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Who Will Lead Methuen?



PAGE: 5

Methuen City Council President Jen Kannan and Neil Perry will face off at the ballot box on November 5th to see who will be the next Mayor of Methuen. The Valley Patriot and the Paying Attention! Podcast will be hosting a debate between Kannan and Perry on Thursday, October 31st at 5PM at the Studio 21 Podcast Cafe, above Two Guys Smoke Shop in Salem NH. Follow the Valley Patriot Facebook page to watch it live!

INDEX



Al Kaprielian
Page 4



IN YOUR CORNER
Senator
DIZOGLIO

PAGE 13



Linda Dean Campbell
State Rep.

PAGE 13



TV TALK
w. Bill
Cushing

PAGE 26



Brian Genest
Dracut

PAGE 11

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Vets..... | 1, 8 |
| Editorial-OpEd..... | 2 |
| Methuen..... | 2, 5-7, 10, 12-16, 20, 21 |
| Notebook..... | 8-9 |
| Lawrence..... | 11 |
| Dracut..... | 11 |
| North Andover..... | 8-9 |
| State..... | 13 |
| Health/Medical..... | 22 |
| Culture Wars..... | 25 |
| Religion/TV..... | 26 |
| Real Estate..... | 27 |

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VALLEY PATRIOTS OF THE MONTH

PAT WALOR OF THE 9TH INFANTRY! DAIRY FARMER, WW II INFANTRYMAN, AMERICAN HERO!

John Cuddy

VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

Dracut's Pat Walor was born on his family's farm in Peabody, Massachusetts in 1923 – the second youngest of eleven children. His father was a dirt farmer (Pat's own description of a vegetable farmer). He recalls his weekly trips into Faneuil Hall in Boston to sell their vegetables on commission. A few years ago, I first met Pat after 4 p.m. Mass at St.

Francis Church in Dracut. After Mass I noticed him putting on his World War II Veteran ball cap and brought my granddaughter over to meet him. Although she was only two at the time, I wanted her to meet a living World War II Veteran. Her great-great-grandfather had fought in the Mexican Border War of 1915 and was wounded in the trenches of World War I so I thought this introduction was important. This year, on Armed Forces Day, she and her brothers changed the American

Flag on their great-great-grandfather's grave.

On March 10, 1943 Pat enlisted into the US Army. He did his basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. Although he was originally told he would serve in the Pacific, he was ultimately sent to serve in Europe. He remembers the boat ride over and how scared all of them were because of the rough seas and the boat crashing on the waves. Pat Walor never drank or smoked but he liked to eat. He smiled as he recounted to me that on the boat ride he always volunteered for Kitchen Duty, called KP by the Troops, whenever he could, so he could eat when he wanted, and as much food as he wanted.

Serving with Company D, of the 39th Infantry Regiment, part of the 9th Infantry Division, US Army veteran, Pat Walor trained as a Light Mortar Crewman. Pat



and his unit landed at Utah Beach four days after D-Day where heavy casualties led to him being reassigned as an Infantryman. He fought in Normandy, Northern France, and finally the Rhineland. On his 21st birthday, he was wounded as they were advancing toward Brussels. After spending some time in the hospital, Pat was being sent back to the front lines but a Major saw him and said he was not healed enough yet and was ordered to stay in the hospital longer to

recuperate.

Pat was in Marseille, France when they heard the news that Germany had surrendered. He was inside his tent and he remembers hearing cheers and everyone shooting their guns into the air. Like many local US Army Veterans, after he recovered from wounds received in combat against the Nazis, Pat was mustered out at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, on April 1,

HERO: PAGE 29

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If You Really Care About Your Family, VOTE!

Last month, less than 5,000 people voted in the Methuen preliminary election for city council. Methuen has approximately 57,000 people residing in the city limits.

That means less than 10% of the people in Methuen bothered to participate in the decision of who represents them in city government.

In Lawrence the numbers were frighteningly lower.

City to city and town to town, we are losing our democracy at the local level because of voter apathy.

When fewer people vote, that gives much more power to the few who do, and even more power to those who seek and hold elected office at the local level.

In the Methuen Central District City Council race there were only 25 votes separating second place winner Joel Faretra and third place finisher Dennis Deeb.

