirement that welfare recipients submit to a drug test prior to receiving taxpayer funded benefits. I fail to see the controversy, unless it is somehow cruel to have any expectations of people. Without this provision, you and I will continue to subsidize drug abuse and its resultant treatment. What is the incentive to get off drugs when the taxpayers



are providing them?

As a psychiatric nurse I educate patients to practice “tough love” when dealing with a loved one struggling with substance dependence. It can be an extremely difficult thing for a spouse or family member to do. The worst thing they can do is enable a loved one to continue to use. Yet our own country, under the guise of compassion, is enabling substance abuse, and in doing so, dooming people to failure. As a state and as a nation, should we not practice that same tough love?

Like millions of taxpayers I am tired of my money being used to buy drugs and alcohol, supply needles and pay

for men to spawn children -- for crying out loud. Thanks to the efforts of some common sense legislators, Massachusetts is having a difficult conversation that is long overdue.

For decades conservatives have been unfairly accused of wanting to eliminate the safety net and “let people fend for themselves.” This ridiculous narrative could not be further from the truth. But when that safety net becomes a hammock, I have a problem with that and I think you do too.



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)

## The Valley Patriot ~ Tea Party Activists as Journalists!

.... or ... If you can't beat the Media BE the media!

Christen Varley

TEA PARTY ORGANIZER/ACTIVIST

Congratulations to The Valley Patriot on its 100th edition! This is a wonderful business achievement. It is also a victory for journalism.

Those of us who dedicate a good amount of time to following government and politics know the value of a trusted news source. Unfortunately, we also know the dangers present when the main sources of news have become corrupted by an allegiance to a political ideology or agenda. It is a “buyer beware” market like no other.

Information is power. With 24-hour access to news via television, radio and computers, we are deluged. Unfortunately, the quality of the reporting has not kept up with the quantity. We, as consumers, need to take responsibility for monitoring the accuracy of our sources. This does not mean, however, that we should abandon completely those sources we find lacking. As people active in grassroots politics, it is important to see all sides of an issue in order to know what the opposition is saying as well as what we are up against.

There is a recurring theme amongst Tea Party activists that we are battling the liberal, mainstream media as much as we are big government. I find this disingenuous.

Yes, the lack of information and the selective reporting done by those news outlets owned by, supported by and consumed by the Left is a handicap we must overcome. But these so-called news sources are not the enemy. They are just another roadblock around which we need to navigate. We do this by finding and promoting new sources of good information, say, like The Valley Patriot.

The Tea Party movement lives on the Internet. It is where we meet, where we discuss and debate, where we share information. It is our battlefield – for now.

One of the most valuable services the Tea Party movement can provide is the dissemination of accurate information. As average voters tire of a barrage of rose colored reporting and wake up to the distortions and lies being promulgated by the mainstream media in order to benefit the left, they will look for new sources. We can be that source.

Each of us has a specific interest that brought us to the movement, some aspect of government or politics that get our motor running. We should strive to become “experts” in this area of interest. By focusing our efforts and resources on a particular set of issues or policies, we can become the go to source for other activists. We can blog about the issue. We can share



research. We can present our topic on websites, in newsletters and at meetings. Candidates, political parties and special interest groups are successful when they get their message out to as many people as possible. And they get to control the message. The Tea Party movement needs its members to help Tea Party organizations do the same. In this way, we all can become journalists. We can do what today's journalists are not doing – we can relay the truth.

I think one of the most important things we can do as activists-turned journalists is to form relationships with those in elected office. Our elected officials make decisions everyday based on information passed on to them. Like us, they cannot be experts on every issue.

If we can become sources of information for them, we can influence policy. We're nearly three years into this movement – it is time for us to learn this lesson. From town Conservation Board to United States Senator, we must reach out, share our perspective

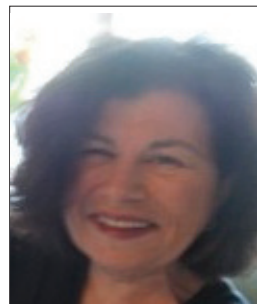
on limited government and individual Liberty and find allies. Set aside party and past voting records for now and just make an appointment. Meet people, talk with them, tell them our story, our goals and objectives and report back.

We Tea Party activists are information junkies. We want facts and we want them now. We are changing the face of journalism in America. With our websites, our posts on social networks, our tweets, newsletters and blogs, we are winning the information war. We just need to up our game. We can add more credibility to our reporting by broadening our networks.

The Valley Patriot has formed solid relationships with elected officials across party and ideological lines and it shows in the excellent news it provides to us.

Let's look for other similar sources across MA and the nation. Let's expand our network. We need not rely any longer on traditional news sources. We are our own media now.

Christen Varley is the former President of the Greater Boston Tea Party. You can email her at [christen@jeepmom.com](mailto:christen@jeepmom.com)



Judith Maselli  
Sr. Mortgage Consultant  
MLO 48786

Helping Borrowers since 1988

Cell: (978) 886 1737  
Ext. 14 (24-hr.)  
[www.firstinteg.com](http://www.firstinteg.com)



**FIRST  
INTEGRITY  
MORTGAGE** LLC

354 Merrimack Street, Sal's Riverwalk, Lawrence MA 01843

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

354 Merrimack St., at Sal's Riverwalk  
Lawrence MA 01843

Tel. 978.685.9700 x15 \* Fax 978.685.9701  
MA Mortgage Broker #MB 1964  
Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.  
ME#CSO11110 \* NMLS ID 1964





**Robert Campbell (center), President of the New England Association of Chiefs of Police holds an EZ-ID license plate with Jay Gardiner (left), Director of the Molly Bish Center and Gary Richard (right), Danvers resident and crafter of the EZ-ID license plate identification system.**

## N.E. Police Chiefs Association Endorses EZ-ID Bill

BOSTON – The New England Association of Chiefs of Police (NEACOP) has unanimously endorsed the EZ-ID bill filed by Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester) and co-sponsored by Senator John F. Keenan (D-Quincy) and Representative Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer), joining a growing list of public safety organizations calling for the bill's passage.

Robert D. Campbell, President of the NEACOP, recently wrote a letter on behalf of the organization's Board of Directors labeling the EZ-ID proposal, which was crafted by Danvers resident Gary P. Richard, "truly a worthwhile project that deserves the support of Law Enforcement."

"It not only serves the need for vehicle identification in cases of child abduction, but also serves as a tool for vehicle identification when a motor vehicle is used for any criminal activity," Campbell wrote. "With its apparent value, the Board of Directors of the New England Association of Chiefs of Police has, by unanimous vote, endorsed EZ-ID as a project worthy of our support."

Senate Bill 1798, also known as Molly's Bill, would direct the Registry of Motor Vehicles to issue license plates that combine the traditional letters and numbers already used with universal, easily distinguishable symbols, such as triangles, squares and other geometric shapes.

The bill is named after Molly Bish, a teenager who was abducted while working as a lifeguard in Warren in June of 2000. Molly's remains were found three years later, but her killer has never been identified.

Molly's Bill would require license plates to pair up to four alpha-numeric

characters with one easily recognized symbol. The new format would assist law enforcement officials by making it easier for witnesses to read, identify and remember the license plate of a motor vehicle used in the commission of a crime.

In many cases, witnesses are able to recall only a partial license plate, forcing police to run a check on thousands of vehicles to narrow the list of suspects, but symbols are more easily identified. With a standard six-character plate, the number of possible matches can be narrowed to about 1 in 4,300 vehicles, but a plate issued under the EZ-ID bill would narrow the possible combinations to only 1 in 123, making it easier to identify and track down the vehicle.

Senate Bill 1798 was the subject of a public hearing before the Joint Committee on Transportation on October 19, 2011. The bill is currently under review by the committee.

"Implementing the provisions of Molly's Bill will not only help put criminals behind bars, but also will help to save lives," said Senator Tarr. "The new system established by this bill will significantly strengthen the effectiveness of license plates for their main purpose – identifying cars, trucks and other vehicles."

I welcome the endorsement of the New England Association of Chiefs of Police, and I intend to continue lobbying the members of the Transportation Committee and stressing the importance of releasing this crucial public safety measure to the Senate floor with a favorable recommendation as quickly as possible."

In addition to the NEACOP, Molly's

**EZ-ID: PAGE 43**

# Welfare Reform

Senator Steven A. Baddour  
STATE SENATOR (D) - METHUEN

Over the past year, the media has reported case after case of individuals abusing and defrauding our state's social welfare programs. Chances are, you may have witnessed

it yourself. Have you ever watched someone use their EBT card to buy a piece of candy for \$1.00 and then request cash back to buy cigarettes or lottery tickets? Did you know that individuals routinely sell their EBT cards for cash – often at half the value – to obtain money to buy drugs, allowing someone who isn't eligible to use the card later? Ever see someone in another state using an EBT card or wonder whether anyone is "watching the store" when it comes to public benefits? You aren't alone.

Since these stories became public, I have had literally dozens upon dozens of tax payers, small business owners, law enforcement officers, nurses and teachers tell me countless stories and examples of witnessing people abusing the state's public benefits. It is offensive and frankly disgusting when people use the state's generosity to their own advantage, especially when they use the money to engage in illegal behavior like drug use. These social welfare programs were put in place to help seniors, the disabled, working families and children that have fallen on hard times. We are living in one of the most difficult economic recessions of our lives and we must ensure that those who legitimately need a hand up are getting it, and that those who seek to simply game the system are routed out and punished.

This session I filed two bills to make changes to the laws governing the use of public benefits that I believe will drastically reduce fraud as well as punish those who engage in such fraudulent activities. Highlights of the bills include:

- Prohibiting "cash back" features of EBT cards. EBT cards essentially function as cash and are accepted at virtually all stores and merchants. I do not believe there is any legitimate reason for any recipient to require cash back from their card to obtain goods or services.

- Require a photo on EBT cards. Right now, EBT cards are not connected to individuals and can be used – without question – by anyone. Requiring proper identification will eliminate the secondary market for these cards and ensure that the person who applied for benefits is the person that is actually benefitting from the card.

person that is actually benefitting from the card.

- Mandate drug testing of applicants. It is illegal to use drugs and we must try to make people accountable for their actions. Test failure will result in an inability to receive benefits for a year; six months if they enter a treatment facility. Applicants who pass the drug screening will be reimbursed by the state. The cost of such a test is approximately \$40.

- Increase penalties on merchants who allow ineligible purchases. Store owners should be held accountable for preventing recipients from buying lottery tickets, alcohol and cigarettes with public funds.

- Enable law enforcement and other providers to be part of the solution. Currently, state and local police are not able to investigate and criminally pursue those suspected of welfare fraud. My legislation would allow them to initiate cases. It would also give health care professionals the ability to report fraud.

In addition to filing this legislation, I recently wrote a letter to Massachusetts Secretary of Health and Human Services JudyAnn Bigby requesting information about the number of individuals receiving services and benefits from her agency, how long recipients remain on the program, as well as information about their fraud detection process and results. At the same time, I requested that State Auditor Suzanne Bump initiate a comprehensive audit of the state's Department of Transitional Assistance – a request she was pleased to undertake.

Our state welfare system was established to provide necessary, short-term help to those who need it during tough times. We must, for the sake of those who rely on these programs and those that fund it through taxes, ensure the accountability of the system. Only through ending rampant abuse, can this happen.



## Are you fighting over your bills?

*Divorce your debt - Not your husband.*

Call us today to find out how you may be able to eliminate your debt and restore your credit.

**30 Massachusetts Ave. - North Andover**  
(in the Riverbank Building)  
**978-682-9643 ~ [www.consolilaw.com](http://www.consolilaw.com)**



**Consoli & Wilshusen**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



FOR ALL YOUR ESTATE PLANNING NEEDS

DIANNE M. O'BRIEN

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

I am a very well-qualified Estate Planning attorney who will make the process quick, easy, and convenient for you – meeting with you in your home if you wish.

- Wills
- Trusts
- Health Care Proxies
- Powers of Attorney
- Living Wills
- Probate

**COMPLIMENTARY INITIAL CONSULTATION**

**Former Officer in the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General Corps – 8 Years**

**www.attorneyobrien.com**



800 Turnpike Street, Ste. 300  
North Andover, Ma 01845  
978-794-5515

*Flat Fees*  
For Estate Planning Services

WANTED TO BUY

OLD PAPER MONEY

And Coins



Free Appraisals - Cash Settlements

Call: 978-884-6641

WHOLESALE PRICES TO THE PUBLIC

New in HAVERHILL.... Get all your supplies locally at:

Quintana

Free delivery for local businesses! Wholesale Outlet Monthly Billing!

Janitorial Supplies

Commercial or Household use:  
\* cleaners \* floor strippers \* waxes  
\* brooms \* mops \* dusting rags \* sponges \* buckets \* gloves \* soaps/detergents \* ice melt

Shipping Supplies

\* boxing \* bubble bags \* bubble wrap  
\* tissue \* tape \* mailers \* peanuts



We're Ready for the Snow... ARE YOU??

ICE MELT AVAILABLE

50LB BAGS AS LOW AS \$8/LB

FREE INSULATED GLOVES WITH ANY ICE MELT PURCHASE

We Stock;  
Ice Melt, Scrapers,  
Shovels, Ice-Off  
Aerosols



Open: Mon-Fri 9AM to 5PM, Sat: 9AM-12PM

558 River St., Haverhill \*800-499-1000 > Next to Ralph Pill & Giovanni's



COFFEE CANN CAFE

Stop by and try our Coffee of the Month: Brownie Toffee Crunch

THE COFFEE CANN CAFÉ is conveniently nestled inside the newly renovated Riverwalk Properties, located in the historic Lawrence mills. The Coffee Cann Café offers your favorite varieties of coffee, signature muffins and many other delicious pastries.

Try our soups, salads and wraps!!

Buy One Gourmet Cupcake & Get one FREE

With this coupon Expires 3/15/12

FREE MUFFIN

with purchase of a hot or iced coffee

With this coupon Expires 3/15/12

360 MERRIMACK STREET | LAWRENCE, MA | BLDG 9 | ENTRY K  
978-208-1907



Dave Guselli  
Broker/Owner  
Office: 978-689-8006  
Fax: 1-866-284-2733  
Cell: 978-852-5481  
daveg@prufirstchoice.com



Prudential  
First Choice Realty

184 Pleasant Valley Street, Suite 1-102, Methuen, MA 01844  
Rock Solid in Real Estate  
2010 J.D. Powers Award Winner

www.prufirstchoice.com



MERRIMACK CONVENIENCE STORE

NECCO STUDENTS, Show ID and get Discount!!



Lottery - NE Coffee - Deli - Sandwiches - TRIPOLI PIZZA - Pastry - Ice- Groceries  
Slush - Milk - Bread - Cold Cuts - Prep. Sandwiches - Salads - Beer - Wine - Cigarettes  
Cigars - Fresh Produce - KENO! - Iced Coffee - Ice Cream - Frozen Foods

500 A Merrimack Street - Lawrence - (978) 688-1226 in Sal's Riverwalk Complex Next to Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union

valleypatriot.com



TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

**\*GROVELAND - OUR NEW OVER 30, WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM IS READY TO TAKE ON THE WORLD!**

The Valley Patriot and DTS (Dirts to Skirts Sports League) in Groveland have teamed up to help bring over 30, women's softball teams to a new level of play. The Valley Patriot's new team "The Valley Patriotets" will be kicking off their season this spring, right here in the pages of our newspaper. We will be publishing their team schedule, the league schedule, photos and recaps of the games and bios on the players. So DO NOT MISS the Valley Patriot's new team this spring and follow along as they start down the road to a league championship! Anyone interested in playing in the DTS league or playing on "The Valley Patriotets" can visit [www.dts.com](http://www.dts.com)

**\*LIES, LIES AND MORE LIES, ROMNEY AND NEWT, LET'S CALL IT LIKE IT IS!**

If there is one thing I cannot stand it's a candidate for public office blatantly lying to the voters. Whether or not I support a candidate is irrelevant. So, let me clear up some lies floating around the presidential campaign.

LIE #1: Mitt Romney claims Newt Gingrich is "Offering amnesty to 11 million illegals" While it might make a good sound bite and it may even convince ignorant voters who are too stupid to know any better, saying that Newt is offering amnesty to anyone is just an outright lie. Speaker Gingrich has never offered amnesty or proposed amnesty to anyone. Much less "11 million illegal aliens". This lie perpetuated by Romney (and at one time Michele Bachman) is disgraceful and he has to be called out on it.

LIE #2: Romney's Health Care Plan in Massachusetts is the same as Obamacare at the national level. This is a lie that started with President Obama and Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick. Knowing that Romney was most likely going to be the republican nominee for president this year, Obama and Deval schemed two years ago to put forth the notion in the media that Obama's government run, government controlled, mandated health coverage by the government was "modeled" after Romney's health care plan when he was governor of MA.

But nothing could be further from the truth. Mitt Romney's health care plan in Massachusetts offers PRIVATE health care for those who could not afford it, not government RUN health care.

LIE #3: Romney is a pro-abortion. This is something I first heard from my candidate, Newt Gingrich and when he said it I was floored. Just as Mitt knew it was a lie when he said Gingrich's was for amnesty for illegal aliens, Newt knows full well that calling Romney "Pro-abortion" is a lie.

LIE #4: Newt Gingrich resigned in disgrace as Speaker of the House after paying a fine for ethics violations. Fact is, Gingrich was charged with more than 80 violations of ethics and was cleared on all of them. The "fine" he supposedly paid was not a

fine at all but a reimbursement for the cost of the investigation. Gingrich may have resigned as Speaker but he did not "resign in disgrace" as Romney and members of the media have stated.

LIE #5: Romney ties to BAIN Capital are an example of "crony capitalism". What makes this lie so egregious is that it is an attack on venture capitalism itself. If you look at Romney's record in the private sector and you add up all the jobs Romney has created at Bain, then subtract all the jobs that were lost by a Bain takeover, the net gain is in the hundreds of thousands of jobs.

**\*STILL NO WORD FROM SENATE CANDIDATE ELIZABETH WARREN**

You may notice U.S. Senator Scott Brown is a dominant presence in this edition of the Valley Patriot. Part of the reason for that is because Senator Brown actually answers our phone calls and keeps us up to date on what he is doing throughout the 35 communities we cover. His campaign office sends us invites to his events and his campaign workers don't blow us off when we call for information or an interview. NOT SO for his rival Professor Elizabeth Warren. Warren is one of two Democrats hoping to challenge Senator Brown in November. I called Professor Warren's campaign and emailed them asking for an interview so we could run a story on the Democrat challenger (on the opposite page as our story on Senator Brown's re-election kickoff). But, unlike Brown, Warren's campaign people's answer to our request for an interview was "we will get back to you"... which they never did. It always amuses me when a candidate is afraid of The Valley Patriot or The Paying Attention! radio program (on 980AM WCAP). And I am sure the Warren campaign will see all the publicity we are giving Senator Brown and think interviewing with us is a waste of time (since I am obviously rooting for Scott). But that would be a mistake. You see, whether or not "I" personally, support a candidate in any given race we are completely committed here at the Valley Patriot to be fair to all candidates given that a large number of our readers do not share our views on candidates or issues. But as long as Professor Warren's campaign continues to blow us off, her opponent will continue to get mountains of publicity with no representation in our pages of the Elizabeth Warren Campaign. Let's see how long they want to cut off their nose to spite their face.

**REMEMBERING WHO STOOD WITH NECC** - As we celebrate our 8 year anniversary next month, we will reprint a column I wrote in 2006 about the genesis of the Multi-million Northern Essex Community College's Health and Technology Center project that just got under way on Common St. in Lawrence. Why? Because I think it will be very eye opening for my newer readers to see just how on target we got that story nearly 5 years before it happened.

**MBA LEVERAGES BILLBOARDS, YOUTUBE VIDEOS TO RAISE AWARENESS ON COURT FUNDING**



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

The Valley Patriot caught United States Senator Scott Brown reading through the paper at Country Kitchen on Hampshire St. in Methuen last month. Brown was in Methuen to shake hands and listen to the concerns of Methuen Residents. We want to thank Senator Brown for returning our calls and granting our requests for an interview. It's more than we get from his opponent Elizabeth Warren whom we are still waiting to get back to us . See Brown Story on Page 13.

Boston, MA - As Massachusetts nears its state budget process for FY 2013, the Massachusetts Bar Association is launching a high profile awareness campaign on the effects of underfunded courts. The statewide effort is geared toward the commonwealth's general public.

"Understandably, the average citizen may not appreciate the irreplaceable role courts play in their security, livelihood and freedoms," MBA President Richard P. Campbell said. "This significant communication will attempt to change that."

Through a billboard campaign to begin on Monday, Jan. 16, the association aims to grab the average citizen's attention to reinforce that court funding does impact him or her. The MBA's message will be showcased on billboards in Greater Boston, along I-93 in Dorchester and Medford; in Worcester along I-290 and in Fall River along Rt. 24.

The billboard message will direct passersby to the MBA Web site--- [www.massbar.org](http://www.massbar.org). Included on the MBA's site will be informational materials on court funding as well as resources citizens and members of the legal community can reference when reaching out to their respective legislators on this important issue.

As part of the informational on-line package, public service announcement-style videos can be viewed. The videos highlight the negative impact of inadequate court

funding through the perspective of judicial leadership, attorneys, academic leaders and court staff.

"We've never done this before," Campbell said. "The fact that the MBA has committed to elevating awareness in this fashion is a clear indication of how dire the circumstances have gotten in the courtroom atmosphere and operations."

Campbell said he realizes that the campaign won't reach every citizen of the commonwealth, but he is eager to take the MBA's communication and advocacy efforts to the next level to better convey why Massachusetts should properly fund its third branch of government.

In addition to the billboards and YouTube videos, the MBA will work to share word of this new campaign through comprehensive outreach to the larger legal and legislative community, as well as other key community and opinion leaders.

Gov. Deval L. Patrick is expected to release his version of the FY13 budget later this month, while both the House and Senate will take it up in February and May, respectively.

For more information, visit [www.massbar.org](http://www.massbar.org)

**PUBLIC MEETING TO HEAR HOW "HOPE & CHANGE" MORPHED INTO THREE YEARS OF "OBAMANATIONS"**

# Deli Catering Headquarters

Daily Lunch Specials

- \* Corporate Catering
- \* Office Parties
- \* Family Parties
- \* Wedding Parties
- \* Party Platters
- \* Homemade Sausages
- \* Calzones...

