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| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>MISSING</p> <p>KELIANIS HERNANDEZ</p>  <p>AGE: 13 yrs old EYES: Brown HAIR: Brown COMPLEXION: Light HEIGHT: 5'2" WEIGHT: 119 lbs CLOTHING: UNKNOWN LAST SEEN: The area of Lowell St. Methuen around 12:15am on 4/22/17</p> <p>Kelianis was reported missing to the police on 4/22/2017. She was last seen in the area of Lowell St. with Ysabel Suazo.</p> <p>If you have information on her whereabouts, please contact</p> <p>Methuen Police Department (978)983-8698</p> | <p>MISSING</p> <p>JENNIFER CEPEDA</p>  <p>AGE: 15 yrs old EYES: Brown HAIR: Brown COMPLEXION: Light HEIGHT: 5'4" WEIGHT: 114 lbs CLOTHING: unknown LAST SEEN: Elm St. Methuen, 1230am on 4/17/17.</p> <p>Jennifer was reported missing to the police on Monday, April 17, 2017. She was last seen with Jessica Jimenez, on Elm St. in Methuen before going into Lawrence.</p> <p>If you have information on her whereabouts, please contact</p> <p>Methuen Police Department (978)983-8698</p> | <p>MISSING</p> <p>JESSICA JIMENEZ</p>  <p>AGE: 13 yrs old EYES: Brown HAIR: Brown COMPLEXION: Light HEIGHT: 5'4" WEIGHT: 135 lbs CLOTHING: unknown LAST SEEN: Elm St. Methuen, 1230am on 4/17/17.</p> <p>Jessica was reported missing to the police on April 17, 2017.</p> |
| <p>MISSING</p> <p>YSABEL SUAZO</p>  <p>AGE: 13 yrs old EYES: Brown HAIR: Brown COMPLEXION: Fair HEIGHT: 5'5" WEIGHT: 106 lbs CLOTHING: Unknown LAST SEEN: The area of Lowell St. Methuen around 12:15am on 4/22/17</p> <p>Ysabel was reported missing to the police on 4/22/2017. She was last seen in the area of Lowell St. with Kelianis Hernandez.</p> <p>If you have information on her whereabouts, please contact:</p> <p>Methuen Police Department (978)983-8698</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*All these children were located</p> | | |

Methuen Police say they get no cooperation from state officials at the Department of Children and Families when kids go missing. What's more, lack of control of the children in their care has lead to 419 calls to Methuen police for missing children since 2014.

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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

Lillian Aronsen, Women's Army Corp (WAC), WWII

Beth D'Amato
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

Lillian Aronsen was born in the rebuilt home of her paternal grandparents on July 1, 1917 in Salem, Massachusetts. The original home was destroyed in The Great Salem Fire on June 25th 1914. Lillian's

parents were married the day before the fire on June 24th. They were supposed to move into that home but were displaced to a rented home with the rest of the family. One year later, they all moved back into the original rebuilt family home.

Lillian was one of six sisters that grew up in the Salem area. Her grandfather

owned a fruit and produce wholesale market and her father worked for the family business. Her mother stayed home to raise the girls. Lillian had a happy childhood and lived in a loving household. She graduated from Salem High school in 1935. After high school, Lillian got a job working for the State of Massachusetts. Lillian never married nor had children. She never drove or got a driver's license. But Lillian wanted very much to help in the war effort.

Lillian was twenty six years old in 1943 when she voluntarily entered WAC (Women's Army Corp). Originally WAAC (Women's Auxiliary Army Corp) but it was changed over to WAC. She also volunteered for the Red Cross. Women did not go into combat at this time in history. The main purpose of women in the military during WW2 was to work in all the administrative, office and factory positions to free up the men to go into combat.

Eventually she was sent to a Staging area at Camp Patrick Henry in Warwick County in Virginia. During this time, Lillian became very sick and was hospitalized. She said, "I was given a diagnosis of Spinal Meningitis. It was an isolated case and Penicillin was still new at the time but it worked and I fully recovered. After I returned to my outfit, one of the male officers made a comment, "I'm surprised to see you again. I thought you were dead."

"Meanwhile, I'm still alive and he's long gone" said Lillian.

Lillian was formally assigned to Camp Patrick Henry and stayed for two years. Then in 1945, she was sent to Camp Stone-



man in California. This military facility was located in Pittsburg, California and served as a major staging area for the Army in World War II and the Korean War. Per Lillian, "We ladies in WAC blew off a lot of steam in nearby San Francisco during our stay."

Lillian was in California for two years until they opened the WAC training center at Fort Lee in Virginia. She was reassigned there and lived on the base. She acquired a position working in the OCS Headquarters (Officer Candidate School). This is where training was received to become an officer.

HERO: PAGE 19

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Remembering Our Law Enforcement Heroes

Jeff Katz

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy designated May 15th as Peace Officers' Memorial Day. President Kennedy further designated the week in which that date falls as Police Week. In the fifty five years since President Kennedy issued his proclamations, we have lost thousands of law enforcement officers. Some of these heroes were police officers, others deputy sheriffs, state troopers and Federal agents. Men, as well as women, gave their lives, some wearing uniforms while others were in plain clothes. Regardless of their age, sex, department, skin color or religion each of the fallen made the ultimate sacrifice. They each laid down their lives while serving others.

During May, numerous opportunities will be presented for honoring law enforcement officers doing the job day in and day out. Some local agencies will invite interested members of the community to attend ceremonies paying tribute to those officers who went above and beyond this past year. Some civic groups and religious organizations will take the chance to salute the best of the badge. There will be events which are packed with attendees and others where, sadly, you won't have any difficulty finding a seat.

At the end of the day however, once the police officers have collected their ribbons and plaques, they will return to the front lines while most of society returns to the

comfort of their homes. The police officer reports to work at any time on any day. Regardless of weather or prior personal commitments, our officers can be called in to action whenever needs arise. While most of us go home at the end of the day with no further job requirements, law enforcement personnel are never truly completely off duty.

While it's been decades since I wore a badge, I suppose I still think as a cop. I know full well, the personal sacrifices our law enforcement officers make on a daily basis. I appreciate the willingness of our heroes to give up so much in a never ending effort to hold that thin line which separates civil society from lawlessness. In an age of omnipresent cell phone video, social media blitzes and rushes to judgment by anti-police zealots it has become more difficult than ever before for the good guys to go out and do what's right and yet they still do.

I would urge you to attend any ceremonies you can during Police Week to show your support for our men and women in blue (and brown and green, etc.).

If you are so inclined, remember in your prayers and thoughts, not just the 144 officers who died in the line of duty this past year but the families, friends and co-workers who are missing them. And take a second, to simply walk up to a law enforcement officer and just say thank you. You will make a difference in their day in a way that you cannot even begin to imagine.

"WEATHER 101" WITH AL!

Al Kaprielian

VALLEY PATRIOT WEATHERMAN

The Month of April went by quickly and is now behind us. The month provided some fluctuations in temperatures. Boston averaged three and a half degrees above normal for the month. We saw some days in the 80's making us bring out the summer clothes. April also had some cool days.

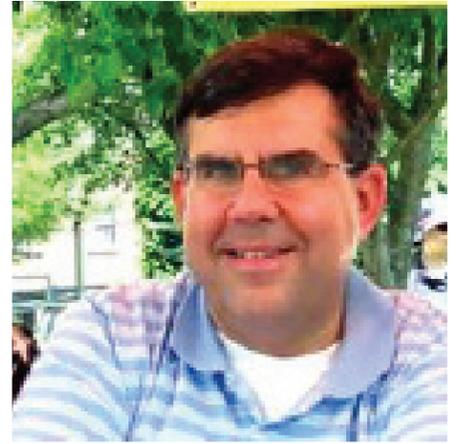
We saw some rainy days during the month and as a result Boston averaged above normal for rainfall for April. During the last weekend in April we saw tornadoes in Texas and also a blizzard with heavy snow in western Kansas. The snow extended north into parts of Minnesota.

The summer-like temperatures over New York state caused some severe thunderstorms in this area for the first night of May. As this line of storms moved east into New England it began to weaken as it encountered more stable air. This stable air was the result of chilly air at ground level. This chilly air was coming from the wind blowing off the chilly ocean.

Thunderstorms cannot survive when they move into chilly air at ground level. As we moved into the latter part of the first week of May we saw a pretty intense low pressure system bring some heavy rain along with cool temperatures. An amplified jet stream caused this storm to intensify. This storm was a slow mover because there was also a low pressure system in the upper levels of the atmosphere in addition to the surface low.

When these two low pressure systems are in the same location we saw they are vertically stacked. This means they are both about on top of each other. When this occurs, this surface low pressure system can stall causing a prolonged period of unsettled weather causing cool weather in the month of May.

When the wind blows off the chilly ocean this enhances the chilly temperatures. The ocean warms slower than the land during the springtime and this can have a large



effect on our high temperatures. During the month of May the sun is continuing to get higher in the sky and this will cause the daily high temperatures to continue to rise as we go through the month. By Memorial Day weekend the growing season will be underway and you can start to plant your gardens and flowers as the risk of subfreezing temperatures decreases. Depending how much amplification occurs with the jet stream will determine how much rain and moisture we get this month. This will also impact our temperatures for the month. Even with winter now gone we have still seen the jet stream become amplified at times. If the jet stream becomes amplified enough, this can cause a more intense upper level trough. This can result in below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. With summer on the way remember the hot weather tips. Drink plenty of water and stay hydrated. Wear light-weight clothing (shorts). Do not partake in any strenuous outdoor activities during the heat of the day. Wait until after the sun goes down. Next month, June starts meteorological summer and also the start of hurricane season. Next month we will talk about hurricanes and where they form along with some of their characteristics. We will also recap the weather which occurs in May and see if temperatures and precipitation are above or below normal for the month.

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It's Time We Stop Looking Away From The Violence

Last month a deranged person broadcasted live video of himself on Facebook, randomly executing a stranger on the street.

As expected, the media and politicians went into hysteria-mode.

Facebook officials met with government officials and the media, and of course, everyone is "working hard" to try and prevent this from happening again.

Cable news bobble-heads clutched their pearls and gasped, asking why Facebook is not being held responsible. They held panel discussions calling for Facebook to delay all live broadcasts until someone from Facebook can "approve" of the content going out. Some, like CNN, even advocated new laws forcing Facebook to monitor and censor live video feeds.

Our question is, WHY?

We believe that the savage Facebook killer did all of us a really big favor.

If the Facebook killer hadn't broadcast his crime and just randomly went out and

killed someone we might never have known who committed the murder.

There would have been a police manhunt, hours of law enforcement officers investigating, and a hunt for whoever committed the crime, if the cops ever got an accurate description. Think about the cost of that?

Instead, because the killer went live with his crime on his own Facebook page, the cops knew exactly who the killer was. They knew exactly where he lived, and they had proof positive of his guilt in the crime due to video evidence that was provided by ... HIM.

How is that a bad thing?

We believe the Facebook killer is a role model to other savages in our country who want to go out and commit violent crimes against their fellow man. Think of the money and man hours we would save.

We are troubled that the so-called news media is supposed to be objective and probe these issues from all sides, yet we didn't see

one news outlet even ask the question: why is this bad?

We are living in a culture that values censoring uncomfortable images and words to sanitize the ugliness around us. That way of thinking has only lead to more violence and more brutal savagery in our neighborhoods than ever before.

The Valley Patriot has also experienced this.

Last month we posted a photo on-line of a man in Lawrence lying face down in the snow after being shot, execution-style in broad daylight. We were inundated with emails decrying how horrible this was. But, there was no blood, the victim was not identifiable, and there was nothing gruesome about the photo. In fact, had we posted the photo under the heading, "Man Falls Asleep in Snow" nobody would have batted an eye.

We say, it is time for Americans to start thinking for themselves and stop reacting emotionally to the images they see or the

messages they hear in the media.

With all the violence going on around us, especially in neighboring Lawrence, we have decided that it's time for the people living outside the city, (you know, those paying the bills), need to see the carnage happening on the streets of that city every day.

That's why we have started live broadcasting video of police calls on our Facebook page, as they happen.

Let's stop looking away when savages ply their trade of violence and mayhem. Let's stop pretending that it's not really all that bad, when deep down we all know it really is.

We are living in a new age of technology. We can both block out the harsh realities of the world around us and give up our free speech rights, or we can wake up and try to fix the problem.

We side with the latter.

And we are going to be proactive about it.

MA Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) Rejects Racism Claims Against Lawrence Police

Lawrence Cops Say They May Be Filing a Defamation Suit Against Officer Green

The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) has ruled in favor of Lawrence Police in a discrimination suit filed by embattled Lawrence Police Officer William Green.

Green accused the Lawrence Police Department, and in particular Superior Officers of racism and discrimination against him. Officer Green is Black.

Green alleged that he was being treated differently than white officers when he was disciplined for, among other things; allowing a prisoner to escape, failing to turn in approximately \$4,000 he had been paid in cash from doing private detail work at nightclubs, going outside the chain of command, and accessing the database to obtain personnel information about another officer's sick time.

The MCAD not only found that Green's allegations of racism were unfounded against superior officers of the Lawrence Police, they disputed point-for-point, each of his charges of racism and discrimination as false.

READ FULL RULING ON VALLEYPATRIOT.COM

President of the Lawrence Police Superior Officers Union, Captain Scott McNamara, told The Valley Patriot that he was

happy the matter has come to a close, and that he and his fellow officers were vindicated by the Commission's findings that no discrimination or racism took place.

"This has been a long awaited vindication of our members on baseless claims and outright lies. As you can imagine we as police officers value our reputation in the community. These officers have dedicated their professional lives to the police department and the people of this city. There are very few things worse than being labeled a racist or someone who engages in discriminatory practices. Certainly we are pleased with this outcome."

McNamara says that he and the other officers accused of racism are exploring legal options and may sue Officer Green for defamation.

Asked what he thought about the public pronouncements by Officer Green at city council meetings and on his Facebook page that the Lawrence Police are "racist" McNamara did not hesitate to answer.

"Frankly, his opinion means little to our members," he said.

"His disciplinary record speaks for itself and his lack of integrity and trustworthiness is a matter of public record. We can't help but acknowledge that

"[Officer Green's] disciplinary record speaks for itself and his lack of integrity and trustworthiness is a matter of public record. We can't help but acknowledge that social media has given him a platform, a platform that he has perverted to stoke the flames of racial animus in our city for his own personal and political gain."

Lawrence Superior Officers Union President, Capt. Scott McNamara



social media has given him a platform, a platform that he has perverted to stoke the flames of racial animus in our city for his own personal and political gain."

"To be honest, it's particularly disheartening when we see others buying into it. Our relationship with the community we serve means everything to us, so when we see others adopting his positions whether they are aspiring mayors, radio personalities, or average every day citizens it is most certainly discouraging."

"Unlike William Green, we simply do not have the time nor the inclination to spend our days making YouTube videos. The fact of the matter is, the rest of us

are busy facing the very real challenge of policing the City of Lawrence."

"This department has come a long way under Chief Fitzpatrick's leadership. Despite our recent challenges, crime in general has decreased significantly and statistics that reflect good quality proactive police work are through the roof. It is important to note, despite William Green's claims, this progress has occurred during a time in which we have adopted a department-wide 'community engagement philosophy' and our own workforce has become considerably more diverse."

MCAD: PAGE 10

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Rabbi Zalman Borenstein: received rabbinical ordination at Rabbinical College of America and is currently co-director of Chabad of North Andover. He is an authority on Kashrut throughout New-England and will be responsible for overseeing the North Andover facility.

Saar Shafir: A former F-15 pilot, attended London School of Economics and Fletcher School of Diplomacy and subsequently managed the Israeli government program for energy innovation. He will be discussing the Cannabis innovation ecosystem in Israel and the pipeline of Israeli and International companies that wish to locate in North Andover.

Jeffrey Goldstein, MD: Completed his fellowship in Radiation Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center and was medical director of Radiation Oncology at Lowell General Hospital for over 20 years. He was director of residency training at Sheba Medical Center in Israel and is now Vice-Chairman of the Sheba Cannabis Research Institute. He will discuss some of the world leading medical research using Cannabis being conducted in Israel.

