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Feds Target Lawrence in Gun Sting



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U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling's office held a press conference displaying the dozens of illegal guns seized in Lawrence from members of the Trinitario Street Gang.

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IN YOUR CORNER
Senator
DIZOGLIO

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Dracut

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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

U.S. Navy Chief Quartermaster Marshall Rogers Sr.

John Cuddy

VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

Marshall Rogers Sr. was born in 1921 on his family dairy farm in North Andover, MA. He was the second youngest of nine children.

He claims to have walked over 3,000 miles as a child while going to school in North Andover making two round trips per day, going home for his lunch and then walking back to school again. Although

there was very little family money during the Depression, he was happy to always have plenty of food on the table while living on the family farm.

As a teenager, he plowed the snow from the sidewalk on Sutton's Hill in North Andover with a horse drawn plow. Shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the Navy at the age of twenty, ironically, he couldn't swim.

Marshall first served aboard the US Navy Battleship, the USS Wyoming BB

32, (his ship was a Veteran of World Wars I and II) and later be assigned to the USS Balduck APD 132, an amphibious assault ship. Named after US Marine Corporal Remi A. Balduck, a recipient of the Navy Cross, who was killed at the Battle of Guadalcanal. The Balduck's mission was to land small units of Marine or Army special forces and Navy frogmen on the Japanese held beaches of the Pacific Islands. By the end of the war, he was promoted to Chief Quartermaster and was serving aboard the minesweeper USS Bunting YMS 170. The ship was tasked with clearing mines in Leyte Gulf, the site of the greatest naval battle in history. He tells a great story of sailing thru two typhoons on this round bottomed minesweeper.

Valley Patriot readers would be hard pressed to find a twenty-four-year-old Chief in today's US Navy. During my own career in the Navy, I always worked for, and reported to, a Navy Chief. Rarely did I, or any others serving in the Navy as a Petty Officer First Class, interact with a Commissioned Officer. These Chiefs were, and are, the greatest leaders I have ever met. In civilian life, only occasionally do I meet a leader that is of the same caliber of a US Navy Chief Petty Officer. But most Chiefs in the modern US Navy are in their 30s or 40s, not twenty-four years old! (To compare, I was twenty-five when I made First Class, the rank directly below Chief). Marshall told me during our talk, that he would have remained in the Navy after the war ended. However, most ships were being decommissioned



and he couldn't get orders back to sea duty. At sea, a Quartermaster steers and navigates the ship. Since he did not want to shuffle papers at a desk serving with a shore-based training command, he left the Navy for civilian life. He was honorably discharged in 1946.

He married the love of his life, his wife, Eleanor in 1950, and the couple were married for 60 years prior to her death. They have five children, eleven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

After his wedding, the couple lived in Lawrence until Marshall's retirement from

HERO: PAGE 26

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This is No Way to Move Methuen Forward

Last week, a Methuen City Council meeting degenerated into a circus, complete with an orchestrated political attack on newly elected mayor Neil Perry.

First, City Councilor Steve Saba (who campaigned against Perry) had his brother get up at public participation to lay the groundwork for a later discussion about Perry's "rumored" choice for a new chief of staff.

His brother wasted the time of the council by discussing the "rumor" that newly elected mayor Neil Perry "might" be considering hiring an outgoing member of the Methuen School Committee when he takes office in January.

Faking shock and outrage, the councilor's brother tried to compare this rumor... "if true" ... to corruption and conflicts of interest. He also said that in order for the outgoing school committee member to be hired by Perry, the council would have to get a home rule petition because the charter doesn't allow it.

None of this was relevant or true.

Then, one of Steve Saba's campaign supporters got up. A gentleman named Bill Heffernan passed out screen shots of a

Facebook post by this "rumored" outgoing school committee member - who might, maybe, get appointed Perry's chief of staff.

He too clutched his pearls and feigned outrage as he read what he thought was an offending Facebook message by the person rumored to be Perry's new chief of staff.

Like Saba's brother, he too stated that the council has set up rules to prohibit any elected official from taking a job with the city for a year after they leave office.

This was also untrue.

But, it did lay the groundwork for Saba and his allies on the council to hold up city business with an item that was not on the agenda, about an issue that is only rumored to be true, and one that the council has no legal authority over.

Nonetheless, they hemmed and hawed about how this would take Methuen "backwards" and how it would violate the charter. But, it seems that Saba wasn't smart enough to actually read the charter before sending his brother and his campaign supporter up to public participation to do his dirty work for him. .

The fact is, the Methuen charter states that members of the school committee

cannot take a job in the school department for one year after leaving office. It says nothing about taking a city job outside the schools such as, chief of staff for a mayor.

Yet, several councilors bastardized the meaning, spirit, and succinctness of the charter during their discussion, twisting logic on its head trying anything they could to throw roadblocks at Perry before he even takes office.

The Valley Patriot spoke to the Ethics Commission and the Secretary of State's Office, both of whom said that the Methuen charter would indeed allow a member of the school committee to take a job with the city as long as it was not in the school department.

The charter is very clear.

State law is very clear.

This little stunt by the Saba clan is no way to show the voters that the days of orchestrated political attacks will stop come January when the new mayor and council take office.

It was no way to signal to the incoming mayor that the election is over and returning councilors are willing to work with him to move Methuen forward "for the best

interest of the taxpayers."

Methuen voters overwhelmingly rejected the politics of personal destruction when they gave Perry and the incoming councilors a mandate to change the way things have been done over the last two years.

They rejected Saba's puppet candidates. They rejected Saba's backroom dealings, and orchestrated political attacks using third parties. And they rejected the environment of team politics where measures before the council would be approved or rejected merely based on who it was that came up with the idea. Had he not run unopposed, we believe the voters would have rejected Saba himself.

Whether Neil Perry chooses to hire an outgoing member of the school committee to be his chief of staff or not, is none of Steve Saba's business. He's not the mayor, no matter how much he tries to micromanage the executive branch of government.

We only wish Saba would stop trying to manufacture scandals against his political rivals, and actually do his job - legislate.

If Councilor Steve Saba wanted to be the mayor of Methuen he should have run for the job himself. ♦

24 Year Old Launches Skin Care Line for Dark Skinned Consumers

Tomas G Michel

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Lowell, MA — The beauty products and cosmetic industry reached 52.3 billion in revenue during 2019, with an annual growth of 1.3% since 2014, according to a market research with Ibis World. Makeup products are typically found in retailers that are very accessible to the public, and in the past years have opened to serve to a more diverse clientele; an inclusive range of skin shades, though with a significant factor that's still missing from the shelves: skin care for darker complexions.

Rafaela Gonzalez recently incorporated a company with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that wants to assist a traditionally underrepresented demographic in the beauty community. Launching a skincare line that pledges to aid its dark-skinned users to fight problematics such as hyperpigmentation and discoloration while protecting from the environment's aggressors.

She started creating homemade natural soaps that would sell to family, friends and in local markets. Wanting to satisfy a need that was not being supplied by the established brands. Eventually, through perseverance and hard work,



from handcrafted masks and cleansers, it evolved into a formal four-products-line that is now available in her website and the Company's office.

She states that is a priority to make a difference in the community by tackling problematics such as the lack of diversity and utilizing ingredients that are ethical and healthy in the products she creates. Consequently, leading to manufacture a line with a soap, a toner mist, a skin oil and a serum that have a mission of inclusivity.

Despite the fact that Latina business owners face greater obstacles than their male counterparts, which has a negative impact in the venture sustainability, Ra-

ENTREPRENEURS: PAGE 16

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Methuen's Jay Bonanno Honored by Local Modern Woodmen Members as Hometown Hero

Methuen resident Jay Bonanno, Methuen, was recognized last month for his countless hours of service to the community. Bonanno was honored during a Modern Woodmen of America member event at the Sons of Italy in Methuen.

Jay Bonanno was honored through Modern Woodmen's Hometown Hero Program for his 40 years of outstanding service to the residents of the City of Methuen on the Department of Public Works.

As part of the Hometown Hero Program, members of the Methuen Modern Woodmen Chapter 12106 presented Mr. Bonanno with a certificate and a \$100 award grant to be donated to the charitable organization of the honoree's choice. Mr. Bonanno selected St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital to receive the donation.

"Volunteers form the foundation of a strong community," says Michelle Godin, local Modern Woodmen volunteer leader. "Modern Woodmen's Hometown Hero

Program gives us the chance to thank those who selflessly give their time to make the world a better place."

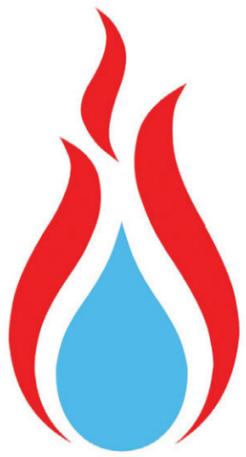
Coordinated by local Modern Woodmen members, the fraternal financial services organization's Summit chapters, chapters and youth service clubs provide opportunities for members to take part in social and educational activities and volunteer projects to meet local needs.

For more information or to get involved, contact Michelle Godin at 978.852.1105 / michelle.a.godin@mwarep.org.

Modern Woodmen was founded in 1883 as a fraternal benefit society. The organization supports members, families and communities with a unique blend of financial services, fraternal benefits and local-impact opportunities. In 2018, Modern Woodmen and its members provided \$19.9 million and 470,000 volunteer hours to support fraternal activities and programs. Learn more at www.modernwoodmen.org. ♦

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“WEATHER 101” WITH AL!

Al Kaprielian
VALLEY PATRIOT WEATHERMAN

Welcome to December and the month of the winter solstice which marks the official start to the winter season. On the winter solstice the sun's vertical rays are over the Tropic of Capricorn, the farthest south.

Once the winter solstice goes by we will start to see an increase in daylight and the start of the days getting longer in terms of daylight. December is known for cold and the potential of snowstorms. It's also possible we can see some mild days in December.

In recent years there have been some mild/warm days during the month of December. Recapping this past November it was a very cold month with temperatures averaging below normal.

It was the coldest November we have seen in a while. The reason for the cold November was a southward shift to the jet stream. This put our area on the north side which is the cold side of the jet stream.

The jet stream during November brought cold air all the way down to the southern states of the US. During November some snowstorms occurred over the western & central US including the mid-west states. Here in our local area we saw some snowflakes fall, however, no major accumulations occurred.

The northern New England mountains did get accumulating snow during November. The ski areas opened for the season with the cold air and snowfall. Some mild weather occurred on November 11 when many areas saw high temperatures in the upper 50s and lower 60s. A cold front moved through early Thanksgiving Day bringing a return to colder, windy weather for turkey day.

The last day of November featured sunshine with cold and dry air. We are now in the time of year when we get coastal low pressure systems to form. Remember the ocean does not cool as fast as the land this time of year. With the warmer ocean off the coast and the colder air over the land areas this causes a contrast which can cause a low pressure system to form.

We look at whether the northern and southern jet streams phase which can bring a storm off the Mid Atlantic coast close enough to our area for a snow/rain storm depending on exact track of low pressure. If the two jet streams do not phase then the storm off the Mid Atlantic coast will likely track too far south/southeast to impact our region. Phasing of the jet streams is key in how the storm will track. Also,



besides track we look at how intense the storm gets which can also affect snowfall amounts.

Third is the speed of the low pressure system. If the low pressure system is tracking slowly then there is more time for snow to fall and accumulate which results in higher snowfall amounts. When roads become slippery due to snowfall/ice remember to keep the speed down when driving. Also allow extra time to reach your destination. Snow, sleet and freezing rain all make for dangerous driving conditions. Freezing rain which falls as a liquid and then freezes with ground temperatures at or below 32 can be worse than snow. Your car has more traction with snow versus freezing rain/ice.

Now with December here, hurricane season is over. The last day was November 30th; the season ending on a quiet note. Next month we will recap December weather and see how many snowstorms occurred during the month.

Also we will take a look at what to expect for the month of January. In the meantime make sure you are ready for winter. Make sure your car is ready for winter weather. Also make sure your furnace is working okay.

Be safe this month especially with winter weather. Also, with the cold winter air upon us make sure you have enough winter clothing, hat, and gloves. Stay tuned to next month's article!! ♦



Officer Robert Gordon (left) and Staff Instructor Nick Dore of the Methuen Police Department. (Courtesy Photo Methuen Police)

Newest Methuen Police Officer Graduates from Police Academy

METHUEN -- Methuen Police Chief Joseph Solomon announced last month that the Methuen Police Department's newest officer has completed his police academy training.

On Friday, Nov. 8th, Officer Robert Gordon was one of 35 officers representing 13 cities and towns to graduate from the Northern Essex Community College Methuen Police Academy. The ceremony was held on the NECC campus in Haverhill.

The police academy is 24 weeks long and consists of more than 900 hours of a combination of practical and classroom training, certifications, and service to the community. Some of the classes include first aid, law, applied patrol procedures, firearms, report writing, active shooter training, specialized driving and bicycle patrol lessons and self-defense.

Having completed the extensive academy program, Officer Gordon has joined the Methuen Police Department and will undergo field training for the next three months.

Officer Gordon served in the U.S. Army from 2010-2013, including a one year tour in Afghanistan's Kunar Province. He has been a Reserve Officer with the Methuen Police Department since 2015. During his time in the full-time academy, Officer Gordon broke the academy record for most pull-ups.

"We're excited to welcome Officer Gordon to the department," Chief Solomon said. "He has been a valuable member of our team as a reserve officer in the past, and I'm confident he'll continue to make great contributions to the department in his new role." ♦

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Feds, State Police Gang Task Force Take Down Trinitario Gang Members on Gun Charges

By: Tom Duggan

LAWRENCE – In the early morning hours of November 15th, members of the Massachusetts State Police Gang Task Force, the FBI, Essex County Sheriff’s Department and other federal agencies descended onto Lawrence picking up members of the violent street gang, the Trinitarios, for trafficking guns throughout New England.

State and federal law enforcement officers set up a command center staging area at the city yard on Marston Street around 4AM, as officers and agents picked up gang members throughout the city on gun warrants. Once in custody, agents then returned to the Marston St. command center for processing.

There, suspects were fingerprinted, had their photos taken, and were swabbed for DNA.

The Valley Patriot was on hand to witness the take down of the deadly Trinitarios who have plagued the Lawrence area with violence, drugs, and guns in the last six years.

Lawrence city officials have long contended that the Trinitarios were just a bunch of kids throwing gang signs pretending to be in a gang and have long dismissed the deadly reputation of the Dominican gang which started in New York as a violent prison gang in the 80s.

United States Attorney Andrew Lelling announced later that day that 32 firearms & drug traffickers in the Greater Lawrence area

were taken into custody as a result of what he called “Operation Emerald Crush.” Lelling says that 79 guns have been taken off the streets as the result of the operation.

Eighteen of the 32 defendants are believed to be members of the Trinitarios which have used Lawrence as a base of operation for the last six years.

As a result of the operation, the following people were charged in federal court in Boston:



U.S. Attorney Lelling displayed the illegal guns seized in Lawrence during Operation “Emerald Crush.”

Operation Emerald Crush

Arismendy Gil-Padilla, a.k.a. Flow, 29, of Methuen, on charges of being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition, and distribution of and possession with intent to distribute cocaine and 40 grams or more of fentanyl.

Jonathan Arias, 29, of Indianapolis, Indiana, on charges of being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition.

Emilio Rodriguez, 32, of Lynn, on charges of distribution of and possession with intent to distribute 28 grams or more of cocaine base.

Enrique Rosario, 32, of Lawrence, was charged with being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition.

John Harry Morales, a.k.a. Harry, 33, of Lawrence, on charges of being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition.

Jose Aponte, a.k.a. Kiko, 33, of Lawrence, on charges of distribution of and possession of firearms and ammunition.

Jose Omar Hernandez-Aragones, a.k.a. Omar, 22, of Lawrence, on charges of being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition and distribution of and possession with intent to distribute cocaine and cocaine base.

Kevin Gomes, a.k.a. Monkey, 31, of Haverhill, on charges of distribution of and possession with intent to distribute heroin and being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition.

Keysi Batista, 30, of Methuen, on charges of distribution of and possession with intent to distribute 40 grams or more of fentanyl.

Luis Ruiz Gonzalez, 27, of Lawrence, on charges of being a felon in possession of firearms and ammunition, and distribution of and possession with intent to distribute fentanyl.

Yishen Ynoa, a.k.a. Cantifla, 34, of Lawrence, on charges of distribution of and possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

The following were charged with drug offenses in Essex District Court:



(c) Copyright, Tom Duggan, Valley Patriot, Inc, 2019

Unhappy about having his photo taken, 32 year old Emilio Rodriguez of Lynn throws our photographer the finger as he was arrested by federal agents in Lawrence. He was charged with distribution of, and possession with intent to distribute 28 grams or more of cocaine base.