In the Mayor's race Dan Shabilia was knocked out of the primary by only 282 votes.

With so few people voting and taking seriously the role local government plays

in their daily lives, elected and appointed officials know that they can break any rules they want, and nobody is going to hold them accountable.

In Lawrence there are three school committee races without a single candidate. In Methuen there are five candidates running for six seats on the school committee. That's nothing short of depressing.

You might think that with all of the controversy of the Methuen Schools overspending \$4M, the threat of teacher layoffs earlier this year, the superintendent resigning in disgrace because she lied about being certified and licensed, the fury that was unleashed when the art and music classes were said to be cancelled to balance the budget... you would think with all this, the voters, particularly the parents in Methuen, would step up to the plate and flood the ballot with over a dozen candidates determined to turn their school system around... you know... for the sake of the children.

But you would be wrong. Methuen is faced with three write in candidates trying to get the uncontested school committee

seat, while those who actually have their names on the ballot have nobody demanding their platforms, they are not knocking on doors, and will truly be accountable to NOBODY.

Susan Nicholson is the only incumbent running for reelection who voted not to fire Judy Scannell and she will never have to answer for that vote. What happens the next time a vote like this comes up? Do you think Ms. Nicholson is more or less likely to side with the insiders instead of the taxpayers? I think we all know that answer to that question.

Your local school committee is in charge of educating your children in our failing public schools. When the community is not engaged and doesn't get involved in the school committee races it allows people to hold power who are either incompetent or do not have the best interest of the voters in mind. And why should they, the voters themselves don't seem to care.

What's more, your city council and mayor are in charge of setting your property tax bills, how many cops are patrol-

ling your neighborhood, and whether or not your trash is picked up. These quality of life issues are paramount to living in a safe and prosperous city. When fewer people vote, more power is created for the political insiders and quality of life is diminished. People get hired because of who they are related to and private contracts go to those who shelled out campaign donations in the last election.

We have long said that if you do not vote you are part of the problem.

Now, with the myriad of scandals and crises plaguing Lawrence, Methuen and even Haverhill, not voting means you are giving your tacit consent to the way things are. It means things are most likely not going to change, and if they do they won't change for the better.

If you care about peace in your neighborhood, how much you are paying in property taxes, whether or not your schools are dumbing down your children, or if a police officer or firefighter is going to get to you in time at a moment of crisis, you need to do the one thing that can affect all of that... VOTE! ◇

Why I'm Running

Jessica Finocchiaro
CANDIDATE FOR CITY COUNCIL

Hello Methuen my name is Jessica Finocchiaro. I've been your Methuen City Councilor At Large since 2018, and I'm running for my first reelection.

I grew up in Methuen, and chose to stay because this is my home. I have 2 master's degrees from Suffolk University in Public Administration and Government. I have 15 years of work experience in the public and private sectors. Before I was a Councilor I served 2 terms representing Methuen on the Greater Lawrence Technical School Committee, most of which I spent as Vice Chair. I also serve on the board of directors for The Psychological Center, the Merrimack Valley Prevention and Substance Abuse Project, and the YWCA of Northeastern Massachusetts.

In 2017 I announced that I was running for City Council at the Degasse Park on Mystic Street and promised to work hard to fix up the park, you couldn't even sit on the benches safely. In my first few months in office I brought photos of the park and feedback to the Council and Mayor, and held meetings with residents asking them to come to Council meetings so their voice could be heard. The updates to the park were approved and I'm proud to say now the park is a great place for neighbors to get together, and kids to play.

In 2018, I was deeply troubled to hear that the Methuen Police Superiors Contract didn't have a 4% increase over 3 years, but

instead was estimated to be around 300% increase for some, with salaries headed towards half a million dollars. I put forward a resolution with fellow Councilors that we get an independent certified public accountant to look at the contract numbers, and that we have a nonbinding mediation but unfortunately that didn't pass, and the matter is still in dispute. I support first responders and all they do. But elected officials in 2017 made a huge financial mistake, and while I wasn't there at the time, I'm here now, and I'm committed to NOT approving those high raises and bringing this issue to a conclusion so we can move forward, without a huge financial liability for Methuen taxpayers.