Light Refreshments will be served

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Lawrence Under Siege

State, Local, Federal Cops Take Back Streets of Lawrence

After a significant spike in violent crimes over the last six months, Lawrence Police Chief James Fitzpatrick has called in some heavy reinforcements to take back the streets and protect the nearly 90,000 people living in his city.

Lawrence is the poorest community in Massachusetts.

Approximately 80% of Lawrence's municipal funding comes from the state and federal taxpayers.

Over the last two weekends local, county, state, and federal law enforcement officials have surged into Lawrence to try and stem the epidemic of street violence plaguing the city.

On one night alone, Friday April 28th, The Valley Patriot counted more than 75 different law enforcement agents driving through, and walking through the city.

Setting up command centers at various locations, the alphabet soup of law enforcement agencies patrolled the streets in marked and unmarked cars.

They pulled over vehicles, responded to radio calls, backed up uniformed Lawrence officers, and some agencies even booked and processed their own arrests so that Lawrence Police Officers would not be stuck in the station writing reports instead of being on the streets.

This included: the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Alcohol Tobacco and

Firearms (ATF), The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), The Treasury, ICE, The Massachusetts State Police Community Action Team, The Essex County Sheriff's Department Canine Unit, The US Marshalls, Customs and Immigration Service, Homeland Security, the Methuen Police Department, Alcohol Beverages Control Commission (ABCC), and several other agencies the Valley Patriot could not identify.

MORE LOCAL COPS TOO

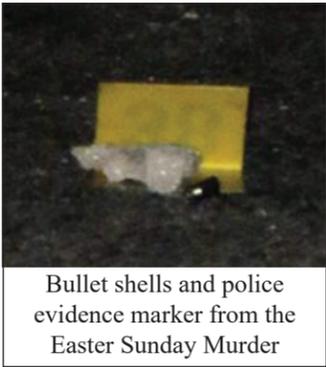
Chief Fitzpatrick has ordered an additional shift of uniformed police officers on the street Friday and Saturday nights totaling 12-15 uniformed police officers

(including superior officers) on a shift which normally has 4-6 officers on the road on a busy weekend. He also has additional detectives on the road but would not say how many.

"We started doing impact patrols four days a week, we've stepped that up now to five. The impact patrols are to show

a presence in areas that we've identified with crime analysis, where we have had 'shots fired' calls in the recent past ... or neighborhoods where we have had a spike in aggravated assaults for example. We are concentrating an additional uniformed presence in those areas and will continue to do so."

Fitzpatrick says that his department has



Bullet shells and police evidence marker from the Easter Sunday Murder



always had a good working collaboration with the FBI, The North Shore Gang Task Force, and other agencies.

WHY THE SIEGE?

Face down in the snow guy, dozens of shootings, stabbings, and murders are common to the people who live in Lawrence on any given week. Despite the fact that the Lawrence police constantly tout statistics that crime is on the decline, the frequency and brutality of violent crimes in Lawrence have increased dramatically in the last six months.

Lawrence has seen a gruesome beheading, several domestic shootings, stabbings, drive by execution shootings, increases in aggravated assaults, and running gunbattles: one, where cars raced through neighborhoods in broad daylight shooting at each other, as they weaved in and out of traffic. Lawrence Police found at least five groups of shell casings (10 - 20 in num-

ber) in five different residential neighborhood locations when it was over.

There was also an execution style shooting of a man at Burger King on Broadway in April.

One drive-by murder took place in broad daylight in February when a black car pulled up to a man standing on a snowbank and executed him before speeding off.

On Easter Sunday, 40 year-old Aracelys Valdez DeLeon was murdered outside the LaCava Nightclub when Luis Rodriguez fired nine shots into a crowd of people striking DeLeon and a male companion. The companion survived. The murderer was later arrested in Texas and has yet to be extradited to Massachusetts to be charged with her murder.

LAWRENCE'S NIGHTLIFE

The Chief says that a large portion of the violence in Lawrence is because of so

SIEGE: PAGE 10

Rivera: Lawrence Is NOT a Sanctuary City

Protest for Illegal Aliens in Lawrence Closes Downtown Area Despite Promises Not to Do So

Tom Duggan

VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

Last week a rally was held in Lawrence in support of illegal aliens on the same day as the communist holiday May Day. Attending the rally and distributing literature were the fascist organization ANTIFA which masquerades itself as an "anti-fascist" activist group.

About 400-500 people crowded on the Campagnone Common in North Lawrence banging drums and shouting slogans like "Education not deportation" and held signs insulting people who disagree with



them as "racist". The event was also partially organized by the social Justice Warrior training organization Lawrence Community Works, which does operate with taxpayer money.

Standing on stage at the rally was Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera, and below the stage were Lawrence City Councilors and was even attended by State Senator Barbara L'Italien, State Rep. Juana Mattias, and former Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua.

We asked Lawrence Mayor Rivera why he was attending a rally in support of citizens of other governments when he was elected by the citizens of the US government to represent them.

"I'm here to celebrate the immigrant culture in Lawrence that we have always had.

TOM: "I have no idea what that means, what does 'immigrant culture' mean."

Rivera: "I think it means what you think it might mean."

TOM: "I don't think you want to know what I think it means quite frankly."

RIVERA: "Lawrence has always had Italian community, an Irish community, and I'm here to show support. Some people feel scared. Some have no reason to be scared. This is not a Spanish people thing."

TOM: "They have billed this as a rally to support 'immigrants' but we all know what this really is. It's a rally to support illegal aliens, you can see all of it on all the signs that are here. What do you think



PHOTO: RICH RUSSELL

about that?

RIVERA: "I think the federal government has failed immensely for not setting up a policy that deals with this stuff.

So, I'm looking forward to see what the policies are going to be for this administration. And I'm not saying it's this administration. The Obama administration failed at it. I think the last time we had a comprehensive immigration policy was under Reagan. If we are going to get serious about this stuff, the federal government should get back into the game."

TOM: Is Lawrence a sanctuary city?"

RIVERA: "Lawrence is a "Trust Act" city."

TOM: "What does that mean?"

RIVERA: "It means if you do everything right, and you are undocumented you are not going to get reported to ICE

(for deportation) if you are just going to work everyday [staying out of trouble]."

"But if you are a criminal and you are undocumented you are going to be reported to ICE. We've done it six times since we became an "ACT" community. We deported people involved in the heroin trade, people involved in violence, we report them all to ICE. Lawrence is not a safe haven for criminals."

TOM: Don't you think you need to publicize that more? People think Lawrence is a sanctuary city and the criminals hear that and they drain right into Lawrence."

RIVERA: "You know I agree with you, this thing about Lawrence being a sanctuary city. If you do something bad and you have to be fingerprinted for it, ICE will know right away that you are here.

ILLEGALS: PAGE 10

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

OUR NEW BUSINESS CARD PROGRAM - Did you know for as little as \$99 a month you can place your business card in The Valley Patriot and be seen in over 800 locations in more than 40 cities and towns? What better way to increase your exposure to our readers and support The Valley Patriot at the same time?

Give us a call at (978) 771-4091.

BOOKS FOR VETS - HEROES IN OUR MIDST - I am very proud of our new book "Heroes in Our Midst, From the pages of The Valley Patriot" (available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and at the Valley Patriot office). This book is a compilation of short stories and interviews we have done with local veterans in the Merrimack Valley over the last 13 years. If you have lived in the Lawrence, Methuen, Haverhill or Lowell area in the last few years you are sure to know the men and women we honor in this book. We also have a Books for Vets program for those who want to purchase a book to be donated to a local veteran. For \$24.99 you can help us get copies of Heroes in Our Midst into local VFW's, DAV's, American Legions, and VA Hospitals in the area. AND if you purchase a book for a veteran we will take \$10 off, if you want to get one for yourself. To donate to "Books for Vets" you can mail a check for \$24.99 to PO BOX 453, North Andover, MA 01845. I will personally deliver the book and even sign the book for the veteran with your name listed as the donor on the inside cover. Or if you want to drop by the office to get one, we are at 75 Main St. in North Andover. Please call before you come. (978) 771-4091.

SUPERINTENDENT RILEY AND ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEES

For the last 20 years there has been a struggle in the City of Lawrence over control of the school system. As far back as 1996 the Lawrence School Committee and the community have been fighting the state for local control. I know, because I was on the school committee in 1996 when the state tried to take over. There is, and has always been a push by some educational elites and politicians to do away with an elected school committee and install an appointed board to oversee the millions of dollars spent on educating the children of Lawrence. Since I sat on the board I have always opposed this idea as I believe in local control and giving the voters a say in what goes on in their schools. But, since Jeff Riley was installed by the Department

of Education as the receiver of the schools, it has become obvious that the pool of candidates to choose from are just not capable of doing the job. In the last four years Lawrence has continued to elect school board members, but because the school system is under state receivership they have absolutely no power. How has that worked out? The schools are no worse off now under Riley's dictatorial control over hiring, firing, budgets and spending. If we don't start thinking outside the box, the billions we will spend in the coming decade will be just as much of a waste as the trillions we have spent in the last 40 years. Maybe, just maybe, it's time to rethink the way we oversee the administration of Lawrence's schools. Maybe, after all this consistent failure in the last 30 years it's time take another look at having an appointed school committee in Lawrence. Email me your thoughts at valleypatriot@aol.com.

USELESS LAWRENCE CITY ATTORNEY DOESN'T LOG CASES

For as long as this newspaper has existed I have referred to Lawrence City Attorney Charlie Boddy as "Charlie Useless Boddy". Nothing has vindicated his nickname more than his incompetence and deceptions during the Lantigua administration. Well, until now that is. You see, last month when William Green lost his latest bogus lawsuit against the city, I submitted a public records request to Charlie "Useless" Boddy. What I asked for was the total cost of legal and administrative services the taxpayers have shelled out to defend all these lawsuits. Instead of complying with my request, "Useless" sent a letter claiming that he could not comply with my request because ... get this ... as the city attorney he doesn't log his time on each individual case because he is on salary. It takes a lot to stun me, I've seen a lot, but this one was a stunner. I also asked for the costs for outside attorneys hired to defend the city against William Green in previous cases. Again the answer I got from Charlie "Useless" Boddy was that he just didn't have that information.

Think about this for a minute. I don't know one lawyer in this country who doesn't log their time on each case they work on even when they are on salary. If the city wins a lawsuit and the judge orders the plaintiff to pay the city's legal expenses, how does Charlie "Useless" Boddy calculate the city's cost on that particular case? So, is this a case where the Lawrence City Attorney REALLY doesn't

log his hours and has no records at all as to how much we, the taxpayers, shelled out for outside counsel because Boddy was too incompetent to handle a case. Make no mistake about it, this is a war Boddy cannot win. And he knows that, I beat him in court three times already and I'm perfectly happy to take time out of my busy schedule to make it four.

N. ANDOVER TOWN MEETING POT FARM AT OSGOOD LANDING

Annual Town Meeting this year is Tuesday, May 16th where voters will be asked to approve two warrant articles for a marijuana growing and production facility at Osgood Landing on Route 125.

If the warrant articles are approved at the May 16th Annual Town Meeting, tax revenues will be circulated back into the town. As a single use facility, this project has the potential of generating over a million dollars in taxes.

There is the Host Agreement for medical marijuana. The medical marijuana license holder must be a nonprofit. There is a stipulation in these Host Agreements negotiated by the town - a contract with the town stating that it will pay the town a set fee each year based on the amount of space used to grow the marijuana.

A minimum of \$2.00 per square foot of growth space can be negotiated. Once everything is up and running - with the taxes and the Host Agreement in place - the Town is looking at well over \$3 million dollars collected each year.

Visit valleypatriot.com for more information.

With the town taking a hard turn to the left, there is no doubt we are going to need additional revenue streams to prevent a property tax hike when the new Board of Selectmen start spending more money. I'm voting yes! But first I will be at the Taste of Methuen which, for some reason ALWAYS falls on the night of Town Meeting.

WHY PAY MORE FOR YOUR MERCHANT ACCOUNT?

So, I bet you have a credit card swiper and you have to pay the bank to lease it. I also bet you pay too much for your credit card merchant account. If you have a small business and you are looking to cut costs, the amount you pay for your customers to swipe each credit card is a good place to start. I'm also willing to bet that having 24-7 live and local tech support is pretty important to you. If you want to lower your costs on your merchant account, my advice is shop local. There is a local credit card merchant services company that will not only give you a credit card swipe machine for free, but you will pay less for each swipe. You can visit them on line at firstclassenterprises.com or call my friend Joe DiPietro in ANDOVER at (800) 854-2620 and tell him you are a member of The Valley Patriot family, mention me by name and I promise he will take care of you!

GOODBYE TO THE MESSINA'S ITALIAN KITCHEN

It had to happen sooner or later. Peter and Ruth Messina have finally decided to retire and close one of Lawrence's best known landmarks, the Italian Kitchen on Common St. in Lawrence. Known for their trademark crispelli and rice balls, the Messina's have contributed to the community for decades and have been one of the primary reasons people still attend Lawrence's Italian Feast every September. Thank you to the Messina family for their dedication to the City of Lawrence. We will miss you!

CRISPELLI IS PLURAL

Who knew? Our friend Jessica Finnocchairo did. She took to Facebook last month when the buzz began about the closing of The Italian Kitchen. "FYI crispelli is already plural," she posted. "Like biscotti (type of cookies, but also used as general



FREDDIE SAYS

"Seriously? Not ONE person is going to run against Jim Jajuga for Mayor of Methuen? Do you people WANT to become Lawrence?"

**Freddie also Says
EAT AT THE DAILY DOSE CAFE at PENTUCKET MEDICAL IN LAWRENCE
978-557-8601**

cookies) is more than one biscotto. Plural is usually an e or i, sometimes u, a, che, o, etc. lol. But as long as you've snagged yourself some Messina crispelli this weekend, you're pretty lucky in the tastebud department anyway. So many good memories. Happy Friday!" She's always so happy and helpful.

SPEAKING OF CRISPELLI

Our friend Greg Fratto of the North End Deli says that while nobody can ever beat the crispelli made by the Messinas at the Italian Kitchen, now that they are closed he is going to try and fill the void with his own brand of crispelli. Keep an eye out in future editions for the grand announcement.

Belleville Church Hosts Benefit for Old South Church

- New flyer with updates - we are now selling advance tickets for this event- the paypal info is on flyer below and Newburyport mayor DONNA HOLADAY will be there! 50% of proceeds will go to Old South Church. Our goal is \$800 for the robbery of the Church a couple of months back... ty steve..

NEWBURYPORT - THE PRISONER OF 2ND AVENUE - "Days of Our Lives" television star Steve Blackwood and his Master Class students will perform a reading of Neil Simon's "The Prisoner of Second Avenue" in a benefit for Old South Church, one of four area churches burglarized in February. Local group The Strays will open the show with live music (rock and blues) at 6:30 p.m before the 7:30pm curtain on Saturday, May 13, at Belleville Church, 300 High St. in Newburyport. Tickets are \$10 (paypal link on flyer below) and there will also be a donation bucket in the lobby. Mayor Donna Holaday will be in attendance, and present the event's proceeds (50%) to the Rev. Sara Singleton, of Old South Church to offset the \$800 stolen and costs of their new security system.

Blackwood and his students use a function room in Old South Church for their classes and rehearsals.

"The church and Reverend Sara are such a gift to the community," says Blackwood. "We were all so shocked and sad that people would target places of worship for these robberies. We wanted to do something

NOTEBOOK: NEXT PAGE



A few months ago, seventeen people with disabilities began working at jobs they never thought possible.

- Tom Dawson, American Training President & CEO



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to help and what could be better than some rock music and doing a play from the writer of THE ODD COUPLE (Neil Simon)?"

Featured area actors include Blackwood, Kathleen Henderson, Teresa Spaulding, Marty Smith, Michael Coppola, Maureen McDonald, Christopher Golden, Paula Dellatte and Jonathan Demers. Host is local author Christopher Golden (ARARAT) and Newburyport Mayor Donna Holaday is scheduled to come as well! ps And bring Mom for an early present of fun!

HAVERHILL - NEW MOON COFFEE HOUSE PRESENTS LULU WILES
 May 20th - Lula Wiles, a powerhouse trio of musical women, perform at the New Moon Coffeehouse in Haverhill on Saturday May 20th. Lula Wiles is made up of Ellie Buckland, Isa Burke, and Mali Obomsawin. The performance starts at 8pm. Tickets cost \$20. Reserve tickets prior to the show by visiting www.newmooncoffeehouse.org, or by calling 978-459-5134. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the door starting around 7pm.