- Pedro Arias, 63, of Lawrence;
- Jonathan Delgado, 35, of Lawrence;
- Victor Diaz, 22, of Lawrence;
- Luis Diaz-Brito, a.k.a. Blackie, 22, of Lawrence;
- Yolvie Diaz-Martinez, 22, of Salem;
- Ulises Espina, a.k.a. Ezequiel, 34, of Methuen;
- Robinson Gaston-Santana, 29, of Lawrence;
- Francis Gotay, 29, of Haverhill;
- Jose Nunez, a.k.a. Oreja, 24, of Methuen;
- Anthony Nunez-Romano, 20, of Methuen;
- Alexis Paredes, a.k.a. Cabzeza, 31, of Lawrence;
- Kevin Perez-Lorenzo, 20, of Salem;
- Guaril Poche-Brito, a.k.a. Chamkito, 21, of Haverhill;
- Kenneth Rodriguez, 31, of Lawrence;
- Temistocles Santana, a.k.a. Omar, 28, of Lawrence;
- Jael Gullen-Perez, 20, of Haverhill;
- Alan Acosta, 23, of Lawrence;
- Abigail Arias, 20, of Lawrence;
- Eliezer Tavares, a.k.a. Bad Bunny, 18, of Lawrence.



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Depending on the drug quantity, the federal drug trafficking conspiracy and distribution charges provide a sentence of up to 20 years, 40 years, or life in prison; a minimum of three, four or five years and up to a lifetime of supervised release; and fines of \$1 million, \$5 million and \$10 million. The federal firearms charges

provide for sentences of up to 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000.

United States Attorney Andrew Lelling; Essex County District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett; Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Division; Jason Molina, Acting Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Boston; Colonel Kerry A. Gilpin, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police; Commissioner Carol Mici of the Massachusetts Department of Corrections; made the announcement earlier this month.

The FBI’s North Shore Gang Task Force provided assistance with the investigation. ♦



Federal officials displayed a chart of Trinitarios arrested in Lawrence showing the hierarchy of the gang that was selling illegal guns throughout New England

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Perry Begins to Assemble his Team

Newly elected Methuen Mayor Neil Perry will take office on January 6th. He was elected last month with 71% of the vote, a clear mandate for change. Perry holds the Methuen Mayor's Report on The Paying Attention! Podcast on the first Tuesday of each month. The Podcast can be seen on The Valley Patriot Facebook page. It is also podcast on audio on Pod-Bean, iTunes, iHeart radio, and Spreaker.

This is Perry's second report on Paying Attention! Perry talked about what he has been doing to transition into the mayor's office and his goals for moving Methuen forward. This interview took place November 5th.

I asked Perry if he has sat down to talk with the Police Superior Officer's Union representatives, or Police Chief Solomon yet, Perry said, "no".

"As you know I am still working at Raytheon through December 19th, but I am taking time to do transition events with the city. There's a million things to do. Next Friday I have a scheduled sit down with the city lawyers to talk about the superior's contract because, we only know what we've seen in the press, we don't know the full details."

"So, I'm sitting down with some of the current counselors as well, so I can ascertain everything that has happened. I want to do all of that before I sit down with the superior officers. I want to do what's right for the city. I said this when I was on the campaign trail and I will keep saying it; I'm not going to make the police the bad guys here. This is not about good guys and bad guys. These are good guys, we just have a bad contract and we're going to fix that situation. I'm committed to doing that. Let's see how it works out, you've got to give us a little time. So, the short answer is somewhere after December 13th we will be sitting down with Greg and his team and talk with them. You see, I don't have any legal standing yet until I am sworn in. Mostly what I want to talk about

with you today is how we are working on the transition."

Tom: The only question I have is one that you won't answer and that is, who are you going to hire as your chief of staff?

"I'm just not ready to answer that right now. You'd be proud to know that I am doing all of my homework and my background information and making sure I am checking off all the things that I need to check. It's a two-year term, and that's not very long, I have to show progress in the first year. I have to make sure that I have people in line that have the vision that I see, and what we're going to do for Methuen moving forward."

"It's not going to be whether or not they are yes-men or yes women. I need people around me that are going to complement the skill sets that I have, but have different perspectives than I have. I'm confident we're going to do that. I'm on the brink of finishing that up and I'm going to announce it before Christmas. Maybe I will make my announcement at the TMF family dinner for the homeless."

Since being elected, Neil Perry has volunteered his Wednesday nights to passing out food to the homeless in Lawrence, sponsored by a group called The Movement Family (TMF).

Tom: So, who are you sitting down with?

Perry: "Let me explain the process first and then you can understand. There were really two tracks that we have going. I sent out an actual questionnaire that were sent to every department head in the city to fill out. They are transition questionnaires. This morning we sat with the City Clerk and the recreation department and we went through theirs. So, we sent these to all the department heads and they have all responded. I have them back and now we are scheduled with sit-downs intended to be an informational exchange with each of them. I have questions, and I will ask them about challenges and issues."

"We also use what the mayor provided



to us, which is the 2020 budget. As an example; when we sat down with Jack Wilson, the City Clerk. We can go through his section here. I can look and see what his accomplishments were in 2019, and what were his goals for 2020, what is the organization structure of his office?"

"There's something that we do at Raytheon which is an organization chart which is a functional org chart, a picture of the person in the chart and what their jobs responsibility is, and who they answer to. We look at their budget, we also ask headcount questions. I ask, are there any single points of failure, any risk areas, how do we better promote customer service, things like that."

"In this case, Jack Wilson walked me through some really good stuff, including the renovation of the customer service center at Searles. It's going to be set up much more customer friendly. We are also taking a look at the building itself. We are looking at how are we utilizing the building and what does it need. We are looking at that from the perspective of stepping back and taking an overall look at the building itself, and maximizing the use of it. It is a historic building but probably not designed the way you would design a building today for city government."

"At one time it was a high school, my mother in fact graduated from there."

Tom: Are people able to pay their parking tickets, their city taxes, their water bills etc. online?

Perry: "That's starting to be done, you can pay a lot of those things online but there are still some things that you can't and we are working on expanding that."

"One of the biggest emphasis that I have, when I'm meeting with department heads, is process. One of the criticisms of me has been that I've never been in city government before. And that's a fair criticism. But, in a way it is a good thing though, because we are going in with eyes wide open."

"I also want to bring onto this show some of the people who work for the city, so I'd like to bring in Jack Wilson and maybe the CAFO Maggie Dupree. Every month I'd like to talk about some of the important topics and maybe take questions from the studio audience here. I'd like to be able to be as transparent as I can with the public about what I'm doing and what's going on."

TRANSITION COMMITTEES

"We have four transition committees."

MAYOR: PAGE 7

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MAYOR: FROM PAGE 5

We have four committees. We have; one on general government, one for parks and recreation and green space, one on culture and neighborhoods and one on business and economic development.”

“On the four committees we probably have a total of about 45 people assigned. They are not all people who were supporting me in the last election. We were careful to select some people who supported my opponent in the last election. What we are looking to do is take some of the visions that were part of our campaign platform, get these groups from across Methuen, sit in a room and work on them together.”

“So, I have set up three or four meetings with each of these teams. We are restricting them to 90 minutes to be respectful of people’s time. So, if there are people out there who are Methuen residents and are passionate about the city and are interested in joining one of these committees, they should reach out to me at npirish1213@gmail.com.

“I said it during the campaign that after the election there would be no more Team Perry, and Team Kannan there would only be Team Methuen. I am making sure that any groups that I’m putting together include people who did not support me. I want to show people that it really is all about what’s best for the city. Every decision we make is going to be made with the best interest of the city at heart. We are tasking each team with having a brainstorm activity on the things that are

working well and the things that are not working well. After a couple of meetings, we will start to prioritize the things that are not working well and figure out how we can translate those into goals for the city.”

“My intention is to be as transparent as possible with all of this. So, the next time I come on your show in January, I will bring slides or graphs to show the things that people on the Culture and Neighborhoods team are saying. So for people like you in the media these will become a scorecard for people to measure how well we are performing. Are we doing the things that we say we were going to do?”

“Once these teams are finished we will put together our list of priorities and goals for the city, and then go to the city council and get their input on it. Then, I will take all of that accumulation of data and report that out to the public.”

“I may be new to politics, but I’m not new to being a leader. I recognize that this first year is critical for me, and for the people who are working with me in city government We need to show the citizens of Methuen a different way. We need to show them that all the things we talked about during this campaign were not campaign slogans. Transparency and accountability - those are words that mean something to me.”

Mayor Perry’s next appearance on The Paying Attention! Podcast will be Thursday, January 9th at 2pm. ♦

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Tomorrow’s **Eagle-Tribune** Stories ... *TODAY!*

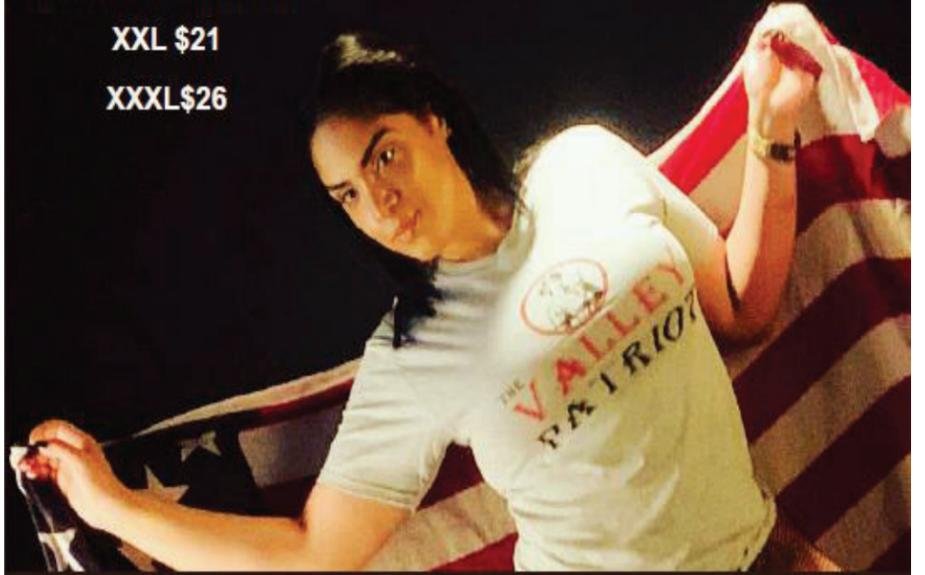
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VALLEY PATRIOT BASH

The Valley Patriot's 16th Anniversary BASH! will be held at the Firefighter's Relief In (2 Market St. in Lawrence) on March 27th. Tickets will be available on Eventbrite.com. MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

OPIOID SUMMIT - Two years ago this month when we moved the Paying Attention! Radio Program to a podcast format we had the police chiefs of four communities on the show to have an opioid summit. It was very successful and a great way to start off the show in a new format. This month, on December 26th at 2pm we will do it again. Don't miss our third annual opioid summit on the Valley Patriot's Facebook page. You can also subscribe to the audio of the podcast on PodBean, iHeartRadio, iTunes etc.

HEROES AND BOZOS OF 2019

HERO - SENATOR DIANA DIZOGLIO

Newly elected state senator Diana DiZoglio had two major wins this year. First, DiZoglio wrote and passed a law forcing the legislature to stop concealing sexual harassment claims against lawmakers, by putting a stop to "non-disclosure agreements". These agreements are imposed on victims of sexual assault and harassment who settle claims against the state. The non-disclosure agreements mean once the woman settles the case she is never allowed to ever disclose what happened when they were sexually harassed or assaulted by a lawmaker. DiZoglio put one over on the big boys on Beacon Hill and she got away with it. BRAVO!

Secondly, DiZoglio wrote and passed a law making it harder for elected officials to conceal their campaign finance donations and spending. DiZoglio's new law requires banks to report (to the state) deposits and expenditures of all campaign finance accounts. It is very rare to find an elected official who is concerned with making sure other elected officials have a check on their power. DiZoglio really is an aberration at the state house and for her efforts she gets HERO of 2019.

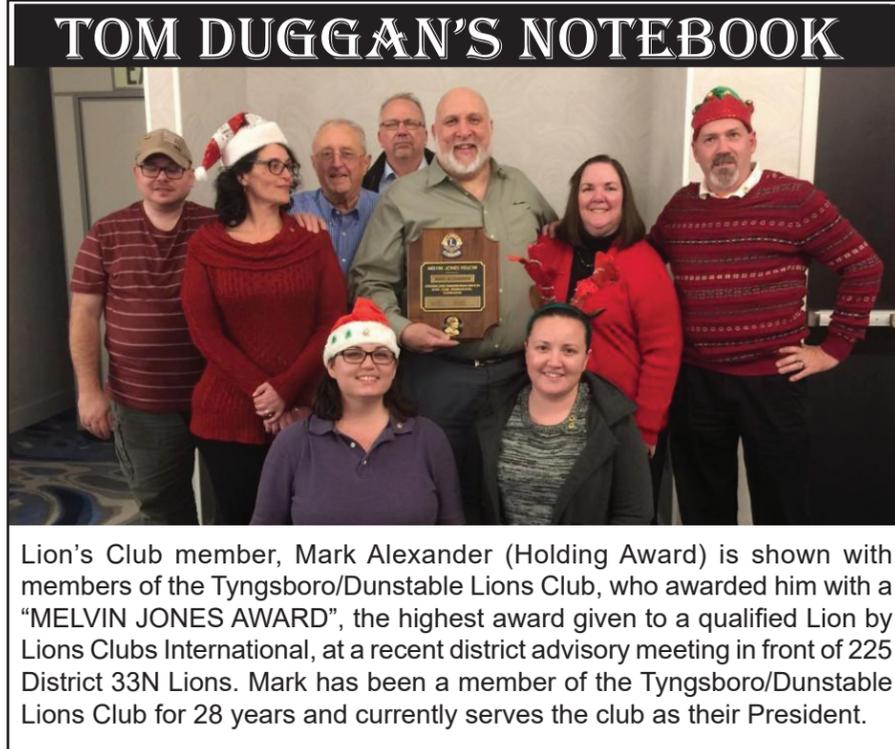
BOZO - DAN SHABILIA

He was really impressive during the Methuen mayoral race. But when the dust settled on the 2019 Methuen elections, it turns out Dan Shabilia was nothing more than an aspiring political hack who thinks nothing of blackmailing people who dare to criticize him IN public. Earlier this month a criminal complaint was lodged against Shabilia for blackmailing a Methuen voter into silence after that citizen criticized his campaign on Facebook. As I spelled out last month, I saw the message that Shabilia sent to this Methuen voter and was shocked at how blatant his intimidation was. Thank heavens this BOZO didn't get elected mayor and also lost his write-in campaign for school committee. Can you imagine what Dan Shabilia would do if he ever achieved real political power?

BOZOS - MA LEGISLATURE

So, let me see if I have this right. The geniuses in the Massachusetts legislature have given the OK for heroin injection sites in the state. They made Marijuana legal. They fund free needles for heroin addicts. But, Menthol cigarettes? That's where they draw the line. That's right, the same legislature which is decriminalizing new drugs every day, has voted to make Newport and other menthol cigarettes illegal. This is bizarre on so many levels I don't know where to start.

None the least of which, is the fact that the democrats who run this state constantly put forth the narrative that anything which disproportionately affects "people of color" is de-facto "racist". Government statistics show that the majority of menthol cigarette users are "people of



Lion's Club member, Mark Alexander (Holding Award) is shown with members of the Tyngsboro/Dunstable Lions Club, who awarded him with a "MELVIN JONES AWARD", the highest award given to a qualified Lion by Lions Clubs International, at a recent district advisory meeting in front of 225 District 33N Lions. Mark has been a member of the Tyngsboro/Dunstable Lions Club for 28 years and currently serves the club as their President.

color". This begs the question: why is the legislature engaging in such racism? And why do they see menthol cigarettes as more dangerous than pot and heroin? How about these elitists stop taking away people's freedom to smoke what they want? I mean don't we have a privacy right to do what we want with our own body? That is what these same democrats say when it comes to other issues like abortion. It really seems like every single thing the Democrat Party says they believe in, is in direct contradiction to everything else they say they believe in. Their actions on menthol cigarettes proves that.