Fri & Sat Stuffed Artichoke Tripe

TheNorthEndDeli.com

# North End Deli

95 Common St Lawrence, MA - phone - 978.688-3539 fax 978.688.3559

calzonecity.com

valleypatriot.com



# DRACUT

## Kindergarten Registration

2012-2013 School Year

Registration packets for the 2012-2013 school year are available on the Dracut Public School's website at [www.dracutpublicschools.net](http://www.dracutpublicschools.net)

Registration days are as follows:

**Campbell School:**  
Tuesday, February 28th at 6:00 pm

**Brookside Elementary:**  
Wednesday, February 29th at 6:00 pm

**Greenmont Avenue:**  
Thursday, March 1st at 7:00 pm

Northborough, MA – What happened to Barack Obama’s lofty promises of “Hope and Change”? What did he mean by “Transforming America”? According to John O’Mara of the Northborough Tea Party, “It has become clear that Barack Obama’s intention is to redistribute our wealth, promote class warfare, and to create a citizenry dependent on the government ... not exactly what our Founders had in mind.”

The public is invited to attend a free lecture “How Hope & Change Became Three Years of Obamanations”, on Monday, February 13, 2012, 7:00 p.m. at the Northborough Free Library, 34 Main Street. Hal Shurtleff, Regional Director of the John Birch Society will address the growing list of “Obamanations” – the bailouts, unwanted ObamaCare, debt expansion to \$15 trillion, 8.5% unemployment, the “Fast & Furious” fiasco, the subversion of the Keystone project and the resultant loss of union jobs, denial of American “Exceptionalism”, blatant support of illegal immigration, and his fallacious notion that “Capitalism has never worked”. A special invitation is extended to students of all ages, and the media.

Contact: John O’Mara 508.393.2044, [northboroughteaparty@gmail.com](mailto:northboroughteaparty@gmail.com) or [www.northboroughteaparty.com](http://www.northboroughteaparty.com)

**\*METHUEN FESTIVAL OF TREES OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS** - The Methuen Festival of Trees announces its new scholarship program. The Festival of Trees will award a scholarship to a graduating senior in the Merrimack Valley or a student currently enrolled in a college program.

Applications are available at the Guidance Departments of the local High Schools; may be picked up at the Nevins Memorial Library, 305 Broadway, Methuen, and may be downloaded on line at [www.methuenfestivaloftrees.com](http://www.methuenfestivaloftrees.com). Awards will be based on many factors, including academic achievement, extracurricular activities, leadership, financial need, and other demonstrated skills and talents. Students who have participated



**100 ISSUES**

**...AND SHOWING NO SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN.**

Thank you to David Sullivan of Dracut. David is our In-house political cartoonist who takes concepts and ideas over the phone (sometimes via email) and draws custom-made, hilariously accurate portrayals of the newsmakers we cover around the Valley and beyond. This month we let David Take some liberties.

in the Methuen Festival of Trees or are pursuing studies in historic preservation and/or restoration will receive special consideration. Applications are due by April 6, 2012. For more information, contact Colleen Carney, Chair of the Scholarship Committee at 978-807-5359.

**\*METHUEN VILLAGE AT RIVERWALK PARK**

Scot Andrews Performs at Methuen Village: Methuen Village at Riverwalk Park, a senior community offering assisted living and state-of-the-art Alzheimer’s care, invites the public to a performance by pianist and vocalist Scot Andrews on Friday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m. Scot will sing everything from Joplin to Waller! Advance RSVP encouraged. Methuen Village is located in the heart of downtown Methuen at 4 Gleason Street. For more information, call 978-685-2220 or visit [www.MethuenVillage.com](http://www.MethuenVillage.com).

Brenda Terry Performs Country Western at Methuen Village: Methuen Village at Riverwalk Park, a senior community offering assisted living and state-of-the-art Alzheimer’s care, invites the public to a performance by country western singer and guitarist Brenda Terry on Thursday, February 9 at 2:00 p.m. Advance RSVP encouraged. Methuen Village is located in the heart of downtown Methuen at 4 Gleason Street. For more information, call 978-685-2220 or

visit [www.MethuenVillage.com](http://www.MethuenVillage.com).

Busty Faro Performs at Methuen Village: Methuen Village at Riverwalk Park, a senior community offering assisted living and state-of-the-art Alzheimer’s care, invites the public to a performance by accordion player Sebastian “Busty” Faro on Sunday, February 12 at 7:00 p.m. Advance RSVP encouraged. Methuen Village is located in the heart of downtown Methuen at 4 Gleason Street. For more information, call 978-685-2220 or visit [www.MethuenVillage.com](http://www.MethuenVillage.com).

Eastern Sound Orchestra at Methuen Village: Methuen Village at Riverwalk Park, a senior community offering assisted living and state-of-the-art Alzheimer’s care, invites the public to a performance by the Eastern Sound Orchestra on Thursday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m. This group will perform Polish polka music and standards! Advance RSVP encouraged. Methuen Village is located in the heart of downtown Methuen at 4 Gleason Street. For more information, call 978-685-2220 or visit [www.MethuenVillage.com](http://www.MethuenVillage.com).

**NORTH SHORE BUSINESS FORUM - BASIC BUSINESS BOOKKEEPING**

February 17 - DANVERS, Tom Knowlton, of Compass Business Solutions, will speak at the North Shore Business Forum on February 17 on Business Bookkeeping. The North Shore Business Forum meets at

7:30am at the Danversport Yacht Club, Rt. 62 East, Danvers, MA. The \$10 admission fee include a continental breakfast and pre-registration is not required. For more info - [www.nsbforum.org](http://www.nsbforum.org)

**NORTH ANDOVER** - Back by popular demand: Free Memory Screening event on Thursday, February 23rd, 10:30 am – 1:30 pm at the North Andover Senior Center located at 120R Main Street. The screening is being conducted by Elder Services of Merrimack Valley and is open to anyone (regardless of age) who would like to have their memory screened. The event is confidential and the results of the screening are immediately shared with you. To sign-up, please contact the North Andover Senior Center at 978-688-9560. Screening takes 20 min to complete. Limited space available and appointments are assigned on a first come- first served basis.

**GET TO KNOW THE NORTH SHORE BUISNESS FORUM** - February 24 – DANVERS, Nancy Black, of Organization Plus and Katie Finch of Windhill Realty, will speak at the North Shore Business Forum on February 24 on the benefits of networking at the North Shore Business Forum. The North Shore Business Forum meets at 7:30am at the Danversport Yacht Club, Rt. 62 East, Danvers, MA. The \$10 admission fee include a continental break-

**NOTEBOOK, PAGE 42**




**AMERICAN**  
CAR CARE CENTERS

**Broadway Tire & Auto Company, Inc.**  
Phone: (978) 682-0000  
456 N. BROADWAY - RTE. 28, LAWRENCE - [WWW.BROADWAYTIRE-AUTO.COM](http://WWW.BROADWAYTIRE-AUTO.COM)

## TO THE VALLEY PATRIOT:


Thank You for everything you do to expose the corruption in Lawrence and Congratulations on your 100th Edition!



**CHAOS in LAWRENCE**  
State to Secure \$10M Bailout Loan for Bankrupt Lawrence

**ABSOLUTE POWER!**  
INSIDE: LAWRENCE'S DEVILS' MONEY

**SHERIFF COUSINS' SECRETS**  
ENDING THIS ARSON



Your Friend: Jen Cooper



**Sweetheart Inn**  
Nestled in the Woods of West Methuen

**Make Your Reservations for Valentine's Day!**  
80 Myrtle Street, Methuen

Call (978)682-7012  
[www.sweetheartinn.com](http://www.sweetheartinn.com)

**Congratulations & Thank You for 100 great editions of helping small businesses!**





# 100 Issues of GREAT Photos



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

In Novmber 2010, Lawrence Police Officers Chris Bussy and Captain Jimmy Raso inspect weapons, ski masks and ammunition after arresting three men who were casing a Lawrence nightclub on Essex St. The officers also confiscated drugs, “cop killer” bullets and several handguns. At lest two of the criminals arrested had active warrents. MORE BELOW



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

In December of 2010 The Valley Patriot was invited by the United States Marines to attend a 4 day educaitional workshop on Parris Island Marine Corp Recruit depot. This photo was taken while Marine recruits were doing weapons exercises. Several of the recruits we interviewed were from the Merrimack Valley.



ALL PHOTOS: TOM DUGGAN

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



Photo #5 (2010) Republican Nominee for Governor Charlie Baker at the close of the Republican State Convention. #6 (2009) Hero Marine runs the Chelmsford 4th of July marathon. #7 (2009) Candidate Scott Brown in downtown North Andover two days before his historic win. #8 (2009) Child runs the Chelmsford 4th of July Marathon.

#9 (2010) Valley Patriot Publisher Tom Duggan, (the son of a slain Lawrence Police Officer) speaks at the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial in Washington D.C. Sitting in the front row are U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, FBI Director Mueller, Director of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and other members of the President's Cabinet.



ALL PHOTOS: TOM DUGGAN (#9 BY P. PORTEN)



# 100 Issues of GREAT Photos



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

The Sun rises over Marina Bay in Quincy Massachusetts on October 1, 2003. This never before published photo was taken on the very same day that the (now) Valley Patriot board of directors had their first meeting to decide whether or not starting a newspaper would be financially viable.



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

(2010) Llama's and other wildlife are available for kids to pet and experience every year at the Annual North Andover Sheep Sheering Festival. This little girl began to giggle at her very first glimpse of an alpaca and our camera caught her in mid giggle. EDITORS CHOICE.

**M • E • T • H • U • E • N**  
**FAMILY**  
**RESTAURANT**

**Open 7 days a week, 6am to 9pm**  
**American and Mediterranean Cuisine**  
**Serving for 21 years**  
**Breakfast all day, Lunch & Dinner**  
**Daily Specials & Homemade Soups**  
**Take-out**

**246 Broadway, Methuen MA 01844**  
**978-683-7050**  
**[www.facebook.com/methuenfamilyrestaurant](http://www.facebook.com/methuenfamilyrestaurant)**



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

(2007) The Valley Patriot's PuppyGirl, Kate Whitney was fostering a new puppy back in 2007 named Patsy. Patsy seemed a bit enamored by her pony "Princess" and kept jumping on her hind legs to kiss the pony's lips. **See Our PuppyGirl Tribute on Page 30.**

**#1**

**OMEGA MORTGAGE CORP.**  
213 Broadway,  
Suite #5  
Methuen MA  
01844

**E-mail: [andrew@omegamortgage.com](mailto:andrew@omegamortgage.com)**

**VOTED BEST AD DESIGN!**  
*\*The Valley Patriot*

**Free Appraisal (\$500 value) when you mention this ad!**  
**Call Andy Distefano's**  
**Cell: (978) 423-4716**  
license NMLS #16124

**Yeah... Our Mortgages are THAT good!**

Mass. Mortgage Lender & Mortgage Broker MC0077 - Sudbury  
Licensed by the N. H. Banking Department,  
N. H. Lic #5920MS Lic #9862-MHL  
Internet Direct FHA # 77144-0003-3

Methuen resident Lily Carrion always wanted to be a model so when her grandmother asked if we could work her into an ad, we found the perfect photo of her to promote Andrew DiStefano of Omega Mortgage (a division of Lowell Bank). Lily has become so popular since her modeling debut that we will be using her photos on more ads in the future (when we finish negotiating her contract!) ~ Voted Best Ad Design 2011

**Home Buyers and Sellers First Choice**  
We're here to make your real estate experience a great one

**David Guselli**

**Prudential First Choice Realty**  
184 Pleasant Street  
Methuen, MA 01844  
Tel: (978) 689-8006

With over 30 years experience Prudential First Choice Realty can help you from start to finish when buying or selling a home.

If you're thinking of selling your home call us and find out why so many choose Prudential First Choice Realty.

**(978) 689-8006**

**Prudential First Choice Realty**  
**www.prufirstchoice.com**

Massachusetts Real Estate Pre-Licensing Courses in Methuen  
Call for start dates  
\$295 includes books & materials  
Call now for further details. Seating is limited  
978-689-8006

**EXPERIENCED/NEWLY LICENSED AGENTS NEEDS**

We are growing and need motivated people with sales background!! For more information  
Email: [info@prufirstchoice.com](mailto:info@prufirstchoice.com)



## Ye Gay Ol' Valley

It's Parents AND Teachers,  
not Parents VS. Teachers

D. B. Langevin

VALLEY PATRIOT LESBIAN COLUMNIST

In the news earlier this month, there was a story about a mother who had enough of her teenaged son's behavior. "Nothing worked", she said. He'd been punished by his mother, his school and even the law and, still, his behavior continued to escalate. Mom was at her wits end so she decided to do something some have considered drastic. She resorted to good old fashioned public humiliation. She made a large sign that said, "I lie, I steal, I sell drugs," hung it around her son's neck and made him stand on a busy street corner for two hours.

The reaction was mixed. Some cars beeped in agreement, others actually stopped and gave the mother a piece of their mind for humiliating her son. Since then, mom says that her son's behavior has made a major improvement. Way to go mom. It's nice to see a parent parenting and for those who thought it was terrible, what would have been a better solution? Should she have waited until the boy hurt himself or, worse yet, someone else?

As a seasoned teacher of fifteen years I have seen all kinds of parents. Parents are much like the story of the three bears. Some parents are too hot, some are too cold, and others are just right. Sadly, over the years, parents are getting less and less just right and more of them are too cold. In other words, they do not take an active part in their child's life other than buying them the most expensive shoes, clothes and latest electronic devices because that's what they think good parenting is. Their kids don't have to earn it, they just have to ask for it and because many parents don't want to parent, they want to be their children's best friend, they simply plunk down the money and hope that it is appreciated.

Because I am a teacher I am required to jump through hoops to make sure no child is left behind and my school wins the race to the top. I have to speak with students who are underachieving or misbehaving, contact parents and administrators for the same reasons and even counselors if my attempts do not change things. I have to make sure I have a very lengthy and solid paper trail so that if a student fails or does something that causes damage to school property, themselves, or someone else I and my school will not be held accountable. But, somehow, not matter what proof exists that everything possible was done to help said child, the teacher and/or the school are always held accountable. Where is the student's accountability and, more importantly, the parent's?

Is there anything put in place, by law, that parents have to do and, if they don't, they will be written up, reprimanded, or

called out on the carpet? There's the obvious: keep your children fed, clothed and safe. But what about all the other things needed to mold a person into a happy, healthy and productive adult? Expensive clothes and electronics are not a part of that equation.

For the most part I usually get positive feedback from parents and students. I have not had a child fail my class in at least half a dozen years and my file is filled with resounding teacher evaluations. But, every once-in-awhile, I do get negative feedback. It's inevitable. With over one hundred students coming through my door every given year, one or two of them won't like me every few years or so. I don't have a problem with this. I didn't become a teacher to be friends with my students. I certainly didn't have children of my own to make new friends for myself.

I am not the perfect parent, but I am proud to say that my daughter is in her third year of college, on the dean's list and a Resident Assistant in her dorm. My son is a United States Airman and my youngest is a senior in high school and may not be the strongest student, but he works hard and is well liked by any one who meets him. I read to my kids religiously when they were growing up, I disciplined them when they misbehaved and I rewarded them with positive love and attention. None of them has ever been suspended or in trouble with the law. I followed through, backed off when they needed to pick themselves up, never said I'd do something and didn't and NEVER blamed their school, teachers or administrators for their failures. And I did make mistakes.

Parents aren't friends. They are disciplinarians, nurses and doctors, therapists, dispensers of hugs, kisses and cuddlers. Teachers are not miracle workers. We should be working together to build successful young adults who can take a failure and learn from it instead of demanding someone else to fix it.

Bill Gates gave a speech some years ago to a high school graduating class laying out a list of rules for the future adults. Here are a few. 1. Life isn't fair, get used to it. 2. If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss. 3. Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life HAS NOT.

I will continue to teach. I'm damn good at it. As parents, be damn good at what you do, too.



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 Dani-BLangevin@aol.com

## Morality Matters!

## Women and Children First

Paul Murano

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

The capsizing of the Costa Concordia in Santa Marinella, Italy where the captain apparently abandoned ship with passengers still on board recalls the old saying, Women and Children First. It was a saying that captured a cultural assumption that seems to be lost today. Not too long ago it was considered not only good manners for men to care for the good of women, but a moral responsibility. And women were not insulted.

Before their natural role of leader, protector and provider was rendered politically incorrect by our increasingly post-Christian era, men in general would cherish women while women respected men. That masculine/feminine dynamic which corresponds to human nature has been severely clouded by today's secular-humanist ethic, which holds that all adults are autonomous individuals free to do whatever they want while it's nobody else's business. As this ethic began to usurp traditional ones the very notion of protecting women from evil and harm was rendered as condescending. Nowhere is this point more evident than in the pornography explosion we are in the midst of today.

This pink elephant that no one talks about - the fact that pornography is a multi-billion dollar industry that everyone has full access to at the click of a keyboard - is the latest assault on American life that has become accepted. As time goes by less people remember the pre-1980's world when there was no internet, cable TV, DVR or cell phone. Pornography was attainable only through "adult" magazines and remote areas of the inner city that permitted strip clubs and seedy movie theaters. Before mass media permeated American life it was found only at burlesque shows or striptease acts, relatively tame compared to what is now present to all including children. Now that the culture is drowning in pornography we again wonder what has happened to the mentality of Women and Children First.

There are still laws against child pornography, thankfully, despite the emergence of

organizations and academicians that have sought to normalize pedophilia as "inter-generational intimacy". And although it is impossible to fully protect children in a society where pornography is so widespread, at least our laws and standards attempt to do this. But why not protect women? Do we not care about women anymore? Is it too politically incorrect to want to protect them? The sad truth is that many men don't care about women when it's in their selfish interest not to. Adam could have prevented Eve from her destructive decision but chose not to. Today they hide behind a foolish interpretation of the first amendment, fueling a false liberty and androgyny that matches that of radical feminism; while deep inside women yearn to be loved and protected.

There are countless women turning to pornography for money and acceptance today, and we turn our backs. It is apparently acceptable that they are exploited and abused, because they choose to be. Men tolerate this for one of three reasons: They're making money from it, they're addicted to it, or they've bought into the false ideology that it's not our business to protect women from destructive choices. Money, pleasure and apathy - a sign of greed, obsession, and cowardice.

Real men can see through the lies deeply imbedded in the culture that disable one from seeing objectively, and they are willing to take the abuse of the ignorant that have been so conditioned by them. Real men will demand laws to protect not only children, but women, from this and all kinds of exploitation and abuse.

This is because real men, despite how out of fashion it is, still put women and children first.



Paul Murano teaches philosophy at North Shore Community College and theology at the College of Saint Mary Magdalen. He is host of Beneath the Surface television show at Burlington Cable Access TV and is co-host of the Paying Attention Radio program. Paul is also chairman of Heartbeat Pregnancy Help center in Burlington and is a singer/songwriter/musician.

TOO MUCH DEBT?  
THREATENED BY FORECLOSURE?Simple bankruptcy may  
be the answer for you.

Call for a consultation today!!

ROB THOMAS,  
ATTORNEY AT LAWHARVEY, KLEGER  
& THOMAS184 PLEASANT VALLEY ST.  
METHUEN, MA 01844

TEL. 978-686-9800

rthomas@andoverattorneys.com



EXHAUST PROBLEM? ..... NO PROBLEM!

LOW COST EXHAUST

50 Winthrop Ave in Lawrence  
(by the Water Fountain)  
978-687-7044

SEE OUR COUPON ON PAGE 14



THE DOCTOR IS IN

# Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Rami Rustum, M.D.  
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Carpal tunnel syndrome is a disease of the hand characterized by numbness, tingling, pain, and weakness. The disease typically affects the thumb, index, and middle fingers and is often particularly troublesome at night. A major nerve, specifically the median nerve, travels down the arm and enters the hand through the carpal tunnel, which is located in the central part of the wrist. In people with carpal tunnel syndrome, pressure in the carpal tunnel is higher than in unaffected people, and median nerve irritation occurs.

Many conditions can cause increased pressure within the carpal tunnel and lead to carpal tunnel syndrome. Carpal tunnel syndrome was first described with broken wrists. A broken wrist can cause bleeding and swelling within the carpal tunnel leading to increased pressure within the carpal tunnel. Most people with carpal tunnel syndrome have no identifiable cause. It affects almost 5% of the population and is most common in middle-aged women.

**Causes:**

The following are risk factors associated with the development of carpal tunnel syndrome:

- Pregnancy, Rheumatoid arthritis and other causes of inflammation of the wrist
- Endocrine disorders such as diabetes and hypothyroidism
- Wrist fracture
- Alcoholism**

Carpal tunnel syndrome is rare in children. The relationship between work and carpal tunnel syndrome is unclear. Positions of extreme wrist flexion and extension are known to increase pressures within the carpal canal and apply pressure on the nerve. Intensity, frequency, and duration of work activity and their relationship to carpal tunnel syndrome are unknown. Some specialists believe that activity may contribute to the development of carpal tunnel syndrome to some extent.

**Symptoms:**

Carpal tunnel syndrome typically starts gradually with a vague aching in your wrist that can extend to your hand or forearm. Common carpal tunnel syndrome symptoms include:


- Tingling or numbness in your fingers or hand, especially your thumb and index, middle or ring fingers, but not your little finger. This sensation often occurs while holding a steering wheel, phone or newspaper or upon awakening. Many people “shake out” their hands to try to relieve their symptoms. As the disorder progresses, the numb feeling may become



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!

constant.

- Pain radiating or extending from your wrist up your arm to your shoulder or down into your palm or fingers, especially after forceful or repetitive use. This usually occurs on the palm side of your forearm.
- A sense of weakness in your hands and a tendency to drop objects.



Median nerve is compressed at the wrist, resulting in numbness or pain.

ADAM

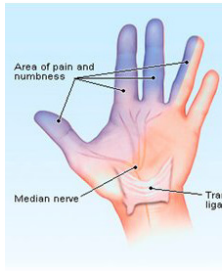
Symptoms are usually worse at night and are sometimes temporarily relieved by “shaking out” your hands.

**Tests and Diagnosis:**

One or more of the following tests could be conducted to determine whether you have carpal tunnel syndrome:

- History of symptoms. The pattern of

your signs and symptoms may offer clues to their cause. For example, since the median nerve doesn’t provide sensation to your little finger, symptoms in that finger may indicate a problem other than carpal tunnel syndrome.