The coffeehouse is located in the U.U. Church on 16 Ashland St., Haverhill. The easiest way to get to the coffeehouse is to take 495 to exit 51A (Route 125 South). Stay on Route 125 South for about 1.5 miles. At intersection of Routes 125 & 110, look left for a red brick church. Turn left onto Kenoza Ave (aka Rte 110). Then take the first right by the UHaul trucks. And turn right onto Ashland St. There are 2 parking lots available behind the church, on both sides of Ashland St. The coffeehouse entrance is also there, at the back of the church.

MERRIMACK COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

Fashion designer and social activist Kenneth Cole, will address Merrimack College's 67th undergraduate commencement exercises on May 21, 2017.

Mary Jennings Hegar, an author and retired military pilot who was decorated for combat in Afghanistan, will address the graduate student commencement on May 19. Both speakers will be presented with honorary doctorates in ceremonies in the Merrimack Athletics Complex, as the college bestows degrees on approximately 650 undergraduates and approximately 275 graduate students.

Cole is an American designer, social activist and visionary who believes business and philanthropy are interdependent. His global company, Kenneth Cole Productions, creates modern, functional, clothing, shoes and accessories for inspirational urban lifestyles under the brand names Kenneth Cole New York, Reaction Kenneth Cole and Unlisted, as well as footwear under the name Gentle Souls.

Hegar, a former Air National Guard major, served three tours in Afghanistan as a helicopter pilot. For action in 2009 against the Taliban she was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor Device and the Purple Heart; she later joined a suit against U.S. policy barring women from combat, which was eventually repealed.

Hegar is the author of "Shoot Like a Girl: One Woman's Dramatic Fight in Afghanistan and on the Home Front." She teaches at the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas. For full information about commencement weekend, please see merrimack.edu/commencement.

GUN BUYBACK IN LOWELL

Gift Cards for Guns Day to Take Place May 13th. Led by Lowell's interfaith-based organizations, the Lowell non-profit community and regional partners are teaming up and introducing a citywide "Safer Homes, Safer Community: Gift Cards for Guns" initiative on Saturday, May 13th from 10am to 3pm. Anonymously and safely dispose of unwanted firearms and, in turn, reduce the potential for an accidental discharge or wrongdoing in a home. Gift Cards for Guns drop-off locations will provide a safe, convenient way for participants to drop off unwanted guns with no

questions asked and no ID required. The drop-off location is: Community Christian Fellowship, 105 Princeton Blvd, Lowell, MA 01851, Drop-off: Church parking lot.

Lowell Police and the Middlesex Sheriff's Office will be managing the site and handling the guns turned in, and the State Police will destroy the guns. For added convenience, the Lowell Police will be available to pick-up firearms at a Lowell residence if interested participants are not able, or have concerns about physically dropping off unwanted firearms. To schedule a pickup, please call 978-937-3200.

As an incentive to participate, residents will be awarded gift cards for each firearm they turn into public safety officers on the day of the event, at up to \$200 per person.

For those who cannot attend the event, gift cards will be honored if pickups are scheduled during the week leading up to May 13th Gifts Cards for Guns event.

"This event will benefit our community, by taking unwanted guns out of homes, decreasing the risk of a child, a teen, a woman, or a police officer from getting killed" stated Julian Viviescas, one of the fifteen Lowell High School students who are leading the organization of this project.

The Lowell Police are partnering with the LHS students and will be managing the day-of event handling the guns turned in. "I am sure their efforts will help make Lowell a safer community."

If you or your organization is interested in becoming involved in the event (e.g. donate gift cards, volunteer at the event or help post flyers in advance of the event), please email classes@lhs-generation-citizen.net

The following is a list of candidates who have taken out nomination papers for elected office in Lawrence.

CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR

- Two get nominated in September, 1 is elected in November.
- Daniel Rivera 1 Thomas Road
- William Green 40 Dartmouth Street
- Modesto Maldonado 115 Spruce Street
- William Lantigua 65 Park Street
- Jorge Jaime 168 East Haverhill Street
- Alcibiades Acosta 158 Water Street
- Rubin Nieves 296 South Broadway.

CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE

- Six candidates get nominated in September, three are elected in November.
- Blatchford, James 75 Pearl Street
- Levy, Ana, 167 Prospect Street
- Miguel, Franklin, 12 Ridge Road
- Acosta, Franallen, 168 Newbury Street
- Santiago, Jose, 391 Chestnut Street
- *DePena Brian, 5 Oakland Road
- German Cesar, 1110 Essex Street
- Payano Pavel, 596 Haverhill Street
- Gonzalez, Jorge, 31 Chelmsford Street
- Russell, Richard, 34 Cross St.

DISTRICT A CITY COUNCIL

- Nominate 2 in September,
- 1 Elected in November
- De la Cruz, Maria 26 Summit Ave
- Rodriguez, Richard 21 Hoffman St
- *Ortiz, Myra 45 Norris St.

DISTRICT B CITY COUNCIL

- Nominate 2 in September,
- 1 Elected in November
- Paulino, Francisco 125 Garden St
- *Estella, Reyes the incumbent has not yet taken out paper.

DISTRICT C CITY COUNCIL

- Nominate 2 in September,
- 1 Elected in November
- Garcia, Arlene 20 Canterbury Street
- Hernandez, Victor 133 May St.
- Del Rosario, Gregory 322 Ames St.

DISTRICT D CITY COUNCIL

- Nominate 2 in September,
- 1 Elected in November
- *Rodriguez, Jeovanny 32 Gale St.
- Perez, B. Linette 4 Greenwood St.

DISTRICT E CITY COUNCIL

- Nominate 2 in September,
- 1 Elected in November
- *Abdo, David 54 Stevens Ave

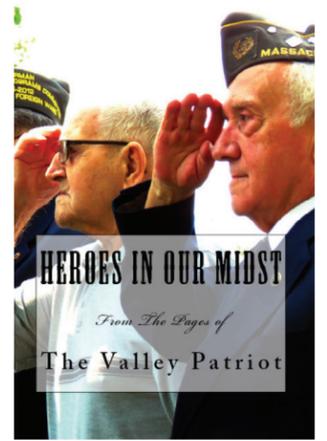
NOTEBOOK: 20

HEROES IN OUR MIDST

"Through this collection of their individual stories, let every American read about the heroism and valiant service these men and women gave to our country. They are truly Heroes in Our Midst and as you will see, they are true 'Valley Patriots'. The least we can all do in return for the brave service of our veterans is to remember their stories, their sacrifices, and experiences."

Francisco Urena

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- Soda

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 Tickets are available from Jack MacLeod at 978-314-5081 & Linda Buell at 978-609-3630 at Peoples Bank at the corner of Jackson and Swan St., Methuen

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The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is responsible for the stewardship of over 450,000 acres of land which include parks, beaches, forests, pools, skating rinks and campgrounds. DCR lost nearly 400 full-time positions (31% of its workforce) in the last seven years. As such, we need to be vigilant to ensure that public resources and access to those resources are not diminished, and ensure that public safety is never compromised on account of budget constraints.

Recently, there were rumors that Salisbury Beach would not have lifeguards on duty until Father's Day weekend, starting June 17th. Residents were concerned that there would be no lifeguard coverage for the busy Memorial Day weekend.

Our state's public waterways and parks are envisioned to offer people of all ages the opportunity to swim and recreate without significant expense, so it is critical that the public has the assurance that lifeguards will be posted when the summer season begins.

I reached out to DCR Commissioner Leo Roy to inquire about the status of lifeguards on Salisbury's beaches and he responded quickly and helpfully to confirm that starting Memorial Day weekend, lifeguards will be at Salisbury Beach every weekend until June 17, and after the weekend of June 17, the beaches will be staffed with lifeguards on a daily basis, with specific morning start times and

evening end times

In 2016, Salisbury Beach lifeguards made 44 water rescues and reunited 43 people, almost all children with their families. It is critical that lifeguards be on duty at both Salisbury Beach Reservation and Salisbury Beach Center starting Memorial Day weekend and for the duration of the summer. Equally important to having lifeguards at the beach is the training of these lifeguards. Salisbury Beach has very strong rip currents, cold water and an undertow, which makes having trained lifeguards essential in time-sensitive situations.

The Department of Conservation works hard to continue delivering services and maintain properties with constantly shrinking budgets. During past state budget debates, I have supported amendments to the budget to increase DCR's budget for operational costs. This type of investment is good for residents of Massachusetts and makes us a more attractive tourist destination. I will continue to advocate for increased funding for DCR.

I am relieved to know lifeguards will continue to be on duty at our beaches, as it is a matter of public safety. And, I will continue to voice opposition to any proposals to raise fees for Massachusetts residents to be able to access their parks, pools, rinks and beaches because it is a matter of fairness. If Massachusetts cannot budget to keep public resources and assets truly public, then state budget priorities need to be adjusted.



Uncle Eddie's at Salisbury

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS 9PM to 1AM

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| MAY 12th FUNBOX | MAY 26th OVERDRIVE |
| MAY 13th BITTERSUITE | MAY 27 BLACKHEART |
| MAY 19th CHARACTER ASSASSINS | MAY 28th STILETTO |
| MAY 20th BOOBFEST | |

As Predicted, Tomaselli Case Gets New Life

Joyce and Gracemarie Tomaselli's legal case is currently in the Massachusetts Appeals Court. This court allowed the case to return to the Massachusetts Land Court to hear their claims that the 2013 and 2015 land court orders and judgments were based on inaccurate and invalid information. This information was presented by the Town of Salisbury and its attorneys to the Land Court (*Rule 60 (b)(4)*).

Lisa Siegel Belanger, the Tomaselli's attorney, filed the Memorandum last Friday, May 5th with Land Court:

"Through Fraud and Deception Perpetrated by the Town of Salisbury and Its Counsel, This Court Issued Orders and Judgments Based on Inaccurate and Invalid Information." (SIC)

According to the documents, the Town of Salisbury has made several fraudulent claims in this case. This includes, the claim that the sewer betterment assessment vote was in 1992. Documents show, however, that after over 20 years of

unsuccessful requests for public records from the town, the Tomaselli sisters found out from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and another government agency, that the only assessment vote imposing liability was the May 17, 1982 vote. This was Article 28 at Annual Town Meeting a full nine years before the Tomaselli sisters bought their property in 1991.

Documents further show that the Tomasellis never owed the sewer betterment that the town charged them.

The land court hearing will be held in Boston before Judge Gordon H. Piper on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 2:30PM. The public is welcome to attend.

This hearing is of great public interest as it deals with the town's fraud on the court(s) with the aid of their counsel(s) in order to take the Tomaselli sisters' business and home.

The Valley Patriot has been following this case since September 2013, see story on line, <http://bit.ly/2pVfEBa>

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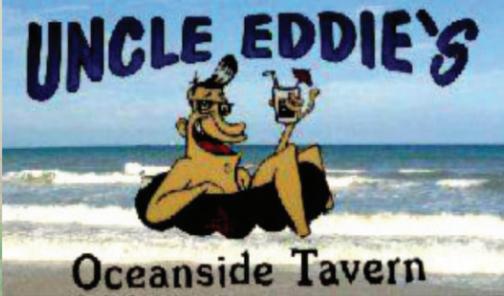


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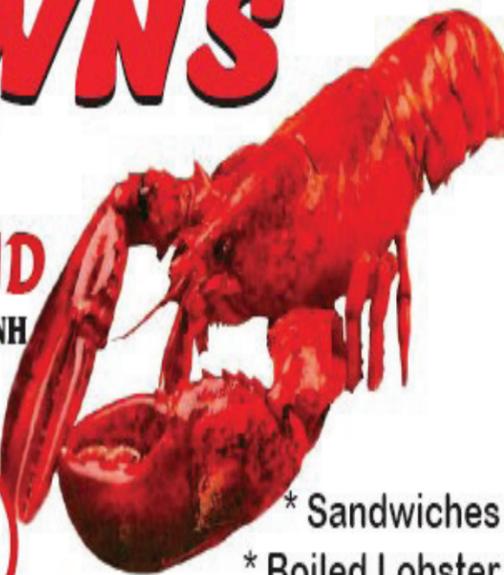
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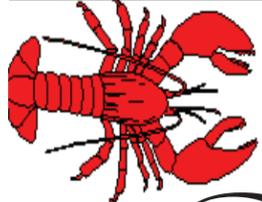
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VFW Needs Your Help to Honor Our Vets

North Andover Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2104 is looking to partner with the community to reinforce our amazing town's appreciation to our veterans for their service and their sacrifices.

The VFW is looking to start this immediately by erecting a memorial in honor of those who gave their lives in service to their country and never returned home.

The memorial will be located at Ridgewood Cemetery and will be dedicated and presented during North Andover's 2017 Memorial Day services.

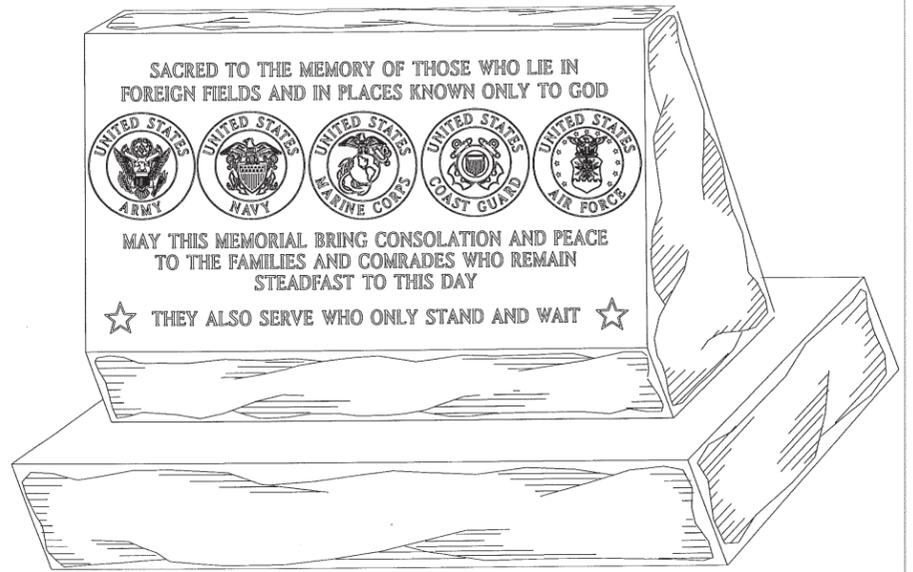
This monument will serve as a hallowed sanctuary where families can come to honor and remember their loved ones throughout the year.

Any support that our Valley Patriot readers can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Let us never allow any service or sacrifice be in vain by remembering them always and forever!

Donations can be made on the North Andover VFW Post 2104 Facebook page through the GoFundMe link <https://www.gofundme.com/3m2fe0o>.

The VFW is also looking for the names of North Andover family members who have loved ones who did not return home, in order to include them in the Memorial Day Ceremony. Please contact the Veteran Service Officer Assistant, Crystal Clunie, at 978-688-9525, or email, cclunie@northandoverma.gov



MCAD: FROM PAGE 3

"We are exploring all of our legal options including filing multiple defamation claims against William Green."

Each charge of racism by Mr. Green was, line for line, completely refuted by the MCAD as false. The acts we took were reasonable actions against a non-performing employee. He wants people to think it's because he's Black, but nothing could be further from the truth."

PRIOR CLAIMS

McNamara says MCAD represents the third independent entity that has disputed William Green's claims over the last three years.

"The first was an investigation by the Massachusetts State Police assigned to the Attorney General's Office. They were tasked with investigating his claims that a Lawrence Police Sergeant conducted an unlawful search of his premises and claimed that he was the victim of an armed assault at the hands of another police officer. Those findings were proven to be baseless and directly contradicted by video evidence."

The Valley Patriot has requested the video.

"In another allegation by Officer Green, he claimed a hostile work environment for black officers, particularly himself, and an independent investigator found no evidence to support those claims."

McNamara said that he wanted to thank the assistant City Attorney Raquel Ruano, and the other attorneys on the case, particularly Andrew Gambaccini.

William Green did not respond to re-



quests for comment on this story.

The Valley Patriot has submitted a public records request for the total legal and administrative costs to the City of Lawrence for all of Green's unfounded accusations.