HERO - CHRIS PALERMO AND NAMA

With civic engagement on the decline in every community you have to give credit to those who continue to keep local civic organizations alive and well. So, is the case for Chris Palermo of Blue Dog in North Andover who is the president of the North Andover Merchant's Association. NAMA puts together the yearly Santa parade, the weekly farmer's market in the summer, and sponsors dozens of other great events in North Andover. Palermo took over as the head of NAMA from Dawn Pease, who also continues to go above and beyond to help small businesses and organize local events. It is people like Chris and Dawn who are the backbone of any community and as such they have earned the distinction of HEROES of 2019!

BOZO - TIM WOOD

Local blogger and former publisher of the now-defunct Loop Weekly newspaper tried to regain legitimacy during this year's Methuen elections. But, from the very first propaganda piece he published on-line it became clear Wood was only pretending to be a journalist so that he could promote Steve Saba and Saba's preferred candidates. What he produced was campaign material disguised as news. Now, Wood has started a non-profit with another BOZO Sid Harris, in an effort to rehab his reputation as a propagandist. He has now rebranded himself as "Methuen Today" on-line. With two BOZOS now working together trying to repair their ruined reputations, we are looking forward to naming them both BOZOS of the year for 2020 as well.

BOZO - JIM MCCARTY

He was so close to getting on the hero list, but Methuen City Councilor Jim McCarty blew it at the last minute and ended up here. You see, McCarty has long held the belief that The Valley Patriot publishes one sided news (accusing us of being what Tim Wood actually IS). And you have to give him credit, he doesn't say it behind my back like others, he says

it right to my face (which I admire). So, last month I challenged McCarty to put his money where his mouth is. I offered him an opportunity to do a monthly column in The Valley Patriot so he could get "his side" out to the public. My goal is to try and represent all sides in political battles, so I was happy to make the offer. And, you would think that if McCarty really believed I was unfair and only published one side of things, he would be eager to be the one to present the other side. RIGHT? Alas, for all his complaining, McCarty said that he was declining to do a column because his political advisors were against it. Mind you, this is the same councilor who said during the campaign that he was independent and wasn't beholden to anyone. I was really looking forward to naming McCarty as one of our Heroes of 2019 for walking the walk, despite our political differences. Sadly, he makes the BOZO list. Here's hoping he can turn that around for 2020.

HERO - NEIL PERRY

During the mayoral election this year candidate Neil Perry was asked to help the homeless but declined, saying he didn't want people to think he was just grandstanding during the election to get votes. But, the day after he won the Methuen mayor's race, Perry showed up at the TMF Family Dinner for the Homeless in Lawrence with a case of sterno-cans, and multiple bags of donated clothing. Perry said he was committed to helping those less fortunate and will be working to help the homeless as mayor of Methuen over the next two years.

BOZOS - LAWRENCE COUNCIL

With officials in Methuen coming into Lawrence every week to help feed the homeless as part of the TMF Family Dinner program, it started to become really obvious that while Methuen officials are out there feeding homeless people in Lawrence, not one elected official from Lawrence had ever ... EVER done so in the two years this program has existed. A year ago when TMF went before the city council asking for permission to hold the family dinners at the Buckley Parking Garage they were assured by a majority of the city council that they would come help out on their own. That is, after they denied TMF's request to feed the homeless at the Buckley Garage. So, just think about this for a minute. The officials in Methuen come into Lawrence to help feed the homeless, while elected officials in Lawrence do absolutely nothing. That kind of says it all when you think about it. It's why Lawrence is in the shape that it is in. NINE BOZOS for the Lawrence City Council for failing to step up to the plate and help their own people, while people from other communities come into

Lawrence to help. Now that I think of it, this seems to be a pattern here. Lawrence's city budget is paid for by state taxpayers. Their schools are paid for by state and federal taxpayers, and Lawrence officials are perfectly OK with doing nothing while everyone outside Lawrence struggles to fix Lawrence's problems. But, just let someone outside of Lawrence criticize the city for anything and you hear officials in Lawrence call you an "outsider" who has no say because you don't live there. BOZOS ALL!

BOZO - JEN KANNAN

I wonder what would happen if I decided to take Facebook posts from - say - Tim Wood or Sid Harris and tried to pass them out at a public meeting of the Methuen City Council? I wonder if she would allow me to talk about RUMORS that Wood was at Forest Lake last summer making comments about children on Facebook? I suspect she would not allow it, nor should she. Yet, last week Kannan allowed one of her supporters (and a lapdog for Steve Saba) Bill Heffernan to pass out Facebook posts by a citizen of Methuen at a public meeting - and then went on and on about "rumors" that this person might take a job with the Perry Administration. Kannan allowed it, mostly because it was orchestrated by her political ally Steve Saba and his brother John, who also got up at public participation to complain about the "rumor" that this person might take a job with Neil Perry in January. I'm not sure why Jen thinks rumors are official city business worth the time of the council at a public meeting, or why she thinks the council has any say over who Perry hires or "is rumored to be hiring" sometime in the future. But, the debacle that ensued by way of an orchestrated discussion on the topic showed exactly why voters rejected the politics of personal destruction in the November election.

BOZOS - IDIOTS WHO BELIEVE RUSSIA "HACKED AN ELECTION"

The propaganda surrounding the 2016 election is so blatantly dishonest, and obviously one sided, that anyone who believes Russia "hacked the election" in 2016 can only be labeled an idiot... or a BOZO. To this very second, not one shred of physical evidence has ever been presented to the American public showing that RUSSIA! hacked an election. Or that Russia hacked John Podesta's emails for Wikileaks. Sure, those who promote this Russia propaganda story say that "the intelligence community" agrees it was RUSSIA! But without any real evidence why would anyone believe such a claim from the "intelligence community"? This is the same "intelligence community" that swore there were Weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq, missed the Boston Marathon Bombers, said overthrowing Lybia's Kadaffi would bring peace in the region, and claimed Syria's Assad used chemical weapons on his own civilian population. All of these declarations by our "intelligence community" have been proven false with catastrophic consequences. They were also unable to identify and prevent the shootings of US service men at Fort Hood, US Marines at a recruiting station in Baltimore and how 6 members of the Afghanistan military disappeared off a US Military base. This is also the same "intelligence community" that swore under oath that the NSA was NOT spying on emails, phone calls, websites, and text messages of American civilians. Now, suddenly, because the media says so, we are all supposed to take at face value claims by the "intelligence community" that RUSSIA hacked an election? With ZERO physical evidence to back it up? PUHLEASE!

If you are dumb enough to believe any of that you are clearly a BOZO!

CONTINUED UNDER FREDDIE



FREDDIE SAYS

I hear Max isn't feeling well and the Grinch needs a fill in? I'm totally available!

**Freddie also Says
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BOZOS - The DEMOCRAT NATIONAL PARTY

While the Republican Party has their own internal problems these days, they are far eclipsed by the problems plaguing the Democrat Party at the national level. First, the party that preaches hatred for men, rich people, and white people, now has a rich, white, man (Joe Biden) in the lead among their presidential candidates. Secondly, during the Obama Administration the Democratic Party fought very hard to expand the powers of the presidency (and the federal government) never once giving thought to what might happen to that power in the hands of someone with the opposite of their world view (like Donald Trump). Now, democrats want to impeach the president because they can't get past the fact that he "wasn't supposed to win" in 2016 and now has all the power Democrats created for the presidency when Obama held that office. The Democrat Party at the national level is in total shambles and the leaders of the party are total BOZOS.

BOZO - ELIZABETH WARREN

All year I have been publicly challenging Senator Elizabeth Warren to walk the walk when it comes to helping poor people "of color". Warren has refused that challenge. Sure she talks a good game about being the champion of the poor, but she has never once picked up the phone to see what Carina Pappalardo needs at the Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Lawrence. She has never once contacted Carrie Weiland at House of Mercy to see what she could do to help their efforts of servicing the homeless in Lawrence. Yet, when she decided to run for president, Warren came to Lawrence - drove past at least half a dozen homeless people on her way to Union Street - where she made her announcement for the White House. While she stood there in Lawrence lecturing us on how she cares about "poor people of color", she was just a few blocks away from those who are ACTULLY helping the poor in this city but didn't bother to go take a tour of Daybreak, or House of Mercy. So, my challenge all year has been for Warren to pick up the damn phone and find out what she can do for the homeless in Lawrence. I even promised to give her a front-page story if she chose to do so, with no mention of how we had to badger her into doing it.

All I want is help for Daybreak and HOM. Yet, to no avail. Warren and her handlers have no interest in helping real "poor people of color" in Lawrence, Massachusetts. And why would she? She has the undying love and support of her new lapdog Mayor Dan Rivera. So, I guess there really is no need to actually help real poor people of color in Lawrence. For this and SO many other reasons we name Senator Elizabeth Warren a BOZO of the year.

HERO - ELIZABETH WARREN

For all her faults, and they are many, Senator Warren has taken on the big tech industry, specifically Google and Facebook saying these multimillion dollar corporations are too big and too powerful and need to be "broken up". Facebook CEO Zuckerberg wasted no time responding, basically laughing at her telling his employees that Facebook would defeat Warren's efforts. After all, these multi-billion dollar corporations are far more powerful than a Senator or even the President of the United States. So, why worry? For her part, Warren didn't have to poke such a powerful bear and take on this fight, but she did. Her efforts to do so were heroic, and if she really means it, follows up on it, and continues the fight against big tech corporations she will have me as a strong ally in that fight.

BOZO - KAMELA HARRIS

You have to hand it to Kamela Harris. She ran for president on a platform of hating white people, hating men, and promoting anti-American "identity politics". She clutched her pearls whining throughout the entire campaign about how Republicans (and in particular President Trump) were racist and sexist. She often spoke of how America is a country of white supremacists who must be stopped, and of course only Kamela Harris can stop them.

But, a funny thing happened when Harris dropped out of the democrat primary. Harris and her supporters in the news media went from accusing republicans of sexism and racism, to accusing democrat primary voters of being sexist and racist. Harris said she had to drop out because she believes "America" was not ready for a "woman of color" to be elected president. That's what she said - out loud. Considering only democrats can vote for her she outright called democrat voters racist and sexist. This obsession by democrat politicians with blaming racism and sexism for their personal flaws and failures has now resulted in them turning on their own. Maybe this is the real reason Harris had to drop out and never had a shot of being president of the United States. When everyone is a racist nobody is a racist. Farewell BOZO. America is better for the failure of your own racist political campaign.

HERO - CONGRESSMAN SETH MOULTON - Massachusetts Congressman Seth Moulton may be a partisan robot who spews the party line into every microphone he can find, but he deserves a HERO this year for attempting to take on Big Tech. Moulton introduced a bill called the Automatic Listening Exploitation Act, which would create recourse for consumers when smart speakers and doorbells make recordings in violation of the technology's user agreements. Of course, because the Democratic Party is so obsessed with overthrowing the last election by impeaching President Trump, this bill went nowhere. Still, Moulton had the courage to take on big tech and for that he deserves to be praised.

BOZO - SETH MOULTON

For the five minutes that Massachusetts Congressman Seth Moulton was a candidate for president he said that America was "a racist country" and that America was "built on white supremacy". This begs a very important question:

NOTEBOOK: PAGE 20

THIS MONTH IN Local HISTORY

December, 2018

* North Andover newcomer, Christina Minicucci replaces Diana DiZoglio as the state representative in North Andover and Methuen. DiZoglio chose not to run for reelection in order to run for state senate, a seat she handily won.

December, 2017

* Lawrence Superintendent/Receiver Jeff Riley announces he will step down after three years of reorganizing the Lawrence Public Schools under state receivership. Riley then went on to be the Commissioner of Education for The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

December, 2015

* More than 300 needy children wake up to find Christmas presents thanks to Methuen Police, Fire & Teen Volunteers at Debbie's Treasure Chest.

* A Recall petition (the first of three) against Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera falls short after anti-Rivera activists loyal to former Mayor Willie Lantigua announce they will try again.

* Lawrence Mayor Rivera says he was deceived by Polartech officials after the company announced it will close after getting a tax break from the city.

December, 2010

* The Valley Patriot takes a trip to Paris Island Marine Boot Camp and started a three month series on how we make Marines. The trip was sponsored by the U.S. Marines as part of their Educational series to invite journalists and public educators.

December, 2005

* Methuen Mayor Bill Manzi names his transition team after winning for his first term. Manzi then named former Mayor Dennis DiZoglio as Chairman of the team.

Joining former Mayor DiZoglio on the team were, Bill Buckley, Corrine Lacharite, former Senator Jim Jajuga, Mary Ellen DiMarco, and Linda Soucy. Congressmen Marty Meehan, Senator Steven Baddour, and Representative Arthur Broadhurst were also represented on the committee as ex officio members.

December 2003

Members of the Valley Patriot Board of Directors start drafting out the very first edition of The Valley Patriot newspaper, which was eventually published in March of 2004. ◊

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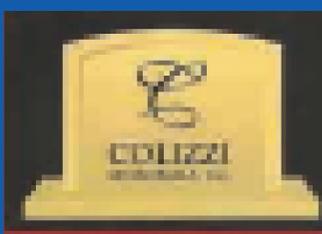
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JOEL'S FOOD CORNER

Joel Faretra

VALLEY PATRIOTFOOD COLUMNIST

This is the premier column from our new foodie columnist, Methuen City Councilor Joel Faretra. Each month Joel will visit restaurants in Methuen and rate their best dishes.

Since I was born and raised in Everett, I grew up on roast beef sandwiches. The two places we would go to were Mike's Roast Beef and Kelly's Roast Beef down on Revere Beach. So for the first column, I decided to hit up 2 different restaurants in the Methuen area and taste tested their roast beef sandwiches. I went to Giovanni's Roast Beef in the Valley and Royal Roast Beef on Lowell Street. I will rate each restaurant on a 1-5 beard scale with 5 beards being the best.

GIOVANNI'S ROAST BEEF & PIZZA
127 Merrimack St. Methuen, MA

The first stop was Giovanni's. Got the Roast Beef dinner, which came with fries and a salad. Also got a side of buffalo wings. Service was quick as the roast beef dinner came to the table within 5 minutes. I was very pleasantly surprised by the wings. Good size and was surprised that they had some spiciness to them. For the sandwich, I ordered it with extra sauce. The sandwich was kind of messy, which isn't a bad thing. The BBQ sauce did not have much flavor to it which made the sandwich average.

Rating- 3 beards



ROYAL HOUSE OF ROAST BEEF
464 Lowell St. Methuen, MA

Next was Royal House. Ordered the same meal, Roast Beef dinner with extra sauce. This meal came with french fries,



onion rings and a side salad or cole slaw. I would like to meet the person who can finish the dinner in one sitting since they are very generous with the fries and onion rings. The sandwich was excellent, with the BBQ sauce having a bit of a kick to it, unlike Giovanni's. The onion rings are a great addition to the dinner, they were crispy and didn't fall apart as you ate them. I love the feel of the restaurant, reminded me of a throwback house of pizza with the numerous plaques on the wall of all the local teams they have sponsored over the years and the signage hand written with the newest specials.

Rating- 4.25 beards



Next month, we will be hitting up some sub shops in Methuen. If you have a favorite place or sub that you want me to try, drop me an email at jfaretra67@gmail.com. Merry Christmas and Mangia!!! ♡

Methuen Police Officers Host Toy Drive for Debbie's Treasure Chest

The Methuen Police Department is hosting their annual toy drive to benefit children in need this holiday season.

Methuen police are working with Debbie's Treasure Chest, which provides aid and support to families in need during the holidays. This year Debbie's Treasure Chest has received close to 1,000 wishes.

Last year, police and community members donated approximately 2,100 toys and granted 820 wishes to children in Methuen and throughout the Merrimack Valley. This year, the Department is hoping to match, or exceed, those numbers.

"It's a privilege of mine to be able to witness our police department organize this event every year without fail," said Mayor Jajuga. "This event makes it possible for many more children in our community to wake up on Christmas morning with a special gift waiting for them. The acts of kindness on the part of our police department truly encompasses the Christmas spirit."

A "giving tree," decorated with snowball-shaped tags holding one child's wish for a toy, is set up in the roll call room at the Methuen Police Department.

Current and former members of the department are invited to select a tag from the tree, fill out their information in the log sheet (located in a black binder next to the tree), purchase the gift requested and return the unwrapped toy to the giving tree. The toys can be for boys and girls of all ages.

Any type of toy will be accepted, but food items cannot be accepted.

Community members who would like to donate to the toy drive can do so from now through Dec. 23 by bringing new, unopened and unwrapped gifts for kids of any age to the Methuen Police Department, 90 Hampshire St.

A drop-box will be located in the lobby of the station for the toys.

Toys collected from the giving tree will be presented to various social service agencies on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 10 a.m. at the event center at Everett Mills, 15 Union St., Lawrence.