Area of pain and numbness

Median nerve

Transverse carpal ligament

© 2010 Medline

Another clue is the timing of the symptoms. Typical times when you might experience symptoms due to carpal tunnel syndrome include while holding a phone or a newspaper, gripping a steering wheel, or waking up during the night.

- Physical exam. Your doctor will want to test the feeling in your fingers and the strength of the muscles in your hand, because these can be affected by carpal tunnel syndrome. Pressure on the median nerve at the wrist,

- produced by bending the wrist, tapping on the nerve or simply pressing on the nerve, can bring on the symptoms in many people.
- X-ray. Some doctors may recommend an X-ray of the affected wrist to exclude other causes of wrist pain, such as arthritis or a fracture.
  - Electromyogram. Electromyography measures the tiny electrical discharges produced in muscles. A thin-needle electrode is inserted into the muscles your doctor wants to study. An instrument records the electrical activity in your muscle at rest and as you contract the muscle. This test can help determine if muscle damage has occurred.
  - Nerve conduction study. In a variation of electromyography, two electrodes are taped to your skin. A small shock is passed through the median nerve to see if electrical impulses are slowed in the carpal tunnel.

The electromyogram and nerve conduction study tests are also useful in checking for other conditions that might mimic carpal tunnel syndrome, such as a pinched nerve in your neck.

**Treatments:**

Some people with mild symptoms of carpal tunnel syndrome can ease their discomfort by taking more-frequent breaks to rest their hands and applying cold packs to reduce occasional swelling. If these techniques don’t offer relief within a few weeks, additional treatment options include wrist splinting, medications and surgery. Splinting and other conservative treatments are more likely to help you if you’ve had only mild to moderate symptoms for less than 10 months.

**Nonsurgical therapy**

- If the condition is diagnosed early, nonsurgical methods may help improve carpal tunnel syndrome. Methods may include:
- Wrist splinting. A splint that holds your wrist still while you sleep can help relieve nighttime symptoms of tingling and numbness. Nocturnal splinting may be a good option if you are pregnant and have carpal tunnel syndrome.
  - Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). NSAIDs may help relieve pain from carpal tunnel syndrome in the short term. There’s no evidence, though, that these drugs can actually improve the carpal tunnel syndrome itself.
  - Corticosteroids. Your doctor may inject your carpal tunnel with a corticosteroid, such as cortisone, to relieve your pain. Corticosteroids decrease inflammation and swelling, which relieves pressure on the median nerve. Oral corticosteroids aren’t considered as effective as corticosteroid injections for treating carpal tunnel syndrome.

If carpal tunnel syndrome results from an inflammatory arthritis, such as rheumatoid arthritis, then treating the underlying condition may reduce symptoms of carpal tunnel syndrome, but this hasn’t been proved.


**Surgery**

If your symptoms are severe or persist after trying nonsurgical therapy, surgery may be the best option.

The goal of carpal tunnel surgery is to relieve pressure on your median nerve by cutting the ligament pressing on the nerve. During the healing process after the surgery, the ligament tissues gradually grow back together while allowing more room for the nerve than existed before. The surgery may be done a couple of different ways. Either technique has risks and benefits that are important to discuss with your surgeon before surgery.

**Prevention?!**

At the workplace, workers can do on-the-job conditioning, perform stretching exercises, take frequent rest breaks, wear splints to keep wrists straight, and use correct posture and wrist position. Wearing fingerless gloves can help keep hands warm and flexible. Workstations, tools and tool handles, and tasks can be redesigned to enable the worker’s wrist to maintain a natural position during work. Jobs can be rotated among workers. Employers can develop programs in ergonomics, the process of adapting workplace conditions and job demands to the capabilities of workers. However, research has not conclusively shown that these workplace changes prevent the occurrence of carpal tunnel syndrome.





Dr. Vaso Hatzigiannis D.D.S.

Joseph P. Beninato D.M.D., P.C.

Located at Sal's Riverwalk!

354 Merrimack St. Suite 334 (Entrance C) , Lawrence MA 01843 \* Phone (978) 685- 1499 \* Fax: (978) 837-6657



OPEN: Mon - Wed: 8am - 5:30pm, Thu: 8am - 5pm, Fri: 8am - 2pm, Sat: 8am -12pm, (Fall thru Spring Only), Office is closed Mon - Thurs from 1pm - 2pm for lunch



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE VALLEY PATRIOT**  
ON THEIR 100<sup>TH</sup> PUBLICATION  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING YOUR NEXT 100

Merrimack Valley/So NH Office  
25 Jackson St, Methuen MA

978-683-6699



Seacoast Office Salisbury Beach  
190 North End Blvd (Rte 1A)

978-465-5116

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

*"Where the Right Agent Makes all the Difference"*

**SALISBURY BEACH SUMMER RENTALS\***  
*Now taking reservations - (978) 683-6699*

**THE SANDS RESORT AT HAMPTON BEACH**  
**OPEN YEAR ROUND 3 BEDROOM SUITES**  
**Nightly/weekly (603) 929-0685 [www.SandsResort.com](http://www.SandsResort.com)**

## Attorney Ellen Shimer-Brenes, Esq



33 Walker Road, Suite 23 - North Andover

### Employment Law

- Unemployment Benefits
- Sexual Harassment
- Wrongful Termination
- Age/Race/Gender/Religion/Disability Discrimination
- Representing Employee/Plaintiff or Employer/Defendant

### Criminal Law

- Motor Vehicle Offenses
- Assault/Battery
- Drug Charges
- Probation Violations
- Larceny/Embezzlement Cases

### Family Law/Domestic Relations

- Divorce/Separation Agreements
- Custody/Visitation
- Child Support/Alimony
- Contempts/Modifications
- Guardianships/Adoptions

**Ellen C. Shimer-Brenes, Esq.** - Telephone: (978) 225-6197  
Email: [eshimer@shimerlaw.com](mailto:eshimer@shimerlaw.com)



Se habla Espanol - Night and weekend appointments available upon request.  
Meetings available at convenient locations within the Merrimack Valley.



## Blaire House of Tewksbury A Continuum of Care Facility

Offering: Long Term Care, Sub-Acute Care,  
Specialized Alzheimer's Care, Short Term Rehab,  
Respite, Hospice, Adult Day Health Center,  
Assisted Living Residence, Senior Transportation  
Services and much, much more!



**Come visit our facility and see how we can help!**

**10 Erlin Terrace • Tewksbury, MA**  
**Tel 978.851.3121 • Fax 978.640.0981**  
**Visit us at [www.elderservices.com](http://www.elderservices.com)**  
**Job Opportunities Available!**  
**Family Owned & Operated**

**What a wonderful accomplishment for  
The Valley Patriot TEAM!**  
Congratulations on Publishing 100 Editions!

# PATRIOT AMBULANCE

INC

**John Felci**  
(978) 479-5344

248 Mill Rd.  
Bldg. 2 Unit 2  
Chelmsford, MA 01824

## HAPPY 100th to The Valley Patriot

Through 100 editions I have  
PAID ATTENTION to what this  
(once) tiny newspaper was doing  
and while many predicted your  
failure, I was rooting for you  
each and every step of the way.

Congratulations on your FIRST  
100 editions, looking forward to  
your 200th issue!



Former State Senator

## Steven C. Panagiotakos

## 100 EDITIONS WHAT AN ACCOMPLISHMENT!

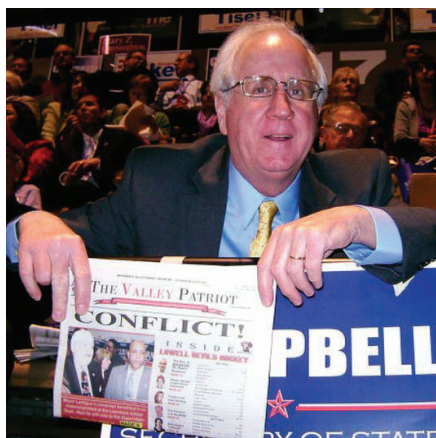
Through a lot of hard  
work and perseverance  
The Valley Patriot has  
proven itself to be a trust-  
worthy and reliable source  
for news and information  
throughout New England.

I admire your style and  
your dedication to our  
veterans and public safety  
officers.

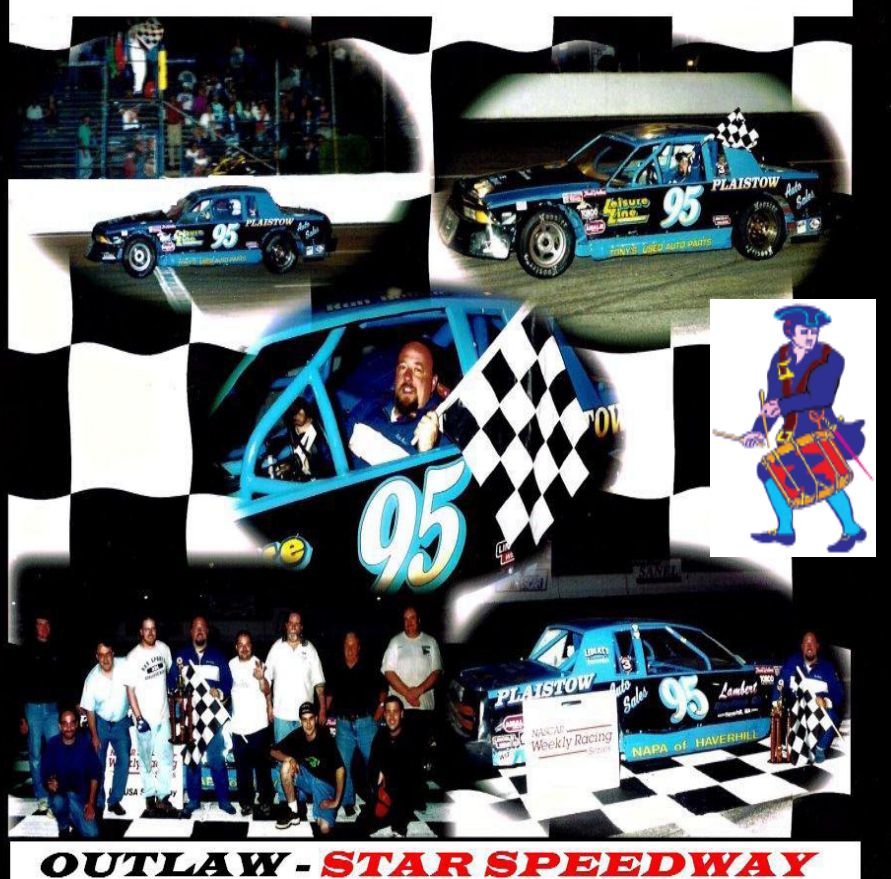
Keep up the great work!

**Congratulations on Your 100th Edition**

State Representative Jim Lyons, (R) Andover



**THE BULLDOZER IS BACK IN THE #95 FOR 2012 !!!**





WHAT’S COOKIN’ WITH COLLEEN!

Jack’s Ristorante, Malden, MA  
Star Power (Maximum rating is 5 stars): ★★★★★

Colleen Flanagan  
VALLEY PATRIOT RESTAURANT REVIEW

If you’re looking for great authentic Italian food served in generous portions, you will experience it at Jack’s Ristorante. Serving the freshest local and seasonal foods in an authentic Italian style, Jack’s is truly a slice of Italy. Fortunately, there is no need to travel to Boston’s North End because Jack’s is conveniently located right in Malden on Eastern Avenue (Rt. 60 Plaza)!

At Jack’s Ristorante you will find a wonderful array of homemade pasta and house specialties all made with love! The robust menu of chicken, seafood, veal, grille, appetizers and more will have you heading back every chance you get. Step inside Jack’s and you will be greeted by the warm and attentive staff and receive “old fashioned” service, that makes you feel right at home, just like being in Italy.

The sleek dining room has a combination of tables and booths that make for a very intimate dining experience. There is also a small bar, where diners can enjoy one of the many specialty cocktails, in addition to local beers and an extensive wine list.

My friend Mary and I started with the Mussels Marina, which were everything we could have hoped for: sweet, Ipswich mussels with a garlic, fresh marina and white wine sauce that we soaked up with the house’s fresh Scali bread.

Another favorite of ours was the

Bruschetta made with Jack’s own garlic bread and baked with mozzarella cheese topped with plum tomatoes, fresh chopped basil, and extra virgin olive oil. And don’t forget to try Jack’s homemade soup of the day!

Next, we indulged in Veal Colangeli (named after the owner, Jack). Made with succulent, tender veal sautéed with fresh mushrooms topped with ricotta and mozzarella cheese, fresh bell peppers and other secret ingredients, this dish was amazing and made you want to lick the plate when you were done. Best of all, it



was lying on a bed of Jack’s homemade tender pasta that comes in many shapes and sizes.

The dessert menu at Jack’s presented a real dilemma ... What to

pick?! Mary chose the Fried Cheesecake and I had the traditional Italian Tiramisu. Of course we shared so both of us could enjoy these delicious and creamy treats.

The service was excellent. Our waitress was helpful and appeared at the appro-

COLLEEN, PAGE 43



Sheila’s Recipe Corner

Sheila Mullins  
VALLEY PATRIOT COOKING COLUMNIST

Given the climate that we live in, cold and economically “challenged,” here is a recipe that freezes well, is a budget stretcher and is relatively easy to make.

Sometimes getting dinner on the table means putting some time in first, but these are like spaghetti, they are better as leftovers when the flavours have a chance to meld together. And we all know that leftovers are a fast way to get dinner on the table. Although some things here might seem intimidating, they are not.

This is something I grew up eating, my version of my parent’s Chicken Curry. My father taught my mother and she taught me and I changed it up a bit. Before you ask if it’s spicy, I’m going to ask do you mean spicy or hot? They aren’t the same thing; Italian food can be spicy and French food can be spicy. As for the heat, you are in total control of that.

Next month I will share my recipe on French Onion Soup which is another good choice.

Here is my version  
Let’s get started!

Chicken Curry

1.5 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken  
(white or dark meat) cut into 1.5” chunks\*

28 oz. can puree or crushed tomatoes  
1.75 oz. curry powder  
¾ c ground coriander  
Water  
~3 lbs. onions, sliced length-wise\*\*  
1 T ground turmeric  
Cayenne to taste  
1 T salt  
1 lb. French cut green beans  
1/3 c vegetable oil or ghee (clarified butter)

In a 6 qt. Dutch oven, heat oil over medium heat until very hot. Add all onions, stir, turn down heat to medium-low and cook uncovered, stirring occasionally. When you add the onions, you should literally have just under to half of the Dutch oven filled. Don’t worry, the onions will cook down significantly and become sweet and mellow. Cook the onions until they are a warm golden colour; 40-45



LET’S TALK ABOUT FOOD ADDICTION

Pennie Hale  
VALLEY PATRIOT FOOD COLUMNIST

First, I would like to congratulate Tom Duggan, Dr. Chuck Ormsby and Ralph Wilbur for publishing the 100th edition of the Valley Patriot! I have received a lot of feedback about my column and I am proud to be a columnist in this newspaper.

I have shared a lot of my story regarding carb addiction and food disorders. I feel this is a subject that interests many people. It seems that struggles with weight control and body image are issues that affect most people. Over these past months, I have received emails from women and men. They have shared their experiences with gaining and losing weight, addictions, triumphs and failures. I want to express my gratitude to each and every one of you who have responded to me in such an open way.

In a perfect world, I would be able to tell you that I have been successful in reaching my goal weight. At this point, I cannot share that news. I previously reported that I had lost 75 pounds in one year. I am still very proud of that achievement. I have not stepped on a scale in over a month and do not know my current weight. I do know that I have not been exercising and I have not been eating a healthy, low-calorie diet. I have not been making weight loss a priority. However, all is not lost. I know that I am the key to my own success and it’s up to me to come up with a plan and to stick to it. First, I need to figure out what is holding me back.

Weight loss is difficult but not impossible. Goals can be achieved when you’re willing to work for them. I know that when I am taking care of myself I feel better, I have more energy, I am positive and feel less stressed. I know that when my daily diet consists of foods loaded with carbs, I feel sluggish, depressed and negative. Why, then, do I keep going back



PENNIE HALE

to old bad habits? Experts say that major life changes can affect every aspect of a person’s life. I know that is true. I know what my triggers have been. –

What I am now trying to do is predict how I will feel in three-month’s time if I continue to gain weight. How will I feel if I take control of my diet now and lose weight over the next three months? I already know the answer. My plan is to continue sharing my story with you and hope that you continue to respond and let me know how you are doing. I wish you all the best of luck with your personal goals and I look forward to reading your emails and continuing my story in the next edition!

If you struggle with an addiction, I urge you to seek support. If you struggle with a food addiction or disorder, know that I understand. I would like to hear YOUR story. I am not a food, weight loss or eating disorder expert. I am not someone who is qualified to offer advice or tips. I would, however, love to read your story and possibly share it with other readers. If you are interested, please email me at pennielacouture@verizon.net.

**Dave Guselli**  
Broker/Owner  
Office: 978-689-8006  
Fax: 1-866-284-2733  
Cell: 978-852-5481  
daveg@prufirstchoice.com  
[www.prufirstchoice.com](http://www.prufirstchoice.com)

**Prudential  
First Choice Realty**  
184 Pleasant Valley Street,  
Suite 1-102, Methuen, MA 01844  
  
Rock Solid in Real Estate  
2010 J.D. Powers Award Winner

minutes. If the onions start to turn dark brown, turn down the heat and stir until the heat dissipates some.

Add the tomatoes, the spices, about ¾ c water and the chicken. Cook, covered over medium heat until chicken is nearly done. Stir and check every 5-7 minutes and add

water as necessary so there is still a sauce but it’s not watery. The sauce should have the consistency of marinara sauce. How long the chicken should cook depends upon what

you choose; it takes ~10-15 minutes with boneless breast of chicken, about 17-20 minutes with boneless dark meat and about 30-35 minutes with bone in leg pieces.

Add the green beans, stir in, and continue to cook 5-7 minutes. Serve over rice.

You can serve with naan and use the naan instead of using silverware. It’s a lot of fun to eat it this way. Naan is available in most supermarkets. If you are fortunate enough to live near an Indian or Middle Eastern food store you may prefer to purchase the spices there as it will be far less expensive than at the local supermarket. Breads like naan will also be less expensive there.

Serves 10-12.

To make a vegetarian/vegan version, simply substitute peeled potatoes cut into 1” cubes for the chicken. You will need to adjust the cooking time and cook the potatoes until they are fork tender. Add 16 oz. of frozen peas when you add the green beans.

\* (Note: you can use all legs, bone in if you choose, just adjust the weight to accommodate the bones, so think more akin to 2.25 lbs. or a bit more)

\*\*this is a guide as you may find you need 3.5 lbs. to fill the pot to the halfway point.

*Sheila Mullins is a self-trained cook who lives in Newburyport. She is also a personal cook.*  
sheila\_a\_mullins@hotmail.com



# WE LOVE YOU PUPPYGIRL!

## Tom Duggan

VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

I couldn't let the celebration of our 100th edition of The Valley Patriot come and go without a tribute to our most popular (and I think our most important) contributor PuppyGirl Kate Whitney.

We affectionately call her PuppyGirl because Boxford resident Kate Whitney spends her free time working with the dedicated volunteers at One Tail at a Time dog rescue based out of Amesbury.

PuppyGirl and One Tail at a Time find dogs slated to die in kill shelters and rescue them. They find foster homes for these puppies, give them their shots, make sure they are seen by a vet and care for them until a permanent home can be found for them.

In the more than four years that PuppyGirl has been writing her "Puppy Love" column she has reached out to dog lovers all over The Valley and saved the lives of



countless puppies.

PuppyGirl, we love you. You have not only made a difference in the lives of puppies but the families that foster and adopt them. You have brought great joy to children, and you are by far, the best thing that has ever happened to this little monthly publication.

It doesn't matter what community our e-mail and phone responses come from, whether they are complaining about our editorial or simply making a suggestion for a story idea; nearly 80% of our responses includes a comment or two about you and how wonderful it is that you are in the paper.

Thank you PuppyGirl, Kate Whitney, for all you do for our furry friends in danger of being killed. Thank you for giving pet advice to puppy owners everywhere, and giving us the privilege to share your great work with the readers of 35 communities. We just would NOT be The Valley Patriot without you.

Please don't ever leave us!

(Signed Tom Duggan, 20,000 readers, the entire radio audience of WCAP, some guy named Vince, The Valley Patriot Staff, our sales girls, delivery drivers, printers, warehouse crew, our columnists and reporters, Pennie, our photographers (particularly Pete), the early night shift of the Lawrence Police Department, Mark, Congressman Thaddeus McCotter, Hasmu at Rt 110 convenience Store in Methuen, Jimmy at the post office, the chemo patients at Saints Memorial Hospital, the editorial board of the Valley Patriot and legendary rock singer Eddie Money).



## Giving the Gift of Life: Canine Blood Donors

### Tracey Zysk

VALLEY PATRIOT DOGGIE COLUMNIST

Giving the gift of life is not just something a good Samaritan can participate in but something your healthy dog can contribute to as well.

With animal health and wellness becoming mainstream behavior for pet owners, it only seems natural that the veterinarian medical world moves forward with animal blood banks. Although there still are not many banks available, some of the top veterinary schools and larger animal hospitals are participating in this program nationwide. Awareness and educating the general public is really going to be the key factor in helping bring these banks to all our local emergency animal hospitals.

What is an Animal Blood Bank? Well just like humans, it is a place to bring your dog to donate blood. Any healthy dog that is over 35lbs and between the ages of 9 months to 7 1/2 yrs is eligible to donate. A dog can donate every three weeks. The

blood banks would like to request your dog donate at least 5-7 times a year. Like humans, there are several different blood types in dogs. Similar to human blood types, there are five major canine blood types, and one is a universal donor, like our "O negative."

Blood is in high demand for animal surgeries. Hospitals sometimes have to alter the types of treatments they can perform simply because they do not have blood available. Imagine the unthinkable, your dog gets hit by a car. You are able to get him to an emergency animal hospital. The veterinarian determines your dog needs a blood transfusion because fluids, meds and surgery are not enough. You dog needs blood, just imagine, a blood pack was available and the vet not only can perform the surgery but give the transfusion. You dog lives. Your dog is able to stabilize after surgery and your dog is able to recover. Without that transfusion he may not have had that opportunity. That is life



saving. That is the perspective we all need to understand, and that is why we need to make banks and blood available.