As a first time City Councilor I got to work and wrote a resolution that says we MUST have a financial impact statement on how much ANY contract or resolution would cost the City BEFORE we vote, and that resolution was passed!

Later in my first year as a Councilor, it was announced that \$4 million was overspent in the school department. So I got to work, diligently going through legislation for the state oversight and two budget cycles with an attentive eye, asked many questions to make sure Methuen was putting it's best foot forward.

I wasn't afraid to write two resolutions asking state agencies to deeply investigate Methuen in hopes of getting our house in order sooner so we can move forward. I continue to send any moral and legal

JESSICA: PAGE 13

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Faretra



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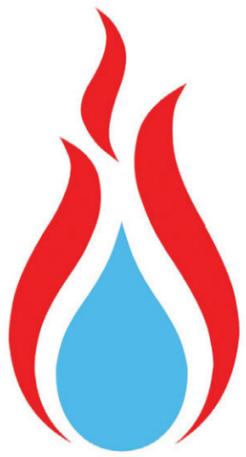
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“WEATHER 101” WITH AL!

Al Kaprielian
VALLEY PATRIOT WEATHERMAN

Welcome to October and the first full month of the fall season. During October we will continue to see the days get shorter and the nights get longer. As a result, the daily high temperatures will decrease as we go through the month. These cooler temperatures will cause the leaves to continue to change color.

The peak foliage for the Merrimack Valley usually occurs around the middle of October. As is the case each year, the further north you go into New England the earlier peak foliage occurs. Peak foliage does not occur until late October into early November across Cape Cod & the Islands. Snow can also occur; its possible however it is not highly likely. In recent years we had a snowstorm which occurred on Halloween.

Due to the high-water content, the heavy weight of the snow caused numerous power outages due to downed trees and power lines. Warm weather can also occur in October with 80 degree plus temperatures still possible. After the leaves are off the trees and the first major frost having occurred, the warm period, if it occurs in fall,

is called Indian Summer. Recapping September we had a continuation of above normal temperatures by a couple of degrees. A few days saw temperatures at 90 degrees or higher.

On Monday September 23rd some areas saw high temperatures reach into the lower 90s. Warm temperatures occurred on Saturday September 28th when many areas saw high temperatures into the low 80s. Even with summer being officially over, many people continued wearing shorts and tee shirts through the end of September.

The warm weather we saw in September was a result of a strong upper level high pressure system over the southeast US. This caused the jet stream to advance north into Canada keeping our area on the south side (warm side) of the jet stream. September also saw a mainly dry weather pattern with many areas below normal with rainfall. There were only a few days during the month which recorded measurable rainfall. This caused a lot of lawns to dry and turn brown. There were some big weather events which occurred in September.

The first was Hurricane Dorian which became a category 5 hurricane (strongest category). Hurricane Dorian really intensified due to the very warm ocean waters



of 85-90 degrees. Winds in the upper atmosphere were weak which caused Dorian to maintain its strength. These weak winds aloft also caused Dorian to really slow down in speed and even stalled for a time over the northwest Bahamas. Dorian's winds reached to 185 mile per hour winds. Due to the slow speed of Dorian this caused widespread and extensive damage to the Bahamas.

Many homes and work places were destroyed.

Dorian also caused widespread power outages. Dorian tracked well southeast of Cape Cod & Nantucket and just caused high surf and dangerous rip currents at our area beaches. The second big weather event in September was tropical storm Imelda which caused historic flooding in Southeast Texas and SW Louisiana. During September the tropics became very active. We also had other storms, Jerry and Karen, which stayed mainly over the ocean.

Another intense hurricane in September was Lorenzo which became a category 5 hurricane. Fortunately, Lorenzo stayed in the central Atlantic and the only effect for us were high surf and dangerous rip currents. During the latter part of September the southward advance of the jet stream brought an intense snowstorm to Montana and the Intermountain west. Some areas there got 4 feet of snow. In contrast summer did not want to leave with many areas over the southern US in the 90s. Stay tuned next month as we take a final look at hurricane season and also see if our warm and dry September continues into October. Meantime enjoy fall!! ♦

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Who will Lead Methuen?