"The Methuen Police Department is extremely thankful for those in our community who make this event possible through their donations and constant support," said Chief Solomon. "It's a privilege of ours to be able to host this event every year, but the community is a huge driving force behind what we donate. I want to thank all those who continue to support us and encourage them to donate again this season."

Debbie's Treasure Chest is owned and operated by Harvey Girls, Inc., a 503(c)(3) organization. The group was founded by three children and works with social service agencies across the Merrimack Valley to deliver school supplies, clothing and toys to children in need. 100% of donations are used to improve the lives of as many children as possible by providing them with basic necessities. To learn more about Debbie's Treasure Chest, visit their website at www.debbiestreasurechest.org, or find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Debbies-Treasure-Chest-98824641050/>.

Dracut Plagued by Government Scandals in 2019

Brian Genest
DRACUT COLUMNIST

It was a memorable year in Dracut. Unfortunately, it was memorable for a number of self-inflicted struggles, shenanigans and scandals at town hall that are going to be hard to forget. For a small town, there sure were a lot of big happenings in 2019.

Shortly after the beginning of the year, Judicial Watch sent a letter challenging the constitutionality of the town's restrictions on political signs.

"After hearing from a Dracut resident, we have reviewed the town's zoning bylaw concerning political signs. It is not content-neutral and is therefore unconstitutional. We ask that you repeal or revise the bylaw immediately. In addition, we ask that you prohibit enforcement of the bylaw until the repeal or revision is complete. This will prevent any further chilling effect on political speech."

Initially, Town Manager Jim Duggan called Judicial Watch a "special interest group" and tried to dismiss the issue.

"We're not mandated for what is said within that letter," the town manager proclaimed, when Selectman Joe DiRocco asked about it in February. (The First Amendment issue left Dracut officials mostly speechless!)

Six weeks later, Duggan put an article on the warrant to repeal the political-sign bylaw in its entirety. Town Meeting voted in favor of the repeal in June, removing illegal restrictions placed on town residents and political candidates that violated the First Amendment and rulings of the Supreme Court. The repeal came more than 15 years after the legality of the political-sign bylaw was first challenged in federal court.

With spring came a second free-speech issue: Duggan banned the Dracut Republican Town Committee from marching in the town's Memorial Day parade. (Freedom of speech in Dracut? "Oh, please...") Despite the fact that Selectmen publicly criticized the ban and spoke in favor of letting all town groups march, Duggan dug in and defied his five bosses. He tried to pass the buck to the American Legion and Colleen Garry, Dracut's favorite strip-mall lawyer who provides free services for Post 315. (They definitely get what they pay for – and they deserve better!) When it looks like an inside job and it smells like cow manure, it's dirty politics in Dracut – and Garry isn't usually too far from the stench.

Anyway, it's a shame that our veterans were put into the position of being forced to choose sides by Duggan and Garry, who politicized the parade for absolutely no reason other than politics. After all, freedom of speech is neither a Republican issue nor a Democrat issue; it's an American issue. Our military forces fight all around the world and give the ultimate sacrifice to defend all of us and all our rights, without regard for anyone's political party back here at home.

Ultimately, Judicial Watch interceded for a second time, to ensure freedom of speech wasn't trampled by town government and that 22 members, associates and friends of the DRTC were allowed to march. In the end, the town's about-face helped put a face on a group of patriotic citizens who simply wanted to honor our fallen veterans, like everyone else in the town parade.

Summer in Dracut certainly wasn't a day at the beach for town government. Instead, a tidal wave of self-inflicted bad



news washed over town hall. Deputy Police Chief David Chartrand filed a civil-rights lawsuit against the town manager for retaliation, workplace bullying and harassment. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission determined there was reasonable cause to believe the town discriminated against firefighter Justin George, who was placed on administrative leave in 2018 and ordered to undergo a psychiatric exam, after filing a town meeting article about military pay. The state's Department of Environmental Protection issued an enforcement order against the town for the Beaver Brook trail project for violations of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

Things were already sweltering when DiRocco brought a scorcher of a revelation to his colleagues on the board at their August meeting: the town apparently hasn't been following the procurement process outlined by state law and a number of projects in town weren't properly put out to bid, including the Beaver Brook trail project, the new firehouse in Collinsville and at least a handful of others. The Attorney General is currently investigating and the town is taking corrective actions, including hiring a procurement officer.

Speaking of scorchers, fire department issues caused a backdraft with town firefighters in the fall. As the result of a number of smoldering issues, members of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2586, joined by the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts, picketed the board of selectmen's meeting, before bringing the heat inside and torching town officials.

The alarm was sounded loudly and clearly over what firefighters described as the town's inappropriate actions, including failed contract negotiations, neglected vehicle maintenance and retaliatory actions taken against firefighters, including George. After the ruling from the EEOC, the American Arbitration Association found that Dracut's actions violated the collective bargaining agreement and ordered the town to reinstate George to his position in the fire department. George has filed a federal lawsuit against the town for discrimination and retaliation.

With Duggan's abrupt departure and a new town manager to be hired, it's time to look to the future. Here's to moving forward without personal, political and petty nonsense in town government. May 2020 be filled with professional leadership, integrity and the rule of law in Dracut.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Brian Genest is chairman of the Dracut Republican Town Committee and a member of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee representing the Second Essex and Middlesex district of Andover, Dracut, Lawrence and Tewksbury. ♡



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The New M'tabu

Known throughout the Merrimack Valley in the 80's M'tabu is planning a comeback in 2020.

They say that the band's goal is making some of the best dance/groove music and vocal harmonies in the New England area, with the best rhythm section on the scene.

Their new CD Stay Together is available. This new line-up reverbnation.com/mtaboo

The band says tht the new lineup of M'Taboo takes over where the old M'Taboo of the past left off.

Meeting and performing for the people supporting local bands and the clubs/pubs/venues offering live music are:

Jimmy Bass (Baho), Insan Sauti, Lou Machuca (Louie), David Cherry (DC), Gary Sidell, Nathan Lambert (Nate), Tom Curatolo, and Thomas Harris (Tommy)

The five piece band includes 4 extraordinary soulful singers that add 3 and 4 part harmonies supported by an experienced rhythm section with drummer, percussionist, keyboard, guitars and saxophone. The goal is to provide a lush musical experience with showmanship that gets the audience to feel the need to dance.

Insan Sauti - Lead vocals: Insan graduated from U-Mass Amherst with a degree in Theatre Arts. He has studied with Max Roach, Archie Shepp, John Betch, and Steve Ambush. He has taken courses at the New England Conservatory and Berklee School of Music. Insan has been singing most of his adult life and has worked clubs and venues from Los Angeles to Boston. Although he has been a songwriter for many years, he also has had drumming gigs where he is content to sit in the background providing the rhythmic bottom for a number of bands from California to Massachusetts. With M'Taboo he now stands out as one of four dynamic lead vocalists.

Lou Machuca - Lead Vocals, Alto and Tenor Saxophone: Lou is a veteran entertainer with years of experience as a front-man and vocalist. An original member of the M' Taboo Band, Lou has been working in the music and entertainment industry for over 30 years and is an active musician in the greater Boston and national scene. He is also an active member of the The Smoothies plus a featured singer with Lee Lewis and the Doo-Wop All Stars and performs regularly with Rick Larrimore's Ultimate Tribute to Rod Stewart throughout the US and abroad. With a rich voice and smooth sound, Louie captures the attention of every audience.

Jimmy Bass - Guitar, background vocals: He has been a professional guitarist most of his life, traveling extensively all over the country. Jimmy also showcases his talents with the B-Street Bombers

and The River City Band. He too was an original member of the legendary M'Taboo Band. His technique and soloing abilities are unmatched anywhere in New England. Jimmy's influences vary, however he states that Jimmy Page and Eric Clapton are among his favorites.

David Cherry: Lead vocals and all the right moves: An original member of M'Taboo, the very talented and charismatic David Cherry has been performing the most authentic tribute to James Brown in a tribute band know as Mr Dynamite. David is a professional entertainer with hundreds of acclaimed performances to his credit. He has the look, the personality, the voice and unmistakable James Brown dance moves that will simply amaze you!

After watching David perform, you'll feel as though you've actually been to see The Godfather of Soul at a live concert and experienced the atmosphere and excitement that made him a musical legend around the world.

Gary Sidell - keyboards and vocals: Gary has been playing professionally for over 25 years throughout the entire New England area. Starting at the age of 8, he began writing and recording music and kept up his musical aspirations with the formation of several rock bands in the 1990's and early 2000's. In 2001, he joined a professional wedding band and performed several events over the next 10 years. He has also been hired for private events throughout Massachusetts and is now excited and honored to be part of the next evolution of M'Taboo.

Nathan Lambert: drums and lead vocals: Nate has been gigging with the Expressions, a duo with keyboardist Joe Villanucci, for the past 36 years. This duo also expanded at times to include various female singers plus the early years had Joe Iacchi on vocals, but the band was primarily a duo with Nate refining his drumming and singing talents. Nate left the duo in the late 80s to work with his brother in NYC who was the drummer for the funk band, Brooklyn Funk Essentials. They were in the band, Faith Gear, a five piece playing primarily dance music. In 2010, Nate reunited with Joe Villanucci for a stint at the Georgetown Country Club. In the summer of 2016, Nate was approached by our own Erick Preston to be the drummer for M'Taboo. In Nate's own words...

There was something going on in this great big world that I just had to be part of - and that was the music! You see for me, the last few years of high school were moving too slow. The music was everywhere and I had to be part of it. And so, when the school bell rang that last glorious day I was off like a rocket. Now, if I only had a band, my best friend at the time took care of that. The man was



Methuen Police Chief Joseph Solomon with State Senator Diana DiZoglio and Officer Pilz at the Methuen Exchange Club Honor Banquet on Tuesday, Nov. 19th. (Photo courtesy Methuen Police Department)

Exchange Club Names Kenneth Pilz Police Officer of the Year

METHUEN -- Chief Joseph Solomon and Mayor James Jajuga are pleased to announce that Officer Kenneth Pilz is the recipient of the 2019 Methuen Exchange Club Police Officer of the Year.

Officer Pilz was recognized with the award at a ceremony at the Merrimack Valley Golf Course on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

In addition to his daily contributions to the city and the department in his role as a patrolman, Officer Pilz was recognized for his work to apprehend a murder suspect over the summer. On Saturday, July 27, Officer Pilz dedicated his time to searching for a New Hampshire murder suspect -- considered armed and dangerous -- who led police on a pursuit in a stolen vehicle and crashed in the area of Jackson and Swan Streets in Methuen.

Later that evening, after the pursuit had been called off for safety reasons, Office Pilz observed a man he believed to be the suspect in the area of Jackson Street. Officer Pilz began speaking with the man and building a rapport with him -- inviting him to share pizza during a break with other officers -- while waiting for those officers, whom he'd previously requested for backup, to arrive.

Upon their arrival, the officers placed the suspect under arrest without further

incident and extradited to New Hampshire to face murder charges. However, Officer Pilz's assistance was still needed, as the rapport he developed with the suspect proved instrumental in gaining the suspect's cooperation with the ongoing investigation and led to his being positively identified as the suspect in that day's pursuit.

"Officer Pilz requested the opportunity to patrol an area of town he's not usually assigned to because his instincts told him he could make an impact by locating this suspect and bringing him into custody," Chief Solomon said. "His proactive efforts, as well as his ability to build a relationship with a dangerous suspect, prevented a situation from escalating and helped keep our community safe."

Following in his father's footsteps, Officer Pilz joined the Methuen Police Department in 2008. This year's award marks the second of his career, after first earning the accolade in 2017.

"Officer Pilz's professionalism and experience guided him to take a strategic course of action to arrest a violent fugitive," Mayor Jajuga said. "I'm proud of his efforts on that particular day, and grateful for his contributions on a regular basis and congratulate him on this well-deserved honor."

always out and about. A total extravert. And it didn't take him long to get me an audition with some great musicians. Off I went. Sunny seaside resorts for the summer. Smokey night spots in the winter. Up and down the New Hampshire and Maine coasts. I played and sang in every one of those many places, like each time would be my last. So here I am again. Got a bunch of great musicians to work with and once again off like a rocket. A little older, not much wiser. Because for me. Its always been about that music... "The rest of life is all pretty much background noise! I have been playing drums and singing now for some 40 years.

Tom Curatolo - electric bass and backing vocals: Started in the 70's Florida club scene when disco was born playing six nights a week with Collins Avenue and the Sunrise Show Band. The 80's saw a shift to the Boston area where he anchored the bottom end for original rock bands - The Owners and The Rick Larramore Band - all the while maintaining a presence on the jazz scene with The George Levas Group. In the 90's, Tom was an essential member of the Renee-

Randall Blues Band (winner of the 1996 NH Battle of the Blues Bands), recorded with guitarist Ridgely Snow (Out of Hand and Old Coats & Hats). In the early 2000's, Tom joined R&B bands; The Plan (w/Erick Preston and Howard Randall) and the "original" Strange Brew All-Stars (house band at the Strange Brew Tavern, Manchester NH) but returned to an all-instrumental jazz/funk gig with groovela-toR and Hip Anonymous plus a short stint with Andy Pratt of Avenging Annie fame. With M'Taboo, Tom returns to his roots with a heavy funk influence laying down the groove and keeping it all together with an infectious bottom end that will have you out of your seat and on your feet! Tom has "formally" studied both upright and electric bass with notable bass alumni from the Berklee School.

Thomas Harris - percussion, joined M'Taboo in March 2019 and has been making it happen with M'Taboo's rhythm section with impressive results. The feedback has been positive with may saying this is the best rhythm section in New England bar none!



HAPPY 7th ANNIVERSARY to AFC Urgent Care in North Andover from everyone at The Valley Patriot! Pictured above is Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan with the staff and doctors at AFC North Andover.



State Senator Diana DiZoglio reads to third graders at the Tenney Grammar School last month. DiZoglio said that reading to children is one of her favorite parts of her job. DiZoglio read the book "Grace for President." and says she is excited to see the kids from Tenney this spring at the State House!



Thanks to the North Andover Merchants' Association who sponsors the North Andover Santa Parade every year.



Due to an editing error we regrettably misidentified Gary Steel (right) in last month's newspaper. Here, Gary is seen with Lawrence School Committee member Donna Bertolino & Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan.



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**SENATOR TARR AND NORTH SHORE 104.9 FM
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Live entertainment and holiday fun featured at 9 locations, Thursday December 12th from 6 AM to 7 PM. State Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr and radio station North Shore 104.9 FM have announced Thursday December 12th as the date for their 2019 Holiday Toy Drive to support area children and families in need. "Helping children in need is always important and that is particularly true for the holidays," said Senator Tarr. "I extend a personal invitation for people to come to a broadcast location and join us as we bring good people together to make positive contributions to others, it's fun to watch and, more importantly, it's a great way to help others have a brighter holiday season."



Valley Patriot Veteran Columnist John Cuddy (U.S. Navy) was honored last month by Dracut State Representative Colleen Garry. Garry nominated Cuddy for this year's "Care Dimensions We Honor Veterans" award. Cuddy received an honorable mention from the organization for his work interviewing local veterans for our Valley Patriot of the Month "Heroes in Our Midst" series. John truly is a hero in our midst.

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IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR DIZOGLIO

Changing The State's Campaign Finance Laws

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,

As your representatives, we legislators have little power to perform effectively on your behalf without maintaining your trust. That's why I'm so grateful that the state legislature recently bolstered that trust by unanimously passing a bill I sponsored to increase transparency and accountability in our public elections.

To date, the legislature has exempted itself from having to participate in the same campaign finance reporting process that it has imposed on other candidates seeking office. My bill, An Act relative to campaign finance, helps remedy this disparity by requiring that legislative candidates in Massachusetts participate in the same system required of all other state-level candidates – the depository system.

The depository campaign finance reporting system increases accountability by requiring that a candidate or committee file frequent reports disclosing all campaign contribution activity and confirm and supplement the expenditure information reported in bank statements filed monthly by the candidate's or committee's financial institution with the Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF).

Transparency in campaign finance activity is significantly increased when compared with the current, outdated campaign finance reporting requirements for legislative candidates.

This legislation will assist OCPF to more promptly address issues associated with data entry errors, missed deposits, uncashed checks and other account balance issues. The change will also make it easier to see how much money a candidate



is raising and spending during the course of the election cycle.

Transparency leads to greater accountability and an increase in voter confidence and trust in public officials. Consistency leads to greater accuracy and efficiency in government operations. These are all goals that legislators should be striving for daily.