Another scenario, what about all our workings dogs: Seeing eye, Search and Rescue, Law enforcement, Fire and Military dogs. These dogs are literally front-

line responders and are put in life or death situations. As we all know, anything can happen in these situations. Wouldn't it be amazing in a triage situation if there was canine blood available to save the lives of an injured working dog? The same dog that is working so hard to protect and save us.

Now has this peaked your interest, is your dog a donor candidate? If yes, then it is something you may want to consider.

1. Weighs over 35 lbs
2. Age 9 months to 7 1/2 yrs
3. Up to date on all vaccinations and regular veterinarian visits
4. On a heart worm preventative
5. In good health

**\*\*please note there are some medications that would prevent your dog from donating. Ask your Vet \*\***

The nice perk to all of this is if your dog is a donor in good standing and one day is in need of a transfusion, he will be eligible for a free unit of red blood cells for each unit of blood he has donated. The next time you are at your local vet ask if they are participating in this program. Not only will your dog be able to save a life, one day this may save his!

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. Become a fan on facebook at Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care.

## Canine Influenza – Doggie Flu

### Tracey Zysk

VALLEY PATRIOT DOGGIE COLUMNIST

It's that time of year...you feel horrible, your kids are coughing, everyone seems like they just have a really bad cold or even worse the flu. As your family is fighting this virus that is swirling through your house, don't forget your dog can get the flu too.

People have asked me what are the signs and how will I know my dog has the flu. Basically, the symptoms are the same as humans:

Symptoms may include: • Coughing • Sneezing • Fever • Yellowish-green mucus • Rapid/difficult breathing • Loss of appetite • Lethargy

#### Whose dog may get the flu?

Any dog may catch the flu but it tends to be prone to dogs that are exposed to multiple dogs. Dog parks, playgroups, kennels and dog day cares. Always keep your dog up to date with the kennel cough shot. Most facilities are now recommending every 6 months your dog receives this

shot.

#### How serious is the flu to my dog and can my dog die from the flu?

Well, like humans the flu and really make you feel miserable for a few days to a couple of weeks. Most of the time, with a visit to the vet and some extra tender loving care to your pooch your dog will recover quickly. Dogs that are not treated may have more complications. These secondary conditions, such as pneumonia could cause death if not treated. However, overall the death rate from the flu in canines is quite low.

#### What do I do if I think my dog has the flu?

Call your vet immediately and make an appointment. The vet will do a complete examination and will recommend your dog get plenty of water and sleep. Your vet will also be taking precautions to prevent the

flu from spreading into secondary conditions. He may recommend some supplements, medication to prevent bacterial infections and intravenous fluids to maintain hydration.

Most importantly if your dog has the flu, please remember quiet time, a nice tummy rub and a good bowl of chicken noodle soup will make your dog feel much better!



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 or on FB www.facebook.com/wigglesjigglespetcare



PUPPY LOVE! with Kate Whitney

Caring for and Adopting Rescued Shelter Dogs

According to the Humane Society of the United States, there are between 6-8 million cats and dogs entering shelters each year. They also estimate that 3-4 million cats and dogs are euthanized each year. That means that a cat or dog is put to sleep EVERY 8 SECONDS. That is a painful statistic to think about and to comprehend, but it is the truth.

Dogs end up at the shelter for many reasons. Those of us in rescue have heard basically every excuse in the book. Of course there are some new ones that come in once in a while, but we've heard the majority of them. Let's see...we have things like "we are having a baby, we don't have time for the dog anymore, it grew too big, it needs too much exercise, I'm moving, landlord changed rules about dogs, dog is aggressive, kids went to college, got this as a gift and I don't want it, etc. etc. etc."

My latest foster dog (and one of my favorites), Reesie, was turned into a kill shelter in North Carolina because her family didn't have a fenced in yard and they would leave her outside, unattended, so she would run down into the road. Well, instead of trying to fix the problem, let's say, by restraining her with a leash, putting up some cheap fencing, or not leaving her unattended; they decided that dumping her at a kill shelter would be the best idea. Reesie is one of the sweetest and most affectionate dogs I've ever met.

To think someone could disregard this dog, and for a reason like they said, is disgusting. Well needless to say, Reesie has been adopted by a great family with two kids, and now gets the attention and love she deserves.

Some people dump their dogs at the pound because of behavioral issues. To be honest, what dog hasn't had some type of issue? I know I know, some of you probably disagree with me right now because you think your dog is a little angel, but come on, there has to be something. Dogs aren't born perfect. They need to be trained. And most of us aren't professional trainers,

therefore we really know nothing about what we are doing. Enlisting the help of a professional trainer with experience is the best thing you can do for your dog. Unwanted behaviors range from jumping on furniture (although this is not an unwanted behavior in my house, we encourage it), to begging for table scraps, to jumping on guests, to leash aggression, to barking. There are no simple fixes; fixing a problem is going to take time and money. Hiring a good and experienced trainer isn't cheap, but neither is owning a dog.

If you own a dog correctly, it's pricey. Good food is expensive. Monthly heartworm preventative and occasional vet visits are costly. Flea/tick spray, chewies, toys...the list goes on. If you are thinking about adopting a dog, please don't forget to budget in obedience training.

Finding a good trainer is like finding a great babysitter for your kids. You want someone that knows what they are doing and someone you can trust. Ask around, search online, read reviews. Not all "certified" dog trainers are equal. Some have a master's degree, while others took a few online courses. You want someone with lots of hands-on experience. I prefer trainers who use positive reinforcement and don't resort right away (or ever) to an electric collar (sometimes referred to as an "e-collar"). I want my dogs to learn not to do a certain behavior because I have worked with them and trained them, not because they were zapped by a collar and are now afraid. An electric collar, if used at all, should be saved for extreme cases and used only as a last resort.

Some behaviors can be fixed more quickly than others, but nothing happens overnight. Training is an ongoing process, even after your dog has "learned" whatever you are trying to teach it. Reinforcing the good behavior is important and it's also good stimulation for your dog's brain. Even if your dog knows "sit", "stay", "paw", "down" etc. it is beneficial to continue these exercises with them daily. Dog's enjoy the positive reinforcement, and love to show you that they can



obey your commands. Before you give up on your dog and re-home it or bring it to a shelter, please exhaust all your possible options of training. Make sure to watch your dog closely and evaluate what is really causing a certain behavior. We had a dog come into our rescue that would bark very aggressively while on a leash. We attached the leash to a shoulder harness instead of a neck collar. This simple switch resulted in a dramatic change in her behavior. Many dogs have leash aggression and when they feel the collar tighten or pull on their neck, it triggers them to become more aggressive. By removing that feeling of pulling on the neck and putting on the harness dramatically helped this particular dog's behavior. And please, please, please don't put a choke or prong collar on your dog unless it is absolutely necessary. Try training and working on "heel" before you resort to these cruel collars. How would you feel if you had metal prongs digging into your

neck? Even though they may not cry out each time it is pulled, you can be sure that you are causing them pain. Dogs are not perfect, and let's face it, neither are we as humans. If there are behavioral issues, don't give up on your dog. Work with them, hire a professional, show patience and compassion. Think of how long it took you to read this article, and then think of the fact that every eight seconds that went by another shelter dog was put to sleep (and may I remind you, most kill shelters don't do a painless injection where the dog just drifts off to lala land, it's a very ugly process). Please help control the animal population by getting your dog spayed or neutered, and only adopt when you are sure that you have the time and the resources. And feel free to spread the word!

You can email puppygirl at kwswingrite@aol.com

Tracey Zysk  
Bonded & Insured  
wigglegirl@comcast.net  
978-697-6571  
wigglegirl.webs.com

Tracey Zysk ♦wigglegirl.webs.com ♦ 978-697-6571

**Carol's Pet Care**  
Professional All Breed Grooming  
126-1 28 Main Street North Andover, MA 01845  
**978-794-0744 carolspetcare.com**

Celebrating 33 Years in North Andover  
Service By Appointment



# Solving Peripheral Neuropathy

Dr. Jin Sung

VALLEY PATRIOT CHIROPRACTIC PHYSICIAN

Definition: A peripheral neuropathy is a problem with the nerves that carry information to and from the brain and spinal nerves. This can produce pain, loss of sensation and inability to control muscles. “Peripheral” means further out from the center of the body or distant from Brain and Spinal Cord “Neuro” means nerves “Pathy” mean abnormal.

7 Signs of Peripheral Neuropathy

- 1. Numbness
- 2. Burning Hands or Feet
- 3. Cramping
- 4. Sharp Electric Pain
- 5. Pain When Walking or Holding Objects
- 6. Difficulty Sleeping From Leg Discomfort
- 7. Prickling / Tingling Feelings

Common Causes of Peripheral Neuropathy

- Old Injuries can lead to scar tissue around nerve pathways
- Arthritis (Generally Auto-Immune)
- Spinal stenosis encroaches on the nerve
- Bulging disc compress on the nerve
- Statin drugs
- Diabetes Type 1 or Type 2 (Generally Auto-Immune)
- Poor diet (Leads to Auto-Immune)
- Genetics 80/20 rule applies. Its 80% life style 20% genes (Generally AI also)
- No fuel for healing

A thorough and comprehensive exam ensures an accurate diagnosis. You must determine if there is adequate FUEL and ACTIVATION. This means there must be adequate oxygen and glucose delivered to all the tissues involved.

All neuropathies are not the same and they certainly should not be treated the same. Neuropathies come in a few primary types: Large or small diameter or both as well as motor. If jerking is involved then it can be as much a problem in the brain due to trans-neural degeneration as it is in the peripheral nerve. As such therapy is focused on the region of the brain involved in the deficit.

Metabolic Management:

There are many causes of PN but one major one is from a metabolic condition. You CANNOT DRUG YOUR WAY OUT OF A METABOLIC CONDITION it requires change in lifestyle.

Life style changes are generally the biggest component to long-term success. This means dietary changes for most people. The 7 worst foods for your body are sodas (including diet sodas), all fast foods, margarine, chips, donuts, and pasteurized dairy products. The body is either breaking down or building up. The majority of the SAD (Standard American Diet) breaks the body down; the body requires consistent fuel and activation. If the patient is not willing to make the necessary lifestyle changes for at least 6 months we will not proceed with therapy.



Physical Treatment

Once underlying metabolic road-blocks are handled that would prevent proper fuel delivery you can commence the repair aspect of the nerves and associated tissues. Therapies that are often utilized in this process are:

- Spinal decompression
- Exercise with Oxygen Therapy (EWOT)
- Electrical Stimulation with 7.83Hz frequencies
- Sound and vibration therapies in the 7 to 24Hz frequencies

Brain Balance exercises



Dr. Jin Sung is a chiropractic physician who offers a unique, drug-free, and effective approach to the management of chronic health conditions. He utilizes Brain Based Therapy and Functional Medicine approaches to achieve excellent results with his patients. Call 978 688 6999 or visit [www.DrJinSung.com](http://www.DrJinSung.com)

## FROM PAGE 13: BROWN ANNOUNCES

United States Senator Brown once again painted a somber picture of our future if Washington perpetuates the fiscal policy currently in place, which has seen the national debt rise by \$4 ½ trillion in just three years, now greater than the Gross Domestic Product. “[N]o matter what clever arguments we hear to justify a national debt of 15, and soon 16 or 17 trillion dollars, let me tell you something: all this borrowed money is buying us big, big trouble.”

Cautionary words came when he explained that some in Washington want to emulate the European model, despite the failures of European countries. He expounded that nation-after-nation is in crisis because of bloated government spending financed by high taxes and large deficits.

To resolve the looming debt crisis here in America, Senator Brown explained that it will take independent thinking to resolve this issue. “We need Republicans and Democrats alike who will work together to protect the fiscal integrity of the United States. Even though Washington already wastes far too much of your hard-earned money, it’s a guarantee that my opponent will fall right into line with the Washing mindset of more spending, more debt and more taxes to bail out the big spenders. And that’s a debate I welcome.” Senator Brown continued, “I will run proudly as the only candidate in this race who supports a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution. We do it here in Massachusetts, and we should do it in Washington, D.C.”

Senator Brown assured his supporters of his good-faith in working with all members of Congress, “I will work with any person of good will in Congress who is ready to confront these challenges and be part of the solution.”

His likely opponent, Professor Warren,



PHOTO: TOM DUGGAN

characterizes herself as a ‘rock thrower’ unwilling to yield or consider any opposing views to those of her own. Professor Warren prefers to leave ‘blood and teeth’ on the floor. Senator Brown is of the opinion that partisanship like that promised by Professor Warren is not what this Country needs right now.

In contrast to Warren, Senator Brown characterizes himself as a bridge builder, not a rock thrower. “[T]here are plenty of ideologues down in Washington already. What the nation’s Capitol could really use right now is a little more respect, good will and bipartisanship. It may disappoint the rock-throwers and occupiers at both extremes, but that’s how I try to show the best of our state. And I think it’s the way to serve the interests we all share as

Americans.”

Senator Brown concluded his remarks by honoring the men and women in service to our Country in the American Armed Services. Their duty at home and abroad reminded the Senator that we need to put our Country first and join together to solve problems; we are Americans first.

“I renew this pledge to you and to every citizen of Massachusetts: If I am entrusted again with the people’s seat, I will give everything that is in me to be a good and faithful Senator, and to make you proud.” Senator Scott Brown.

The Valley Patriot caught up to Senator Brown after the announcement and asked him about a small segment of the Tea Party and those in the right wing of the Republican party who refuse to support

him because he is “No Ronald Reagan” and is not with them on 100% of the issues.

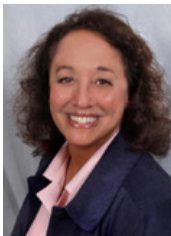
“First of all I want to say happy New Year to everybody and Thank you to the Valley Patriot for coming and covering this event tonight. Yes, since you brought him up let me paraphrase Ronald Reagan,” Brown said.

“I would rather be your 85% friend than your 100% enemy. And that is what you are going to get with Professor Warren, somebody who is going to be in lock step with her party. She is a self-proclaimed rock thrower, who wants to leave blood and teeth on the floor and not compromise. With all due respect, I work very hard to represent everybody. Listen, I have had the support from members of the Democrat Party, The Republican party, the Tea Party and quite frankly people who just like to party,” he said laughing.

“I want to make sure they understand that I read the bills and I understand what’s in them. They didn’t send me down there (to Washington D.C.) to be an obstructionist. They sent me down there to try and solve problems because we are in trouble.

“I would just ask them to look at the alternative. If they think they by staying out of this race to try and send a message is going to work, then they are going to have professor Warren and that’s not good for Massachusetts, because she will be with her party 100% of the time and will not even return the phone calls of those you are talking about most likely.”

\*Tom Duggan Contributed to this report



Cecilia Calabrese is an attorney and a member of the Agawam City Council. If you would like to contact Cecilia about this or other stories, please email her at [cececalabrese@yahoo.com](mailto:cececalabrese@yahoo.com).



Live the WOW!

CHAOS! When Your World is Turned Upside Down Just As You Are Trying to Juggle Multiple Priorities at the Same Time. Follow the Example of People Living the WOW! Grab Hold of Life and Enjoy the Ride for All It's Worth!

Thomas Connors  
VALLEY PATRIOT WOW! COLUMNIST

Have you seen those newfangled roller-coasters they build today? Talk about downright scary! Some do a loop over loop where you go upside down and think you are going to fall out of your seat. Then they have some where you virtually hang from the rails for dear life; strapped into a chair. At 60 miles per hour with a G-Force comparable to a rocket. Unbelievable!

Here's where it gets really crazy. When you ask those people who finish the ride what they thought of it, the response, most often, is an enthusiastic demand to do it all over again! YIKES!!!

Twists and turns. Ups and downs. Over and under. The CHAOS in Life can be a real Roller Coaster as well.

You have gone through it many times. I know you have. You are in a rush to get somewhere and your zipper breaks ... just as your 5 year old son comes to your room in crocodile tears because he can't find his other sock. And why is your husband asking if you did the laundry yet? That burning smell can't possibly be the oven still left on? Can it? Will somebody let the dog out!

Why does it seem like everything falls on your shoulders? And that is just your personal life. Work it has its own CHAOS that follows you wherever you go.

Is it just ME? Or does everybody have CHAOS in their lives? How many times a day do you ask yourself that question?

I am happy to tell you, you are definitely not alone. People Living the WOW! will tell you very clearly that CHAOS not only happens to others, it is a part of Living. It happens to everyone. There are no excep-

tions. How you handle it is what makes all the difference.

Think how boring and uneventful life would be if it were perfect. There would be no excitement, no moments of sadness or joy and no incentive to strive for more. You would just exist. You'd go through the motions with not much thought to anything else. So, CHAOS actually becomes the spice of life that jazzes it up a bit.

At American Training I not only get to see the CHAOS in many people's lives. I get to experience it first hand as well. Whether it is Students taking our courses or Colleagues employed with us, CHAOS is a real part of life; your personal life and your professional life as well. Single Moms trying to get their children up on time to get ready to go to school. Many mornings it seems like quite a struggle to just get them out of bed. Then getting them dressed and fed before the bus comes takes on new challenges as they complain they are not feeling well. Running around the kitchen preparing breakfast these Moms pray there is enough time for them to get dressed as well. And if their children miss the bus, that is another monkey wrench thrown into the mix to foul up their routine. Yet, when you take time to sit back and consider all that was done first thing in the morning you realize that most Moms and families go through the same CHAOS every day.

Professionally and personally, I get hit with elements of CHAOS as soon as I walk through the door. With a company as diverse as American Training and her Affiliates it is inevitable. It is up to me and you to get extreme satisfaction out of the CHAOS and view successful completion of one item after another as a WOW!

Even our Good Lord was not free from the CHAOS of life when He was here on earth. Can you just imagine the CHAOS that ensued when He was informed that there were not enough loaves of bread and fish to feed the masses that had gathered? Can't you just picture some of the Apostles running around like chickens with their heads cut off trying to accommodate the crowds? What CHAOS! Yet, what a WOW! in the end!

People Living the WOW! prepare for the CHAOS in their lives by maintaining a fine-tuned attitude. They expect CHAOS and when it comes, they go with the flow.

It is in moments of CHAOS that you need to get hold of your emotions, take a deep breath and address each element causing you to spin out of control one by one.

Better yet, the ability to consciously prepare yourself before you find yourself in the middle of all the CHAOS is the best way to prevent it from completely debilitating you in the moment.

Realize that people Living the WOW! anticipate CHAOS in their lives because they know it is unavoidable. So, they, literally, make mental preparations to cope with it when things happen. Then, through trial and error, they use experience from one event to another to monitor what works best for them and what doesn't. What they don't do is fight it.

Let me give you an example that brings this philosophy home.

Have you ever ridden the rapids on a river? (If not, there is a potential WOW! Experience for you this summer!) Well, one of the first things the instructor advises you is the principle of not fighting

the power of the river. If you challenge nature's fury and attempt to power through the energy produce by a raging river you will most likely lose. In fact, the exact opposite is true. If you go with the flow and use the river's own power against it, you will ultimately tame it. All you need to accept is that it will be a wild, splashing and wet ride ... but you will beat that river by remaining calm and using the river against itself. And you can just imagine the thrill and exhilaration you and every member of your rafting team experience when you reach calm water. WOW!!!

Life is the same way. It presents you with an amazing ride if you let it and don't fight it every step of the way.

So, whether it is a roller coaster or a run of the rapids, mentally prepare yourself for unavoidable CHAOS that inevitably will come your way. Don't fight the power of life's challenges but rather face them calmly and with a determination to make the most of them. Then when you finally get through them successfully and reach calm waters, you can look back and enthusiastically say to yourself ...

Now, that's a WOW!

Tom Connors is President/CEO of American Training, a diverse collection of companies committed to "Bringing Out the Best in Everyone They Touch". He believes in living life to the fullest by making the WOW! a regular part of your personal, spiritual and working life. You can reach Tom at Tom@AmericanTrainingInc.com or by writing to him at Tom Connors, American Training, 102 Glenn Street, Lawrence, MA 01843} © 2011. You can also visit Tom at his BLOG ... TomConnors-ThinkPad.blogspot.com

It's all about our patients.

For more than 30 years, Greater Lawrence Family Health Center has been "Your Home for Health" in the Merrimack Valley. We provide the best in primary health care to more than 45,000 patients in the region, making us one of the largest community health centers in Massachusetts.

In an effort to better serve you, our patients, GLFHC will be expanding our current clinics and adding new locations over the next few months. Rest assured, none of these changes will affect the high quality of care you've come to expect with GLFHC through the years.

We look forward to continuing to serve Greater Lawrence and the entire Merrimack Valley with the quality care you need for many years to come.

For the latest expansion updates, visit GLFHC online: [www.glfhc.org/expansion](http://www.glfhc.org/expansion)





Windham Professionals, Inc. is a national debt management company with offices located in Salem, NH and Woburn, MA. We are family owned and operated, looking for professionals like you to join our winning team!

Student Loan and Commercial Collectors Wanted!

**RESPONSIBILITIES would include the following:**

- Contact consumers via telephone to collect outstanding debt
- Resolve consumer disputes within state and federal regulations
- Follow up on promised payments
- Maintain assigned accounts

**EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE:**

- High school diploma or general education degree (GED)
- Related collections, telemarketing, sales experience a plus
- High level of communication skills a must

**POSITION BENEFITS:**

- Casual dress attire and flexible scheduling
- Competitive pay and bonus potential
- Outstanding benefits

**WANT TO APPLY?**

- Resumes are welcomed year round at [hr@windhampros.com](mailto:hr@windhampros.com)

380 Main St. Salem, NH 03079 800.969.0059 EOE/AA Employer

valleypatriot.com



# School Committee Bills Taxpayers for Fine Dining

Tom Duggan

VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER/PUBLISHER

**PUBLISHED MARCH 2004**

For the past three years members of the Lawrence School Committee have been billing the taxpayers for plush dining at the city's most expensive restaurant: One Mill Street.

Then School Committeemen Noah Shannon, Pedro Arce, Suzanne Piscitello, Nancy Kennedy and current member George Gonzalez all dined with Superintendent Wilfredo Laboy and his staff after school board meetings running up tabs worth over \$1,200.00.

Documents obtained by The Valley Patriot show that state taxpayers treated members of the Lawrence School Committee to more than a dozen expensive meals between 2001-2003.