City Attorney Charlie Boddy responded to that public records request claiming that as the City Attorney he does not keep track of his time on each individual case and refused to turn over any costs associated with any of Green's lawsuits.

The Valley Patriot will be filing a lawsuit in Lawrence Superior Court to force the City Attorney once again to turn over the public records.

SIEGE: FROM PAGE 5

many nightclubs in such a small area of downtown. "In that one block of Essex St. between Newbury and Jackson Streets and down to the old One Mill Street which is now the nightclub Attika, we have about 10 nightclubs. When they all get out at once it causes problems."

"Some people leaving the clubs then drive around the downtown area to show off their cars, or play their music loud, looking for some other activity. Shortly before last call, we are now blocking off Essex Street at that chokepoint. Traffic is allowed to leave, but no cars are let back on that block. With the one way streets, that makes the flow of traffic very different. It keeps the traffic flowing out of the downtown area, and out of the city."

Fitzpatrick says that with the Attika nightclub capable of holding 1,000 people, and Club Centro capable of holding even more, when all the nightclubs are open at once it creates an environment that invites trouble.

The City of Lawrence's last call for alcohol is at 2AM while surrounding communities stop serving at 1AM. The result is more people leaving bars and clubs in other communities and coming to Lawrence to drink for an additional hour.

"More people means more problems," the chief said.

Fitzpatrick says that the number of shots fired and gun calls have been significantly reduced since he called

in help from other agencies and beefed up patrols.

THIS IS NOT TEMPORARY

"My plan is to keep doing this for the next four to six weeks and really send a message that Lawrence is no longer the place to come and commit crimes, or cause trouble. After that period of time we will evaluate everything again and what I'd like to do is call in the NEMLEC (North East Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council, the regional SWAT team) to help us out this summer. I'm also getting commitments from other law enforcement agencies so we can keep this going."



ILLEGALS: FROM PAGE 5

TOM: "So, the Lawrence Police are indeed working with ICE to deport criminals?"

RIVERA: "Yes, criminals, listen, if somebody is here undocumented, say they are a dishwasher in Andover or Methuen, and they are driving without a license, and they are stopped they will tow the car. They will give them a ticket for driving without a license. But, that's not something anybody goes to jail for. They don't get fingerprinted. So, that person is not going to be deported to ICE because there's no fingerprinting and there's no checking them in the system."

"Now, say you have somebody else who does something and they get fingerprinted, and they are doing something really bad, ICE knows right away."

"But, here's the dirty little secret though, Tommy. ICE doesn't have the bodies to actually deal with these people. So, let's say we get somebody like that. ICE will know about it and they might not

even come get them. So, unless we've got a case against them, and you can ask the chief about this, if we have a case against them because we caught them with drugs, or let's say we catch someone fighting and we fingerprint them, that's not usually something we put someone in jail for, but they are fingerprinted and we find out this is a person wanted for illegal drugs. If the ICE won't come get them we can't hold them."

The Valley Patriot also ran into Lawrence City Council President Kendrys Vasquez marching with the protesters on Essex St. and asked him why he was there and if he supported illegal aliens staying in the country?

Vasquez: "I will not use the term illegal aliens."

TOM: "OK you want to play word games fine, citizens of other governments who are here illegally..."

Vasquez: "Undocumented immigrants are providing to this country and are also

taxpayers as you know. Many of them have lived in this country for the majority of their life which means they are also part of this country."

TOM: What about those who commit crimes?

Vasquez: "They should leave. I do think anyone committing crimes needs to be deported."

After the protest march that shut down the city's downtown we asked Vasquez about the promise organizers made at a city council meeting while applying for the permit that they would stay on the sidewalk.

Despite their promise from protest organizers that they would not impede traffic and would not be on the streets, protesters marched anyways, and did so with the help of Lawrence Police who shut down intersections throughout the downtown. Protesters marched up Common Street to Union St., then down Essex St. to Broadway and then up Haverhill Street back to the Campagnone Common.

We asked Council President Vasquez if it bothered him that he was given a

promise by the organizers of the protest that they would stay on the sidewalks, but then shut down at least 16 city blocks of city for their march.

"The police department was present and they had a system to get a flow and get people moving as fast as possible," Vasquez said. "But you have a valid point."

Tom: "They came before you [the city council] and promised they would stay on the sidewalk. They didn't. As the council president I would think you would be unhappy about that and actually doing something about it. If this was the Italian Feast or let's say it was a rally AGAINST illegal aliens, I'm pretty sure the council would be really unhappy about that. But because you guys support the cause it's no problem? It was a condition of them getting the permit."

Vasquez: I am not disagreeing either. You have a valid point.

For the record the City Council has done nothing about the illegality of the march. As a side note there was no violence at this rally and all who participated were respectful and orderly.

What is DCF Costing Methuen Taxpayers?

Police Called 754 Times in three years 419 Times for Missing Kids

Tom Duggan

VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

"The Department of Children and Families has worked diligently to build a strong system for protecting children and families across the Commonwealth. Recent enhancements include hiring more than 550 new employees in 2014 and distributing nearly 2,400 iPads to help social workers access case information remotely and report information on families more efficiently." ~ From the DCF Website

After The Valley Patriot learned last month that Department of Children and Families (DCF) officials were refusing to cooperate with Methuen Police in the case of missing 13 year old Jessica Jiminez, we asked the police department to provide a list of how many police calls the cops have responded to regarding children in DCF care within the city.

We wanted to know how much the Methuen tax-payers are spending in man-hours, and overtime for the lack of control DCF has over the children in their custody.

METHUEN POLICE CALLS FROM JANUARY 2014 TO MAY 1, 2017 TO TWO DCF FACILITIES (MYSTIC ST. & LOWELL ST.)

| | |
|--|------------|
| MISSING CHILDREN | 419 |
| OTHER CALLS FOR POLICE INTERVENTION | 335 |
| TOTAL POLICE CALLS INVESTIGATED | 754 |

MISSING CHILDREN FROM 2 DCF FACILITIES IN METHUEN

| | |
|---|------------|
| 2017 (4 MONTHS) | 42 |
| 2016 | 149 |
| 2015 | 151 |
| 2014 | 77 |
| TOTAL KIDS MISSING FROM DCF CARE | 419 |

TOTAL CALLS TO 3 OTHER DCF FACILITIES IN METHUEN COMBINED

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| 2017 (4 MONTHS) | 13 |
| 2016 | 72 |
| 2015 | 51 |
| 2014 | 72 |
| TOTAL CALLS | 208 |

*SOURCE:METHUEN POLICE DEPT.

In the first four months of 2017, the Methuen Police have responded to DCF calls for missing children 18 times (from the Mystic Street Key Program), and 24 times on Lowell St. (at the time we went to print). That's 42 missing kids in the first four months of this year alone from only two DCF facilities in Methuen.

Police also responded to DCF for other types of police calls at the Mystic St. location 17 times, while they were called to the Lowell St. location 20 times. That's a 2017 total of 37 police calls for criminal complaints not related to missing children.

That's a total of 79 calls for police to respond to two facilities in four months.

There are a total of five DCF facilities in Methuen.

By comparison, so far this year, Methuen Police have only responded to a total of 13 calls for service of any kind to all three of the other facilities.

"Without the exact numbers in front of me, I can tell you we are looking at over

DCF: PAGE 16

House Budget Will Need a Haircut

Linda Dean Campbell

STATE REP. METHUEN, HAVERHILL

Following an extensive process that starts with hearings in January, the Fiscal Year 2018 House budget was finalized in the last week in April. The Senate will soon complete their budget and the two will be reconciled by 1 July. The 40.4 billion dollar House budget DID NOT include any new taxes or fees. It set aside additional funds to reduce pension liabilities and increase the size of the "rainy day" fund.

Core challenges for this budgeting cycle have been persistent revenue shortfalls and a possible 1 billion dollar decrease in federal money for Massachusetts health care in the coming year.

While the Massachusetts economy is performing very well by national standards and enjoys an unemployment rate significantly below the national average, revenue growth for Massachusetts has been weaker than predicted. This is because of the relatively slow wage growth nationally and because more sales are being made untaxed online. Also, due to the fact that many investors, business owners and self-employed persons who do not have automatic

quarterly payments withdrawn from their pay are waiting to see if the lower tax rates President Trump proposed will materialize. While this makes perfect sense from an individual perspective, it wrecks havoc upon our State's budget.

While we will need to go back to the drawing board, this budget will likely retain some important House initiatives. I strongly supported spending in areas such as public health, substance abuse treatment and prevention, veterans programs, early education and care, as well as programs that protect individuals with developmental disabilities.

I was particularly proud of the action taken by the House in our budget to create a \$2,000 tax credit for businesses that hire Veterans for each of the first two years that a Veteran is employed. I know firsthand that while many Veterans bring a number of skills to our economy it can be difficult for most to find employment after their service to our country.

Additionally, the House budget made a number of substantive new investments in early education including \$20 million for early educator salaries, \$2.5 million for early child mental health and \$4 million

for quality improvement for early education. Research increasingly demonstrates how important quality early education is not only for a child's academic success but also for reducing the rate at which those children later commit crimes.

One of the few core programs that I personally worked on to secure additional funding is Meals on Wheels. This program keeps elders from going hungry. Then there's the Alternative Housing Voucher program that helps people with disabilities get apartments and stay out of costly institutionalized care. Lastly, I successfully secured funding for the SAFE program that educates young people about fire safety and the dangers to health posed by smoking.

In addition to these statewide issues, the House budget also includes funding for local priorities that I worked to secure in the Budget including: funding for the development of Methuen's downtown, The Methuen Police Department's Community Addiction Resource Engagement Services (CARES) program, Methuen High School Mental Health Services, Methuen High School's Boating Program, the Cogswell School Project in Haverhill, and the Brad-

ford Rail Trail.

My local priorities reflect the need I see for additional economic development and jobs in the Merrimack Valley. In speaking to development experts, they often cite the fact that rail trails and repurposing historical landmarks like Methuen's downtown district or the old Cogswell School in Haverhill can be catalysts to bring new families and businesses to the area.

While the Massachusetts Legislature has acted to combat the opioid crisis through a multifaceted approach of more treatment availability, increased penalties for traffickers, and steps to reduce unnecessary prescriptions, we need more resources given the scale of our challenges. That is why I secured funding for the successful CARES program in the Methuen police Department. This is why I also fought for mental health funding for Methuen Public Schools.

If you are interested in the House Budget, you can view it in on malegislature.gov. If you have any questions or comments feel free to reach out to me at linda.campbell@mahouse.gov or 617-722-2380. Representative Campbell currently serves as the Vice Chair of the committee on Revenue and represents the Cities of Methuen and Haverhill.

Cambodian American Veterans in Lowell Need Help

John MacDonald

VALLEY PATRIOT LOWELL COLUMNIST

On a recent Saturday morning at a small table in the Owl Diner sat a dedicated group of concerned Cambodian Americans. As a member of Veterans Assisting Veterans (VAV) I was asked to meet Adam Pril, Kamara Kay and Virak Jay about a major concern they had. The concern they shared was the welfare of US Military Veterans of Cambodian decent, who have returned home and now trying to integrate back into civilian life, within the Cambodian community in Lowell. Virak Jay, a US Army Veteran himself expressed a major area of concern for his fellow combat veterans, based on personal experience dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Pril, Kay and Jay described the culture within the Cambodian community as one that typically conceals personal problems, especially mental health issues. In addition, the overall awareness and signs of mental

issues like PTSD and how to deal with them are somewhat non-existent and are not embraced, especially by Cambodian American veterans themselves.

As we sat and talked about PTSD awareness and other issues such as suicide within the veteran community, it became apparent to me that my fellow veterans now living in the Cambodian Community were in danger. It's recognized that over 22 veterans a day commit suicide. Many more veterans returning from foreign wars and combat suffer from PTSD, mental health and physical issues. Sometimes they seek help from the Veterans Administration, but often veterans blend into society never ever seeking treatment. Some veterans self-treat or ignore their issues and can often cause harm to themselves and others around them. The families of these veterans often suffer the most and take on the burden of feeling helpless, until they themselves become aware of options at the VA for treatment or within

their own community.

Every day I wear a rubber bracelet around my wrist that has "Support Our Veterans" printed on one side and the Veteran Suicide Hot line number 800-273-8255 PRESS 1, printed on the other. Now that VAV is more recognized within the community for helping veterans, I hate to mention how many times I have shared that phone number with veterans, but most of all friends and family of veterans. Believe it or not friends and family of veterans are typically the first people to recognize when something is wrong with a veteran they know.

The suicide of 22 veterans a day is a crisis in our country. If only veteran suicide were an incurable disease with a fancy name taking the lives of Hollywood celebrities or murderous former NFL players, then perhaps the national media would draw more attention to it? So, for now I am depending on reliable regional media like the Valley Patriot newspaper to

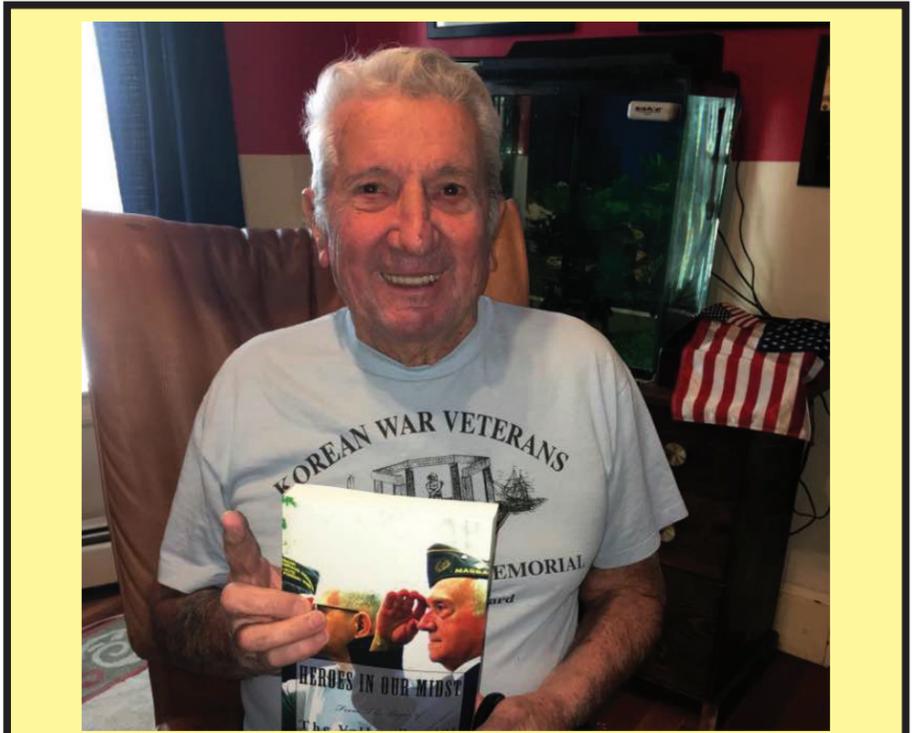
help get the message out.

Concerned Americans of Cambodian decent are asking for help in our community. Adam Pril, Kamara Kay and Virak Jay have identified a problem with returning veterans to our City and are courageous for bringing the issue into the light of day. The veterans they identified are my brothers and sisters, who now live amongst us in the Cambodian American community. I have reached out to the Lowell Vets Center and I am going to help organize a "night of help" sponsored by VAV at VFW Post 662 on May 22 at 6pm, for Cambodian American veterans, families and friends of veterans to learn information on the signs of PTSD and how to get help. I am optimistic with this issue now exposed that we can work together as a community, pool resources and ultimately save more lives. Stay tuned!

John MacDonald lives in Lowell, Massachusetts, is an Air Force Veteran of Desert Storm and a member of Veterans Assisting Veterans.



America's Bombshell Duo, Courtney Groves and Erinn Diaz performed last month at the Relief's In in Lawrence for local veterans and gave North Andover/Boxford Veterans Services Officer Gerry MaGuire a whole bunch of kisses for helping organize the event which raised money for local veterans!



Korean War Paratrooper Frank Sanzi of North Andover with his copy of "HEROES IN OUR MIDST, From the Pages of The Valley Patriot." Sanzi is featured in the book which is a compilation of interviews and local stories of veterans in the Merrimack Valley.