I am proud to have filed and passed this important reform to our campaign finance system in the legislature.

If you have any questions about this or any other piece of legislation, please feel free to contact me via email at dizioGLIO@masenate.gov or phone at (617) 722-1604.

Yours in service,
Diana ◊

House Passes Legislation to Support, Honor Our Veterans

Rep. Linda Dean Campbell
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

In recognition of Veterans Day, the Massachusetts House of Representatives unanimously passed two bills to support and honor our Veterans. I was privileged as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs to shepherd these bills through the Committee and bring them to the floor of the House.

The first bill is designed to support Veterans who are pursuing public higher education. With 2,500 Veterans currently enrolled at our state's 29 public colleges and universities, public higher education is an important avenue through which many Veterans transition back into civilian life – yet many face deployment-related health conditions, like Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS), that make success in the classroom significantly more challenging. Our student Veterans are in need of additional mental health resources to ensure their success.

The bill creates a program to train public higher education counselors on the symptoms of conditions like PTS, available resources for treating student Veterans, and common challenges faced by Veterans in higher education. This will create a stronger network of on-campus support, so our student Veterans are more likely to complete their education and transition into fulfilling civilian careers. The program will be developed and carried out by UMass Medical School, a collaboration that will yield cost savings and increase effectiveness.

The second bill will establish a commission to design a memorial in the State House for Deborah Sampson, a hero of the American Revolution who disguised herself as a man in order to serve in the Continental Army. I was proud to file

this legislation with Rep. David Vieira of Falmouth.

Sampson is a remarkable example of the revolutionary spirit for which our state is famous. In 1782, Sampson used the name "Robert Shurtleff" to join the elite Fourth Massachusetts Infantry Regiment at West Point, New York. Over the following year and a half, she participated in dangerous scouting missions, led a raid that brought about the capture of 15 Tory men, and stormed a British fort during the Siege of Yorktown.

Once while serving, Sampson removed the bullet from her own gunshot wound to avoid detection as a woman. Her identity was later discovered when she fell seriously ill and had to be taken to a hospital. On October 23, 1783, Sampson was honorably discharged and was the only woman to receive a full military pension for her participation in the Continental Army.

Sampson was held in high esteem by leading patriots, including John Hancock, Paul Revere, and President John Quincy Adams. Since 1983, she has been the official Massachusetts state heroine. Because of her historical significance and widespread renown, Sampson meets the very high bar for those who are worthy of being memorialized in the State House. Massachusetts students and all visitors to the State House should have the opportunity to learn about this historic woman Veteran who put her budding nation above all else. Hers is a Massachusetts story that deserves to be told far and wide.

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the State Legislature and serves as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. She can be reached at Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2380. ◊

ENTREPRENEURS: FROM 2

faela did not dismayed by the statistics. She created a concept that offered value to her public to differentiate from the establishment. Meeting a demand for the particular niche she intends to sell this product to.

"Being Afro-Latina, I grew up not feeling as beautiful as other girls. I could not find assertive options in the stores to help me take care of common problematic that dark-skinned people have" Says Rafaela while describing her brand as natural and with high quality ingredients. She celebrated a launch party on October 12th at the brand's home office, located in 50 Stedman St in Lowell, MA.

Whether American, Latin, Asian or Middle Eastern, Rafaela wanted to serve the brown/dark-skinned community

with a product that rather than being discretionary, promises to change a whole industry. Projections establish that there will be an annualized rate increase of 0.2% in the beauty industry for the upcoming years, a good opportunity for Gloryscent to diversify its scope of service and release more skincare lines, with different missions to serve its community. Hopefully driving more wealth throughout the region and creating employment for others.

For More info:

Website: <http://gloryscent.com/>

Tomas G Michel is Chief Executive Officer/ Founder of Michel PR, located at 60 Island St STE 109 in Lawrence, MA 01840, Cel: (978) 382-4120

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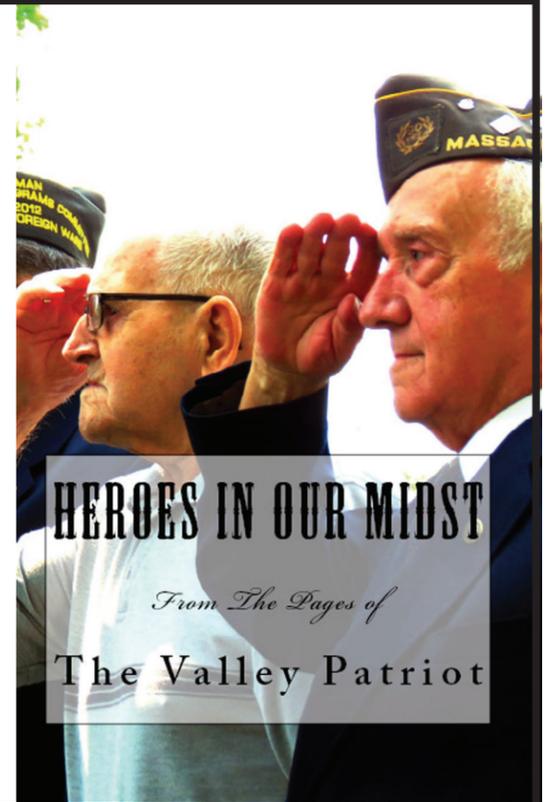


“Thank you to the citizens of Methuen for allowing me to serve on the city council for the last two years. It has been an honor serving the community that I was raised in and connecting with the residents in this city. I will never forget the overwhelming support I received from all of you on this journey and I will forever be thankful for this experience.”

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Auditor Bump Calls for Expanded Resources, Accountability for Municipal Police Training

BOSTON — Massachusetts has one of the highest hourly requirements for in-service police training in the nation, at 40 hours of in-service training annually. However, a study released today by State Auditor Suzanne M. Bump notes the state does not provide enough training opportunities to allow officers to meet this requirement and has no mechanism to hold officers and municipalities accountable for meeting it. The report, *Municipal Police In-Service Training: Funding and Cooperation across the Commonwealth*, urges the state to use the recently enacted rental car surcharge to supplement existing financial support for the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC), while taking steps to bolster facilities, improve guidance on training requirements, and expand accountability.

“Modern policing requires that officers have access to cutting-edge training on topics such as de-escalation and dealing with individuals with mental health or substance use challenges. However, it is clear the Commonwealth’s approach to police training has strained municipal government budgets and left local departments to fill the gaps left by the state,” Bump said. “By bolstering funding, expanding training opportunities, improving facilities, and increasing accountability, we can ensure that men and women in local law enforcement have the skills to keep our communities safe.”

Accountability
Currently, Massachusetts is one of four states that does not have a police licensure and certification process in place for in-service training. Bump’s study estimates that as many as 30 local police departments may not be meeting the Commonwealth’s in-service training requirements and as many as nine of those departments may not provide any in-service training at all. To improve accountability, Bump calls on the Legislature to establish a Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) system. This system would set minimum training standards, regulate training programs and curricula, and set standards for maintenance of police licensure or certification.

Training and Facilities
“When our police officers put on their duty uniforms each shift, we owe it to all of them and the members of their respective communities, to ensure they have the requisite training, skills, and experience to effectively navigate the difficult situations they will no doubt face in the line-of-duty,” said Chelsea Police Chief Brian Kyes, who also serves as the president of the Massachusetts Major Cities Chiefs of Police. “Limited funding and a

lack of sufficient training resources from the state have forced local departments to forge ahead on their own paths to meet this important need. I strongly encourage state leaders to act on the recommendations that are made in this report to ensure that all local law enforcement officers have access to consistent, high-quality training that will help them keep their communities safe and secure.”

In the report, police chiefs points to a lack of curriculum diversity, limited course sections and course capacity, a shortage of training instructors, and inadequate facilities as primary reasons the MPTC is not meeting the training needs of municipal police departments. The report projects that at best, the MPTC directly provided in-service training courses to only 38.4 percent of eligible municipal officers in 2019.

To address the problems, Bump calls on the MPTC to develop a long-term strategic plan to submit to the Legislature. The plan would identify current operational capabilities, highlight shortcomings in curriculum and capacity, and make recommendations to the Legislature on needed improvements to training facilities. Additionally, she calls on the MPTC to more effectively communicate in-service training requirements to local police departments.

Funding
“This report makes clear the rental car surcharge is helping to improve municipal police training in the Commonwealth, however, it also shows, our work is not done,” said Representative David P. Linsky, who was a champion of the rental surcharge legislation. “We must continue our investment in the MPTC, while seeking new strategies to provide local law enforcement with the necessary training and tools to help them best serve our communities, without adding to the financial burdens on local governments.”

The study shows the MPTC does not have enough funding to provide the required in-service training for officers. This has placed the financial burden of providing this training on municipal police departments. Bump estimates the MPTC spent between \$1 million and \$1.5 million on statewide in-service training from July 2018 through June 2019, while local police departments spent nearly \$23 million during the same period to meet training requirements and other associated costs.

In January 2019, the state implemented a new \$2 surcharge on rental vehicle contracts to help pay for police training through the MPTC. The report estimates this new fee will generate approximately

BUMP: PAGE 19

Sue Piazza’s Book Corner

She Persisted Around the World: 13 Women Who Changed History

Text © 2017 by Chelsea Clinton, Illustration © 2017 by Alexandra Boiger
Published through Philomel Books
Genre: Children’s Book
34 pgs.

5 out of 5 Bookmarkers

The only child of President Bill Clinton and presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton, Chelsea Clinton has written five children’s books amongst other works, mostly scholarly. This is one of her children’s books.

An immediate Best Seller, this is geared towards 4-8-year-olds and as such the lives highlighted are given in short vignettes. The thirteen women come from different countries, different backgrounds, and different occupations. Civil rights activists, scientists, and regular young girls who just wanted to go to school comprise just some of the stories in this very worthwhile book.

One thing I liked about this book is that it is not limited to children. The short snippets gave me the impetus to go in search of further information on many of the women publicized. Most of the women encountered obstacles that, had it not been for their perseverance would never have succeeded.

The women highlighted are:

- 1) Sor Juana Ines de La Cruz. Mexico. A nun and writer, a great Latin American poet.
- 2) Caroline Herschel. Germany. The first woman to discover a comet.
- 3) Kate Sheppard. Fought for women’s rights in 1893 New Zealand; the first country to grant women the right to vote.
- 4) Marie Curie. Born in Poland she became a naturalized French citizen. She was the first woman to win the Nobel Prize (Physics). She later won a Second Nobel Prize (Chemistry). She was the first man or woman to receive two Nobel Prizes.
- 5) Viola Desmond. Canada. Fought for

civil rights. She would not give up her right to sit anywhere in the theater.

6) Mary Verghese, M.D. India. A car accident led her to develop the first Rehab Center.

7) Aisha Rateb. Egypt. A lawyer, she helped write a new constitution for Egypt. She was her country’s first female ambassador.

8) Wangari Maathai. Kenya. Won the Nobel Peace Prize. As the founder of the Green Belt Movement she planted 50 million trees.

9) Joanne Rowling. (J.K. Rowling) England. Her Harry Potter series has 400 million books in print in 80 languages.

10) Sisleide “Sissi” Lima do Amor. Brazil. Defied convention and government to become part of the first Brazilian soccer team.

11) Leymah Gbowee. Liberia. Trauma counselor. As a peace activist, her protesting the war, led to free and safe elections and the first woman president in her country.

12) Yuan Yuan Ton. China. One of the world’s greatest Ballerinas.

13) Malala Yousafzai. Pakistan. Shot for going to school. She is the youngest person to ever win the Nobel Peace Prize.

If there is a young person, male or female, on your Holiday Season gift buying list I would definitely pick up a copy of this book for them. This book is a definite keeper.

Susan Piazza is an author, columnist, and blogger. She can be found at susanpiazzaauthor.com where you can read the prologue of her book “A Bird Call That Isn’t” which will go on sale on Amazon Dec 1, 2019. Till the end of the year 10% of sales will go to the Massachusetts Center for Native American Awareness. To follow the launch and read posts of Abigail’s diary go to “A Bird Call That Isn’t launch” on Face Book. ♡



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BUMP: FROM PAGE 18

\$5.7 to \$6.2 million in revenue in 2019, far short of the \$10 million some estimated it would generate. Bump warns that although this additional source of funding is a step in the right direction, the revenue produced is still not enough to cover the full costs of in-service training. As such, she calls on the Legislature to use the new revenues from the rental car surcharge to supplement the existing annual budgetary line item for the MPTC.

Established in 1964, the MPTC is an agency within the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), responsible for regulating police training throughout the Commonwealth. The

MPTC currently operates academies in Randolph (MPTC headquarters), Boylston, Plymouth, Reading, and Springfield. The agency also oversees and authorizes non-MPTC operated training centers for the Massachusetts State Police and the MBTA Transit Police, and other municipal facilities.

The Office of the State Auditor's Division of Local Mandates (DLM) produced the study. In addition to responding to requests from local governments about potential unfunded mandates, DLM also produces Municipal Impact Studies, such as this one, that provide deep analysis of aspects of state law that have significant fiscal impacts on municipalities. ◇

PAID FOR BY HEATHER MARIANI

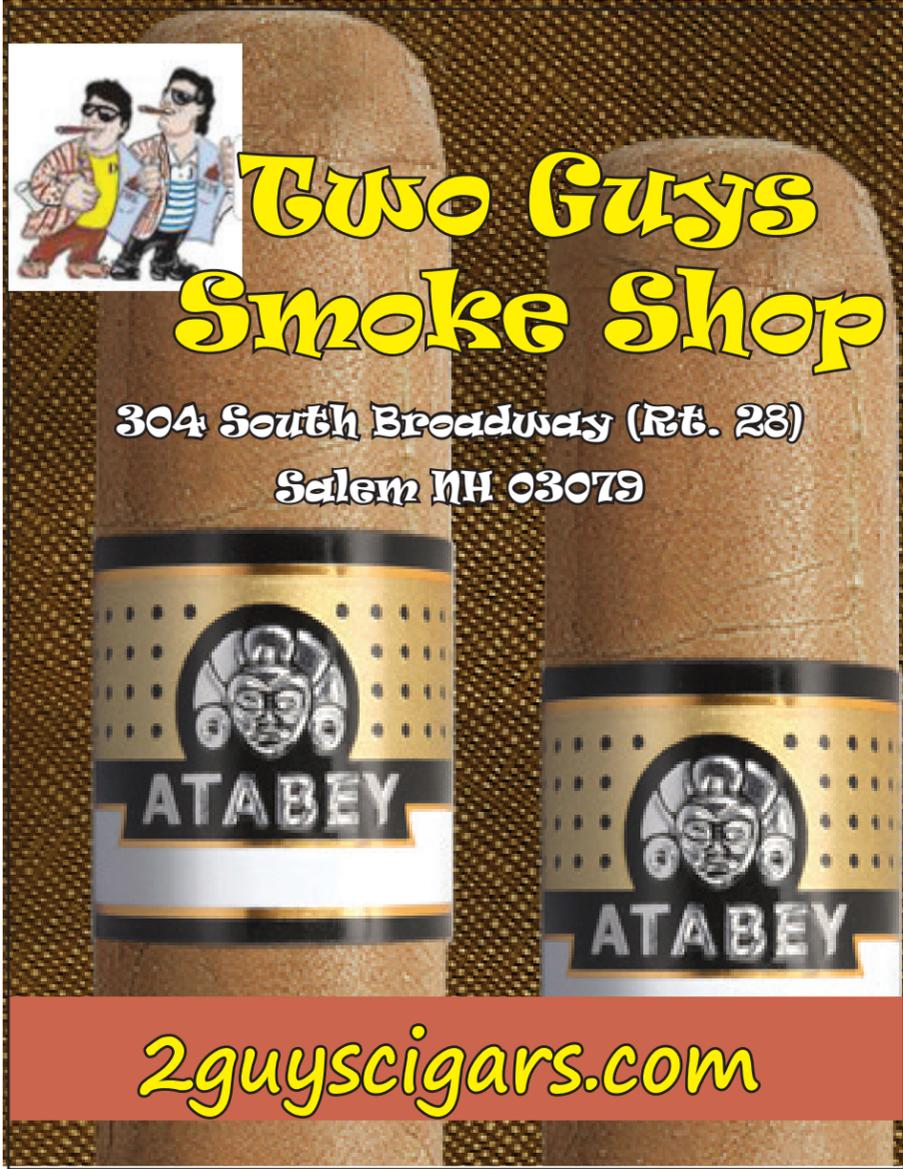
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Ethics Commission: Galvin Violated Conflict of Interest Laws

Benefited from Voters Info Booklet, Early Voting Signs

The State Ethics Commission issued a Public Education Letter today to Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin to resolve allegations that he violated the conflict of interest law. According to the letter, Secretary Galvin, a candidate for re-election in 2018, benefited politically from early voting signs that prominently featured his name and an Information for Voters booklet that provided him with free positive publicity, which were created and distributed by his office.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth is Massachusetts' chief election official.