Meal reimbursement receipts show School Board members helped themselves to veal, sirloin steak, calamari, pork chops, duck, steak salad, garlic shrimp, mussels, scallops, spinach chicken, assorted appetizers and other various menu items. The meals were then billed to the Lawrence Public Schools which receives 100% of it's funding from the state and federal government.

While Superintendent Laboy's \$156,000 a year contract does not include a meal allowance, he says that some of his expenses are reimbursable. "I don't have a meal allowance but it is accepted practice for me to be reimbursed for certain expenses as long as they are reasonable and sensible," he said.

School Committee members, on the other hand, do not have that luxury. According to the School Committee policy (B-18) "School Committee members shall receive no compensation for their services. However, upon submitting vouchers and supporting bills for expenses incurred in carrying out specific services previously authorized by the Committee, Committee members may be reimbursed from district funds." This never took place regarding meal receipts from One Mill Street.

Instead, some School Committee members took advantage of their position as members of the School Committee Finance subcommittee by eating at One Mill Street and then signed off on the meal receipts as legitimate educational expenses.

Laboy said he submitted the School Committee meal receipts because it was the least he could do for them. "These people (School Committee members) put in a lot of hours and they work very hard for our children. I think buying them a meal is the least we can do for them after a long meeting. The School Committee members are not compensated in any way, shape or form for their service. I don't find it offensive or excessive to pay for a

LAWRENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

EXPENSE REQUEST\*

NAME Wilfredo T. Laboy DATE 2/4/02

SCHOOL Central Office

GRADE/OR SUBJECT Superintendent

PURPOSE OF EXPENSE REQUEST: School Committee meeting / discussion @ One Mill Street on 1/31/01

OUT-OF-STATE REQUEST INFORMATION

ONE MILL STREET  
@ ONE MILL STREET  
(978) 738-8900

2655 GS  
JAN09'03 9:03PM

@ 8.00  
CALAMARI W/ MOJO 16.00  
ARTICHOKES 8.00  
PORK CHOP @ 18.00 54.00  
VEAL SAND 8.00  
NEW YORK STRIP 19.00  
18.00 %  
GRATUITY 18.90  
FOOD TOTAL 105.00  
SVC CHG TOTAL 18.90  
TAX 5.25  
TOTAL DUE \$ 129.15

FINAL EXPENSES

Conference, Workshop Fees: \$

Meal(s) \$141.25


Lodging

Food

ONE MILL STREET  
@ ONE MILL STREET  
(978) 738-8900  
CHARRISSA

2487 GST 14  
DEC13'01 8:49PM

FRENCH ONION 5.00  
SPICY CHIX WINGS 7.00  
@ 8.00  
CALAMARI W/ MOJO 16.00  
@ 9.00  
GARLIC SHRIMP 18.00  
SPRITTO MUSSELS 8.00  
CUP DU JOUR 3.00  
NEW YORK STRIP 19.00  
SALMON 17.00  
CAESAR CHICKEN 9.00  
CAESAR SALAD 6.00  
PORK CHOP 17.00  
GREENS W/ VINAIG 4.00  
O RINGS 0.00  
MISC FOOD 0.00  
COCO MANGO 0.00  
HOMEMADE ICE CRM 5.00  
18.00 %  
GRATUITY 24.00  
FOOD TOTAL 137.00  
SVC CHG TOTAL 24.66  
TAX 8.08  
TOTAL DUE \$ 169.74



"...the Ethics Commission should be informed about this. They should pay back every penny with interest and issue a written apology to the school children and the citizens of Lawrence."

Michael Sweeney  
Lawrence School Committee

person's meal when they work so hard."

The problem is, Laboy didn't pay for the meal, state taxpayers did; a fact that angered some current board members who demanded repayment for the meals. School Committeeman Michael Sweeney said "each member who received a free meal should pay back every penny to the children of Lawrence."

"I think their actions are reprehensible," Sweeney said of Piscitello, Gonzalez, Shannon, Kennedy and Arce. "Particularly Ms. Piscitello. Of all people, she should be writing a check out to the school department for everything she ate. I also think the Ethics Commission should be informed about this. They should pay the money back with interest and issue a written apology to the school children and the citizens of Lawrence."

On at least one occasion, a quorum of the School Committee (six of the seven

members) met at One Mill Street for what Laboy listed on receipts as a "School Committee meeting/Discussion at One Mill Street." (see right) With a majority of the board present, Laboy admitted the meeting was not publicly posted as required by the state's open meeting law because, he said, "it was a social event."

Asked why he submitted meal receipts to the taxpayers totaling \$141.25 for a "social" gathering he admitted, "It was partially business. Business was discussed."

Mayor Michael Sullivan who sits as chairman of the School Committee said he doesn't believe Superintendent Laboy did anything wrong, however, he added, "I think the members of the finance committee who signed off on those warrants should pay the money back. Absolutely."

"I don't think it's appropriate. As political leaders we have to be held to a higher standard. If it is outside the educational setting it isn't right that their meals should be treated by the taxpayers."

Sullivan said that the School Committee policy must be adhered to. "It all flows back to the policy. We have a policy and we all need to abide by the policy."

School Committeeman Jimmy Vittorio-so said he was outraged when he learned about the School Committee meals.

"It's a disgrace. It's a waste of taxpayers' money. I would never go out to dinner using the people's money. That's a serious conflict of interest. For committee members to go to Mill Street and send the taxpayers a bill is outrageous. I actually agree with Mayor Sullivan, they should pay the money back."

School Committee member Amy McGovern said that she had only gone to Mill Street "once" with fellow board members

and left early when she realized there was a quorum because she felt uncomfortable with the whole situation. "I know they do this all the time but I was very uncomfortable with it," McGovern said. "All I had was a diet coke and I left a few dollars on the table to pay for my drink. I just don't think it's right. It's abominable."

Heidi Pearlman, spokesman for the Department of Education said the matter of School Committee members getting free meals is an issue for the Ethics Commission not the Department of Education. "Was it appropriate for them to have meetings at an expensive restaurant," she asked rhetorically, "probably not. But this is a local issue for local officials to deal with. This is not an issue for the Department of Education."

It was a stark contrast to the position taken by the Department of Education when misspending allegations against former superintendents Jim Scully and Mae Gaskins surfaced in previous administrations.

In 1987 the Department of Education threatened the School Committee to fire Jim Scully or they would take over the Lawrence School System. The Department of Education was also intimately involved in the Gaskins firing.

Ironically, former Superintendent Mae Gaskins was fired, in part because she billed the taxpayers for 32 bags of Cape Cod potato chips (totaling \$77.13), a meal at Palmers Restaurant in Andover (\$75.57) and a meal order from Lawton's Hot Dog Stand which included two hot dogs, a large order of fried clams, a large order of onion rings and ice tea for a total of \$16.35

At the time of Gaskins' firing, then School Committeeman Suzanne Piscitello (who is listed on several meal receipts at Mill Street) led the charge against Gaskins for what she called "a disgraceful waste of our children's money," which she said was "robbing our children of the educational dollars they need for their future."

Piscitello told the Eagle Tribune in January of 2000 that the precedent set by the firing of Jim Scully for what she called "questionable expenses" had to be maintained by Gaskins and future superintendents. "You can't have one standard for one Superintendent and another standard for another superintendent."

Sweeney said Piscitello's involvement with the One Mill Street meals was "the height of hypocrisy."

"It's obvious that public office isn't the place for either one of them (Piscitello and Arce). As alleged professionals they should know better. If the Gaskins case was still in court we would be in a boatload of trouble on this. I mean, not only is Piscitello a former assistant superintendent and vice president of the School Committee, but her added role in the Gaskins firing pours a can of gasoline on the fire."

Sweeney said the revelations about free meals at One Mill Street explains an ongoing question regarding his former colleagues, "...at least now we know why School Committee Meetings used to last only half an hour. They all wanted to get to Mill Street before last call."

Suzanne Piscitello did not return calls from The Valley Patriot to be interviewed for this story.

Tom Duggan is publisher of Valley Patriot, Inc., a former Lawrence School Committeeman, former political director for Mass Citizens Alliance, a Police Survivor and hosts the Paying Attention! Radio Program from 10-noon on WCAP every Saturday. You can email him valleypatriot@aol.com.



**Scott Jenkins**  
Merrimack Automotive Technicians

355 Merrimack Street  
Lawrence, MA 01843



Scott Jenkins

(978) 686-9983  
Fax (978) 687-2928



Congratulations to

# The Valley Patriot!



The

## Valley Patriot

"Congress shall make no law..."

Lawrence, Andover, North Andover, Methuen

**\*\*FREE\*\***



Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2004

16 Pages

Valley Patriot Exclusive!

### School Committee Bills Taxpayers for Fine Dining

Tom Duggan

For the past three years members of the Lawrence School Committee have been billing the taxpayers for plush dining at the city's most expensive restaurant: One Mill Street.

Then School Committeemen Noah Shannon, Pedro Arce, Suzanne Piscitello, Nancy Kennedy and current member George Gonzalez all dined with Superintendent Wilfredo Laboy and his staff after school board meetings running up tabs worth over \$1,200.00.

Documents obtained by The Valley Patriot show that state taxpayers treated members of the Lawrence School Committee to more than a dozen expensive meals between 2001-2003.

Meal reimbursement receipts show School Board members helped themselves to veal, sirloin steak, calamari, pork chops, duck, steak salad, garlic shrimp, mussels, scallops, spinach chicken, assorted appetizers and other various menu items. The meals were then billed to the Lawrence Public Schools which receives 100% of it's funding from the state and federal government.

While Superintendent Laboy's \$156,000 a year contract does not include a meal allowance, he says that some of his expenses are reimbursable. "I don't have a meal allowance but it is accepted

**"...the Ethics Commission should be informed about this. They should pay back every penny with interest and issue a written apology to the school children and the citizens of Lawrence."**

**Michael Sweeney  
Lawrence School Committee**

practice for me to be reimbursed for certain expenses as long as they are reasonable and sensible," he said.

School Committee members, on the other hand, do not have that luxury. According to the School Committee policy (B-18) "School Committee members shall receive no compensation for their services. However, upon submitting vouchers and supporting bills for expenses incurred in carrying out specific services previously authorized by the Committee, Committee members may be reimbursed from district funds." This never took place regarding meal receipts from One Mill Street.

Instead, some School Committee members took advantage of their position as

*Continued on Page 8*



Lt. Governor Kerry Healey with Maria Marasco

### Andover's Marasco Campaigns for Reform

Valley Patriot Staff

Boston- State Rep. Candidate Maria Marasco (R-Andover) received a campaign boost from Lt. Governor Kerry Healey in Boston last week at her first fund raising event in preparation for her formal campaign announcement for 18th Essex State Representative. The district spans six communities, including her hometown of Andover, North Andover, Boxford, Haverhill, Methuen and Georgetown. The seat is currently held by first term incumbent Barbara L'Italien (D-Andover).

"Maria is exactly the right kind of person who will best represent her district," said Healey. "Maria has the right kind of skills to help us reshape government in an effective way," she said. Marasco supports the governor's efforts to cut waste and mismanagement in state government.

"I will stand by the Governor and Lt. Governor to make responsible reforms. As

*Continued on Page 5*

### Syndicated Columnists



**Neil Cavuto**  
Page 4



**Thomas Sowell**  
Page 14

### ALSO INSIDE:

Rabbi Goldstein on "The Passion"



Page 15

2003 Police Line of Duty Deaths by Craig Floyd

Page 3

Profile of Andover School Candidates

Page 13

Dr. Charles Ormsby - Thinking Outside the Box

Page 3

Paying Attention!

Page 4

N. Andover Selectman Race, Smith v. Smedile

Page 5

Senior News/Senior Centers

Pages 10 & 11

### Smith v. Smedile for N. A. Selectman

Valley Patriot Staff



face to the voters in her bid for reelection.

Joe Edward Smith, an engineer by trade and a union Democrat, says his campaign is about open government and representing issues important to the town voters. "There is a big difference between Ms. Smedile and myself," he said. "Before the voters decide who will represent them on March 30<sup>th</sup> it is important that they know what those difference are."

"I opposed the trash transfer station and Ms. Smedile supported it." Smith also said Smedile supported leasing half the airport land adding, "the people of North Andover clearly wanted it sold off. It is important to represent the people of the town and act on their behalf." Smith says he opposes \$95,000 in raises for nonunion employees "especially at a time when we are talking about laying off fire

*Continued on Page 13*

### Sullivan: "Absent All Auto Fraud, Insurance Rates Won't Go Down!"

Tom Duggan



**"...if you call the Board of Insurance today and ask them... 'if the auto fraud goes away completely (in Lawrence), at what point will the rates go down?' They will tell you what they told me last week, they won't."**

**...Lawrence Mayor,  
Michael J. Sullivan**

Lawrence - Mayor Michael Sullivan says that even if police investigations are capable of eliminating all auto insurance fraud in the City of Lawrence, "auto insurance rates still won't go down."

Sullivan, touting the hard work of Police Chief John Romero and the Lawrence Police Department, said that the investigations into auto insurance fraud in Lawrence were producing startling results but added, "If you call the Board of Insurance today and ask, just for example, 'if the auto fraud goes away completely (in Lawrence) at what point will the rates go down?' What they will tell you is what they told me last week, they won't."

For years, State Legislators, previous mayors and police chiefs have been telling Lawrence residents that the high auto insurance rates in the city (the third highest in the state) are the result of insurance fraud. Sullivan says that simply isn't the case.

"What we are finding out is that, what will cause rates to go down (in Lawrence) is for the rest of the cities and towns in the state to tackle fraud in their communities as well. It would have to be a statewide effort. I think the insurance companies, years ago should have been doing the investigative work that the Lawrence police are doing this year."

*Continued on page 7*

**8 Years and 100 editions later, you guys REALLY ARE the Newspaper of Record for 35 Cities and towns!**



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





*Karin* ★★★★★  
**RHOTON**  
**REPRESENTATIVE**

f b [www.KarinRhoton.com](http://www.KarinRhoton.com) You Tube in

14<sup>th</sup> Essex District – North Andover, Lawrence, Haverhill, Methuen




**Congratulations and Thank You to The Valley Patriot, for 100 issues of compelling and exclusive news stories!**

**Marc LaPlante**  
 Lawrence City Council District F

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Marc Laplante, 29 Durso Ave. marcplante@rocketmail.com, (978) 683-6910

**Happy 100th Edition**

**RON MARSAN**  
 East District Councilor  
**METHUEN**



**to The Valley Patriot**



**Bill Englehardt**  
 MLO 48923  
 “Helping Borrowers since 1997”  
 Tel. 978.685.9700  
 \* Fax 978.685.9701  
[www.firstinteg.com](http://www.firstinteg.com)

**FIRST INTEGRITY MORTGAGE**  
LLC  
 354 Merrimack Street, Sal's Riverwalk, Lawrence MA 01843  
[jim@firstinteg.com](mailto:jim@firstinteg.com)  
 354 Merrimack St., at Sal's Riverwalk  
 Lawrence MA 01843  
 MA Mortgage Broker #MB 1964  
 Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.  
 ME#CS011110 \* NMLS ID 1964

**Congratulations to the Valley Patriot!  
 8 Years and 100 Editions Later..**

**I REMEMBER...**

I remember when the very first edition of The Valley Patriot was delivered to my office in city hall back in 2004. I had never seen anything like it. It was breath of fresh air for free speech in the Lawrence area! Tom, you and your team have come a long way since those days.

I have taken my share of criticism in the pages of this newspaper, but it was always fair and never personal.

**Thank you!**

I remember when you first unveiled your new vision, how you were laughed at mocked by the political insiders and the rest of the newspaper industry.

**CONGRATULATIONS ON GETTING THE LAST LAUGH!**

**Mike Sullivan**



(Then) Lawrence Mayor Mike Sullivan in July of 2005 at the placement of our very first newspaper box on Mt. Vernon St. in Lawrence.

CONGRATULATIONS ON PUBLISHING 100 EDITIONS!  
 AND HAPPY 8TH ANNIVERSARY

**Sean Fountain**  
***Methuen West End Council***

**CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 100th!**

**To The Valley Patriot...  
 THANK YOU!  
 For all you have done to support the Firefighters of Methuen.**



**Methuen Firefighters Union,  
 Local 1691 I.A.F.F.**

**Alex Veras**  
 REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEEMAN ~ FIRST ESSEX DISTRICT

**As your GOP State Committeeman, Alex will:**

- \* Put together a comprehensive strategy to help Republicans win at the LOCAL level
- \* Agressively campagin for state and regional Republican candidates
- \* Never campaign for Democrats as my opponent does
- \* Work with the the state party to make sure legislative candidates get funding they need
- \* Work full time for a more conservative state party platform

**alexveras.com**

PAID FOR BY ALEX VERAS





CONGRATULATIONS TO:

The Valley Patriot


on publishing your 100th Edition

Best wishes for

100 more!

Jen Kannan

Methuen City Council
at-Large



PASQUINA & THEBAUD

Attorneys At Law

Specializing in  
Workers'  
Compensation  
& Social Security  
Disability



Paul R. Thebaud

Phone: (617) 723-3030  
Fax: (617) 723-8995  
E-mail: paul@pasquinalaw.com

183 State St., 2nd Floor  
Boston, MA 02109

Best Wishes to The Valley Patriot  
100 Editions and Counting!



Sheehan's Towing

From Two Champs wishing another champ the best of luck for 100 more!  
26 Lawrence St. Methuen, MA 01844 Phone: (978) 687-9378

Amici's Pizzeria

North End Style, Thin Crust Italian Pizza

We Deliver! 978-725-9339

N. Andover, Andover, South Lawrence

Get Your Heart  
Shaped Pizza for  
a Special Someone



only at  
Amici's Pizzeria

ORDER NOW

127 Waverly Road  
NORTH ANDOVER  
OPEN: Mon-Sat  
11am-9pm  
Closed Sunday

ITALIAN  
DINNERS

SALADS  
SUBS,  
CALZONES

NOW  
CATERING!



Dave Guselli  
Broker/Owner  
Office: 978-689-8006  
Fax: 1-866-284-2733  
Cell: 978-852-5481  
daveg@prufirstchoice.com



Prudential  
First Choice Realty

184 Pleasant Valley Street,  
Suite 1-102, Methuen, MA 01844



Rock Solid in Real Estate  
2010 J.D. Powers Award Winner

www.prufirstchoice.com



Robert Irving  
Reverse Mortgage  
Specialist  
MLO 19086  
Cell: (978) 686-0394  
24-hr.  
Helping Borrowers  
since 2001



FIRST  
INTEGRITY  
MORTGAGE LLC

354 Merrimack Street, Sal's Riverwalk, Lawrence MA 01843  
rhirving@gmail.com  
354 Merrimack St., at Sal's Riverwalk  
Lawrence MA 01843  
Tel. 978.685.9700 x15 \* Fax 978.685.9701  
MA Mortgage Broker #MB 1964  
Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.  
ME#CSO11110 \* NMLS ID 1964

Owner's Project Managers/Advisors

Achieving Success Through Proven Expertise



Trident

A Project Management Company

NH  
(603) 898-6110

MA  
(978) 687-7717

www.tridentgrp.com

Selected List of Clients:

- Andover/North Andover YMCA
- Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence MA
- City of Methuen, MA
- Edgewood Retirement Community, N. Andover MA
- Lawrence Family Development Charter School
- Pelham NH School District
- Salem NH School District
- Town of Pelham NH
- VNA – Hospice House, Haverhill MA
- Windham NH School District



2006 NEW ENGLAND PRESS ASSOCIATION AWARD WINNING ARTICLE

RED CROSS NIGHTMARE

Tom Duggan  
VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER/PUBLISHER

(2006) Flood victims from Lawrence, North Andover and Methuen who were staying at the Red Cross shelter in Methuen during the immediate aftermath of last month's flood say that they were treated so badly by the National Red Cross that their view of the organization has been shattered forever.

The devastating flood that displaced thousands of Merrimack Valley residents last month caused many people to rely on organizations like the Red Cross. But, just days after National Red Cross officials descended onto Methuen High school to replace local volunteers, the Red Cross tried to skip town and toss more than 63 homeless people out on the streets.

"We were under the impression that the Red Cross was trying to find us a place to live the whole time we were here," said Rocio Mercado of Holly Street in Lawrence.

"But for ten days they didn't do a thing to help us find housing. Then last night they came out with a cake that said 'Good Bye and Good Luck.' Then they announced that the shelter was closing today (May 24) at 3pm and the doors would be locked. We were devastated because we have no place to go. We wasted ten days thinking the Red Cross was doing something and now they are throwing us out on the streets."

Eviction signs were put on the walls of the gymnasium by the Red Cross, informing flood victims that they had to be out of the building by Wednesday May 24th at 3pm.

Flood victims began to panic thinking they were about to be homeless again. National Red Cross officials had packed up flood victims' personal belongings, placed everything in boxes and plastic bags and put their items on the sidewalk, while other Red Cross officials loaded up a Budget rental van with supplies.

Lawrence Planning Director Michael Sweeney, appointed by Mayor Sullivan as the disaster relief coordinator for the city of Lawrence, said he had been communicating with the Red Cross during the flood and the aftermath of the cleanup. But Sweeney said that throughout the ten days following the flood, the National Red Cross "never once told city officials that they would not try to find housing for people who ended up homeless because of the flood."

"If they had just given us that information in the first place, the city of Lawrence would have had people making phone calls to find housing for these people," Sweeney said. "Instead, the Red Cross simply announced to people that the shelter was closing ...good bye, and good luck."

Contacted by The Valley Patriot, one official from the National Red Cross said



For Daily News Updates Visit [www.ValleyPatriot.com](http://www.ValleyPatriot.com)

Lawrence, Methuen, Haverhill, Lowell, Boxford, Georgetown, N. Andover, Chelmsford, Dracut



\*Free\*

# The Valley Patriot

"Congress shall make no law..."

Volume 3, Issue 6

June - 2006

28 Pages

# Red Cross Nightmare

Tom Duggan

Flood victims from Lawrence, North Andover and Methuen who were staying at the Red Cross shelter in Methuen during the immediate aftermath of last month's flood say that they were treated so badly by the National Red Cross that their view of the organization has been shattered forever.

The devastating flood that displaced thousands of Merrimack Valley residents last month caused many people to rely on organizations like the Red Cross. But, just days after National Red Cross officials descended onto Methuen High school to replace local volunteers, the Red Cross tried to skip town and toss more than 63 homeless people out on the streets.