Get your copy on Amazon or Barnes & Noble or at the Valley Patriot Office

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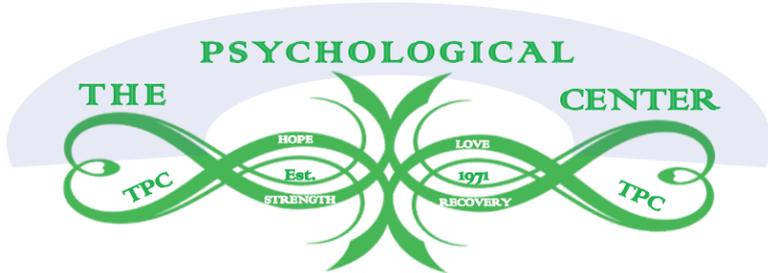
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Lowell 5 Donates \$15,000 for Farmer's Market in N. Andover

Lowell 5 Bank has donated \$15,000 to the new North Andover Farmer's Market on Main Street. The Farmer's Market will be held on June 25th at the CVS Plaza thanks to the generosity of Lowell 5 and Tina Messina, the owner of the plaza.

Not only will there be great local organic veggies but Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan has agreed to do a book signing of Heroes in Our Midst.



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Beneath the Surface

Gender Ideology and the Closing of the Mind

Paul Murano

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Let's immediately go beneath the surface on one of the biggest challenges of our time: gender confusion. A significant reason for the confusion can be explained in how modern reductionist theory has closed our minds and gutted us of our intuition. We have lost sight of what everyone used to know, and what most non-western people still know: we live in a binary universe, with masculine and feminine principles permeating the cosmos. Gender principles are not simply a human construct taken from male and female bodies and projected onto others things; rather, the masculine and feminine dynamic is universally present throughout creation. We are part of that creation.

Peter Kreeft summarizes this great mystery this way:

"We have lost the idea, implicit in almost all the languages of the world except English—which has no masculine and feminine nouns—that human sexuality is the human version of a universal principle. When other languages call the Sun "he" and the moon "she," they are not simply projecting the human reality out onto nature, but seeing something that is really there. One version of this is the famous Chinese yin and yang. Another is the Indian marriage ceremony in which the groom says to his bride, "I am heaven, you are earth." She responds, "I am earth, you are heaven."

We can understand what this signifies. From the heavens comes the rain and sunshine that gives life to the earth, which in turn nourishes that life with her soil. To further explore this mystery, let's next consider mathematical philosophy by observing deeper meaning in the first three numbers.

The number one symbolizes unity, creation, uni-verse, and cosmic perfection. All springs forth from one. Being is one, from which all kinds (species) of beings are grounded.

The number two signifies polarity: cold to hot, short to tall, darkness to light, east to west; passive to active, hate to love, death to life, etc. 'One' is a point, 'two' is

a line, i.e. the polarity that points A and B are to each other. Oneness casts its own shadow, expressing itself in duality.

The number three signifies love, relationship, wholeness. 'Three' enables opposites to blend, proper balance to be achieved, and new unity to transcend old identities. 'Three' represents relationship inasmuch as two points become one through a third constituent, its medium. Three is the bond between the polarities of one and two: the connection of two bodies, colliding or surrounding each other by the force between them – whether that force be gravitational, electromagnetic, nuclear, or in persons 'love'. Three is the joining of two transforming them into one. In humans two become one flesh in order to become three persons. It can be said that there are two mathematical equations that represent the mystery of human love: $1+1+1=1$, and $1+1=3$. As in the triadic nature of Lover, Beloved, and Love: When the two become one they become three.

Kreeft, in an article entitled "Love Sees with New Eyes", adds these gems:

"Have you ever wondered why there is gravity? Science explains that every particle of matter attracts every other particle according to fixed laws, proportionate to mass and distance. But science does not explain why... Why do negative and positive charges attract? Don't you see a real connection between this and love? Science's reductionistic method fails to see cosmic love... The modern mind always tends to reduce the greater to the lesser rather than seeing the lesser as reflecting the greater. It thinks of human love as only complex animal instinct, or even complex electrochemical attraction, rather than thinking of these subhuman attractions as love on a lesser level. Pre-modern thought saw lust as confused love. Modern thought sees love as rationalized lust. This is reductionism."

So how does this relate to our mass confusion today? We need to re-open our minds to accept the nature of reality as it is, and humbly recognize ourselves as sexual creatures whose masculine and feminine traits participate in this universal paradigm. How exactly that is played out in sex roles within each society is a

Ye Gay Ol' Valley

Stupidity Can't Be Fixed

Dani Langevin

VALLEY PATRIOT LESBIAN COLUMNIST

One of my students told me this week that he informed his stepmother and stepsister that he was bisexual. I, naturally, was undaunted, but asked how it went. He said that they were genuinely accepting, as his stepsister is a lesbian, but he's worried about telling his father. I suggested that he ask his stepmother and stepsister to advocate for him. He said that he wanted to tell his father on his own terms. Admirable. This conversation was disturbing to me, not because of its subject, but because it takes place at all. WHY do gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders, pansexuals, polyamorous and etc. have to declare who they are? Why is it that heterosexuals get by with total acceptance and never have to announce that they are cisgendered?

What needs to be defined/revealed and what doesn't? Who dictates that? I don't have to tell people I am female. Why do I have to tell them I'm a lesbian? Have any of you cisgendered people had to "reveal" that you are heterosexual? Would you be insulted if you were asked about your sexuality? Why does anyone feel the need to announce to whom they are amorously attracted to? Why can't it be accepted that the love between two people is natural and beautiful?

I am the GSA advisor at the high school where I teach and it is bothersome and heartbreaking to hear these 14-18 year-old young adults struggle with how they are to "come out" to their families and not be ostracized. Why do they have to come out? Do heterosexual children have to reveal that they are attracted to the opposite sex? In this year, in this era, love between two people should be defined simply as love. No more, no less. It is not a sin, God made us, it is not abhorrent because it creates no malice except from those who are blinded

intellectually, and it most certainly emulates Jesus: who loved everyone.

Do NOT assume your child's love interest. Do NOT reject them, if they love someone you do not wish them to, unless that person is unhealthy for them. YOU are the problem. THEY are not. NOBODY has to reveal his or her sexuality or his or her sexual identity. What a disgusting and demeaning premise.

My wife and I will be celebrating our 20th anniversary next year. Our oldest is a social worker for early intervention. She helps children under three develop to their potential. Our oldest son is currently deployed in Qatar, as a munitions specialist. He's dedicated his life to your freedom. Our youngest son is a hard working master butcher. Lesbians raised these amazing, young, heterosexual adults. None of them had to tell us that they were "straight". They never had to tell their extended family, either.

I had to tell my family 23 years ago, one by one, that I was gay. Why? Reactions differed, but were genuinely positive. Ridiculous. My wife came out to her family 20 years ago. Her mother wouldn't talk to her and I was not welcomed to the house. Why? What was so terrible? Now my wife's mother says that I am the best thing that's ever happened to her. It's love. I love my wife quite simply. Anyone who condemns us for that and expects us to "come out" is stupid. You can't fix stupid, but you can educate ignorance. Know the difference.



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

cultural question; it becomes a problem only when a society has been so conditioned by ideology that it forgets these universal principles are part of us. The forced androgyny of radical feminism and its reverberations has led to a culture of death because "progressive" thinking

has detached us from nature, and more particularly from human nature. As a result we are unable to see the cosmos as a reflection of its Trinitarian Creator and humanity as His personal image and likeness.



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Charlie Baker's Medical Board, Felony, Extortion and Forensic Fraud

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD, PhD
MEDICAL CORRUPTION COLUMNIST

What we have is Charlie Baker's medical Board violating open tender laws to enter into a sweetheart no-bid contract with a contractor, here the Massachusetts Medical Society. The contractor generates thousands of dollars from doctors who are coerced by Charlie's board, under the threat of losing their medical license, to keep paying the contractor. And if they stop paying, as Dr. Michael Langan did, the Board takes their license away, pour encourager les autres.

In all of human history, such corrupt contractual relations have never existed without hefty kickbacks, here to everyone at the Board, and perhaps the Governor's Office as well.

The criminals who run the state medical Board decided Dr. Langan would be a good target to shake down as he was soft, compliant, non-confrontational, not disruptive, had a wife, three kids in school and a mortgage. The perfect target.

So Dr. Langan was suddenly ordered to give blood for an alcohol test under pains of losing his medical license. Dr. Langan was unclear why, but complied as always. And surprise surprise! The test returned overwhelmingly positive for alcohol. Positive for half a gallon of vodka a day. . And the board said A-ha! If you do not keep paying \$600 for drug tests at the lab of our choice, we will take your medical license away.

Even worse, they coerced a devout Catholic Jesuit to suffer through three AA meetings a week where he was forced to listen to a faith-based agenda totally opposite to his own faith. It was this torture that finally transformed Dr. Langan and landed the board with an existential problem.

Dr. Langan had the College of American Pathologists analyze the board's fake blood test. The lab itself, once it knew it was under investigation by a national body, gave up the board and sent Dr. Langan the fax it had received from the board ordering it to switch the sample numbers.

What the medical Board did was take some alcoholic's sample number and switch it to Dr. Langan's sample. After his had been sent to the lab under the correct number.

When Dr. Langan objected to the Board's felony forensic fraud, it suspended his license just to show him who is in power in Massachusetts. That was in 2012.

Dr. Langan has been unable to earn a living ever since.

Even worse is the government's insistence that Dr. Langan enroll in a specific religion-based 12-step program run by its own contractor, the Massachusetts Medical Society, and not any of the competing secular programs. There is zero evidence this contractor was chosen through an open bid process and the sweetheart no-bid relationship continues indefinitely with automatic renewals.

Last week, finally, Dr. Langan went before the full bench of the Supreme Judicial Court. You owe it to yourself to see it here - http://www.suffolk.edu/sjc/archive/2017/SJC_12242.html

The six Justices of the court were outraged that the board had driven a doctor and his family into bankruptcy in the absence of a single patient complaint. As Justice Cypher asked, "If there was no trouble with clinical patient care, why is the board involved?"

Chief Justice Gants demanded what Dr. Langan needed to do to get his license back. Charlie's Board said he needed a work-site alcohol monitoring plan that was acceptable to them. And oh, they wanted to see 1 year of tests before they would give him his license back. Chief Justice Gants asked Charlie's board who would pay for those tests. Charlie's Board said, of course "Dr. Langan would have to pay."

The Chief Justice pointed out that, thanks exclusively to this board, Dr. Langan had no money. Charlie's board refused to pay. The Chief Justice concluded that Charlie's board was perfectly comfortable with a doctor being driven out of medicine and his family homeless because he could not pay for their drug tests.

Charlie's board is angry with Dr. Langan for not committing suicide, as Dr. Ellen Malsky and Dr. James Fenn have done. That is Charlie's Board's desired outcome for those who refuse to pay.

Why is everyone at Charlie's board not in prison already?

Because he and Maura Healey have declared their full support.

And no-bid contracts explain why the Medical Society always supports the board and not doctors.

This is Massachusetts.

Nothing better may be expected.

Bharani Padmanabhan MD PhD is a neurologist who specializes in multiple sclerosis in the Boston area. scleroplex@gmail.com

ROBIN'S KITTY CORNER

Kitten Season

Robin Desmet
VALLEY PATRIOT KITTY COLUMNIST

The days are getting longer, the weather is getting nicer, and "kitten season" has begun. It is breeding season for cats, and from early spring to late fall, large amounts of kittens will be born to feral and free roaming cats that are not spayed. Because these cats live outdoors, it is very possible that you will one day come across a litter of kittens. So, you found some kittens outdoors. What do you do next?

The answer is: that depends. Did you find a litter of kittens in a crate by the side of the road or in a cardboard box in a parking lot? If so, this is a no brainer. These kittens have been dumped by someone and they clearly need to be rescued. If you are unable to care for them yourself, take them to the nearest animal shelter and ask for advice or assistance. Most shelters have individuals who are experienced in caring for neonatal kittens and they will place the kittens in foster care until they are ready to be put up for adoption.

It is also possible to encounter a litter of kittens in your neighborhood in a shed or garage, an alleyway or a wooded area. In these instances, it is important to first determine if the kittens are being cared for by their Mother. Kittens that are taken from their Mothers too soon require a lot of care. They need to be bottle fed every 2-3 hours around the clock. They tend to do poorly and many do not survive. Whenever possible, it is best for kittens to remain with their Mother for the first 4-5 weeks of their lives.

In order to determine if there is a Mother in the picture, first observe the kittens. Watch the kittens from a distance and wait to see if the Mother returns. This could take several hours. If you determine that there is a Mother present, then it is best to let the kittens remain with their Mother. Provide food, water, and shelter, but avoid hovering. This will only distress the Mother and she will move the kittens. If she does move the kittens, continue to provide food and the Mother will most likely return to feed. You will see the kittens when they start to walk at about 3-4



weeks of age.

If the Mother is feral, then it is best to remove the kittens at about 5 weeks in order to start socializing them and getting them used to people. Kittens left outside indefinitely with a feral Mother will become feral themselves and will be unadoptable. They will be forced to live a difficult life outdoors dodging traffic, searching for food, and trying to stay warm in the winter. Any kittens that survive will reproduce prolifically, adding to the number of homeless animals already on the streets.

If you see kittens outdoors and you are unsure of what to do or if you need help, contact one of your local animal rescue organizations. (MSPCA at Nevins Farm in Methuen, Animal Rescue of Merrimack Valley, Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society in Salisbury, Billerica Cat Care Coalition, or The Odd Cat Sanctuary).

They can help you rescue the kittens and get them into foster homes until they are ready to be adopted. They can also help trap the Mothers and get them spayed to avoid future litters. Your actions can make a big difference in the lives of these cats.

If you have any questions, please e-mail me at: Robinjd@comcast.net





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Acute vs. Chronic Pain! ~ THE DOCTOR IS IN!

Dr. Rami Rustum

VALLEY PATRIOT PAIN COLUMNIST

It is not unusual to see these two terms confused by patients and even caregivers. Probably, because pain could be difficult or an annoying problem to deal with.

First, it could be helpful to share easy definition or understanding of the pain:

Pain occurs when something hurts, causing an uncomfortable or unpleasant feeling. The presence of pain often means that something is wrong. Each individual is the best judge of his or her own pain.

In 1979, The International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) came up

with the first statement to define pain:

“ an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage, or described in terms of such damage”.

Classification of pain can widely vary based on many factors. One of the bases used is “Timing”.

Acute pain:

Acute pain usually comes on suddenly and is caused by something specific. It is sharp in quality. Acute pain usually does not last longer than six months. It goes away when there is no longer an underlying cause for the pain. Causes of acute pain include:

- Surgery • Broken bones
- Dental work • Burns or cuts
- Labor and childbirth

After acute pain goes away, a person can go on with life as usual.

Chronic pain is pain that is ongoing and usually lasts longer than six months. This type of pain can continue even after the injury or illness that caused it has healed or gone away. Pain signals remain active in the nervous system for weeks, months, or years. Some people suffer chronic pain even when there is no past injury or apparent body damage. Chronic pain is linked to conditions including:

- Headache

- Arthritis
- Cancer
- Nerve pain
- Back pain
- Fibromyalgia pain

People who have chronic pain can have physical effects that are stressful on the body. These include tense muscles, limited ability to move around, a lack of energy, and appetite changes. Emotional effects of chronic pain include depression, anger, anxiety, and fear of re-injury. Such a fear might limit a person’s ability to return to their regular work or leisure activities.

References: IASP
American Pain Society

DCF COSTS TO TOWN OF METHUEN: FROM PAGE 11

\$45,000 to \$50,000 in detective time alone responding to DCF calls to those two facilities, from January to May 1st of this year. That’s not even half the year. So, over a four year period, you are looking at over \$200,000 in costs to the Methuen Police Department for issues DCF is being paid to

handle.”

“When we get a call for a missing child, a patrol officer responds to back the detective. They write a report, a sergeant approves it and passes it on to detectives and we go through the process. We are looking at double the amount of man hours for each

DCF runaway case.”

So, for detective time only we are talking about 780 man hours last year. If you want the total cost you have to double or triple that.