Prior to general state elections, the Secretary's office is required to publish an Information for Voters booklet informing voters about statewide ballot questions, which is mailed to all residential addresses in Massachusetts.

According to the letter, the Information for Voters booklet for 2018 included as extra content descriptions of instances when the Securities Division of the Secretary's office assisted victims of investment fraud, referring repeatedly to "Secretary Galvin's office."

This repeated use of his name provided Secretary Galvin with a political benefit: free positive publicity for him during his reelection campaign, as it highlighted and in effect personally credited him with specific achievements of the Securities Division, according to the letter.

According to the letter, Secretary Galvin's Office also distributed 1,000 early voting signs to election officials throughout the Commonwealth. Secretary Galvin's name was prominently featured on the signs giving them the appearance and likely effect of campaign signs for his re-election, the letter states.

The conflict of interest law prohibits public employees from using their official positions to obtain valuable benefits that are not properly available to them. Ac-

ording to the letter, omitting or reducing the prominence of Secretary Galvin's name on the early voting signs and omitting the repeated use of his name in the Information for Voters booklet would not have lessened the usefulness of the signs and the booklet to the public. Therefore, the benefits to Secretary Galvin from the prominent inclusion of his name on the early voting signs and the free positive publicity in the Information for Voters booklet were unwarranted, and the Commission found reasonable cause to believe that Secretary Galvin violated the conflict of interest law by using his official position to secure them.

The Commission chose to resolve this matter through a Public Education Letter, rather than through adjudicatory proceedings, because the type of actions described in the letter have not been the subject of a Commission decision, formal opinion, or advisory and because the Commission determined the public interest would be best served by publicly explaining how the conflict of interest law applies to Secretary Galvin's alleged actions. The Commission expects that as a result of this letter Secretary Galvin and other public employees will have a clearer understanding of how to comply with the conflict of interest law in connection with elections, and that Secretary Galvin's receipt of this letter will be sufficient to ensure his future compliance with the law. Secretary Galvin, who cooperated fully with the Commission's investigation, agreed to the issuance of the Public Education Letter and chose not to exercise his right to a hearing.

The State Ethics Commission is charged with civilly enforcing the conflict of interest law, G.L. c. 268A. The Commission encourages public employees to contact the Commission's Legal Division at 617-371-9500 for free advice if they have any questions regarding how the conflict of interest law may apply to them.

NOTEBOOK: FROM PAGE 9

since Mouton is a veteran who fought for this country, why did he fight for such an evil racist country? You would think if he really believed America was "racist" he would not be putting his life on the line to support a nation "built on white supremacy". So, one of two things must be true. Either Moulton really does not believe America is a "racist country" and only said that to appease the base of his party (who hates this country) OR he really DOES believe it and actively went off to war to defend this evil racist country built on white supremacy. It can't be both. Given all this we have no choice to name Moulton one of our BOZOS of the year.

BOZO – TOM STEYER

Hi, I'm Tom Steyer. I'm a rich, white Billionaire who made my blood money investing in private prisons that disproportionately incarcerated young black men and stole their futures. I also made a boatload of cash on the coal industry which is solely responsible for the catastrophic global warming that will destroy the planet in 12 years. I am running for the democrat nomination for president because nothing says the Democratic Party more than a rich, white man of privilege who wrongly imprisoned black men and destroyed the entire planet. I'm Tom Steyer and I approve this message. What a BOZO.

HERO - Linda Soucy

If there's one person in the Merrimack Valley who deserves to be called a hero it's Methuen's Linda Soucy. Linda has been dedicated to helping children in the Arlington Neighborhood for decades and is rarely thanked in a proper way for all she has done. She is Methuen's unsung HERO.

HEROES – HARROWS PIES IN METHUEN

A big thank you to Harrows Pies in Methuen for donating 50 chicken pies to the homeless during the TMF Family dinners in Lawrence last month.

HERO – JAVY COLON, BLESSINGS TO GO

The old Luckys Pizza on Haverhill St. in Lawrence is now called Blessings to Go and is run by Javy Colon who donates 4 pizzas each week to the TMF Family Dinner for the homeless.

HEROES - MICHAEL GORMAN & THE KIDS AT TMF

While local and state politicians are all pretending to try and solve the homeless and opioid crisis, a small group of Lawrence kids are actually doing it. Each Wednesday night Mike Gorman and the TMF kids serve a family style dinner for the homeless in Lawrence. They received a Valley Patriot BASH Award for community service in March for their efforts and are truly community HEROES.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NECC Announces Presidential Scholars
Ten local 2019 high school graduates were accepted into Northern Essex Community College's Presidential Scholars Program, an honors program devoted to high academic achievement.

In its 20th year, the Presidential Scholars Program is designed to reward motivated high school students who will

be attending Northern Essex. Students are selected based on their high school academic record and recommendations from high school guidance counselors and teachers.

"Our Presidential Scholars Program targets academically motivated high school graduates who have decided to start their college education at Northern Essex," said Lane Glenn, president of Northern Essex. "Most plan to transfer to a four-year college or university after getting an associate's degree from Northern Essex."

Admission to the program includes a \$1,000 scholarship (over two semesters,) which is renewable provided the recipient maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher while attending NECC.

This year's Presidential Scholars include the following (by hometown):

Haverhill:

Molly McCracken, Haverhill High School, Laboratory Science

Methuen:

Jillian Stacy, Methuen High School, Criminal Justice

Lawrence:

Kendra Adan, Greater Lawrence Technical High School, General Studies: Health Specialization

Daniella Cameron, Lawrence High School, Business Management

Jeranny Geraldo, Lawrence International High School, General Studies: Health Specialization

Cindy Pena, Greater Lawrence Technical high School, General Studies: Health Specialization

Neyskhaliz Plaza, Lawrence High School, General Studies: Health Specialization

Joshua Robles, Greater Lawrence Technical High School, General Studies: Art & Design

Mincarys Trinidad Gomez, Central Catholic High School, Liberal Arts

Erika Arias, Greater Lawrence Technical High School, Criminal Justice

For more information on the NECC Presidential Scholars Program, please contact Lindsay Graham at scholarships@necc.mass.edu or at 978-556-3629.

NEWBUYPORT FIVE DONATES 25K TO PETTINGILL HOUSE

Newburyport, MA – The Newburyport Five Cents Charitable Foundation has donated \$25,000 to the Pettengill House of Salisbury, MA, a nonprofit social service agency that, through collaboration with community partners, provides "wrap around" services to support at-risk individuals, children and families within the local area. The donated funds will be put towards programs and fundraisers for assistance in providing education, basic needs, support services, and crisis intervention to Greater Newburyport adults & children. "Pettengill House is an important social service agency," stated Lloyd L. Hamm, President & CEO of Newburyport Bank. "They're the focal point for those most vulnerable within our communities – helping to stabilize them by focusing on the most basic needs, including food, clothing, shelter, health and safety. Our Charitable Foundation is pleased to be able to provide such meaningful support."

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Candace Callously Conceals Crushing Defeat for Medical Board at SJC

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD, PhD
MEDICAL CORRUPTION COLUMNIST

Thanks to Dr. Michael Langan's blistering attack on the institutional lawlessness that defines the state medical board, Board Chair Candace Lapidus Sloane is finally stepping down next month.

The law requires term limits to be followed, and the SJC defines a term as what the Governor sets in the appointment letter. No one is allowed to stay continuously for longer than six years. Candace has stayed more than eight, and set a plan in motion to stay even longer via a swamp mouthpiece called Boston Magazine which declared that, but for Candace, everyone would be in danger.

Dr. Langan dragged her violation of the law into the open and the board was forced to declare to a magistrate that Candace would indeed be leaving.

How fitting then that her last case at the state's Supreme Court crashed and burned last month.

Under Candace, the medical board has been abusing doctors with callous intentional contempt for their constitutional rights. Suicide rates climbed precipitously under Candace's tenure and shall remain her lasting legacy.

Doctors must renew their license every two years on their birthdate. When the board falsely accuses a good doctor and suspends his license, as it does routinely, that doctor is not allowed to renew his license while suspended. A license that is not renewed is considered lapsed, and renewing it is a huge exercise.

If the doctor is acquitted of the false charge before his license comes up for renewal, the license is restored and he goes back to work right away. All these years, if the doctor is acquitted after his license lapses, the board has not restored the license even though it would not have lapsed but for the board's false accusation.

Even the law school dregs who end up practicing at the board must instantly recognize that this is arbitrary discrimination that violates basic American principles. Yes, they know.

Dr. Randall Bock finally took the board to the state's Supreme Court on this point of law. Justice Kimberly Budd instantly declared the board's practice unconstitutional and intended to coerce false guilty pleas.

"For those individuals, it appears, the interim suspension can have lasting consequences even after the charges are dismissed and the interim suspension is lifted -- consequences that appear to be based on the mere happenstance of the date that their medical license came up for renewal. The pressure of a doctor's wanting to resolve allegations of misconduct



Your Health with Rick Bellanti

Rick Bellanti

HEALTH & WELLNESS COLUMNIST

Whether you like it or not the holiday season is now in full swing.

Holiday work parties, family gatherings, special planned feasts for Thanksgiving, Christmas and even New Years, and for some people the holidays are a stressful time, with all the shopping, wrapping gifts, secret Santa's, Yankee swaps, Christmas trees and decorating; it seems like all of December is filled with overindulging.

Along with all the fun, we are also tempted with food including many sweets like Christmas cookies, Yule logs, cakes, pies, eggnog and alcoholic beverages, just to name a few. With all this together, we could have a recipe for disaster if you are trying to stay on track with your weight loss goals.

Truth be told, the average person may only gain between one or two pounds during the holidays so don't get too overly stressed, but remember that's for an average person, if you are not the average person and tend to overeat and take on that mountain of Christmas cookies by yourself it could blow up more than you want on the scale. Sticking to whatever program you are on is always the best choice during these times and having an extra cookie or a piece of pie is not going to reverse all your hard work, so don't deprive yourself.

Do not give up completely and put off your weight loss goals until New Years and after the holidays, you've worked so hard to come this far to throw it all away for more pie, and that Elf on a shelf, will be reporting everything back to Santa, so no sneaking food. Some people tend to shift into a maintenance mode until after the holidays and celebrating is done which is not a bad idea. The weight you do gain through the holidays will not disappear so easily when you pack away your holiday

decorations.

Don't let a month on the calendar dictate how you will eat based on the holidays. Try to maintain a balance like always; keep up with your exercise routines and continue to hit that gym (maybe even extra if you are planning on going to eat more at an upcoming party). Make



good food choices when at the parties sticking to salads and healthy vegetable dishes, pick lean meats and fish, keeping away from the trigger foods like potatoes, pastas and breads. If it's a pot luck dinner you are attending then

bring your own healthy food to share so at least you have a dish you know is healthy and you can enjoy.

I highly recommend staying away from sodas, coffee and alcoholic beverages, adding unnecessary calories and sugars. Drinking water is so important; remember your daily water should be half of your body weight in ounces daily, keeping you fuller longer and flushing out your system. The holidays are about celebrating with family and friends and not about dieting, so indulge if you want to, but keep it within moderation.

Lastly, don't stress that the end of the year is here and you haven't reached all your weight loss goals, there is no finish line or expiration date on our journeys, take it one day at a time and if the year ends, we will continue through into the new one together. So celebrate all you've accomplished so far in 2019 (no matter how big or small the victory) and look forward to the New Year, New Decade, New Goals and a New You!

Rick Bellanti is a wellness columnist and is on a journey himself to lose 241lbs and has lost 160 lbs. since the start of 2015. If you have any questions or comments, please post them to his Getting Healthy with Rick Bellanti Facebook page and once a month he will address a few of the topics here. ♦

expeditiously (maybe even hastily), before his license expires, in order to avoid those consequences, may also create an unfortunate incentive for doctors to forgo the very process that is provided to them to challenge an interim suspension, in the hopes of reaching a decision on the merits more quickly."

Justice Budd transferred the case so the full court could publish an opinion condemning the medical board's blatant violation of doctors' constitutional rights, that the Boston Globe and legal blogs would have reported on.

Candace's board immediately cut a deal with Dr. Bock to prevent this, filed a "joint stipulation" and got Dr. Bock's lawyers to dismiss the case (SJC-12805). This stipulation is not available electronically and one must visit the SJC to get a copy. It is breathtaking:

The board "has agreed to revive [Dr Bock's] medical license under the same terms as such license was issued prior to the Order of Temporary Suspension dated January 22, 2014, and with a current renewal date of July 23, 2021."

Naturally there was no announcement on the board's website of its capitulation, no press statement that the board was forced to abandon its consciously unconstitutional policy, and it is certain no doctor currently under suspension has any inkling that this has occurred. Knowing the dregs at Candace's board, it is equally certain that they won't inform doctors either.

And that's why you gotta read the Valley Patriot!

Dr. Bharani is a neurologist who specialized in multiple sclerosis. In 2017 the board stole his license illegally because he reported Medicaid fraud. scleroplex@gmail.com ♦



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Representative Nguyen Votes for Spending in Education, Environment, Gun Safety, Local Aid, and Fighting Opioids

BOSTON, MA – On October 16th, Representative Tram Nguyen joined her colleagues in the House of Representatives to pass a supplemental budget allowing the Commonwealth to add \$400 million to the balance of its “Rainy Day Fund” and to make key investments in education, the environment, gun safety, infrastructure, local aid, and fighting the opioid crisis.

“The supplemental budget demonstrates our strong commitment to our students and future generations by investing in education and the environment. It also increases our investment in the Census 2020 outreach effort, which is incredibly important since we would lose up to \$3,600 in federal funding every year for each person not counted. We do not want to lose money that could go toward local aid for our towns.” said Representative Nguyen.

The supplemental budget includes \$1 million for 2020 census outreach efforts, \$3 million for grants for early educator scholarships for school paraprofessionals, \$5 million in a program to expand access for students to community-based mental health and behavioral health services in schools, \$10 million for gun violence prevention programs, and \$16 million to fight the opioid crisis. It reaffirms the House’s strong partnership with municipalities by



providing \$60 million to invest in local roads and bridges projects.

Additionally, the supplemental budget promotes the environment by making a \$24 million investment for the testing of potential per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination of water supplies and for grants to support treatment and remediation of affected public drinking water systems, \$35 million for the Clean Water Trust Fund, and \$32 million in the state’s electric vehicle rebate program.

The bill will now go to the Senate.

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TV TALK with BILL CUSHING



'The Morning Show'

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

Apple TV+ fired the first shot in the new streaming war, when it launched its streaming service on November 1st, with the premiere of the highly anticipated 'The Morning Show.'

'The Morning Show' has a very impressive cast led by Jennifer Aniston, Reese Witherspoon, and Steve Carell and centers on the behind-the-scenes drama of network morning news show after a scandal threatens to destroy the show.

Carell plays Mitch Kessler, who is fired by the network after being accused of sexual misconduct in the workplace. Meanwhile his partner Alex Levy (Aniston), who was already negotiating for a new contract, feels blindsided. It's impossible to watch 'The Morning Show' without drawing comparisons to the Matt Lauer, Today show scandal.

As things for Alex and Mitch's go from bad to worse, a reporter named Bradley Jackson (Witherspoon) in West Virginia is working for a conservative news station and gets national attention for confronting a protester at a coal mine demonstration. She gets invited to be a guest with Alex on The Morning Show and eventually, through some plot points that are a little hard to believe, she gets picked to replace Mitch.

The new partners, Alex and Bradley, have been through a lot, personally and professionally. As women in their 40s in an industry that is obsessed with age and image they know that they should be supporting one another. But instead they become bitter rivals.

The three leads of 'The Morning Show' do some real great stuff here. Aniston and Witherspoon are great together and the scenes between them are electric. Carell is exceptional as Mitch, but is really in more of a supporting role. Incidentally, Carell is only committed to one season and is unlikely to return for the shows second season.

Witherspoon and Aniston are also executive producers, and even though they get

equal billing this just feels like Aniston's show. She gives the best performance of her career, stealing every scene that she is in. We're not used to seeing Aniston as a dramatic actress at this level, and she nails it.

Through the first 4 hours of this series, the Me Too movement is both praised and questioned in ways that might make some people uncomfortable, but it makes for interesting TV. 'The Morning Show' doesn't ask us to feel bad for Mitch, but instead wants us to understand his confusion over what he did wrong and what he calls 'the specificity of the #MeToo movement.'