Continued on Page 8

Lawrence Residents staying at the Red Cross shelter in Methuen had their belongings put on the sidewalk in plastic garbage bags and told not to return. The National Red Cross decided they were skipping town at 3 p.m. on May 24th. Lawrence and Methuen officials had to intervene to stop them from closing the shelter.



## Inside

Editorial/Opinions	P. 2 & 3
Dr.Ormsby	P. 3
Haverhill	P. 4-5
Lawrence	P. 7-13
Notebook	P. 12
Methuen	P. 21-24
Kids & Education	P. 16-17
N. Andover	P. 6
Seniors & Vets	P. 18-20
Business	P. 13



Haverhill Mayor

**Jim Fiorentini**

Page 4

that they were closing the shelter on May 24th because Methuen Mayor Bill Manzi "wants us out right away."

Mayor Manzi disputed that account saying it was his understanding that the Red Cross was going to stay until every flood victim had a place to stay.

Mayor Manzi, Police Chief Joe Solomon and Superintendent Phil Littlefield went down to the shelter on May 24th where they were joined by Michael Sweeney and Lawrence Personnel Director Frank Bonet to confront the Red Cross and make it clear that they wanted the shelter to remain open until all flood victims found safe housing.

That's when Red Cross officials changed their tune and assured city officials from both municipalities that the shelter would remain open until everyone was relocated.

"Look, it's been a total nightmare over there at that shelter," Sweeney said.

"We got a call from some of the Lawrence families staying at the shelter, crying, saying they were being thrown out on the street this morning with no place to go. Last week this shelter turned away a blind man because they said he had some special need and they could not accommodate him. The only need this guy had was a need to find some place to sleep and they literally turned him away."

According to Red Cross Spokesperson Gorge Drumbor, the Red Cross provides first and last month's rent as well as a security deposit, but "the flood victims themselves are responsible for calling landlords and finding a place to live."

"We only facilitate here," Drumbor said. "We can put victims in touch with other agencies that can help them find placement but, as a policy, we do not do that."

"That would have been a pretty good thing to tell us ten days ago," Sweeney responded.

"In fact, on Monday and Tuesday (May 22 & 23), officials from the Red Cross told me and Mr. Bonet the exact opposite, and assured us they would not close the shelter until everyone was placed in a safe living situation. They simply lied to us and mistreated people."

Asked why a blind man was turned away last week when there was clearly plenty of room at the shelter for him, Drumbor said that he did not know the specifics of the incident, but that it was his understanding that someone from the Red Cross was trying to find another shelter that could accommodate his needs. According to Drumbor, the Red Cross does not help individuals with special needs.

Drumbor also denied that anyone was being thrown out of the shelter on

Wednesday, May 24th. "It was only an internal target to have these people out of the shelter and placed by today, Drumbor said. "We never told them they had to leave and we would not have thrown them out on the streets."



Jessie and Roscio Mercado of Holly Street in Lawrence had no place to go when their home was flooded and then condemned. The National Red Cross tried to throw them out on the street without so much as making a phone call to help them find shelter.

While Drumbor was answering that question, Red Cross officials were in the process of ripping down signs at the shelter and demanding that residents of the shelter vacate the premises by 3pm. Asked why signs were posted informing people they had to leave by 3pm, Drumbor said he didn't have an answer.

"How are people with no phones and no transportation supposed to call landlords,

find a place to stay, get a letter from the landlord so they can get the Red Cross vouchers for the rent, and then bring it back here to the shelter"? Sweeney asked. "It's total insanity."

According to Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan's office, officials from the city of Lawrence had "tasked people to make phone calls immediately after finding out



At 10 a.m., May 24th, the National Red Cross was loading their supplies into a Budget rental van, ready to skip town while Lawrence and Methuen residents were left on the sidewalk wondering what to do next.

490 Main St.

# Sal's PIZZA

NORTH ANDOVER

Get your Valley Patriot at SALS!

978-689-7374



# News from the American Legion

**John Lenotte**

VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

It is hard to believe that January has come and gone. The political season is very much in full swing. Debates from New Hampshire, South Carolina and Florida were on the television and seemed to dominate the news. And this will continue until the November election is over and done with.

Like many of you, I don't want to hear about all the skeletons in everyone's closet. I want to know what they can do to make this country better. And how they are going to do so. As important, what have they done before that can convince me they are capable of doing so and not just telling me what I want to hear. I want to hear about accomplishments and real

plans. And as we get to who will run against President Obama, I want to hear details about what the Republican candidate is going to actually put in motion. And what the President is going to do differently or even the same.

Whether we want to hear it or not, those in office have to be able to work with the other party. We have seen recently what happens when they stick to the party line. Nothing gets done. If we look at former Presidents like Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt and Truman, they had to bite the bullet and do what is best for the country. And not just the President but Congress as well.

This month and those that follow, this is a theme you will hear me repeat for

most of this year. We must exercise our right to vote, first in the primary elections, March 6 in Massachusetts and then in the general election on November 6, 2012. We have seen in recent elections at both the national and local level that every vote does in fact count! Are you happy with the way the country is going? How it is being run? Either way, you should get out there and vote.

There are many serious issues, including jobs, the economy, national security. Will you join me in making our voices heard? I hope so. Many complain but it seems that too few take action and exercise their rights. This election may be one of the most important ones we have seen.

On another note, American Legion

programs are in full swing. Oratorical contests are ongoing as this is written. Applications are out for Boys and Girls State. Student trooper and Legion Baseball will soon be accepting applications. And the American Legion scholarship applications are available at [www.masslegion.org](http://www.masslegion.org).

May God bless our troops and their families as they continue to protect us from those who would do us harm and take away our freedoms.



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)

## FROM PREVIOUS PAGE: RED CROSS NIGHTMARE

the Red Cross was trying to skip town and leave these people in the streets."

"It has been horrible every time I talk to someone who tells me they are in charge and I start to explain the dire need of these victims. But as soon as I ask them to make a command decision, suddenly I am told I have to talk to someone else. It's no wonder there were so many problems in New Orleans after Katrina. This is the problem, the National Red Cross."

"This is all because of red tape," Jessie Mercado added. "It's all about the policies and the politics. We just need a place to stay and we have no way to get around."

Mercado and his wife Rocio said things

at the shelter were going "OK" until "the local [Red Cross] people were no longer in charge. As soon as the people from out of state came in and took over, everything changed."

Both Rocio and Jessie Mercado said that they were "very grateful to the mayor of Methuen and the people of Methuen" for housing them at the high school.

"We heard that the mayor is getting blamed for trying to have us thrown out of the shelter before we could find a place to live. That's just not right. We are not even from Methuen and they have done so much for us, we are very grateful."

Methuen Mayor Manzi said that he, along with Sweeney and Bonet, were personally making sure nobody gets thrown out of the shelter and that "they can stay there as long as they need to."

State Representative Willie Lantigua

tried to mediate between the different officials and the flood victims, some of whom did not speak English. After several private discussions with various officials, Representative Lantigua announced to the flood victims that they would be permitted to stay in the shelter, and assured them that "the situation was now under control."

Red Cross officials, on the other hand, tried to spin the story telling residents of the shelter that it was "all a miscommunication," adding that they were "happy to stay and help them any way they could."

Officials would not say how much donation money the Red Cross has received for the devastating flood that affected most of the Merrimack Valley for more than ten days.

Ironically, officials from the city of Lawrence were able to find housing for all but one family living in the shelter within 48 hours of finding out that the Red Cross was not helping people find a place to live.

"We were able to accommodate every family that was stuck in the Red

Cross shelter by either getting them into temporary apartments, permanent housing or in some cases we were able to get them into hotels," said Personnel Director Frank Bonet.

Lawrence Mayor Michael Sullivan said that he was very proud of the way Sweeney and Bonet handled the situation. He then emphatically added, "but I was even more proud of the Lawrence families involved in this whole fiasco. They handled themselves so well."



Lawrence Planning Director Michael Sweeney (left) explains to George Drumbor from the National Red Cross that their plan to "skip town" and leave Lawrence residents on the streets was "unacceptable." To the right of Drumbor is Methuen Mayor Bill Manzi, Lawrence Personnel Director Frank Bonet and State Rep. Willie Lantigua.



Methuen Mayor Bill Manzi and Lawrence State Rep. Willie Lantigua showed up at the Red Cross shelter at Methuen High School to find out why Red Cross officials were throwing flood victims out onto the streets. Within minutes, National Red Cross officials were back-peddling and telling flood victims that they could stay "until everyone is placed."



On hand to watch The Valley Patriot receive an award from the New England Press Association were (Standing): Quianna Roy, Frank Incropera, Diane Brennan and Mark Hersum. Sitting: Dotti Incropera, Colleen Flanigan, Dr. Charles Ormsby, Ted Trip, and Lonnie Brennan

**NEW ENGLAND PRESS ASSOCIATION**

ANNUAL BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST

20 06

GENERAL NEWS STORY  
Monthly

**Second Place**

*for highest achievement in the writing of a general news story*

**Tom Duggan**  
**The Valley Patriot**

PRESENTED FEBRUARY 10, 2007



**Anne Marie Concemi**  
Chief Mortgage Planner/Owner  
MLO 3527

**Helping Borrowers since 1987**

**Cell: (978) 852-9707**  
**24-hr.**  
**[www.firstinteg.com](http://www.firstinteg.com)**

**FIRST INTEGRITY MORTGAGE LLC**

354 Merrimack Street, Sal's Riverwalk, Lawrence MA 01843

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

354 Merrimack St., at Sal's Riverwalk Lawrence MA 01843

Tel. 978.685.9700 x15 \* Fax 978.685.9701

MA Mortgage Broker #MB 1964  
Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.  
ME#CSO11110 \* NMLS ID 1964



**Dave Guselli**  
Broker/Owner

Office: 978-689-8006  
Fax: 1-866-284-2733  
Cell: 978-852-5481

**[daveg@prufirstchoice.com](mailto:daveg@prufirstchoice.com)**

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

**Prudential First Choice Realty**

184 Pleasant Valley Street,  
Suite 1-102, Methuen, MA 01844

Rock Solid in Real Estate  
2010 J.D. Powers Award Winner



# North Central MA Tea Party

Joan Gross

SECRETARY-NORTH CENTRAL TEA PARTY

The North Central MA Tea Party is a relatively new group to the North Quabbin area. We started in July 2011 and meet monthly on the last Thursday of the month.

Our group was started by 3 friends who all worked on Bill Gunn's campaign for the 1st MA Congressional seat against John Olver, and enjoyed the excitement of the race. We were disappointed when Bill didn't win, but that is politics in Massachusetts. Our political interests leaned heavily toward the conservative Tea Party, and we wanted a closer group to where we live.

All of us were active at Tea Party rally's in 2009 and 2010 and were new to politics. We had found a new passion in our lives, thus this group was born.

We have had several meetings and several guests who graciously gave of their time and energy to inform us as a group. The first was Bill Gunn who spoke about the Constitution and the Tea Party move-

ment going forward. Second we had Hal Shurtleff with the John Birch Society and Dave Kopacz from Red Pill Politics speak about Agenda 21 and Sustainable Development. Christen Varley of the Boston Tea Party spoke about Voter ID as our third guest, and this month we had Les Gosule as a guest.

Les' daughter was brutally raped and murdered 12 years ago by a repeat offender.

His journey through the legislative process has been harrowing for the last 10 years. His repeat offender bill finally passed the House and Senate on Beacon Hill this year only to end up in Committee again.

We urge everyone to call the Speaker of the House to ask him to allow the Senate bill to be taken up by the House and voted on. The Defense Lawyers lobby is very strong in MA and they oppose this bill. The bill would force repeat offenders to serve the maximum sentence on their third and subsequent offenses along with stricter oversight once released.



We are also working on community service projects. At Christmas, we collected personal hygiene and comfort items as a group for 3 months and we took them to the veterans in Northampton's VA Hospital. The children at the Royalston Community School also made up cards to thank the veterans on Veteran's day, and we brought several with us. Our group was allowed to visit with about 15 of the elderly veterans in residence there. We went at lunch time and gave them the cards and items. They were very appreciative and one remarked "Thanks for remembering

the vets". As a result, we have formed a committee to do additional projects with the veterans.

Our desire is to keep other like minded people informed and active in the political process.

It's hard being Conservative in this state, but we are making inroads. We will support conservative candidates this year, and work within the community to bring awareness of such issues as voter fraud through legislative measures and poll watching.

# Individual Rights or Individual Duty

William Gunn

GUEST COLUMNIST

Most political and economic questions refine to a conflict between Individual Rights vs. Individual Duty. We are being asked more plainly now than at any time in our recent history to choose between these two options. At every level of government people are being asked to cede their rights as individuals in order to fulfill a vague, subjective duty to the community. Often times the politicians and pundits asking us to make these choices are either unaware of the price of collectivism or are unwilling to articulate it as such. The conflict is of a truly moral nature; either man has the right to exist and pursue his life as he/she sees fit, or another being has the authority to tell every person he/she must submit their plans, their ends to the ends and means determined by the state. Today the choice is ours to make, it may not be in the near future; liberty is difficult to retain, but nearly impossible to regain.

Life is unfair! Inequality exists! There will always be some with more stuff or money than others. I challenge anyone reading this essay to find an example when these inequities did not exist; no form of government nor economic system has or can eliminate them. Despite historic proof to the contrary, we are being asked to accept economic planning as the pill to cure these ills, we are being asked to accept that people we elect are intelligent enough and/or honest enough to plan in such a way that all will be "more" equal. (The use of the word "more" in this context is important as it presents a mobile or subjective target that can never be

achieved nor criticized. After all who does not want "more" equality? Many other words and terms fit into this category: social justice, economic justice, war on hunger, working families, war on poverty, etc.). Only one system has allowed upward mobility of a great number of the people that were once in the humbler economic class, Capitalism, Freedom, Libertarianism, Conservatism. The alternative, Collectivism, Progressivism, Socialism, Central planning, wealth redistribution is ends assigned by an economic central planner, wherein upward mobility comes only by currying favor with the same.

When the terms individual rights or respect for the individual are used, it most often means recognition by government and others of every man's Natural rights. Our most cherished Natural right is the right to exist, some will say this right is a gift from God, others will assume it is a right simply because we are here. Because we have the right to exist, we also have the right to improve or diminish our lives as we see fit; we improve our lives by the disposition of personal property as we see fit. Personal property is the result of labor and it belongs to us until we say otherwise. It is the unfortunate fact that the collectivist or the proponent of individual duty above individual rights, does not recognize these rights and conversely tells us it is our "social" or "civic" or "patriotic duty" to place our happiness secondary to the ends of the collective. When one is told with threat of violence they must surrender their property or their labor to another that is a direct violation of the Natural rights of the individual. The threat

can be packaged as prettily as can be imagined, but the threat exists, for proof of this I would encourage any doubters to call the IRS and opt out of the tax system.

A system that respects the rights of the individual operates under the "Rule of Law". Contrary to popular conception, the "Rule of Law" is not a series of arbitrary rules passed at the whims of a legislative body, decreed by executive order or imposed by bureaucrats that controls the behavior of the populace. The "Rule of Law" is a set of laws that limits the government to creating objective laws and rules that will be blind in application and general to the degree that all can plan their futures accordingly; the U.S. Constitution establishes the rule of law in this country. Government does not have the authority to manage or give advantage or disadvantage to specific groups or interests or to create laws in order to achieve specific and subjective ends. For example government should tell us that airlines must schedule their flights with a central data bank in order to maintain safety, but government should not tell the airlines where to fly, how to treat their customers or how much to charge.

When central economic planning occurs and the goal is "more" economic justice or equality, a planner or bureaucrat must control production, must control distribution and must control costs and consumption. From that it must be assumed that a planner must determine, that since a certain number of a product must be produced, only a certain number of employees will be needed in that field and either through manipulation or direct control, one will be channeled to employment that suit's the ends of a planner.

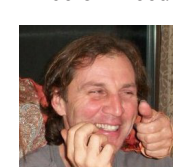
It is assumed that businesses that do not produce, price or hire along these lines will be placed at disadvantage or eliminated directly. Proper behavior will be encouraged or discouraged, either directly or through coercion or nudging. It must also be assumed, and history proves the assumptions made, that dissent would be counterproductive to the ends and must be quashed. Economic planning will always result in social planning and a complete diminution of freedom and respect for the individual. Similarly, social planning will always result in economic planning and a similar diminution of liberty.

I stated earlier that life is unfair, that

some will have more than others. In a free society these inequities are determined by one's priorities, determination, abilities and yes, luck. In a planned society or a controlled economic system some person or some bureau will be responsible for determining the priority of need of every individual in society. These decisions will be arbitrary and binding, often based on relationship or coercion of power or money. It is much more acceptable to know that one is at the lower end of the economic spectrum because of their choices or luck, than it is to know that you are placed and held at a lower level of economy because another has concluded that your priorities or plans do not rate the attention given another. It promotes individual and societal well being to have the hope that anyone can break free of their present situation; in a controlled economic system there is only the individual and societal depression and rage of knowing there will be no change and some out of reach entity has sentenced you due to no fault of your own.

I return to my original premise, we are presented with two choices. Rights are either absolute or they do not exist. There really is no middle of the road or moderation on this issue. One can not be in favor of the rights of some individuals and opposed to the rights of others. America was founded on respect for the individual. Our nation and other nations that have followed our lead have flourished and exposed the tyranny of central planning. The choice to be made is not as easy as seeking an R or a D next to a candidates name.

The lover of freedom must seek out public servants that speak of liberty and know the philosophy behind their assertions. Those that would bequeath freedom and prosperity to their progeny must insist on public servants that will fight to maintain local autonomy. I urge everyone reading this to resist the promise of economic equality in exchange for your freedom. As Thomas Jefferson stated so simply, "The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance."



William Gunn is a resident of Palmer. He is a political activist in the North Central Area of Massachusetts. You can email Bill Gunn at:

billg64@juno.com

## Broadhurst Tabit LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW

### Salim Tabit

**HAPPY 100TH EDITION!**  
**Congratulations To The**  
**Valley Patriot TEAM!**  
**Looking forward to the**  
**next 100 Editions!**

45 OSGOOD STREET  
METHUEN MA 01844

(P) 978-327-5128  
(F) 978-327-5144

email:stabit@broadhursttabit.comcastbiz.net





# Discovering the Wapack

Tennis Lilly  
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST

I've rarely heard my son David use the word "wow" and really mean it. He's not easily impressed but most of the rare occasions have occurred "in nature". Three years ago, in early July my family and I had been itching to go on a day hike. After perusing a trail guide for a few days I thought a hike from Pack Monadnock Mountain to neighboring North Pack Monadnock would be a good way to spend a Saturday morning.

My son was bored so to keep him out of his mother's hair, I brought him along. We drove for 90 minutes from Lawrence to Miller State Park in Peterborough NH. Miller state park is the oldest state park in New Hampshire and the paved road gives easy access to the 2900 foot summit of Pack Monadnock mountain.

At the top of Pack Monadnock we were treated to a spectacular view of famous Mount Monadnock and, to our south, the 2000 foot mountains of the Wapack range that run from Greenfield, NH to Ashburnham, MA. After searching for a few minutes, we found the yellow triangles that mark the Wapack Trail, one of the oldest maintained hiking trails in America.

After following yellow triangles painted on granite boulders the trail descended into the dense forest and soon David and I were under a surprisingly dense canopy. The Wapack trail is well maintained and clearly marked and with the exception of a marshy stretch the footing was quite

firm. After a steep descent we walked for over an hour through gently rolling terrain that ran between the two mountains. I was surprised by how comfortable the hike was and how cool the air became once we reached the foot of the mountain. As we reached the base of North Pack, the trail climbed quickly and our hike felt more like the serious workout I expected. The hard work was short lived though and after half an hour and a short rock scramble David and I stood on an exposed ledge at the summit of North Pack Monadnock mountain, just a few dozen feet shorter than its twin.

Looking back towards the trail we saw Pack Monadnock and the rest of the Wapack range, the peaks standing above the ridgeline like distant outposts. The shadows of clouds above were moving slowly over the forest and hawks circled over the trees, riding columns of heated air. As we sat on the rocks silently for a few moments, the only word that seemed appropriate escaped David's lips, "wow". Wow indeed.

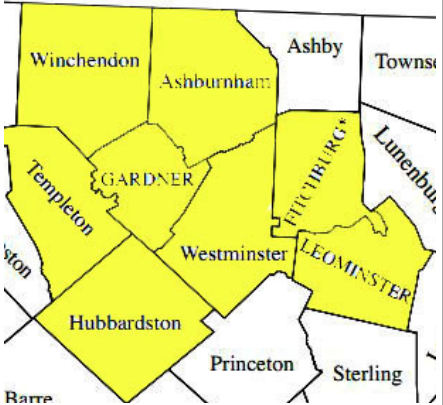
The Wapack range is old, 400 million years old and like the rest of the mountains in the Glacial northeast, once stood higher than the Rockies before the repeated advance of mile thick ice sheets ground them down to the humble 2000 footers they are today. Like many mountains in New England, remnants of sub-alpine habitat remain in the form of patches of conifers clinging to north facing slopes. The change from leafy oak and maple forest to pine is dramatic and you can liter-

Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke with his copy of The Valley Patriot. Hawke has been serving as the Mayor of Gardner since January 7, 2008. The Valley Patriot will be covering The Town of Gardner and Mayor Hawke's administration as part of our ongoing expansion into the North Central area. The Valley Patriot now distributes to and covers the following communities: Gardner, Ashburnham, Leominster, Fitchburg, Westminster, Hubbardston, Templeton, and Winchendon.



Hello North Central Massachusetts! I'm Daniel D. Dubrule your native son and a new Coordinator for The Valley Patriot's North Central Area. My only goal is to give you the people, a voice. The Valley Patriot is not only an award winning, free, monthly publication, it has a lively social media history and following.

I am Honored to be part of a team where true Patriots do tread. And I want you to be a party of the team as well. The Valley Patriot has made a commitment to never censor the submissions we receive. We don't just believe in free speech, we provide it. We are reaching out to all the area leaders, businesses and organizations to give them access to this vehicle of a truly FREE press. We are empowering you to share, promote and discuss any opinion or observation you like. The power of the press is yours, not ours. Join the team and share your tips, stories or any public event with us. Call Dan Dubrule 978-636-0804 or email [thevalleypatriotofcentralma@gmail.com](mailto:thevalleypatriotofcentralma@gmail.com)



ally stand on a trail and see exactly where one forest stops and the other begins.