That doesn’t factor in spending the time and man hours to put the call out to NCIC, put out a BOLO (be on the lookout), and then have our social media team make fliers, post and get information on-line and go out and do a search. The taxpayers are wasting 1,600 to 2,000 man hours a year. As a side note, this year we are on pace to beat last year’s number of calls for missing kids and problems in the Key Program.”

Solomon says the number of police calls to these two facilities are higher than the others because those other three are lock-down facilities.

Asked why the problem has spiked in recent years, Solomon said that DCF does not want to change their policies and procedures.

“Based on some crazy study that says positive reinforcement is far better than consequences for your actions, DCF has mandated, a hands off policy. They can stand in front of the door but cannot physically restrain a child in their custody who is trying to leave. It’s crazy. Look at the results.”

“Prior to this we would get calls of a kid trying to run away, they would hold them there physically until we could get there,

and then take them to the hospital if they had mental health issues or deal with the problem there. We didn’t have the number of runaways we have now.”

“Once you tell the kids there are no ramifications for your actions, once you tell them ‘we are not going to physically stop you and there is no punishment, no negative consequences’, it becomes a game. The tail is wagging the dog at this point. The kids have all the power.

Solomon says he met with DCF staff and a representative from the head of DCF.

“They were no help at all. They were totally uninterested in anything I had to say. When a kid runs away they just move the kid, and then they run away again. I asked them if they had any plans to change their policies. They don’t.”

“I don’t know if you remember the runaway from DCF on Lowell St., last December. We found her, returned her, and DCF placed her with a relative, where she ran away again that night. We found her in Lawrence and she had been shot. She did survive. But they are ‘extremely concerned’ he said frustrated, rolling his eyes.

“I know I’m going to take heat for this but, I was very disappointed by the lack of real concern by DCF. They just aren’t taking any of this very seriously.”

“This is a systemic issue, something is wrong with the policies. These kids are out of control. I was told they have a study group looking at policies. So, asked them who from law enforcement is in the study group? They have group-home managers and psychologists, but nobody from law enforcement. So, I volunteered. I reiterated several times that a first responder needs to be part of that group.”

“I never heard back,” he said in frustration.

“How do you put a study group together on runaway children and not include first responders who will be dealing with this blindly? How do you not put us on that board? Either me or a member of my department?”

“In Lawrence, Haverhill and Methuen alone we have between 900 and 1,000 kids running away. Even if you have a patrolman on that board, what a wealth of knowledge they would have to benefit from, I mean, if we really care about the children.”

“As a police chief, give me a visiting manager overseeing the system, trained in crisis management, with a background in manpower deployment. That’s something that could make a big difference. They have nobody with that skill to fix the problem. They have nobody with the knowledge to formulate that as part of the solution.”

“We have to look at it like a child welfare issue, I get that. But, really there has to be a system in place to manage the chaos. Right now they aren’t even managing the chaos and it’s all falling on us.”

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IN THE GROOVE with Cindy Annis



Olivia Newton John

Cindy Annis

VALLEY PATRIOT VINYL COLUMNIST

Olivia Newton John was born on September 26, 1948 in Cambridge England to a Welsh mother and German father. She is the youngest in the family, having an older brother and sister. At age five, her family moved to Melbourne Australia where her father taught German and was dean of Ormond College.

At age fifteen, she formed a girl group called Sol Four. The group sang jazz standards at local coffee shops often. Winning a talent show contest on the television show "Sing Sing Sing" launched her music career in London at the young age of fifteen.

Olivia hated being in London, since her friend was in Australia, so several times, she tried to fly back to Australia but was always stopped by her mother who secretly cancelled her daughter's flights at the airport. Olivia felt better when Pat Carrol reunited with her. The two formed a duo simply called Pat and Carrol. They performed in local bars for very little money. Not all gigs were created equal though. One place the duo performed at was a strip joint. Being unaware of what they were getting into, the duo performed with their clothes on. If it hadn't been for the flippin visa, Pat wouldn't have had to go back to Australia and break up the duo. Oh well, Olivia continued to perform live and recorded a few solo singles.

In 1970, Olivia was asked to be in a science fiction musical called Tomorrow. This terrible movie was produced by the man who discovered the Monkees, Don Kirshner, and the co-producer of the old James Bond movies Harry Saltzman.

By 1972, Olivia auditioned, and eventually performed with Cliff Richard and on his television show. Olivia met Richard through her boyfriend Bruce Welch, who was in Cliff Richard's backup group "The Shadows" They performed the Everly Brothers song "All I Have To Do Is Dream." The song was released as the B

side to "Sunny Honey Girl." She was on one season of the Cliff Richard show.

After her success on the small screen, Olivia, had a huge cross over hit with "Let Me Be There". The song hit #7 on the country charts, #3 on the adult contemporary charts, and #6 on the Billboard Hot 100 charts in 1973. This opened the door for many artists.

In 1973, Olivia was offered the role of Sandy, by director Allan Carr in the film version of "Grease." She was reluctant to take the role since her character was an eighteen-year-old high school girl and in reality, Olivia was almost thirty years old. The actor playing her boyfriend John Travolta was fresh off the big screen with "Saturday Night Fever". She did a screen test with John who played the role of Danny in the movie. The classic movie came out in the summer of 1978.

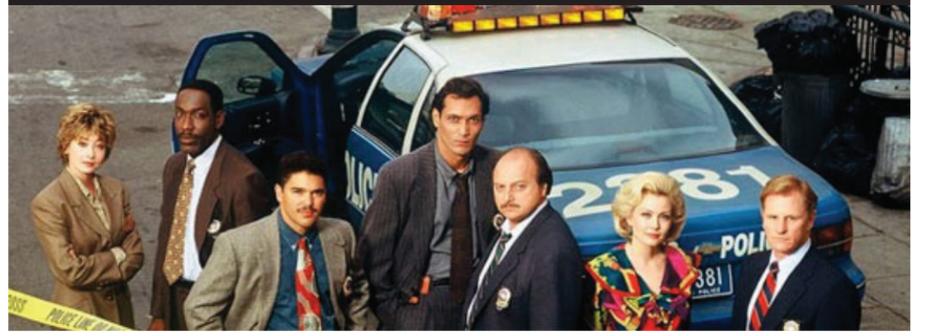
After the success of "Grease", Olivia changed her style of music. In her 1979 album "Totally Hot", she had a #5 hit with "A Little More Love".

Soon after, she was given a script for another movie called "Xanadu". The movie itself sucked, but the soundtrack for the film by Olivia with the Electric Light Orchestra were great.

In 1986, when Olivia had her daughter Chloe, she stopped recording and performing live. Things were about to change in 1992, but as quickly as Olivia made plans, they came down fast like a wall. It was the weekend of the 4th of July when Olivia got the grim news that her father had passed away. She also found out that she had breast cancer. Her eight week, sixteen city concert tour to America was immediately cancelled. After one year of treatment, Olivia was cleared of cancer in 1993.

Tune into Cindy's Vinyl Vault Sunday nights from 10 to midnight, Monday nights 11 to midnight, and Wednesday nights 10 to midnight for the best music from the 50s through the 70s ever placed on vinyl. Remember it's not how old it is, but how great it sounds.

TV TALK WITH BILL CUSHING



TV Talk Flashback: NYPD Blue Changes TV

Bill Cushing

VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST



September 21, 1993.

The face of television changed that day. It was definitely a change for the better. A change toward more quality programming on the major networks. That was the day that a show called NYPD Blue

premiered on ABC.

Cable networks had started to produce original content and started airing weekly series with adult oriented, delicate subject matter, and quality writing. Network TV needed something like that to attract viewers. They were looking for a drama that was unlike anything viewers had seen before. Something to compete with cable. Steven Bochco and David Milch, who had previously brought Hill Street Blues to TV, had the idea of a police show set in New York City called NYPD Blue. The show would not only deal with the day to day goings on in a detective squad room, but also the personal lives of the detectives. This was similar to Hill Street Blues, but TV had gotten away from dramas like that since it had left the air in 1987.

Bochco fought with the networks over what could be done on TV, and the give and take between him and ABC delayed NYPD Blue by a whole year. The pilot was produced and started making the rounds with critics. The buzz surrounding the pilot of NYPD Blue had people talking for weeks to come. Dennis Franz played detective Andy Sipowicz, an alcoholic racist detective, who in the first 5 minutes of the pilot episode grabbed his crotch while yelling at a district attorney. As the episode rolled on, they pushed the envelope even more as Detective John Kelly (David Caruso) and Officer Janice Licalsi (Amy Brenneman) made love for the first time. Parts of their naked bodies never before seen in a commercial network prime time program were shown and America's collective jaws dropped.

The American Family Association, a group led by the Rev. Donald Wildmon, cleverly attacked the show where it would hurt most: local affiliates. Specifically, the

AFA targeted major advertisers (car dealers, food retail chains) in individual markets, urging them not to support a station that would carry such a vulgar program.

Despite the pressure, ABC execs backed their entertainment team, but told them, as Bochco recalls, "If it blows up in our faces, our skirts won't be big enough for you to hide behind."

The protests by the AFA backfired, and actually helped make the show a hit. When the pilot finally aired, the backlash just made people want to tune in more and the show premiered to huge ratings with more than 30 million people tuning in. Though the audience waned a bit over the years, 20 million viewers tuned in for the series finale in 2005.

The nudity and language, while a part of the show, were not what the show was about. The quality writing and acting is what propelled this show. Jimmy Smits replaced David Caruso midway through season 2 and the show hit its stride.

While TV has grown in terms of quality, it has been mostly on cable. Network TV has seemed to lose a bit of its edginess since NYPD Blue went off the air. However, the impact of the series will be felt forever. After 24 years, the legacy of NYPD Blue is solid. It was the program that turned police shows into much more realistic and character driven programming and made the large ensemble cast almost standard for the genre. The influence on classic, high quality police shows like Homicide, The Shield, and Southland are undeniable.

NYPD Blue aired for 12 seasons and an amazing 261 episodes. In that time, the show would garner 84 Emmy nominations and 20 wins including Outstanding Drama Series in 1995. Dennis Franz would win for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series 4 times over the series run.

NYPD Blue remains a show that is sorely missed in today's TV landscape.

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.

Follow me on Twitter @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion.

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S.E.A.D Students to End Alzheimer's Disease

Beth D'Amato
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

There is a group of high school teenagers who visit the Meadow View Care & Rehabilitation Center in North Reading every other week. This group, led by North Reading high school student Meghan Griffin is on a mission to hopefully end Alzheimer's Disease someday. Meghan started coming to the center to visit her uncle who was a patient at the facility. Meghan's exposure to the dreaded disease made her want to help somehow. So she organized a group of fellow high school students and created S.E.A.D Students to End Alzheimer's Disease. Meghan along with her sister Meredith Griffin and other students spend time, one on one, visiting with the long term Alzheimer patients. They read books to them, tell stories and listen to music. The patients respond very positively to the interaction.

The event today was a special one. Meghan (President of the organization),

her sister Meredith and fellow student Noah Aran are the Communications Coordinators that came up with the idea to bury a time capsule in the back yard of the rehab center. Each teenager wrote down on a piece of paper their experiences visiting with the Alzheimer patients and the positive responses they took away from it. These papers were then enclosed in the capsule and buried in the back yard next to the outdoor patio. Everyone celebrated the event. Patients came out and enjoyed coffee and desserts along with specially made cookies decorated with the S.E.A.D logo. The students planted flowers and a small tree where the capsule will lie in the earth undisturbed for years to come. Once the dirt was smoothed over, Meghan laid down the beautiful rock decorated by Alexa Galuppo (President of the Design Committee) with the organization's logo S.E.A.D. Everyone did a great job!

Please visit www.alz.org to access the page The Longest Day Alzheimer's Association for fundraiser walks, etc.

Seen or Not Seen!

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Today we live in the era of "Reality TV" programming which lends itself to the question, are we seeing real "Reality" or is it staged to look like real time reality? Obviously these programs are taped and edited so I would recommend to those who watch this type of programming to not give too much importance to these programs. Just enjoy them for what they are and be entertained. I am so thankful to God and His Wonderful Son Jesus Christ for being "Real" all the time and are the same yesterday, today and forever as it says in Hebrews 13:8, knowing full well they live outside of time.

You and I on the other hand are limited to time, 24/7; God and Jesus Christ are not. For example, Jesus Christ on The Cross for us happened over 2 thousand years ago. But for God, it is as fresh today as it was then because God is not limited by time like you and I are. God Created time therefore not subject to it! When God says that ALL our sins are forgiven it is due to the fact that Jesus' work on the cross was perfect and finished and complete. He really does mean all our past, present and future sins are forgiven!

Our minds have a problem comprehending this because we are limited to time. Salvation was made available a long time ago, but the blessings are still real now! As soon as someone gets born-again by making Jesus Christ their Lord, (Romans 10:9-10) all their sins, (past, present and future) are washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ!

There's a verse of scripture that helps explain this even further. You and I place importance on things that we "see" which make up our reality, while at the same time they are temporal. But God would have us instead place greater importance on the things which are "not seen" and are eternal. The verse I am referring to is in 2 Corinthians 4:18, "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Scripture also teaches us that the things which are not seen like the "blood of Jesus Christ cleansing us from all sin" which we can read in 1John 1:7 are more "real" because it is "eternal." Feelings of being un-forgiven, unaccepted and ashamed and condemned which lead to depression may seem real and overwhelming, but we must keep in mind that these emotions are temporal.

Here's another example, the Apostle Paul was faced with a stressful situation which we can read about in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a

thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

The reality here for Paul was that there was a thing, a messenger from Satan sent to give Paul a hard time. Paul went 3 times to God asking for Him to take it away and God's response was that His Grace was sufficient to handle this situation because God's strength was made perfect in Paul's weakness! Paul could feel and see this thorn in his flesh. God's answer to Paul's problem was to let him know that the solution was in recognizing that at the point of Paul's weakness is where God's grace and strength is made perfect! When we get to the place where we confess that we can't but God can, God goes to work. When and where we recognize that we are weak, at that point God's Grace is strong and goes to work for us!

God loves it when we rely on Him and not ourselves! The truth is we need Him all the time including when we are weak, when we are overwhelmed and stressed out with feelings of being un-forgiven, unaccepted or shame or condemnation or depression.

God's Grace is stronger than these emotions and God's Grace meets us right at our need! For the Christian believer true reality is found in the things that are not seen, in the things that are eternal; like God's Grace!

Near the end of The Apostle Paul's ministry, he encourages Timothy, his soon to be successor, to be strong not in himself but in God's Grace which is found in the person of Christ Jesus!

2 Timothy 2:1, "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." My friends, God's Grace is not temporal, it is eternal, and it is in Jesus Christ Himself!

Love to all of you and remember, be strong in God's grace!



Peter Larocque is married to wife Pam for 34 years, they have 3 wonderful children, and blessed with 3 grandchildren He is former Lawrence School Committee Member-2006-2009, and Baker with Demoulas, Market Basket 16 + years. You can email him at peterlarocque@hotmail.com

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HERO: FROM PAGE 1

After Virginia, Lillian had to reenlist and she wanted California but she ended up in San Antonio, Texas. She started going to college at night and eventually years later got her BA in social science at San Francisco State in 1960. After Texas, Lillian went and took an assignment in Panama for about a year until they closed that WAC detachment facility in 1953. Lillian was an administrative office assistant in all the places she worked during her military career. Over the years, Lillian received Ribbons for Good Conduct, the National Defense ribbon and the WAAC Service ribbon.



When Lillian retired in 1964 she went to Japan with another military friend for a month. Then the following year they went to Australia then onto New Zealand. Lillian had a month's leave left over so she went on the Military Hop – free plane trips for the military. When there is availability, you hop on a plane to your destination. Lillian said, "This is how I got to see Europe after I retired. I hopped to Spain, Italy and Germany."

She stayed with friends mostly but had a friend who worked in Naples so she stayed there with her. She stayed in Heidelberg, Germany with a WAC major she knew from California. Then she stayed with her brother in law's sister who was a LT Colonel in the Air Force. Lillian said, "A month's trip cost about \$400 so the price was right!"

In the 1970's she was still working for the State of Massachusetts in the Information Department at Government Center. As she wasn't driving, she decided to hold up in a hotel during a bad snow storm in February of 1978. After being stuck in the hotel for over a week during the Blizzard of 78' Lillian contacted another friend who lived in Florida. It was decided that she should spend her winters down there. Lillian spent the next 25 winters in the sunshine state.