'The Morning Show' also has a great supporting cast. Billy Crudup is terrific as Cory Ellison, the newly installed network president who sees Mitch's dismissal an opportunity to leave his mark by reinventing the show. Mark Duplass also does a nice job as Chip Black the embattled producer of The Morning Show who fights Bradley's hiring every step of the way.

I have a couple of minor issues with 'The Morning Show.' I felt like it was being a little preachy at times with some of its dialogue, such as Bradley's rant to the coal mine protestor, and some of the minor supporting characters don't seem to fit. Overall, though, it has a lot to offer to TV viewers. Apple reportedly spent \$300 million dollars on this show, and you can tell. It's a great looking show. It's very well done with great performances and Apple should be proud of its first venture into original programming.

'The Morning Show' has already been renewed for a second season and airs on AppleTV+ on Fridays.

If you have any questions about TV you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column.



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Grace Came Down!

Peter Larocque
RELIGION COLUMNIST

Grace has a face; Grace is a person who is our Lord Jesus Christ! According to John 1:17, we read that Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. So, what is Grace? Grace is God's unmerited, unearned, undeserved favor. From our standpoint, it is a free gift. From God's standpoint, it cost Him the life and blood of His only begotten son, Jesus Christ.

God knew that this Old Covenant, The Law, was impossible to live. The High Standard of the Law which was given by Moses is unbending and unyielding and unmerciful. And if you break one commandment you are guilty of breaking all ten! James 2:10 tells us exactly that. Because God is Love and knowing what man was and was not capable of doing decided to send His Son to live this perfect life for us and then die the death that we should have died. So, man's sin debt that he owed God demanded death for the Bible says the wages of sin is death! Jesus died our death for us making Grace a free gift for us!

God's favor can't be earned, merited, or deserved. All one can do to receive the gift of God's Grace is believe in His Son Jesus Christ and make Him our Lord and Savior and believe that God raised him from the dead! Death did not win, Jesus did and therefore ushered in The New Covenant of Grace!

As we gather to celebrate the birth of

Jesus, we must keep in mind that he was the only baby born to die. Not the Christmas memory that we choose to think on, but still true. It wasn't the Jews or the Roman soldiers that put him on the cross, no not at all. It was our sins and the only way a perfect God could reconcile sinful man back to Him was the shedding of His Son's blood. Jesus said that no man could take His life, but that He would lay it down for us. Jesus willingly said He would do this for us on our behalf. The Holy Spirit became witness to this perfect one-time sacrifice which is stated in Hebrews Chapter 10.

Looking forward to 2020, my prayer for all of you is that this is the year where you grow in Grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am thankful to God for each and every one of you who take the time to read my column every month. For a lack of a better word, I have been given the title of Religion Columnist. But the truth is Christianity is not a religion. Religion is man-made. Being a Christian believer has nothing to do with what man makes. It's all about Jesus, looking unto Him! He is the Author and Finisher, the Originator and Completer of our faith.

Merry Christmas everyone and please have a wonderful and safe New Year!

God Bless you all,
Peter Larocque
peterlarocque@hotmail.com ♦

BENEATH THE SURFACE

O Holy Night

Paul Murano

VALLEY PATRIOT MORALITY COLUMNIST

Christmas season brings about many timeless songs, both religious and secular. I enjoy both sides of Christmas, including the secular in its proper context. Figures like Santa, Frosty, and Rudolph can bring a smile to the soul, adding intrigue to the spirit of the season especially for children. It can also make the long winters up north more tolerable for adults.

Dennis Prager, a prominent and devout Jew, considers Christmas his holiday. It is a national holiday for every American, he says, those who believe Christ is the Incarnation and those who do not. It is a holiday that seems to bring out the best in people, at least temporarily. Why would anyone want to stop wishing people a "Merry Christmas?" Prager wonders.

He makes sense. It is a national holiday, celebrated in various ways by people of different faiths.

Christmas celebrated by Christians comes with an additional, astonishing claim: the invisible eternal infinite Creator of the universe took on a human nature and became one of us – part of His own creation – with a body and soul in time and space. This claim cannot be neutral. It is jolting. It is the biggest claim ever made. If it is true it the most awesome life-changing truth. It is not a claim you yawn at. It is an earthquake, not a rainbow. One must take it seriously and respond immediately and whole-heartedly, one way or the other.

Christians believe this startling claim through the gift of supernatural faith, but there are also ways to know of God's existence and His Incarnation (God becoming man) through natural human reason alone. Let us go beneath the surface to ponder one line of my favorite Christmas carol, "O Holy Night":

"Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'til He appeared and the soul felt its worth."

This one line is rife with meaning. Not everyone calls it sin, but on some level everyone senses that something is wrong, lacking, or imbalanced in life. "Life is unfair," said JFK a half century ago. Life is full of suffering and death. Something big is missing here. Every human heart pines for more. We see this reflected in the "happily-ever-after" themes of plays, novels, and movies, from time immemorial. We seek unchanging and perfect truth, goodness, beauty, love, and home – yet no one finds it in this life. We seek it in marriage, but that falls short. We seek it in money and material goods, but this doesn't satisfy. Sometimes life is so painful we seek to dull the ache with drugs, alcohol, pornography, and other fixes that



end up destroying our lives. Life often seems like quick sand from which we cannot lift ourselves out.

What might it mean, then, that "the soul felt its worth"? What are you and I worth? Like the body pines for food and water, the soul also seeks nourishment and life. What is physical needs physical life, but what is spiritual needs divine life. The soul cannot feel its worth unless it is union with the Source of that life, God. We cannot know our unfathomable dignity with a soul that is dying.

Pondering the Incarnation, the doctrine that God broke into history, His-story, and became part of His own creation at the Annunciation (March 25th) as an embryo, and at Christmas as a baby. The soul feels its worth by knowing the perfect and infinite God took on a human nature to save us from the eternal misery we merited for ourselves through sin. Out of His infinite love, He became the 'new Adam' to fix what the first Adam, and the rest of us, broke. This is because each human being is immeasurably valuable to God, regardless of who we are, how much money we have, how attractive we are, or how 'useful' we are judged by the world. None of these superficial things really matter.

That is the Christian message of Christmas. It is infinitely more hopeful than the secular one. Celebrating winter can be fun. Celebrating the Christ of Christmas, and responding to Him becoming man to re-offer eternal life to us despite our past sins, is to anticipate the perfection of fulfillment and happiness for which each of us were made.

"The thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!"

It is indeed a new and glorious morn – born of divine mercy. Have a joyful, hope-filled, and grateful Christmas season this year!

Paul Murano is a writer, college instructor, and host of 'Beneath the Surface' podcast and videocast. Check out Paul's website at Paulmurano.com, and email him at PJDM@aol.com.



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William Tzizik, Robert Isbell & Meredith Enright, \$545,000, 3 Taglewood Wy South
Gregory F Ventura, Janine M Pescatore, \$240,000, 16 Balmoral St Unit 310
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Helen S Vulgaropulos Est/Helen Vulgaropulos Est & Mary Muldoon/Denise Papanastassiou & Spyros Vulgaropulos, Alethia Papanastassiou & Angel Luna, \$475,000, 478 River Rd
Jason & Hannah Tolla, James & Christine Wu, \$349,000, 197 High St Unit 6
Massachusetts School of Law at Andover Inc, Vicor Corp, \$1,500,000, 500 Federal St
Sundance of Andover LLC, James M Johnson Tr & 90 Pinnacle Street Realty Trust, \$327,000, 22 Railroad St Unit 202
Xiaoyu Cen & Shanshan Yue, Richard Neil Cashman, \$219,500, 1 Colonial Dr Unit C1-3
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Barry C & Donna M Guertin, \$119,800, 2 Francis Dr Unit 112
Equity Trust Co Custodian FBO (Sandra Libby) IRA, Denise M Weadick, \$212,000, 40 Colonial Dr Unit 40-2
Annalee Qualified Personal Residence Trust-II & Richard B Abelson Tr & Mark B Abelson Tr & Stuart B Abelson Tr, Kathleen M & Mark E Eldridge, \$2,750,000, 26 Phillips St
Alpha Development Corp, Geon Lee & Lisa Prescott Lee, \$1,725,000, 55 Porter Rd
Mark S & Patricia M Pelletier, Pantheon Andover Realty Trust & Thomas Anzuoni Tr, \$1,202,500, 25 Alden Rd
148 Haggetts Pond Road Realty Trust & Laura Szekely Tr, Helena D Pereira, \$950,000, 148 Haggetts Pond Rd
Jonathan I & Sharon K Crush, Laurie A & Sean P O'Connor, \$770,000, 20 Wabanaki Wy
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Robert Leahy, \$424,995, 1 Francis Dr Unit 410
Richard Barton & Joyce LaBelle, SAI Builders LLC, \$370,000, 383 South Main
Kristen Howard & Ivy Krull, Dylan J Roy, \$358,000, 15 Topping Rd
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Thomas Wessel & Marta Margarita Ugarte Connelly, Kristen A & Stephen D Blumetti, \$875,000, 4 Mortimer Dr
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Tara L Masih, Susan A Scott, \$397,500, 75 Stevens St
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\$499,000, 131 Andover St
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Colleen Maloney-Benedix & Kevin Benedix, Matthew & Leandra Davis, \$904,000, 2 Hearthstone Pl
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Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Usha & Madan L Zutshi, \$749,975, 8 Hood Dr Unit 195
Michael & Erin Cunningham, Nadine Collier, \$400,000, 23 Topping Rd
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Sharon A Berg, \$196,600, 2 Francis Dr Unit 106
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Joan K Thibault, \$119,800, 2 Francis Dr Unit 211
Mark C Davey, Jesus & Cassandra Jane Vela, \$627,500, 31 Linwood St
Lan Qin Est & Hui Song, Sheila G & Connor Joseph Powerll, \$315,000, 43 Bannister Rd
Melissa A Manning/Melissa A & Anthony M Morgante, Ron Amidon, \$233,500, 16 Balmoral St Unit 209
Gary Finlayson, Richard Barton & Joyce Labelle, \$1,175,000, 69 Phillips St
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Daniel J Berstein Living Trust & Daniel J Bernstein Tr, Robert & Paula Romano, \$865,000, 5 Deerfield Wy
Rogers Realty Trust & Norman F & Judith L Rogers Trs, Sandeep Hari & Priyadarshini Sethuraman, \$846,000, 5 Penbrook Cir
Fleming Avenue Andover LLC, Bei Lei & Jiyu Gao, \$757,100, 32 Fleming Ave
Sarah C P Orr, Jowita K Klein, \$542,500, 45 Vine St
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Sarah P Meier, Monica Lynn Hollowell & James Beaudoin, \$849,900, 23 Algonquin Ave
Mary E Sullivan, Timothy & Alicia Finnegan, \$667,000, 6 Monahan Ln
Mark E Zuckerman Tr & Mark E Zuckerman 2015 Family Trust & Lori J Hunt Tr & Lori J Hunt 2015 Family Trust, Robert & Carolyn J Froding, \$2,100,000, 11 Blackhorse Ln
Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Edna H Allen, \$370,410, 2 Francis Dr Unit 204
Andrew J & Kerren B Steckler, Jason H & Elizabeth J Liss, \$880,000, 151 Chestnut St
Veronica T Greene Revocable Living Trust & Dawn M Greene Tr, Michael D & Deborah L Roux, \$757,000, 7 Avery Ln
Lisa Dooley, Arnold & Merita Buzi, \$247,900, 50 Colonial Dr Unit 8
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Dolores Anoli, William Bailey, \$212,500, 4 Longwood Dr Unit 406
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Michael C Fortin, Ana Luisa Veras & Luis Homero Suarez, \$299,900, 51 Hamlet St
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Arrowpoint Essex LLC, Madison Tax LLC, \$350,000, 256-262 Essex St Units 2, 3
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Francisco Caraballo Ramos Est & Quesy Caraballo, Deborah LeBlanc Tr & XPO Nominee Trust, \$105,000, 65 Willow St



Campbell, Governor Baker, Lt. Gov. Polito, and Secretary Urena Honor Gold Star Families at Annual Tree Dedication

(BOSTON) – Representative Linda Dean Campbell joined government officials, Veterans organizations, and families of our Fallen Heroes at the State House on Wednesday for the Annual Gold Star Families Tree Dedication. The event, organized by the nonprofit Military Friends Foundation, pays tribute to Massachusetts service members who gave their lives in service to our nation and the families who carry their legacies forward.

As House Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, Representative Campbell offered remarks along with Governor Charlie Baker, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard Major General Gary Keefe, Secretary of Veterans' Services Francisco Urena, and Senator Walter Timilty. Over 100 military families from across the Commonwealth were in attendance.

Speaking directly to the Gold Star Families, Representative Campbell stated: "You are the reason that people all over the world pray every day that our experiment in democracy continues, messy as it is; that our country remains the strongest and most generous force in the world for freedom and basic human rights; and that we do not shy away from world leadership."

Further, Representative Campbell offered wishes that the families "will be able

to reflect, in this holy and beautiful season of hope, on the lives of their loved ones, lives lived with purpose, honor, valor, and love of country – our fellow Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice." She expressed her hope that this reflection would bring the families joy and peace throughout the new year.

During the ceremony, two Gold Star Families provided readings in memory of their loved ones. The families of HM3 Meaghan Burns and Corporal Christopher Orlando, USMC both spoke to their children's selfless dedication to their nation, always putting service before themselves. At the end of the ceremony, scores of additional families lined up behind the podium to share the names of their loved ones who are our Fallen Heroes.

Complete with beautiful music, carolers, a visit from Santa, and a stunning holiday tree decorated with photos and memories of our Fallen Heroes, the ceremony provided a somber yet uplifting atmosphere of remembrance, recognition, and support. First Lady Lauren Baker's reading of "'Twas the Night before Christmas" to the children in the room, a yearly tradition, was enjoyed by children and adults alike. The ceremony was followed by a holiday reception for all in the Great Hall – a beautiful Massachusetts tradition to honor our Gold Star Families and their loved ones.

HERO: FROM PAGE 1



B 33 USS WYOMING

the New England Telephone Company. He had a successful career with the telephone company and was widely known for his troubleshooting ability and technical skills. He was always in demand, being called upon to repair and update equipment throughout New England.

At his retirement party, the Lawrence Elk's Hall on River Road was packed to capacity. He had great tenacity in life. Nothing in life was going to get the best of him. He continues to this day to be devoted to his faith, his family, and his country.

He took up golf after the war and only hung up his clubs in his mid-80s. Marshall always enjoyed his weekly golf outings with his brother Veterans from the VFW at Four Corners GC on Friday nights.

Eventually he and Eleanor became snowbirds, splitting their time between their home in Port St. Lucie, Florida and their summer home on Little Island Pond in Pelham, NH. He has recently moved into an assisted living facility where he has enjoyed becoming reacquainted with old friends and making new friends from his generation.

His famous motto to explain his longevity is "If you rest, you rust"!

In order to honor this American Hero

and his family, I enlisted his son Marshall Rogers Jr. as our co-author for the December Hero in Our Midst article!

This Christmas? Please consider giving a Veteran or Active Duty Servicemember the gift of American Legion membership. Simply go to www.legion.org and sign them up!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

The Dracut American Legion asks all World War II and Korean War Veterans to call 603-518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington DC!

John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (known as the Seabees) after retiring from the Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history and a master's in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 22 years. If you know a World War II veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com.