Thanks to the effort of conservationists in New Hampshire and Massachusetts including the Friends of the Wapack Trail almost all of the land that the trail runs through enjoys some form of protection. The trail is just over 20 miles long and runs from North Pack Monadnock Mountain along the Wapack ridge to Mount Watatic in Ashburnham, MA.

While only experienced, fit hikers should attempt to hike the entire trail at

once, there are many access points that give even novice hikers plenty of chances to hike sections of the trail safely. A trail guide published by the Friend of the Wapack give a detailed, section by section description of the trail and includes an excellent map.

*Tennis Lilly is a member of the Lawrence Conservation Commission and is an environmental activist. You can email him at [trhgr@yahoo.com](mailto:trhgr@yahoo.com)*



# Was the State of the Union Address Confusing?

Tom Weaver  
CONSERVATIVE ACTIVIST

The State of the Union speech is an annual event when the President tells Congress what he believes is the state of the union – in other words, how America is doing. It has changed over time, becoming more political, emphasizing the positive achievements of the ruling party, pontificating grand ideas, far reaching promises and grandiose spending and entitlement programs.

This year was much the same, except we were offered insight into the beliefs of our President; and it causes confusion.

We were told that we must have equality of outcome – yet that is not America. Somehow equality of outcome has been confused with equality under the law, equality of opportunity.

We were told that the American people need a level playing field. The confusion starts when government attempts to define the meaning of the word level. America has

a level playing field – it is called freedom.

We were told that everyone is entitled to success. It is as if there can be no failure. Perhaps American values are being confused with some other nation, but in America, one of the greatest rights is the right to fail... and then be able to try again.

We were told that everyone needs to pay their fair share. Once again, confusion reigns supreme. Why not ask the question, what is the fair share that Americans should be allowed to keep when they look at their paycheck? And so as not to be confused about tax brackets; is it not amazing that in America, a secretary can make over \$250,000 per year...

We were told that the executive branch needs more power. Not only is someone



confusing the guidelines found within our Constitution, this statement is downright scary... The executive branch is supposed to be weak. The American people rejected a strong executive branch over 200 years ago and placed the power in the hands of the people.

Needless to say, when one listens to the rhetoric of this speech, the speech does not embrace American ideals, American Exceptionalism. And that is confusing.

American Exceptionalism is simply freedom; that is the total sum of our greatness. Government was created to protect that freedom, yet with every law, regulation and rule created by Congress or Executive Order, we lose freedom.

If our President truly understood the inheritance of American Exceptionalism,

the State of the Union speech would have been completely different. He would have emphasized the need for government to get out of the way, so that private industry could create jobs. Instead of asking business what they needed government to do, he would have requested that businesses tell the government what does not work – so it could be eradicated. Instead of offering more entitlements, he would have asked that we fix existing programs so that our children would enjoy the God given entitlements of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

But our President is not wired that way. So we have a decision to make in November. Do we want a State of the Union which relies on the kind intentions of government programs which always come up short or do we want a State of the Union which relies on the greatness of the American people?

I choose We the People – what about you?



# TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK: FROM 23

fast and pre-registration is not required. For more info - [www.nsbforum.org](http://www.nsbforum.org)

## SENATOR TARR RENEWS CALL FOR PASSAGE OF EBT BILL

Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester) renews his call for the passage of legislation regulating the use of Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards.

Tarr is the lead sponsor of Senate Bill 68, An Act Preventing the Misuse of Public Funds, which was the subject of a public hearing before the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities today. The bill, which was filed in January of 2010, makes it illegal to use an EBT card to purchase alcoholic beverages, tobacco or Lottery products and imposes a combination of fines and possible jail time for store owners and employees who accept EBT cards as payment for these purchases.

In a letter hand-delivered to the committee, Tarr acknowledged that many of the provisions contained in his bill were signed into law last summer as a result of a budget amendment he sponsored. However, he urged the committee to take further action, noting that "it is important that we continue to forge ahead to implement stronger oversight measures within the EBT system to ensure that the abuses that have already taken place do not continue to occur."

"State oversight of the EBT program has been far too lax, and has allowed recipients to manipulate the system at the expense of the taxpayers who fund these benefits," Tarr wrote. "Published reports continue to provide examples of the types of abuses that we are trying to prevent and prove that our work is far from finished. We owe it to the residents of Massachusetts to take steps to ensure that EBT cards are being used strictly for authorized purchases, and to punish those who try to take advantage of the system."

The problems associated with the EBT program first came to light more than a year ago, following published reports of recipients using their EBT cards to withdraw money and purchase non-food items that were never meant to be included in the taxpayer-funded program. Just last month, eight people were arrested in Lynn on charges of EBT fraud after undercover police officers were able to obtain cash with their EBT cards and purchase drugs, including crack and heroin.

While the current law requires EBT recipients to reimburse the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) for any illegal purchases, Tarr's bill goes a step further by allowing the DTA Commissioner to disqualify individuals who break the law

from obtaining future EBT benefits. Tarr's bill also requires the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission and the state Lottery Commission, in consultation with the DTA, to inform recipients of the penalties associated with using EBT cards for illegal purchases and to post this information on their websites.

2012 Massachusetts Symposium for Victims of Crime March 7, 2012

The Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance has arranged space for exhibits/resource tables that will help us raise awareness and provide information to a large and diverse audience. If you are interested in reserving exhibit space, please complete and return the bottom portion of this form, including a detailed description of your exhibit by Monday, February 13, 2012 to: Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (Will the form be included here?)

One Ashburton Place Suite 1101, Boston, MA 02108, Phone: (617-727-5200) Fax: (617-586-1367)

Email: [corinn.nelson@state.ma.us](mailto:corinn.nelson@state.ma.us), Attention: Corinn Nelson

PLEASE NOTE: There is no fee for exhibit space. Exhibitors are encouraged to register to attend the Symposium. If you plan to participate in the Symposium in addition to providing an exhibit, you must submit a registration form and the registration fee of \$25. Registration information will be available on the MOVA website [www.mass.gov/mova](http://www.mass.gov/mova).

## AS AN EXHIBITOR, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- setting up between 8:00 AM and 8:30 AM
- providing any special equipment for your exhibit (NOTE: Unfortunately, we cannot provide electrical outlets for media equipment.)
- covering any costs associated with your exhibit
- staffing the exhibit (if needed)
- the safety of any materials or items associated with your exhibit.
- the removal of all your materials by 5:00 PM.

NOTE: MOVA reserves the right to change the layout and space allotments as needed. Thanks in advance for your understanding. You will receive confirmation and table location by Friday February 24, 2012

## SOUTH LAWRENCE EAST LITTLE LEAGUE (SLELL) AND LAWRENCE GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE (LGSL)

Registrations: February – 11th & 25th (Saturday 10am – 1pm @ 1 Market St, Relief's Inn) March – 3th (Saturday 10am – 1pm) @ 1 Market St, Relief's Inn)

**LAWRENCE BRIDGE PROJECTS UPDATE:** Here are the most recent updates on the many bridge projects going on in our city. Highlight: The Union Street/

Duck Bridge is 68% complete at this date. Lawrence - East Haverhill Street - Jan 2012 - <http://www.scribd.com/doc/77837720>. Lawrence - Canal Street - Jan 2012 - <http://www.scribd.com/doc/77837560>. Lawrence - Union Street - Jan 2012 - <http://www.scribd.com/doc/77837403>

**HAVERHILL** - Grant-funded tree work underway to preserve historic Pentucket Cemetery.

Mayor James J. Fiorentini, State Representative Brian S. Dempsey [D-Haverhill], Southern Essex Registrar of Deeds John O'Brien, Haverhill's Brightside, private supporters and others kicked off the long-awaited removal of dead, decayed and hazardous trees from the historic Pentucket Cemetery last month.

Located off Water Street, the Pentucket Cemetery was established in 1668 and is one of the original burial sites of the earliest settlers of Haverhill, including members of the Ward, Kimball, Ayer, Whittier, Dustin, Rolfe and Bartlett families. Many of the cemetery's ancient slate burial markers have been damaged or destroyed by falling tree limbs and tree debris from several old trees that have sprouted up along the site, which is under city custody, surrounded by the private Elmwood Cemetery.

In 2011, the City and Haverhill's Brightside received a \$226,600 state Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant funded by the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services. The Pentucket-Bradford Heritage Preservation Initiative included over \$20,000 in funds for an outside firm to remove several large trees that threatened the ancient grave markers in this inactive cemetery. Mayer Tree Service of Essex, MA is undertaking this activity over the next three days, aided by a large crane.

"It's great to be able to do something to preserve the unique history that is found in this location," stated Mayor Fiorentini. "Removing these hazardous trees will save the grave markers here of the city's settlers and make it much easier for the city, Brightside volunteers and neighbors to take care of this property."

"I want to thank Chairman Dempsey for obtaining these grant funds, as well as Registrar of Deeds O'Brien for his work in finding the historical deeds we needed to use the grant here," acknowledged the Mayor.

Care of ancient burial grounds is one of the primary objectives of the city-chartered volunteer beautification group Haverhill's Brightside. The Mayor and Brightside president Douglas Edison thanked the volunteers for their advocacy of this project, in particular Eric Peterson of Peterson Landscaping, who has essentially 'adopted' this cemetery to his care at great personal expense and effort.

Private access for the crane was granted by abutters Pentucket Furniture Restoration and several Eastern Avenue neighbors.

Matching funds for the grant were generously provided by Pentucket Bank and Trinity Ambulance, working with Haverhill's Brightside.

## HAVERHILL - MAYOR ANNOUNCES CRIME IS DOWN AGAIN!

Mayor James J. Fiorentini announced that total crimes in the City of Haverhill are down a total of 11% for 2011 compared to 2010. Crime has continued to maintain its decline. The percentage of decrease is between 32% and 40%. The largest decrease in crime was in burglaries, they dropped 40%. There were 319 fewer burglaries in 2011 compared to 2010. The Mayor has always prioritized public safety and has never laid off a single police officer. Haverhill should be proud and celebrate this success!

"Public safety continues to be a top priority of my administration. The decline for 2011 compared to 2010 is attributed to our police department and how they continue to do an excellent job keeping our city safe," Mayor Fiorentini said. "Crime cycles go up and down depending on economic trends. We are hopeful that the crime rate will continue to go down. Our dedicated police department works hard to keep crime at a low level and we know Haverhill is moving

in the right direction."

## AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS - \$125,000 TO BE AWARDED FOR CHILDHOOD OBESITY INITIATIVES

Boston, Mass. – The Greater Boston division of the American Heart Association (AHA) will award \$125,000 in grant funds this year to local non-profit community groups and organizations to advance the AHA's mission of building healthier lives, free of cardiovascular disease and stroke.

Online applications for the 2012-13 Community Impact Grants are now being accepted until March 1. Any non-profit organization located in Suffolk, Norfolk, Middlesex, and Essex counties is eligible to apply. Applicants must have 501C3 status or partner with a 501C3 organization. Collaborative applications with local, state or federal agencies are encouraged.

Proposals must be aimed at reducing cardiovascular diseases and their risk factors, and focus specifically on combating childhood obesity ([www.HealthierGeneration.org](http://www.HealthierGeneration.org)). Awards may be used for new initiatives or for expansion of already successful projects. Strong consideration will be given to projects that address these health issues in diverse populations, in which health initiatives and resources are limited.

Previous award recipients include Playworks, a school-based recess program to increase physical activity in Boston schools; Sociedad Latina, a youth leader training program dedicated to educating local populations about nutrition and physical activity in Roxbury; and Vineyard Community Offerings, whose Soccer Nights program offers free summer soccer camps in Cambridge.

A total of \$125,000 is allocated with a maximum grant of \$25,000 and a minimum of \$1,000 per organization. Applications are due by March 1 and organizations will be notified in June for the award term of July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013. For more information and for the online application, visit [www.AHABostonGrants.com](http://www.AHABostonGrants.com) or email Aleah Graziano at [bostoncig@heart.org](mailto:bostoncig@heart.org).

## AREA RESIDENTS MAKE THE FALL 2011 DEAN'S LIST AT UMASS BOSTON

(readMedia)-- The following local residents were among over 3,000 students from the University of Massachusetts Boston who made the Fall 2011 Dean's List:

**HAVERHILL** - Jessica Dick, Samuel Johnson, Ana Maria Ion, Fatmata Kanu, Estefania Pereira, Maria Dilonex, William Ironfield, Marcella Poulin, Nicole Burke, Courtney Brammer, Bradford - Jessica Latorre

**LAWRENCE** - Katelin LaSalle, Jorge Ceballos, William Sanabria, Kathelin Lember, Sherly Veras, Sara Rodriguez, Ricardo Ceballos, Stephany Guzman, Kevin Capellan, Julissa Abarca-Alfaro, Joarib Heyer, **METHUEN** - Kayla Getchell, Kayla Costa, Monika Thornhill, Jennifer Griffin, Dan McLean, Joseph DiGloria.

**LOWELL** - Corey Sullivan, Noreen Okwara, Derek Vanthan, Audy Ramirez, Charlotte Bovill, Titpisot Vorn, Nathaniel Alzate, **NORTH ANDOVER** - Erin McArdle.

**EVENT: MIDDLESEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT SPRING PLANT SALE** - Dates: Friday April 27 (3-6pm) and Saturday April 28 (8am - noon) Location: 4H Fairgrounds, 51 South Chelmsford Rd, Westford, MA. Featuring tree and shrub seedlings, perennials, fruits, groundcovers and garden supplies. All items may be ordered in advance through March 30 by visiting <http://www.middlesexconservation.org>. For more information please call 978 692 9395.



Tom Duggan is publisher of Valley Patriot, Inc., a former Lawrence School Committeeman, former political director for Mass Citizens Alliance, a Police Survivor and hosts the Paying Attention! Radio Program from 10-noon on WCAP every Saturday. You can email him [valleypatriot@aol.com](mailto:valleypatriot@aol.com).

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE VALLEY PATRIOT!

*on Your 100th Edition!*

From one Patriot to another, I want to Thank Tom Duggan and the Valley Patriot Team for printing REAL news and holding public officials accountable without injecting an editorial slant into your news stories.

Thank you for showing the other so called "news" papers what real journalism and an objective, free press is really all about! You are true Patriot's of the Republic, for you not only take advantage of your 1st Amendment right, you provide a vehicle for others to express their views without regard for the opinions they are expressing!

THANK YOU!

*Your Friend, Tom Weaver!*





# Identity Theft Crackdown Sweeps Across the Nation

## More than 200 Actions Taken in 23 States

(BOSTON) The Internal Revenue Service and the Justice Department today announced the results of a massive national sweep cracking down on suspected identity theft perpetrators as part of a stepped-up effort against refund fraud and identity theft.

Working with the Justice Department's Tax Division and local U.S. Attorneys' offices, the nationwide effort targeted 105 people in 23 states. The coast-to-coast effort took place over the last week and included indictments, arrests and the execution of search warrants involving the potential theft of thousands of identities and taxpayer refunds. In all, 939 criminal charges are included in the 69 indictments and informations related to identity theft.

In addition, IRS auditors and investigators conducted extensive compliance visits to money service businesses in nine locations across the country in the past week. The approximately 150 visits occurred to help ensure these check-cashing facilities aren't facilitating refund fraud and identity theft.

"This unprecedented effort against identity theft sends a strong, unmistakable message to anyone considering participating in a refund fraud scheme this tax season," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman. "We are aggressively pursuing cases across the nation with the Justice Department, and people will be going to jail. This is part of a much wider effort underway at the IRS to help protect taxpayers."

"The Justice Department is working closely with the IRS to investigate, prosecute, and punish tax refund crimes committed through the theft of identities," said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General John A. DiCicco of the Tax Division. "Now, more than ever, we must remain

vigilant against the unauthorized use of identification information to defraud the U.S. government."

The national effort is part of a comprehensive identity theft strategy the IRS has embarked on that is focused on preventing, detecting and resolving identity theft cases as soon as possible. In addition to the law-enforcement crackdown, the IRS has stepped up its internal reviews to spot false tax returns before tax refunds are issued as well as working to help victims of the identity theft refund schemes.

The law-enforcement sweep started last week across the country, reflecting investigative efforts stretching back months and even years.

The nationwide effort by the Justice Department and the IRS led to actions taking place in 23 locations across the country with 105 individuals. The actions included 80 complaints/indictments and informations, 58 arrests, 19 search warrants, 10 guilty pleas and four sentencing. A map of the locations and additional details on the actions are available on IRS.gov, the IRS Civil and Criminal Actions page and at the Department of Justice Tax Division page <http://www.justice.gov/tax/taxpress2012.htm> has the most recent information.

Beyond the criminal actions, the IRS



enforcement personnel conducted a special sweep last week and on Monday to visit 150 money services businesses to help make sure these businesses are not knowingly or unknowingly

facilitating identity theft or refund fraud. The visits occurred in nine high-risk places identified by the IRS covering areas in and surrounding Atlanta, Birmingham, Ala., Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Phoenix, Tampa and Washington, D.C.

In addition, the IRS has more than 250 check-cashing operations under audit across the country and will be looking for indicators of identity theft as part of the exam effort.

The information from these audits and compliance visits will be used to assist continuing IRS investigations into refund fraud and identity theft.

The IRS also is taking a number of additional steps this tax season to prevent identity theft and detect refund fraud before it occurs. These efforts includes designing new identity theft screening filters that will improve the IRS's ability to spot false returns before they are processed and before a refund is issued, as well as expanded efforts to place identity theft indicators on taxpayer accounts to track and manage identity theft incidents.

To help taxpayers, the IRS earlier this month created a new, special section on IRS.gov dedicated to identity theft matters, including YouTube videos, tips for taxpayers and a special guide to assistance. The information includes how to contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit and tips to protect against "phishing" schemes that can lead to identity theft.

Identity theft occurs when someone uses another's personal information without their permission to commit fraud or other crimes using the victim's name, Social Security number or other identifying information. When it comes to federal taxes, taxpayers may not be aware they have become victims of identity theft until they receive a letter from the IRS stating more than one tax return was filed with their information or that IRS records show wages from an employer the taxpayer has not worked for in the past.

If a taxpayer receives a notice from the IRS indicating identity theft, they should follow the instructions in that notice. A taxpayer who believes they are at risk of identity theft due to lost or stolen personal information should contact the IRS immediately so the agency can take action to secure their tax account. The taxpayer should contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at 800-908-4490. The taxpayer will be asked to complete the IRS Identity Theft Affidavit, Form 14039, and follow the instructions on the back of the form based on their situation.

Taxpayers looking for additional information can consult the Taxpayer Guide to Identity Theft or the IRS Identity Theft Protection page on the IRS website.

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

# A&B FLOORING

HARDWOOD FLOORS - HANDCRAFTED INLAYS - INSTALLED - SANDED - FINISHED  
CUSTOM DESIGN INSTALLATIONS - FREE ESTIMATES - FULLY INSURED  
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

SINCE 1934

## 978-681-1098

Arthur Joncas

Bob Joncas

### COLLEEN: FROM 29

private times, and we had just the right amount of time to between courses to savor the experience. Appetizers ranged from \$3 to \$8, entrees from \$7 to \$20 for large but not overwhelming portions, and desserts were only \$4. Jack's Ristorante receives a Five Star Power for truly authentic Italian cuisine enhanced with excellent service.

Jack's is located at 655 Eastern Ave (Rt. 60 Plaza),

Malden, MA. Call (781) 388-0005 or check out their website at <http://www.jacksinmalden.com>

If you would like your restaurant reviewed in The Valley Patriot, please contact Colleen Flanagan at [cmfoboston48@aol.com](mailto:cmfoboston48@aol.com)

### EZ-ID: FROM 20

Bill has also been endorsed by the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police, the Massachusetts Major City Chiefs of Police, the Massachusetts Fraternal Order of Police, the Molly Bish Foundation and the Pioneer Institute.

The FBI's CJIS Division has also deemed the EZ-ID proposal to be "a good idea that can work across the country".

Supporters of Molly's Bill are urged to call their senator and representative in the state Legislature at (617) 722-2000 to express their support for the bill's passage. Contact information for individual legislators is available at [www.malegislature.gov](http://www.malegislature.gov).

## HAPPY 100TH EDITION!

Since March of 2004, The Valley Patriot has taken The Valley By Storm!

100 issues later, you have proven that newspapers can tell the real story without an editorial agenda.

CONGRATULATIONS ON 100 EDITIONS!!!  
Looking forward to HUNDREDS MORE!

# Golnik

for Congress

## Phil Burns REALTOR



168 North Main Street  
Andover MA. 01810  
Phone: 978-475-2111  
Cell: 508-317-7582  
Email: [phil\\_burns@comcast.net](mailto:phil_burns@comcast.net)  
Website: [merrimackvalleyrealtor.com](http://merrimackvalleyrealtor.com)

Offering experienced rental and brokerage service for landlords and investors.

"Call today for the personalized service you deserve."

  
**KELLER WILLIAMS®**  
R E A L T Y

Certified Real Estate Instructor



# HERO IN OUR MIDST, AL DUSEY: FROM PAGE 1

returned from Zellhausen to their base, they flew through uncharted flak, “very intense and accurate,” about a 20-square-mile area. Nine hours. One plane blew up in front of them and went down in flames. No parachutes spotted.

One split second . . . and it was over.

## Eternity is never far away.

For the 19-year old, his first mission was a “baptism of fire.”

23 combat missions in 17 weeks

From December 24, 1944 to April 16, 1945, Al was involved in critical missions, miraculously escaping death at least twice.

They included strategic bombing of railway lines and marshalling yards, oil storage depots and refineries, U-boat shipbuilding yards, docks and naval vessels, communications centers, and bridges over the Rhine.

After Zellhausen, targets were: Mannheim, Hamburg (three times), Daulenberg, Koblenz, Waxweiler, Worms, Hamm, Magdeburg, Augsburg, Aulendorf, Wesel, Berlin (twice), Hanover, Leer, Kiel, Plauen, Neunburg, and Ingolstadt. Al’s last mission, “a milk run” over Le Verdon (Bordeaux) France wiped out remaining German pillboxes or bunkers.

## First massive assault on Berlin

On February 3, 1945 the 8th launched the mightiest daytime air assault on Berlin, striking at the heart of the communications center to support the Russian Army advancing towards Berlin from the east.