Lillian has lived in the Community Living Center at Bedford Veterans Admin-

istration for four years. She belongs to the DAV (Disabled American Veterans) and the JWV (Jewish War Veterans). She is involved with the VA's exercise program twice a week and walks the length of the building once to twice a day. She is active in the programs at the VA – she runs the Birthday List for all the resident veterans and plays Bingo and trivia games. Lillian also stays in touch with a fellow WAC member named Phyllis who lives in Michigan. Lillian has 15 nieces and nephews, 12 great nieces and nephews and 12 great-great nieces and nephews

Miss Lillian will be celebrating her 100th Birthday on July 1st this year! There are several celebrations planned including a formal one in Salem, MA. We want to thank Miss Lillian for her service in the Women's Army Corp which spanned over twenty years and for paving the way for the military women of today!

Thank you Lillian for your service to our country and being a pioneer for women everywhere. You are truly a Hero in Our Midst!



Vets and Veggies

Donald Jarvis
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERANS COLUMNIST

What started as an idea has now become a reality. The brainchild of 29 year Jake Alexander, 'Vets and Veggies' aims to provide help to our veterans. Jake, who is not a veteran himself, says "if it wasn't for our veterans we wouldn't be able to live the American Dream."

This is not the first time Jake has helped or worked with veterans. He owns property in New Bedford and has rented apartments to them. Jake learned first-hand some of the struggles and obstacles veterans face. His goal now is to expand on what he has done in the past and provide more than just a place to live, but to provide a safe place for them to learn skills, a trade and a place to heal. Modeled off the 'care farm' concept from Europe, Vets and Veggies serves as a program that provides social and educational services as well as other services for our veterans.

The housing will help veterans in Massachusetts. The housing facility comes with common areas shared by the veterans such as a laundry room, bathrooms, kitchen, living room and dining room. The facility can house up to eight male veterans of all ages and eras. Each veteran gets their own room and will be required to carry out repairs that may be needed on the home. Jake feels this will provide them a great way to learn about the kind of work needed to care for a home once

they move on and into their own place. Veterans will learn how to reduce waste of natural resources, learn different techniques to improve soil conditions, build self-esteem and learn how to build sustainable gardens to help feed the community. Providing them an opportunity to re-integrate into the community and learn how to organize and set up a long term sustainable income.

The farm manager, Chip Pinder, a veteran with two tours in Afghanistan always dreamed about opening a farm for veterans. He recently learned about Jake's and together they joined forces, sharing a common dream. They are the driving force behind Vets and Veggies. The farm will sell produce, farm shares and have already had pigs slaughtered and ready to be sold.

Recently securing funding is the biggest challenge for the farm. 'The infrastructure is here, I need to start bringing in funding so I can start hiring staff to help run it' said Jake who has at this point been self-funding the farm. A GoFundMe has been started as well as a couple fundraiser events have been planned for this year. A pig roast and corn-hole tournament is scheduled for June 3rd at the farm. Jake and his team are looking for Raffle items for the June 3rd event.

If you are interested in learning more about Vets and Veggies, or being a sponsor visit: www.vetsandveggies.com and don't forget to Like them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vetsandveggies>

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Francisco Urena

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NOTEBOOK: FROM PAGE 7

YOUR MONEY WITH ALEX TALCOTT

Diaz, Frederick 19 Bailey St.
DISTRICT F CITY COUNCIL
Nominate 2 in September,
1 Elected in November
Laplante, Marc 29 Durso Avenue
Morel, Wander 24 East laurel St.
BALLROOM DANCING EVERY SUN-
DAY AT THE RELIEF'S IN

Every Sunday you have a chance to go ballroom dancing with live bands and a great dance floor at the Relief's In Function Hall on 1 Market Street in Lawrence right on the North Andover line. Mass. Ave. exit from Route 495. Dancing is from 7:30 to 11PM. \$13 admission. Dessert and coffee served at 8:30. Door prize and 'Split the Pot'. Bar service available. Singles and couples of all ages welcome! Dance run by the 'Come Alive After Five Group'.

Proper dress is required. Wear your dancing shoes!

ANDOVER SENIOR CENTER

Living Healthy Fair for seniors, caregivers, friends and families. Tuesday, May 16th, from 10 - 2 pm. at the Andover Senior Center, 30 Whittier Court, Andover, MA; free and open to the public.

Guest speaker Terence A. McGinnis, Commissioner of the Division of Banks, to speak on Elder Fraud and Abuse.

Free grab-and-go lunch, health checks, giveaways, durable medical equipment checks. Learn about health, wellness, housing, financial, legal resources and more for your family, friends and yourself. Join the Andover Senior Community Friends and receive free raffle tickets.

N. ANDOVER SENIOR CENTER

List of May happenings @ the North Andover Senior Center!

May 11 Men's Breakfast @ 9am, Low Vision Support Group 10:30 - 11:30, Let's Talk Thursday @ 1:30pm continues with "Afternoons with Frost" presented by Actor Stephen Collins.

May 12 Sign-up starts for Mystery Ride Trip; Regular scheduled programs

May 12 Massage Therapist appointments 9:00 - 12:00

May 12 The Lunch Bunch at Jocelyn's Restaurant @ noon, Bus departs Senior Center @ 11:30 AM

May 15 Annual "Celebration for Women" kicks off, 10:30AM with historical character actress Sheryl Faye presenting as Amelia Earhart followed by luncheon @ noon

May 16 TRIAD @ 11:00

May 17 Intergenerational Pizza Party in Celebration of Older Americans Month by Thompson School & Stachey's Pizza @

noon
May 18 Mr. Fix it 12:00 - 3:00, Supper Club at Joseph's Trattoria 5:00 pm
May 19 Foot Care 9 - 3:00, Book Club B @ 10:00, Quilting Bee 10- noon.
May 22nd Rockingham Mall Shopping Trip 12:30 - 3:30pm.
May 23th Attorney Murray appointments 10 - 12PM

May 24th Regular scheduled program
May 25th May Mystery Ride Day Trip
May 26th Regular scheduled program
May 29th Holiday Center Closed
May 30th Regular scheduled program
May 31st JOIN the "Friends of North Andover Senior Center" meeting at 4PM, we are looking for additional BOARD members to help with planning and organizing of events.

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION SESSION - The Massachusetts Division of Revenue invites you to an Employer Information Session regarding the responsibilities of employers related to child support enforcement with emphasis on new hire reporting and income withholding.

Please join ValleyWorks Career Center on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 from 8:00am to 10:00am at Northern Essex Community College Technology Enter, Hartleb Technology Building, 100 Elliott Street, Haverhill, MA 01830.

CHILD SAFETY CAR SEAT INSPECTION EVENT - On Friday, May 20, 10 to 1 pm, Lawrence General Hospital will be hosting a free child safety car seat inspection event. Nationally certified child passenger safety technicians will inspect your child's safety seat to ensure it is installed correctly. The event is free and open to the public.

FREE CANCER SCREENING

Free Skin Cancer Screenings with Dermatologists David Gruber, MD and Christine Kannler, MD on May 17, 2017, 3-5 p.m. in Suite G39, the ground floor Outpatient Clinic at Holy Family Hospital, located at 70 East St., Methuen, MA. Appointments required. To schedule your free screening appointment, please call Holy Family Hospital at 978-687-0156, ext. 2101 or email jill.thresher@steward.org.

NILP ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT FOR INDEPENDENCE. JUNE 9TH

Reserve your spot now for this event at the beautiful Merrimack Valley Golf Club in Methuen. \$165 per player and includes continental breakfast, lunch, greens fees, cart, Hole-In-One Contest & more! Register at www.nilp.org

Retirement Saving for the Self-Employed

Alex Talcott

VALLEY PATRIOT MONEY COLUMNIST

New England is an especially exciting, entrepreneurial place. Many choose the fulfilling journey of self-employment, taking upon themselves the management of opportunities as well as responsibilities. Small-business owners just starting out are in control of virtually every aspect of their enterprise, which includes making personal retirement happen. If you are self-employed or thinking about making the leap, make sure you prioritize your own future. Before financial independence, you also deserve to enjoy tax advantages in the shorter term. Explore retirement plan options available to you.

Make retirement saving a habit

If you are self-employed, you need to make retirement saving part of your routine. Although it may be challenging to determine what your salary is - and therefore what your retirement savings will be - commit to set aside money each month. Even a modest amount can make a big difference in the total amount of your nest egg. Once your income is more consistent, consider increasing your contribution.

Savings options available

There are a variety of retirement savings vehicles for self-employed individuals to consider. You can use one approach or a variety of vehicles to build your nest egg. Among the most popular savings options are:

SEP-IRAs

A Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) IRA allows you to set aside as much as 25 percent of your net earnings from self-employment, up to \$54,000 per year in 2017. It is easy to administer, requires minimal paperwork, and gives you the ability to build a significant pool of savings for retirement.

SIMPLE IRA

This is a fairly simple plan to establish for the self-employed or small business owners. You can contribute 100 percent of your net self-employment earnings up to \$12,500 (\$15,500 for those age 50 and older). As your own employer, you can also make a modest additional or matching contribution.

Solo 401(k)

As a business owner, you're able to make contributions as both an employer

and an employee. As the owner, you can contribute up to 100 percent of your net self-employment earnings on a pre-tax basis, up to \$54,000 in 2017. You can save an additional \$18,000 (\$24,000 for those age 50 and older) in the plan. For the individual contribution, you have the

option of making either pre-tax contributions, or saving after-tax dollars into a Roth 401(k) that offers benefits similar to a Roth IRA. A 401(k) has additional administrative requirements that don't apply to some of the other savings options.

Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)

Another potential option is to maximize annual contributions to IRAs. Those under age 50 can save as much as \$5,500 (or 100 percent of income, whichever is less) in an IRA. Those 50 and older can set aside an extra \$1,000 above that limit. Contributions may be tax deductible based on your income. Otherwise, you may have the option to save your after-tax dollars into a Roth IRA, if you qualify. Earnings accumulated in a Roth IRA have the potential to give you a tax-free income stream in retirement, when all conditions are met.

Look for guidance

Choosing which plan or combination of savings plans is right for you is a personal choice. If you have questions or want additional information about your options, contact a financial professional. No matter what options you choose, keep in mind that the best approach is the one that encourages you to create a secure financial future for yourself.

Alex Talcott, JD, is a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Portsmouth and Bedford, New Hampshire and Middleton, Massachusetts. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 10 years. To contact him: (603) 319-3108; 25 Chestnut St., Ste. 300N, Portsmouth, NH, 03801; www.ameripriseadvisors.com/alex.talcott

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Property Sales, Foreclosures for APRIL, 2017 in Andover, North Andover, Lawrence, & Methuen. From Northern Essex Registrar of Deeds M. Paul Iannuccillo (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, address, and price.)

ANDOVER

Daniel & Paulina Sarao, Brian & Katherine Carbone, 99 High Street, \$551,151.00
 Melmark Inc., Andover Village Improvement Society, River Road, \$292,545.00
 Taylor Cove Development LLC, Arvind Jayakar, 18 Taylor Cove Drive Unit 9, \$624,400.00
 Taylor Cove Development LLC, Vijayalakshmi Subramanian, 18 Taylor Cove Drive Unit 9,
 Parsek & Parsegh Nalbandian & Rosette Jacobson, Rosette Jacobson, 45 Bellevue Road, \$350,000.00
 Hei-Ruey & Ja-Fun Jen, Chih-Hsiang Ho, 43 Linwood Street, \$400,000.00
 Hei-Ruey & Ja-Fun Jen, Shu-Yen Huang, 43 Linwood Street,
 T & A Realty Trust, Pappas-Caban Nominee Trust, 76 Poor Street, \$1,050,000.00
 Brookside Estates LP, 28 Brookside LLC, Spring Valley Drive Ect. , \$2,116,688.05
 Barry & Betsy Singelais, Elanor Sapienti, 23 Summer Street Unit 3,
 Mary Ellen Obert, Caroline Obert, 80B Washington Park Drive Unit 7,
 Allard Realty Trust, Joseph Allard, 43 Rocky Hill Road,
 Belford Construction Inc., 57DTBF LLC, Greenwood Road,
 Adam & Jessica Morrone, Eugene Lee, 79 North Street,
 Kristen Newman, Shunhe Wang, B2 Colonial Drive, \$279,000.00
 John & Margaret Mahan, Yicheng Kang, 3 Gardner Avenue, \$164,905.00
 John & Margaret Mahan, Jingnan Zhang, 3 Gardner Avenue, \$131,250.00
 Patricia Torre, Xiaohong Zhao, 52 Chandler Circle, \$300,000.00
 Patricia Torre, Jie Cheng, 52 Chandler Circle, \$675,000.00
 Colin & Rachel Haley, Rachel Squillace, 24 Launching Road, \$680,000.00
 Colin & Rachel Haley, Mariusz Twardowski, 24 Launching Road,
 Jean Qiu Family Trust, Bobbie & Timothy Tryder, 1 Copley Drive, \$550,000.00
 Rickenbach Renovations LLC, Benjamin Lee, 45 Corbett Street, \$409,000.00
 Boston Properties LP, Andover Apartments LLC, 30 Shattuck Road, \$5,000,000.00
 Jeffco Inc, Mitchell Bloom, 17 Theodore Avenue, \$829,900.00
 Daniel & Danielle Gillis, Matthew Burke, 41 William Street, \$741,000.00
 Daniel & Danielle Gills, Christie Langenberg, 41 William Street,



Lisa Mancini, Meghan Shea-Wagner, 250 North Main Street Unit 9, \$172,500.00
 Kevin & Robin Comerford, Paul Tortorella, 8 Prides Circle, \$1,260,000.00
 Kevin & Robin Comerford, Mary Mckernan, 8 Prides Circle,
 Alistair Thorburn, John & Maria Ippolito, 21 Swan Lane Unit 6-3, \$755,000.00
 David & Kim Walters, Derek Witwicki, 64 North Street, \$390,000.00
 David & Kim Walters, Erika Harrison, 64 North Street,
 Linda Roche, Rupiner & Shalini Hargun, 193 Highland Road, \$500,000.00
 Bendett-Cronk Nominee Trust, Elizabeth & David Docouto, 3 Beech Circle, \$476,000.00
 Theodore & Kathleen Gilmore, Michael & Noel Napolitano, 8 Elysian Drive, \$620,000.00
 Ronaldo & Mary Campos, Endri & Sunita Angjeli, 29 Candlewood Drive, \$670,000.00
 Robert & Lorraine Kerwin, Ori & Ilanit Faigin, 7 Dean Circle, \$503,000.00
 David Siebeking, Allston Street Group LLC, 150 Main Street, \$1,075,000.00
 Anthony & Susan Teberio, Wei Li, 18 Chongris Circle, \$978,000.00
 Doreen Dantono, Amie Constant, 2 George Street, \$452,000.00
 Robert & Gina Mccullough, Curtis & Abbey Key, 2 Scotland Drive, \$1,060,000.00
 Susan Mccrensky, Roberto Vengoechea, 21 Muirfield Street, \$1,225,000.00
 Piotr Siwik & Ewa Pawlik, 497US LLC, 497 South Main Street, \$646,000.00
 Jacqueline Merl Bamman, Douglas & Vilanha Turner, 194 Summer Street, \$675,000.00
 Northern Lights Property Development LLC, Junwei Song, 9 Candida Way,