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REAL ESTATE FROM PAGE 25

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 Keum B Park Tr & Park Family Irrevocable Trust, Yen H Tran, \$357,000, 415 Oak St
 Charles F Lewis, 20 Chelmsford Street LLC, \$200,000, 18-20 Chelmsford St Unit B
 Robert A & Debra J Laliberte, Jeanne Miller, \$480,000, 11 Burrill Ave
 James J Runions Tr & Vivian K Runions Realty Trust, Edward D Batista, \$384,900, 69-71 Howe St
 James Ralph & Geomaris Sarcione, James Robert Sarcione, \$375,000, 17 Miller St
 Jeanne Miller, Joel Coichy & Joram Coichy, \$320,000, 28 Arnold St
 24-26 Barker St Inc, Joanna Nunez, \$425,000, 24-26 Barker St
 Matthew & Nicole E Conrad, Justin Taveras, \$310,000, 2 Spencer St
 AMW Nominee Realty Trust & Andrew J Woronka Tr, Donald R Campbell, \$475,000, 25 High St
 Sweeney Living Trust & Kevin G & Gina M Sweeney Trs, Rita D Wells & Randall W Miselis, \$675,000, 9 Valley View Wy
 Richard M & Denise J Peterson, Linda M Levesque, \$520,000, 26 Sable Run Ln
 Sharon A McKay Tr & Sharon A McKay Trust, Americo & Patricia Reyes, \$430,000, 57 Washington St
 Cynthia J Akroyd Tr & Molly Trust, Thuyloc T Vu, \$250,000, 9 Hawthorne Ave
 Donna J & Mitchell J Charest, Mariana Acosta, \$460,000, 45-47 Bicknell Ave
 Richard J & Donna L Zangri, Christopher D Blondin, \$397,500, 90 Harris St
 Kelvin & Tracy Nguyen, Antonette N Miller, \$385,000, 90 Marshall St
 Jane E Crafton & Louis H Gaudreau, Jose J Jimenez, \$324,900, 110 Elm St
 Limary Medina, Juana A Rodriguez, \$279,900, 74 Arnold St

Antonette N Miller, Moises Hiraldo, \$225,000, 117B Camden St Unit B
 Helen Silva, Penelope Cornelio-Silva, \$202,350, 339 Howe St
 Charles E Farrington, Maritza Vega, \$152,000, 50 Danbury Dr Unit 15
 Sheila Schruender Est & Diane S Degaspe, Margaret A Doyle Tr & Margaret A Doyle Trust of 1998, \$130,000, 57 Hampshire St
 Michelle Bertrand, Bethania Apolinar Pena De Abreu & Luis A Abreu De La Rosa & Jean Luis Abreu Apolinar, \$380,000, 45 Oak St
 Stephen J Nadolna Jr, Medgine Bellande, \$285,000, 4 Junior Ave
 Kim I & Michael J Kowal, Alberto Nunez & Damarys M Vargas, \$660,000, 5 Cedar Wood Dr
 Genevieve A DeGagne Est & Jeanne M DiFruscia, Shuting Huang & Phat Nguyen, \$330,000, 134 Tyler St
 Abdo G & Samaria Hashem, Maximo & Liris A Paulino, \$275,000, 75 Pond St Unit 1
 Anthony S Sanfilippo & Alex Sara Wilkinson, Marilyn Santos, \$465,000, 125 Weybossett St
 Richard P & Karen M Tellier, Amado Ruiz, \$379,000, 12 Elsmere Ave
 Watson & Gabriela Schmeiske, Dacare Tyler & Cynthia Fortier, \$410,000, 79 Hanmpstead St
 Kathleen P Bradley/Kathleen P Deloge & Michael Deloge, Carole S & John F Silva, \$389,900, 32 Brook St
 Robert S & Donna M Lodi, Kevin A Sousa, \$255,000, 19 Hampshire Rd Unit 208
 Robert J & Barbie M Monahan, Jennifer Gonzalez, \$485,000, 1 Maple St
 Edward H Massengill Est & Herman E Massengill III & Jacques L Massengill & Matthieu J Massengill & Marianna Massengill Hamidi & Melissa Ying & Ashley Ying & Mimi Ying-Massengill & Soon E Im, Lindsey & Justin Antoon, \$484,000, 3 Judith E Ln
 Thomas Zengeya, Sam & Gina Rodger, \$434,000, 2 College Ln
 Justin & Lindsey Antoon, Barry & Joan E LeBlanc, \$386,000, 216 Pelham St
 Michael S Juergens, James Donovan, \$356,000, 20A Elm St
 Mejia 2016 Trust & Elvis Mejia Tr, Elivis

& Claudia Vanegas Mejia, \$310,000, 2 Wabon Cir
 Paula M Levesque/Paula M Stokinger, Robert E & Deborah M Seeliger, \$296,000, 1 Riverview Blv Unit 8-106
 Marjorie Ann Scolaro Est & Nancy L Mumper, Rafael Monegro, \$262,500, 9 Franklin Ave
 Priscilla A Ross, Robin J Herman, \$214,900, 1 Riverview Blv Unit 1-107
 Chad Sirois, Brittany Morris, \$190,000, 21 Hampshire Rd Unit 21-312
 Seabrook Harbor Irrevocable Trust & Scott C Boddy Tr, BEM Realty LLC, \$1,750,000, 23 Old Ferry Rd
 Michael K & Jill H Cokely, Jessica & Christopher Smith, \$450,000, 10 Rachel Rd
 Sameer & Divya Sharma, Joelina D Peixoto Damata, \$449,000, 15 Renfrew St
 Jeanne K Frawley/Jeanne A Kinsey, John A & Paola Fernandez, \$345,000, 23 Emerson Ave
 Raif T & Claude S Wakim, American Training Inc, \$575,000, 2 Bramble Hill Rd
 Mark Mastrangelo/Mark D Mastrangelo, Daniel Batista, \$420,000, 171 Oak St
 Louis J Beathley Jr, Wolls Andy Joseph & Samy Joseph, \$395,000, 575 Prospect St
 Rhonda Bass, Meriana N El Jamous & Marwan El Jamous, \$385,000, 64 Maple St
 Jonathan Borden, Katelynn & Abigail Dornbusch, \$340,000, 10 Piedmont St
 Brian J Sheehy, Christopher R Sheehy, \$307,500, 26 Riverview Ave
 Riverside Drive LLC, Christine Sheehan, \$242,000, 34 Burnham Rd Unit 104
 Toll MA IV LLC, Surianello Irrevocable Trust & Ralph Surianello Tr, \$589,352, 46 Sequoia Dr Unit 61
 Jan K Quiles & Sarah C Bourouphael, Davian E Fret, \$365,000, 235 Hampshire Rd
 Krsten M McKean, Mallory Tine, \$212,000, 23-305 Hampshire Rd
 Linda S Medeiros Tr & Medeiros Family Trust, Christopher & Sarah Gauvin, \$450,000, 32 Pheasant Hill Ln
 Ainsley Flynn, Yan Carlos Ramirez & Eva Rodriguez & Willie Rafael Ramirez, \$350,000, 8 Sunset Ave
 Matthew D & Kiera N MacDonald, Heather Boutin, \$345,000, 13 Golf Ave Unit B
NORTH ANDOVER
 Ronald H & Laura M Naismith, Peyman & Melahat Samali, \$650,000, 42 Huckleberry Ln

Peter D & Shirley A Galvin, Laurie J Zimmerman, \$480,000, 52 Millpond
 Craig & Loretta Taylor Trs & Taylor Family Living Realty Trust, Matthew R Yee & Molly R Malandrino, \$580,000, 445 Chestnut St
 Jean R & Chirleigh Benjamin, Rodrigo Pacheco de Assuncao, \$434,900, 36 Linden Ave
 BDaniel A & Yoko M Connolly, Corey P & Ariana D Harris, \$650,000, 17 Highland View Ave
 Chris & Lisa Louth, James F & Kristina Silva, \$464,900, 48 Compass Point Rd Unit 11
 Lindsay Foy, Nicole M Cronin, \$184,000, 25 Fernview Ave Unit 25 FV-8
 Stephen J & Diane M Pessinis, Kwesi T & Jamie Moody, \$735,000, 64 Stanton Wy
 James B & Carina S Logue, John F Delaney III & Kristen L Delaney, \$600,000, 119 Martin Ave
 Susan B Samoriski Tr & Sarah Elizabeth Silvester Tr & Benton Investment Trust, Aleksandr & Viktoriya I Yasonik, \$530,000, 168 Campbell Rd
 John F & Kristen Delaney, Richard Fantasia & Pia Amicone, \$520,000, 5 Bacon Ave
 Chirag S Chowhan & Nipa S Purohit, Mitesh & Dimple Patel, \$270,000, 16 Andrew Cir
 U S Bank N A Tr, LS Property LLC, \$348,500, 5 Glenwood St
 Sorhab Ahadian/Sorhab Adadian & Judith Ahadian, Benjamin J & Jessica A Weiner, \$775,000, 122 Rosemont Dr
 Frederick C Scheer/Frederick C Scheer Jr & Olga Scheer, Brian & Octavia LaGrasse, \$670,000, 18 Copley Cir
 Wesley & Nicole M Caron, Rory N Nguyen, \$610,000, 201 Marbleridge Rd
 Terri L Petzold, Yiu Fat Wong & Yihan Liu, \$450,000, 88 Mablun Ave
 Eleven Mill Pond Nominee Realty Trust & Shelley A Abrahams Tr, Allan Oucho, \$350,000, 11 Mill Pond
 David Cronin, Mohamad Salah Abdelhamid & Saida Innab, \$285,000, 234 Dale St
 Allison L Mariano/Allison M & Kenneth Cyr, Angela G Sateriale, \$207,200, 4 Harvest Dr Unit 323
 Joseph & Dawn Sapienza, William L Snell & Arielle Martone, \$775,000, 40 Sterling Ln
 Albert & Sharon Cuoco, Remy P Magnier-Watanabe & Kaoruko Magnier-Watanabe, \$682,000, 107 Summer St
 A & C Realty Trust II & James M Holbrook Sr Tr & Andrea M Holbrook Tr, Christopher Joseph Maher & Patricia Michelle Maher, \$475,000, 625 Turnpike St
 Dominic Pefine Jr & Anabela S Pefine, Mathew & Amanda Fitzgibbons, \$379,000, 579 Massachusetts Ave
 Linda Kyomitmaitee Tr & Marshall Irrevocable Trust, Allan DeLucia, \$230,000, 148 Main St Unit K-125
 Raffaele Dattorre, Frederick J Bleiler III & Kimberly J Bleiler, \$597,500, 101 Duncan Dr
 Kennicker Family Trust of December 13, 2010 & Amy Kennicker Tr, Paul & Maura Sheehan, \$489,000, 85 Martin Ave
 Seaport Homes LLC, Mirian G Baldeos, \$540,000, 88 Colgate Dr
 Clementina M Lucci, Matthew Robert Fuller, \$170,000, 23 Fernview Ave Unit 1
 Frederick G Habeeb/Frederick Habeeb, Hiago Desena, \$624,500, 58 Milk St
 Elizabeth C Otto, Tracey A & Robert E Jefferson, \$425,000, 4 Alcott Wy Unit 4A
 Kyle & Nicole Adamian, Alcía J Brawn Tr & Tencza Parsons Tr & AJB Realty Trust, \$246,500, 82 Jefferson St Unit 47
 Erik & Menghan Wen, Sinesio Eugenio De Sousa, \$243,000, 72 Jefferson St Unit 55
 Nathaniel W & Sarah Bragdon/Sarah Grenier, Lynn Ann Gioranino, \$221,900, 14 Edgelawn Ave Unit 9
 Nickerson Realty Trust & Leona A Nickerson Tr, Paul Gangi & Jennifer Sharp, \$425,000, 100 Moody St
 Rita D Wells, Jose Luis Rodriguez-Carrion & Sonia B Perez-Martinez, \$376,000, 73 Cotuit St Unit 2
 Sandro B Quiros, Jessica L Fredericks, \$379,900, 22 Irving Rd
 Wells Fargo Bank NA Tr, MIA Investment Properties LLC, \$540,700, 195 Bear Hill Rd

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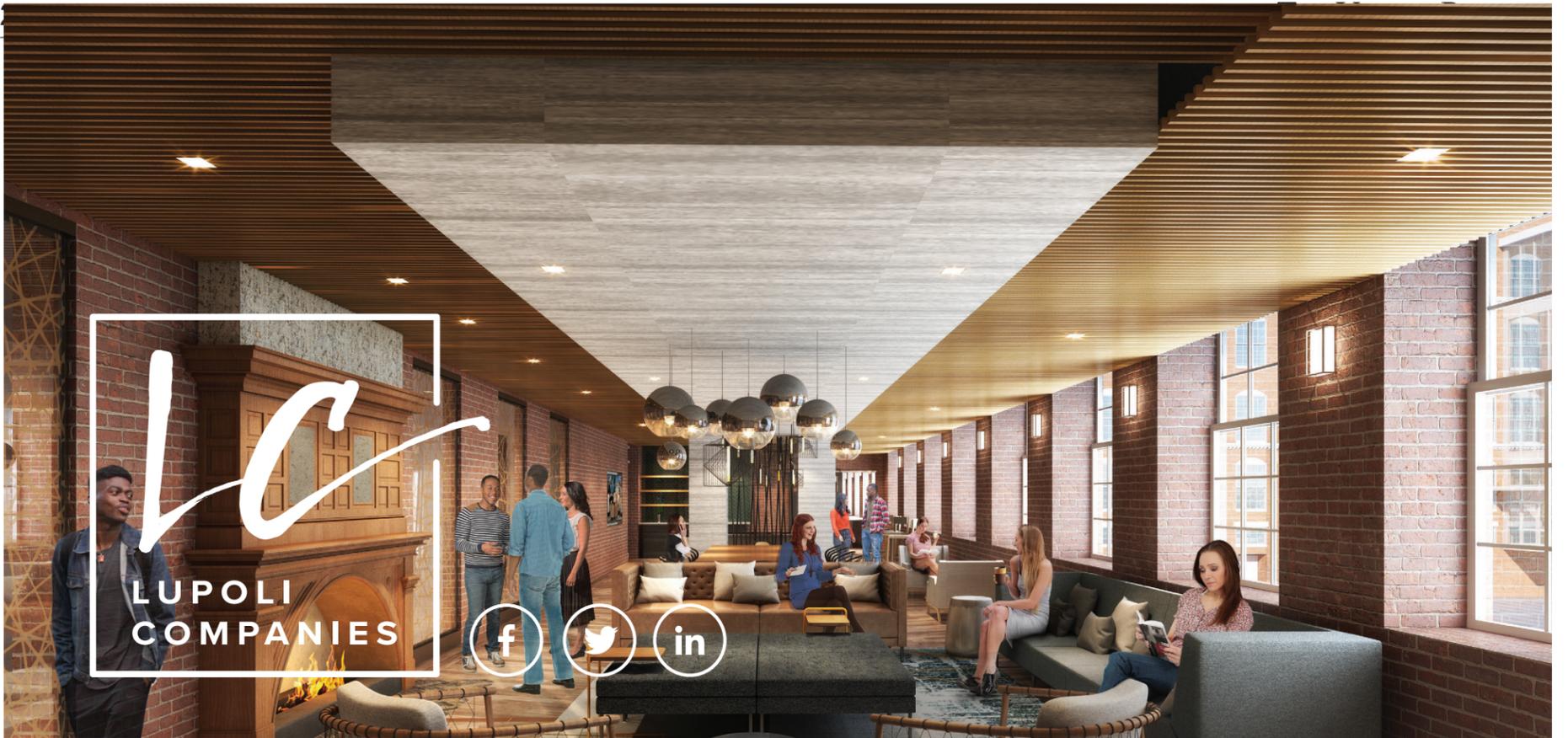
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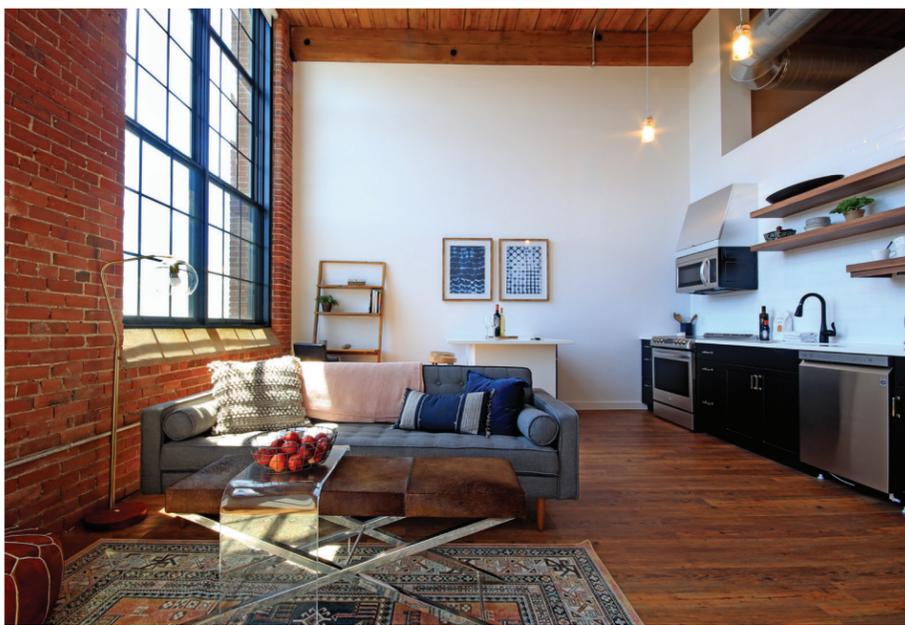
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