Now on his 13th combat mission, Al and his crewmates joined more

than 13,000 airmen from three great forces—a total of 2,300 planes—that covered the skies. Some 1,000 U.S. Flying Fortresses attacked Berlin in two great waves, dropping 2,500 tons of bombs in a short, 45-minute period.

The flight log reported: “The flak over the target was moderate and quite inaccurate. We expected it to be much heavier. The Germans must have moved most of the heavy guns to stop the Russians.”

As far as the eye could see, masses of B-17s and P-51 fighter planes covered the sky—unhindered by enemy flak.

Second massive assault on Berlin

Weeks later, on March 18, Al and his crew bombed Berlin again on their 15th combat mission. This time, the 8th’s air assault was even greater than the first.

More than 1,300 8th bombers hit rail lines and two war plants with more than 3,000 tons of high explosives and incendiaries—dropping one ton of bombs every second for nearly an hour!

The Germans couldn’t move equipment to either the Western or Eastern Fronts.

The flight log recorded heavy cloud coverage over the area but “it just so happened that as we came over the target that there was an opening, which enabled us to bomb visually.”

Al’s squadron returned to base, dodging flak all the way. They had a close call when they crossed a bomber stream just as the 1st Division’s B-24s passed above them. But they escaped without damage.



Al Dusey flew 23 successful combat missions on B-17s with the 8th Air Force, 447th Heavy Bomb Group, as crew chief and top-turret engineer/gunner on a B-17, in some of the fiercest battles of WWII in Europe. He narrowly escaped death several times, including two dramatic episodes.



Al Dusey receives the George Rice Harris Award from the Town of Andover from Mike Burke, Andover’s director of veterans’ services. As American Legion Rifle/Color Guard, Al has been providing full military honors at all graveside ceremonies for every Andover veteran for a great many years. He also has been marching in all of the town’s Memorial and Veterans’ Day parades.

## Miracle at Magdeburg - code blue

Of Al Dusey’s two close calls with death, the closest came on his return from a bombing raid on Magdeburg, Germany, January 14, 1945, his 9th mission. Despite a “terrific barrage” of flak, they successfully completed their mission: eliminate 16% of Germany’s synthetic-oil plant, and two oil storage depots.

Flak hit squadrons ahead of them and behind. They saw B-17s blow up and go down. Then a “window” opened up and “Ol’ Boomerang” went through unscathed. No flak at all . . .

During this barrage of flak on the bomb run, Al went to manually check the bomb-bay doors because the “idiot” light had not come on—a signal the doors had not fully opened. In hand-cranking the doors open, his oxygen hose became disconnected. Without oxygen at 27,000-feet, Al soon lost consciousness. The co-pilot found Al had “turned blue.” Ripping off his own oxygen mask, he inserted the oxygen hose directly into Al’s mouth and turned it to “full rich” or 100% pure oxygen. Al finally revived.

Hamburg—on a wing and a prayer

On March 30, 1945, his 18th combat mission, Al had another close call when his plane almost ditched into the North Sea’s frigid waters. They were returning from a successful bombing raid on Hamburg’s crude oil storage depot—operating on a single engine! The B-17 quickly began losing altitude until . . .

Earlier, on their way to the target, intense flak had bored holes in the bomb bay and right aileron (trailing edge of the plane’s wing). Their B-17 “lost” one engine (#2). However, the pilot decided

to continue on the other three engines. Returning over the North Sea, they ran out of fuel for engines #3 and #4.

Like many B-17s, Al’s plane had “Tokyo fuel tanks” inside the wings—allowing them to fly an extra 900 miles. Minutes before the bomb run, a crew member would open the valves to transfer fuel to the engines. Yet this time, the seals did not break open. No fuel was released!

The frantic pilot radioed Al to check the valves. Just in time, Al broke the seals on all four valves. The pilot restarted the engines, and they made it safely back to base.

## Finishing well

Currently Al is president, Massachusetts Chapter, 8th Air Force Historical Society. A member of American Legion, Post #8, Rifle/Color Guard, he performs full military honors at graveside services for Andover veterans, and in parades and ceremonies. Andover honored him with a plaque for his contributions.

As Eddie Rickenbacker, famed WWI American pilot, wrote: “I pray to God every night for the strength . . . to inspire in others the responsibilities we owe to this land for the sake of future generations . . . so that we can say ‘Thank God I have contributed my best to the land that contributed so much to me.’”



Helen Mooradkian is our new Valley Patriot Hero columnist and a former business writer. She is also a member of the Merrimack Valley Tea Party. You can

email her at [hsmoor@verizon.net](mailto:hsmoor@verizon.net)

—Tracey Zysk

**Wiggles & Jiggles**  
Pet Care

Providing Paw-sitive Pet Care  
to the Merrimack Valley

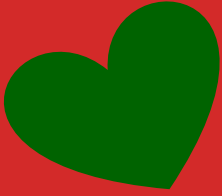


[wigglewalk@comcast.net](mailto:wigglewalk@comcast.net)  
978-697-6571  
[wigglewalk.webs.com](http://wigglewalk.webs.com)





# Pizza Lovers!



*Meat Lovers*

*Italian Veggie Lovers*



**Sal's**  
**PIZZA**

*Giant Slice*    \$4.99

*12" Pizza*    \$12.99

*19" Pizza*    \$17.99

[www.sals-pizza.com](http://www.sals-pizza.com)

**Salvatore's**  
RIVERWALK

Announces its first annual

Saturday, February 11, 2012  
1:00-4:00 p.m.

Space is limited.

Please call 978.291.0220 to make reservations.

Light refreshments will be served.

***Father-Daughter Dance***

*With  
dancing,  
crafts  
and more!*

**\$20** per couple  
Includes a flower and a photo  
**\$10** for each additional child



Activities presented by

**little**  
**Sprouts**

**Imagine**  
**that**

SALVATORE'S RIVERWALK  
354 MERRIMACK ST.    LAWRENCE, MA  
978.291.0220



# Hoops Star Brewington, returns to help local kids

**Connie Benedetto**  
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

Dwight Brewington, a native of Lynn, MA, was born partially deaf. Yet, from a young age, after realizing his love and passion for basketball, he had to overcome people’s perceptions of his handicap and prove that he can compete at a high level. After high school, Brewington played at Providence College (Big East), where he was the Friars’ second leading scorer. He then transferred to Liberty University, where after one season, he submitted an early entry application into the 2007 NBA draft. He recently returned from Canada's NBL, Summerside Storm. And with two children of his own, Brewington looks to be a role model for kids who have a dream of playing basketball. "I have so much passion for the game. As much dedication that I have for basketball, all the hard work I have invested, on and off the court, I will help convert you into a skilled fundamental basketball player." Dwight shares with people he meets promoting his Training Program and AAU Team, Active Skills Allstars and Metro Boston.

Dwight’s focus has always been, "School first, Basketball second." Play-

ers already training with Dwight, know these two principles go hand in hand. His ability to teach aspiring players, with heart and conviction, is what makes Dwight Brewington's Coaching so unique. Dwight inspires young players, boys and girls, to achieve their dream. He helps his members get to the next level, whether, that is becoming a Division 1 College Player or becoming a Professional Prospect.

Coach Brewington will be starting up his spring training program and AAU Program in March. Tryouts for Active Skills Allstars and Metro Boston will be on March 3 from 7pm-9pm at The Huntington YMCA, 316 Huntington Ave, Boston for 10th and 11th grade. And March 10 from 7pm-9pm for 8th and 9th grade.

Active skills is a 501 c(3) non profit organization. We are always looking for sponsors or donations for our program to help ALL kids the opportunity to do something positive. And the program strives to meet the needs of those players that need financial assistance, as well, therefore, Interested Sponsors, please email [Activeskillstraining@gmail.com](mailto:Activeskillstraining@gmail.com). Being hearing impaired Dwight invites you to text him for details/sign ups. Text 617 642-0359.

## GLCAC Appoints Melendez As Community Services Center Program Director

LAWRENCE – The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council Inc. has hired Marisabel Melendez of Lawrence as the new Program Director of its Community Services Center, Interim Executive Director Christian W. Dame announced today. With more than 15 years of professional social service experience and 38years as a GLCAC volunteer, Melendez will spearhead the popular center that provides a variety of services to Greater Lawrence residents.

Melendez replaces the retiring program director, who happens to be her mother, Isabel Melendez, a GLCAC employee since 1971. While understanding this appointment will invite scrutiny, Dame said his decision was based solely on which job candidate had the experience and skills to best serve the agency and the community.

“Marisa is the right choice for this position because she is involved in the community and has years of experience in similar social services positions. She also has volunteered for GLCAC for more than 30 years. She both understands and is committed to our mission of service,” said Dame. “Some will predictably criticize my decision, but as an independent, interim executive director, I selected the best candidate for the job. In this agency, under my leadership, qualifications are what matter, and family connections will neither help nor hinder someone’s ability to pursue a position for which they have the requisite skills and experience.”

The Community Service Center provides information and referrals on a wide array of services that includes housing, family mediation, translations, advocacy and immigration assistance. Under the leadership of its new director, the Community Service Center will also become a gateway for people to other services offered at GLCAC and throughout the state.

“I look forward to this opportunity to continue serving this wonderful community

and this agency which does so much good across Greater Lawrence. It is an honor to carry forward with the hard work done by so many people here, including my mother, but I know I will have to work extra hard every day to prove myself. We have a lot of work to do, and I believe we can be even more effective as we modernize our program,” said Melendez.

Melendez previously worked as a project director for Lighthouse Senior Care, an adult daycare center in Lawrence. Prior to that, Melendez lived in Florida where she was employed by the Broward County School Board and NIA Group Inc., managing day-to-day operations of housing and employment programs. In addition to her volunteering with GLCAC, Melendez is an active board member and coach with the Roberto Clemente League, and a board member of Hispanic Week in Lawrence, an annual festival promoting Latin culture.

After an initial vetting process, Melendez was one of two candidates who became finalists considered for the position by a four-member search committee that consisted of three GLCAC senior staff members and one external social services professional employed by an agency in Lowell. Dame made his decision after considering the recommendations of the search committee.

GLCAC encourages and promotes the improvement of community life in Greater Lawrence with special emphasis on, but not limited to, the initiation of programs in education, social services, child care, health, housing, youth employment and related fields. Since its inception in 1965, the GLCAC has been a consistent partner in working with local, state and federal governments and private agencies in creating opportunities and providing hope for people living in poverty.

Have a news tip or story idea?  
Call our anonymous tip line  
(978) 683-3952

# Breaking the Silence

**Debbie Papalia**  
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

At this year's March for Life in Washington, DC, Steven Tyler, the famed frontman of Aerosmith and the "American Idol" judge was mentioned in a post-abortion testimony on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court building during the "Silent No More" Awareness Rally; Julia Holcomb testified how she regretted having aborted Steven Tyler's son back in 1975.

Steven Tyler regretted the abortion as well but he sought healing through the pages of his tell-all autobiography. For 36 years, Julia Holcomb kept quiet about the abortion she was forced into having (64% of American women report feeling pressured by others to abort) but she knew it was time to break the silence and last year she attended a weekend retreat organized by Rachel's Vineyard, a national post-abortion outreach program.. Currently, Rachel's Vineyard has grown to over 700 retreats annually.

“In spite of everything, I do not hate Steven Tyler, nor am I personally bitter.” she said in a recent interview. “I pray for his sincere conversion of heart and hope he can find God’s grace, as I have.”

In her continued efforts to help others heal from abortion, Holcomb joined forces with the "Silent No More" Awareness Campaign, an international project created by Priests for Life and Anglicans for Life. Since its launch in 2003, thousands of women and men have shared their testimonies publicly throughout the world so people will know the "whole" truth about the hurtful aftermath of abortion.

People who have aborted their children often suffer from Post-Abortion Stress (P.A.S.) causing them to feel guilty, angry, and sometimes even worthless. These feelings can in turn create a life of drug/alcohol additions, suicidal thoughts, and eating disorders. As with the case of Steven Tyler, he revealed in his memoirs that his life was filled with drug addiction and self-destructive behavior. He also said that he was haunted for many years by the abortion and vividly remembers asking, "Jesus, what have I done?"

Steven Tyler can keep asking that question and writing his books (this is his second memoir where he writes about the abortion). He broke his silence but did he ever heal the wound of abortion? Julia Holcomb broke her silence and healed her wound by taking part in a weekend retreat, a Bible study, and eventually her public testimony on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court. We can only hope and pray that the infamous rock star would take a similar path.

If you are searching for healing, you can find peace and freedom by breaking the silence within yourself and taking action just as Julia Holcomb did. There are many confidential programs including Project Rachel, a Catholic out-

reach ministry offering retreats entitled "Come to the Waters of Healing" which are being held in the Boston area on February 25, March 17, and May 5. In the Merrimack Valley, there is a "Forgiven & Set Free" Bible Study which is offered by the Pregnancy Care Center (PCC) through their Post Abortion Counseling and Education (P.A.C.E.) program where one on one meetings are held in local churches.

For next year's March Life, I have a dream that Steven Tyler will perform a "Concert for the Unborn" so he can fully heal and truly honor his unborn son. Mark your calendars and start praying for that momentous concert on Friday, January 25, 2013 and remember "with God all things are possible."

Resources: Silent No More Awareness Campaign. [www.silentnomoreawareness.org](http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org). 1-800-707-6635 -Joanne McDuffee 617-645-7958.

[massachusetts@silentnomoreawareness.org](mailto:massachusetts@silentnomoreawareness.org)  
Rachel's Vineyard, [www.RachelsVineyard.org](http://www.RachelsVineyard.org), 1-877-HOPE-4-ME (467-3463)

Project Rachel (Confidential Catholic Outreach) [www.projectrachelboston.com](http://www.projectrachelboston.com)

Come to the Waters of Healing: One Day Retreat for Hope & Healing After Abortion  
February 25, March 17, May 5, 2012  
9:00AM – 5:00 PM

This one-day retreat is designed to help women hurting from past abortions experience the personal love of Christ and find hope for healing. It will offer a loving and confidential environment.

Contact: Marianne at 508-651-3100 Email: [help@projectrachelboston.com](mailto:help@projectrachelboston.com)  
Pregnancy Care Center (PCC)  
[www.pccnortheast.org](http://www.pccnortheast.org)  
124 Ames Street, Lawrence, MA 01841  
978-686-5124

P.A.C.E. (Post Abortion Counseling and Education) offered by the PCC  
978-241-2271 or 978-521-7677

P.A.C.E. services are available to both men and women and are completely confidential.

Forgiven & Set Free: A Post-Abortion Study for Women by Linda Cochrane

Healing a Father's Heart: A Post-Abortion Bible Study for Men By: Linda Cochrane

Men and Abortion: A Path to Healing By C.T. Coyle, Ph.D.

40 Days for Life: International Prayer Movement to end abortion.

There have been nine coordinated 40 Days for Life campaigns since 2007, mobilizing people of faith and conscience in 422 cities internationally.

[www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com)  
Next Campaign: Feb 22 - April 1.

Join in and attend a peaceful prayer vigil outside the local abortion facility: MERRIMACK VALLEY WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES ABORTION CLINIC of Dr. Marcus Gordon 288 Groveland St., Haverhill

## Congratulations!!!

### Valley Patriot's 100th Edition

100 News Making, News Breaking, Entertaining Issues!

Now, that's a



## Congratulations on this WOW! Milestone

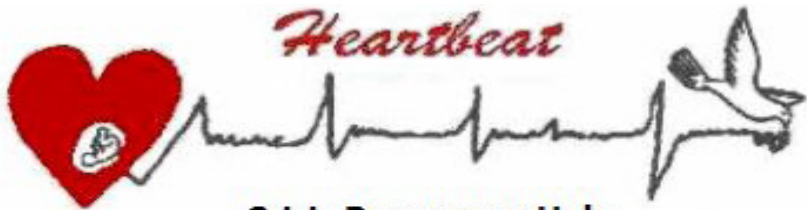


Tom Connors,  
"Mr. WOW!"

AmericanTraining

from American Training.





### Crisis Pregnancy Help

Confidential Counseling - People you can trust

781-229-7887

<http://www.pregnancyma.com>



**Donna Weinberg**  
Sr. Mortgage  
Consultant  
MLO 89241

Helping Borrowers  
since 1979  
Cell: (978) 273-8416  
Ext. 20 (24-hr.)  
[www.firstinteg.com](http://www.firstinteg.com)



354 Merrimack Street, Sal's Riverwalk, Lawrence MA 01843

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

354 Merrimack St., at Sal's Riverwalk  
Lawrence MA 01843

Tel. 978.685.9700 x15 \* Fax 978.685.9701  
MA Mortgage Broker #MB 1964  
Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.  
ME#CSO11110 \* NMLS ID 1964

## Legal Notice

Announcement of Availability  
Lawrence /Methuen Community Coalition (LMCC)

The Lawrence/Methuen Community Coalition (LMCC) is seeking a fiscal agent for the purposes of maintaining and assembling the administrative billing and program development functions for the coalition. LMCC provides an array of community preventative services for the residents of Lawrence and Methuen. Bid packages will be available on Monday January 30, 2012 from the LMCC Offices 112A East Haverhill St. Lawrence, MA. 01841. For more information call Director Harold Magoon at the LMCC Offices at 978-332-8230, or by email [lawrencemethuenlmcc@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencemethuenlmcc@gmail.com)

## Broadhurst Tabit LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**Arthur J.  
Broadhurst**

45 OSGOOD STREET  
METHUEN MA 01844

(P) 978-327-5128  
(F) 978-327-5144

email: [broadhursttabit@broadhursttabit.comcastbiz.net](mailto:broadhursttabit@broadhursttabit.comcastbiz.net)



### CATERING TO ALL YOUR NEEDS

*\*Political Functions \*Retirement  
\*Graduations \*Special occasions*

*Come  
watch  
the B's!*

615 South Union Street, Lawrence, MA  
Phone: 978-687-9321 - Fax 978-687-9162  
Across the street from the Valley Forum

*Wide  
Screen  
T.V.*

Call or visit our website @ [www.jbrians.com](http://www.jbrians.com)

**Hablamos  
Español**



92 South Broadway, LAWRENCE, MA 01843

Tel: 978.686.3875 • Fax: 978.683.9941

Email: [lawrence@omnidp.com](mailto:lawrence@omnidp.com)

MON-FRI 8AM-6PM & SAT 9:30AM-2PM

287 Appleton Street, LOWELL, MA 01852

Tel: 978.459.2109 • Fax: 978.452.8879

Email: [lowell@omnidp.com](mailto:lowell@omnidp.com)

MON-FRI 8:30AM-5:30PM

**FAST B&W or Color Prints  
Mailing Services  
B&W or Color Scanning**

Graphic Design Services  
Stationery, Brochures, Flyers  
Business Cards, Postcards  
Binding & Finishing

**BEST  
COMPETITIVE  
PRICES!**

**Blue Prints, Color Posters, Outdoor Signs & Banners**

Wedding & Special Occasion Invitations

Local FREE Pick-Up & Delivery . . . . and much more!

**VISIT US ON THE WEB**  
[www.omnidp.com](http://www.omnidp.com)

Mention this ad and receive 10% OFF your order.

**Best Wishes on your 100th Edition to...**

# The Valley Patriot!

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

**State Senator Steve Baddour**

Paid for by the committee to elect Steve Baddour



Voted Best Mortgage Company 2009, 2010, 2011



## FIRST INTEGRITY MORTGAGE, LLC

Andover, North Andover, Methuen, & Lawrence  
354 Merrimack Street, Sal's Riverwalk, Lawrence, MA 01843



Anne Marie Concemi  
Chief Mortgage Planner/Owner  
MLO 3527  
Helping Borrowers since 1987  
[aconcemi@firstinteg.com](mailto:aconcemi@firstinteg.com)  
Cell (978) 852-9707



Steve Sirmaian  
Chief Operations Manager/Owner  
MLO 3520  
Helping Borrowers since 1988  
[steve@firstinteg.com](mailto:steve@firstinteg.com)  
Cell (978) 771-2906



Robert Sharpe  
Reverse Mortgage Specialist  
MLO 37451  
Cell: (978) 382-0716  
24-hr.  
Helping Borrowers since 1988  
[rsharpe@firstinteg.com](mailto:rsharpe@firstinteg.com)



Judith Maselli  
Sr. Mortgage Consultant  
MLO 48786  
Cell: (978) 886 1737  
24-hr.  
Helping Borrowers since 1988  
[jmaselli@firstinteg.com](mailto:jmaselli@firstinteg.com)



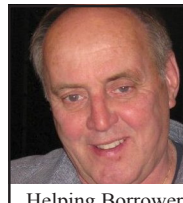
Alan Rosen  
Sr. Mortgage Consultant  
MLO 64324  
Cell (978) 808-9323  
24-hr.  
Helping Borrowers since 1997  
[alan@firstinteg.com](mailto:alan@firstinteg.com)



Jim Hamaoui  
Branch Manager  
MLO 8946  
Cell (978) 853-9089  
24-hr.  
"Helping Borrowers since 1997"  
[jim@firstinteg.com](mailto:jim@firstinteg.com)



Donna Weinberg  
Sr. Mortgage Consultant  
MLO 89241  
Cell: (978) 273-8416  
24-hr.  
Helping Borrowers since 1979  
[donna@firstinteg.com](mailto:donna@firstinteg.com)



Robert Irving  
Reverse Mortgage Specialist  
MLO 19086  
Cell: (978) 686-0394  
24-hr.  
Helping Borrowers since 2001  
[rhirving@gmail.com](mailto:rhirving@gmail.com)

OUR STRENGTH COMES FROM OUR EXPERIENCE... Visit our new branch office, 297 Main St, Salem NH (next to Mike's Red Barn)

Now, more than ever, our name speaks for itself

MA Mortgage Broker #MB 1964 - Licensed by the NH Banking Dept.

978-685-9700 \* [www.firstinteg.com](http://www.firstinteg.com)

ME Lic. #CSO11110. NMLS 1964



## Sullivan Agency, Inc.

- Since 1963 -

Personal & Business Insurance  
Real Estate

Voted 14 years in a row as "Best Insurance Agency" for the Merrimack Valley

LAWRENCE

978-683-4700

METHUEN

978-681-8200

NORTH READING

978-276-2300

[tasullivanagency.com](http://tasullivanagency.com)