\$878,000.00
 Stephen & Suzanne Daniels, David & Alla Palma, 348 Salem Street, \$867,000.00
 Seven Lakeside Circle Realty trust, Obrien Homes Inc, 7 Lakeside Circle, \$730,000.00
 Taylor Cove Development LLC, Luba & David Tsyarkin, 11 Taylor Cove Drive Unit 32, \$690,460.00
LAWRENCE
 Quirico Mora, Fedor Marte Sr., 324-326 Broadway, \$460,000.00
 Harry Bisson, Freddy Recio, 264 East Haverhill Street Unit 13, \$69,000.00
 Tania Maria & Alexandro Rodriguez, Mariana Pastor, 1 Brookline Street, \$270,000.00
 Jose Mena, Jessica & Jonathan Rodriguez, 17 Bicknell Ter, \$285,000.00
 Lourdes Vargas, Kingdom Properties LLC, 530 Hampshire Street Unit 1, \$65,000.00
 Isabel Vasquez, Ricardo Arevalo, 1-4 Florence Ct., \$440,000.00
 Y & H Commercial Properties LLC, Ramon Rosa, 108 Springfield Street, \$300,000.00
 Bella Realty Trust, Cameron-Bishop/Janton Trust, 24-26 Inman Street Unit 35, \$95,000.00
 Sujej Mejia, Leyla Apache, 85-87 Belknap Street, \$291,000.00
 Anny Hernandez, Ruben Montequieu Gomez, 81-83 Warren Street, \$355,000.00
 Jaime Taveras, Merrimack Street LLC, 17-23 Chandler Street, \$80,000.00
 Youseff Ramez, K & G Realty Trust, 260 East Haverhill Street Unit 19, \$70,000.00
 Youseff Ramez, K & G Realty Trust, 264 East Haverhill Street Unit 19, \$70,000.00
 Felipe Marmol, Maribel Martinez, 4 Berkeley Street, \$430,000.00
 German Duran, Rubelio & Sheila Palma, 32 Nelson Street, \$222,000.00
 Luis & Carlos Aguirre, Maritza Diaz, 81-83 Dorchester Street, \$310,000.00

Reynaldo Mejia, Maria Fernandez, 12 Willoughby Street, \$357,000.00
 Reynaldo Mejia, Ernesto Porfirio Cruz, 12 Willoughby Street,
 J & J Mcnamara Realty Trust, Amada Romero, 38 Amherst Street, \$225,000.00
 Noris Frias, Laura Vasquez Santos, 61 Bunkerhill Street, \$195,000.00
 Sandeep Arora, Property Realty Group LLC, 272 East Haverhill Street Unit 8, \$72,000.00
 Union Bailey LLC, La Belle Masion LLC, 375 Haverhill Street, \$400,000.00
 American Real Estate Development LLC, Joselin & Luis Contreras, 15 Perry Avenue, \$400,000.00
 Juan & Ruth Montes De Oca, Yaritsa Brea, 4 East Prospect Street, \$285,000.00
 Steve Rodrigue, Wendolin & Starlin Silverio, 257-259 Howard Street, \$310,000.00
 Abraham Pinedo, Reyna J. Aquino De Zorilla, 163 High Street, \$325,000.00
 Daniel G. Berrios, Jose Orlando Aldana, 2-4 Webster Court, \$420,000.00
 Jannette Marte, Angela Fernandez De Pena, 437-437A South Broadway, \$390,000.00
 Jannette Marte, Jose Rodriguez, 437-437A South Broadway,
 Jorge Santiago, Juan Caba Rodriguez, 378 Ames Street, \$390,000.00
 Jorge Santiago, Yicet Caba, 378 Ames Street,
 Jose Mena, Irene Tamariz, 99 Saratoga Street, \$155,000.00
 Scott Grande, Jonathan Rennicks, 27 Woodland Court, \$225,000.00
 Alberto Nunez, Jessica Acosta, 32-34 Front Street, \$373,000.00
 Alberto Nunez, Kenny Garcia, 32-34 Front Street,
 Dolores Beal, Mohua Sultana, 415-417 Andover Street, \$305,000.00
 Hildo Sompres, David Sepulveda, 6A Salem Street, \$270,000.00
 Sebastian & Maria Caruso trust & Consoli

CONTINUED PAGE 22



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Property Sales, Foreclosures for APRIL, 2017 in Andover, North Andover, Lawrence, & Methuen. From Northern Essex Registrar of Deeds M. Paul Iannuccillo (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, address, and price.)

CONT. FROM PAGE 25

Realty Trust, Nely Mercedes, 17-19 Custer Street, \$435,000.00
 Noel Aldana, Esmirna Arias, 110-114 Parker Street, \$100,000.00
 Patricia & Randy Britton, Robert Ringuette, 40 Amherst Street, \$220,000.00
 Teresa Cueto, Rolando De Castro Diaz, 85 Jamaica Street Unit 2, \$174,000.00
 Roseanne Gonzalez, Altagracia Hidalgo, 19-21 Durant Street, \$326,000.00
 Albert & Charles Perrault & Jane Sigillo, Christopher Cody, 1105 Essex Street, \$269,900.00
 Robcelio Lourenco, Richard Diaz, 17 Fallon Street, \$275,000.00

NORTH ANDOVER

Matthew & Angela Semeraro, Paul & Kelli Salafia, 95 Sandra Lane, \$605,000.00
 Eric & Erin Harris, Seth Einhorn, 267 Sutton Street, \$345,000.00
 Eric & Erin Harris, Caitlin Meany, 267 Sutton Street,
 Hamid & Negin Esbah, Patrick Maguire, 1475 Great Pond Road, \$560,000.00
 Elanor Sapianti, Marc Brightman, 122 Cotuit Street Unit 1, \$384,900.00
 Lillian Fiore & Maine Muldoon, Brian Cuscia, 1401 Great Pond Road Unit 5, \$200,000.00
 Elm Street Realty LLC, Dailson Monteiro, 115-117 Pleasant Street, \$420,000.00
 Gary & Christina Colello, Monica Casali, 31 Sugarcane Lane, \$749,900.00
 Cathleen Richards, Albert & Darlene McGurl, 148 Main Street Unit A515, \$205,000.00
 Kevin & Jennifer Sarro, Jonathan Barnes, 1 Harvest Drive Unit 108A, \$280,000.00
 M. Joline McGaunn, Thomas & Linda Steel, 237 Carlton Lane, \$675,000.00
 Tracy L. Frazier, Dorothy Held, 1 Oak Avenue, \$387,500.00
 John Larkin, David & Kevin Towler, 12 Walker Road Unit 2, \$157,000.00
 Michelle Kierstead, 67 Riverview Realty Trust, 67 Riverview Street, \$225,000.00
 James Michael Coskren, Joshua Lang, 68B Jefferson Street Unit 57, \$154,900.00
 Philippe & Sheila Muller, Tommy Huynh, 891 Great Pond Road, \$555,000.00
 Stephen Mccarthy, Andrew & Heidi Afronti, 12 Rosedale Avenue, \$495,000.00
 Paul Passariello, Eric & Polly Goodman, 4 Millpond, \$353,000.00
 Chung Kit Jerry Chan & Lai-Yin Tseng, Carl B. Van Zweden, 440 Chestnut Street, \$745,000.00
 Stephanie Cormier, Lindsay Foy, 25 Fernview Avenue Unit 8C, \$131,000.00
 Rebecca Defilippo, Barbara Danais Revocable Trust, 148 Main Street Unit S-328, \$220,000.00
 Citizens Bank, Kara & William Eagan, 133 Pleasant Street Unit 4, \$195,000.00
 John Havican, Jennifer Yuan, 14 Walker



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Salisbury Beach

Road Unit 14-1, \$140,000.00
 Sheila Diblasi, George & Kelly Norwood, 48 Fernview Avenue Unit 11, \$194,000.00
 Charles & Darlene Bowen, Matthew & Emily Hall, 37 Greene Street, \$335,000.00
 Cedric & Gisela Nash, John Debella, 65 Spring Hill Road, \$760,000.00
 Cedric & Gisela Nash, Jennifer Marotta, 65 Spring Hill Road,
 Richard Harvie, Ginay Tannenbaum, 23 Beech Avenue, \$485,000.00
 Jeffrey & Kathleen Poor, Justin & Elizabeth Ouellet, 72 Pheasant Brook Road, \$716,000.00
 Nicholas & Katie Gennetti, Seth & Caitlin Roy, 11 Cherise Circle, \$552,000.00
 Stephen Sullivan, Michael Foster, 163 Main Street, \$334,000.00
 John, Elaine, & Scott Sena, Kristy Mikol, 2 Harvest Drive Unit 202, \$265,000.00
 John, Elaine, & Scott Sena, Rovert Jean, 2 Harvest Drive Unit 202,
 Ebru Aydemir, Stephen Innis, 4 Harvest Drive Unit 209, \$274,000.00
 Caroline Gattuso & Eileen Casey, Michael Russo, 13 Walker Road Unit 4, \$125,000.00
 Stephen & Kaye Mann, Nicholas & Katie Gennetti, 45 Rosemont Drive, \$678,000.00
 Keith & Gentel Mckenney, Eric Evans, 3 Harvest Drive Unit 213, \$294,500.00
 Keith & Gentel Mckenney, Kate Looby, 3 Harvest Drive Unit 23,
 Kelsey Hichens, Timothy Donoghue, 9 Walker Road Unit 9-5, \$140,000.00
 Louis, Patrick, & Lucille Napoli, Ronald Mcnutt, 52 Inglewood Street, \$420,000.00
METHUEN
 Barbara Rogers, Nikaurys Javier, 10 Lowell Street, \$360,000.00

Abdo & Samaria Hashem, Joseph & Gail Steele, 15 Oakridge Street, \$425,000.00
 Abdo & Samaria Hashem, Hillary Minicucci, 15 Oakridge Street,
 David & Jane Singleton, Dana Singleton, 29 Heather Drive Unit 34, \$245,000.00
 David & Jane Singleton, Sally Dame, 29 Heather Drive Unit 34,
 Parker Family Realty Trust, Bilal Basher, 62 Strathmore Road, \$260,000.00
 Edward Cavatorta & Kelli Cassidy, Brendan Johnson, 24 Laurel Avenue, \$325,000.00
 Toan Nguyen & Thuy Le, Nga Tk Nguyen, 3-5 Oakside Avenue Unit 1, \$170,000.00
 Toan Nguyen & Thuy Le, Tung Thanh Dang, 3-5 Oakside Avenue Unit 1,
 Jesus & Maria Trejo, Nakia Prioleau, 41 Queen Avenue, \$460,000.00
 Jesus & Maria Trejo, Kristen Greene, 41 Queen Avenue,
 Patricia Sanchez-Reyes & Israel Reyes, Sujej Mejia, 257 Howe Street, \$469,900.00
 Toll MA IV LLC, Richard & Deborah Hannus, 34 Pine Tree Drive Unit 23, \$605,716.00
 Richard & Sharon Roy, Kamal Kishmore, 181 North Lowell Street, \$286,500.00
 Richard & Sharon Roy, Shashi & Saurav Chetteri, 181 North Lowell Street,
 Brachina Family Irrevocable Trust, Adam Maiti, 33 Golf Avenue, \$365,000.00
 Toll MA IV LLC, Carmen Jabour Herrera & Augusto Herrera, 491 Howe Street, \$75,000.00
 Arash Yamin, Scott Family Trust, 20 Washington Street Unit 48, \$220,000.00
 Robert & Teresa Barcelos, Sugeily Ciriaco, 3 Balmoral Drive, \$495,000.00
 David & Carol Leary, Roberto & Teresa Barcelos, 8 Heritage Lane, \$510,000.00
 Alcro Development LLC, Arlene Oliveri, 14 Ashley Lane Unit 42, \$195,000.00
 Jesus Manuel Trejo, Cruz E. Lopez, 18-20 Strathmore Road, \$410,000.00
 Jesus Manuel Trejo, Alicia R. Lopez Merida, 18-20 Strathmore Road,
 Daniel & Susan Viscosi, Jesus Trejo, 120 Druid Hill Avenue, \$360,000.00
 Thomas & Estelle Dewolfe, Paul & Kierstyn Dewolfe, 8 Vista Circle, \$335,000.00
 Peter & Michelle Tomasello, Michael & Allison Chambers, 32 Varnum Avenue, \$355,000.00
 Zachary & Shanna Crowell, Estefanie Castillo-Inoa, 945 Riverside Drive Unit 2B, \$173,800.00
 Lynn Turchi & Kimberly Rabold, Vincent & Alicia Malone, 8 Vincent Avenue, \$385,000.00
 Barbara Rogers, Nikaurys Javier, 10 Lowell Street, \$360,000.00
 Joseph Cuticchia, Juan Espinal, 10 John

Street, \$330,000.00
 Lauren Dalis & Robert Hallihan, Elhousin Louali, 2 Hemenway Street, \$260,000.00
 Lauren Dalis & Robert Hallihan, Fatima El Ouali, 2 Hemenway Street,
 Mark Anthony Uva, Deborah Dion, 23 Hampshire Road Unit 23-414, \$180,000.00
 Toll MA IV LLC, Paul & Margriet Rokos, 17 Pine Tree Drive Unit 101, \$718,302.00
 Toll MA IV LLC, Steven & Lorraine Flora, 16 Sierra Court Unit 8, \$893,141.00
 Erica M. Baez, Jean Claude Joseph, 31 Kenwood Road, \$242,000.00
 OWB REO LLC, Agape Services LLC, 12 Willow Street, \$205,000.00
 Margaret Way LLC, Rukhsana Ahmed, 5 Margarets Way, \$499,900.00
 Michelle Kerns, Renee & Stephen Lenahan, 23 Hampshire Road Unit 210, \$216,000.00
 Steven Pacheco, Brianna Marie Wells, 82 Ayer Street, \$335,000.00
 Steven Pacheco, Jeannette Chevalier, 82 Ayer Street,
 Joel & June Kasper, Andrew & Jennifer Black, 4 Lindsay Lane, \$500,000.00
 Hazem Jabbour, Elias & Louma Khoury, 59 Pilgrim Circle Unit 59, \$140,000.00
 Bedard Realty Trust, G & E Realty Trust, 100 Currier Street, \$150,000.00
 Joseph & Heather Torra, Joseph & Megan Laferriere, 96 Maple Street, \$392,000.00
 Rosemary Clausen Irrevocable Trust, Miguel Marcos Fernandez, 24 Union Street, \$322,000.00
 Briana Angelotti, Shane Bourassa, 3 Woodburn Drive, \$430,000.00
 Briana Angelotti, Erika Peguero, 3 Woodburn Drive,
 Rose Family Trust, Mounir Jermany, 45 Washington Street Unit T-95, \$200,000.00
 Bruce & Debra Van Horn, EMR Trust, 39 Russell Farm Drive Unit 34, \$410,000.00
 Scott & Joanna Harkins, Peter & Yolla Sabounji, 58 Olympic Village Drive, \$370,000.00
 Winston & Paula Reyes, Marvin Monroy, 86 Hazel Street, \$310,000.00
 Winston & Paula Reyes, Nicole Lessard, 86 Hazel Street,
 Joseph Miniutti & Kerrin Berube, Robert & Melissa Armstrong, 35 Louise Avenue, \$262,000.00
 J H Feather Realty Trust, Patrick Fleming, 8 Longview Ter, \$275,000.00
 Toll MA IV LLC, Richard & Joanne Enos, 9 Pine Tree Drive, \$604,421.00
 David Palazzo & Christina Xifaras, Ramila Patel, 151 Lowell Street, \$202,000.00
 Hales Landing LLC, Camille Healey, 82 North Lowell Street, \$285,000.00
 Enrique Espinosa, Reynold Lee Barnes, 21 Hampshire Road Unit 105, \$230,000.00
 Thomas & Rebecca Plant, Nicholas Mccue, 945 Riverside Drive Unit 28A, \$185,000.00
 Thomas & Bette Bissonnette, Matthew & Erin St. Jean, 10 Landmark Road, \$440,000.00
 Ronald Mcnutt, John Smith & Donalda Dechaney-Smith, 23 Linwood Avenue, \$275,000.00
 Baard & Patricia Ronningen, Incer Family trust LLC, 27 Harvard Avenue, \$209,000.00
 Sandra Byers-Ryea, Buddy Kinman, 24 Russell Street, \$356,000.00
 Maria Milczarek, Mario Marchese, 6 Woekel Terr, \$261,000.00
 Mirna & Maroun Bechara, Hazen & Nadine Jabbour, 41 Copley Drive, \$450,000.00
 Settlemoir LLC, Rocio & Otoniel Pedrosa, 33 Camden Street, \$270,000.00
 BM Realty Trust, Diana & Davine Bechara, 20 Danbury Drive Unit 7, \$107,000.00
 Carmela & Timothy Benoit, DFF Group Inc, Merrimack Street, \$20,000.00
 John & Karen Simone, DFF Group Inc, 435 Merrimack Street, \$1,110,000.00
 Robert J. Palmisano Revocable Trust, William Miguel, 10 Wellington Street, \$267,000.00



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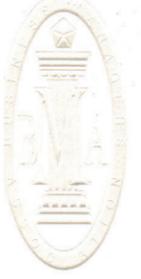
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