Every two years, Methuen voters elect a mayor to represent the city's municipal government as its CEO. The mayor is in charge of all hiring, firing, promotions and demotions for the City of Methuen. The mayor is also in charge of signing all private contracts and enforcing the city ordinances set forth by the city council. While the mayor proposes a spending budget for the city each year, the city council must approve that budget. The mayor is then in charge of spending the money allocated by the council within that budget, but has line item control within each city department's budget. For example, the council can cut the amount of money in the police budget (as they did this year) but it's up to the mayor to decide what will be cut within the police budget. The mayor is also in charge of appointing members of local boards (with council approval). He or she also serves as chairman of the school committee and gets to vote as an equal with the other six elected school committee members.

This year Mayor James Jajuga is not seeking reelection after only one term.

THE CANDIDATES

In the primary, newcomer Neil Perry topped the ticket among the four candidates in the September primary. Perry is a top executive at Raytheon in Andover and has campaigned mainly on a management philosophy of "facts and data" saying that the next mayor must remove the emotion, forget who in city hall is connected to whom, and let the facts and data determine what is best for the city.

He has heavily criticized Jen Kannan for voting for the 2017 superior officers' contract that has been the subject of conflict and controversy over the last two years.

Perry says that the 2017 council violated the law at least twice during the vote on that contract. First, Perry says that the state law and the Methuen Charter call for



**Methuen City Council President
Jen Kannan**



**Raytheon Executive
Neil Perry**

a financial impact statement to be presented to the council and the public before a vote is to be taken on any contracts. "You didn't do that," Perry said to Kannan during the Paying Attention Podcast debate.

The second thing Perry says the 2017 council did wrong was that they took two votes in one night when the law calls for two separate votes at two different meetings. "This is not what I think they did wrong," Perry said. "This is what the independent Inspector General's Report said."

Perry says if he wins, the city will still face the crisis with the police contract, disagreeing with Kannan and the current council's borrowing only \$4M to fill the deficit in the school department. He said that if the police superior officers' union wins in arbitration this month there is no money in the budget to cover that expense. "The city council should have made provisions for this," Perry said, adding that councilor Jessica Finocchiaro had proposed borrowing a little more than the \$4M the city needed to cover the school deficit in case something like this were to happen. "The council voted down that proposal and now we are faced with an additional crisis."

He added that it is going to take leadership to make the hard decisions to fix these problems.

Perry has also criticized Kannan for having too many conflicts of interest. "I have no conflicts of interest, so my hands won't be tied. On day one I will be ready to take actions to start the process of putting Methuen back on good financial footing."

Perry talks of a new vision for Methuen where city workers are held accountable and there are no more "sweetheart deals" for political insiders.

Perry touts his biggest strength as having decades of experience negotiating multi-million dollar contracts with the state and federal government working at Raytheon. He says that if the city had someone experienced with contracts, the police superior officers' contract controversy never would have happened.

He also says that he wants to attract new businesses or business offices to the city to relieve some of the tax burden on homeowners.

Perry also took a strong stand on the school department overspending of \$4M and the Judy Scannell situation saying that the school committee should have fired Scannell and that if someone in the private sector had done what she has done they would not only be fired but most likely a whole lot of other people would be as well. "No investigation was done as to how this happened," he told The Valley Patriot. "No investigation was done to find out who else knew about it. That was a

PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

TWO NOMINATED
1 To be Elected Nov. 5th

Neil Perry 2,610

Jen Kannan 1,215

Shablia 933

Riccio 149

mistake. People want accountability and they want to know their government is fair."

Perry hinted that if he is elected and sits as chairman of the school committee he would push for an investigation saying it's not too late and won't be too late in January to get to the bottom of what really happened.

JEN KANNAN

Jen Kannan was elected to the city council (city wide) four years ago after serving two previous terms on the council (city wide) and running for mayor against Steve Zanni in 2013.

Jennifer is married to Bill Kannan, owner of Kannan & Pricone Plumbing and Heating, a Methuen based business. They have three children: Billy and his wife, Meghan, Brittney and Farrah, and they also have a granddaughter, Tessa Rose Therrien, all of Methuen.

Kannan attended Methuen Public Schools, AREA Real Estate Academy and recently received her bachelor's degree from UMASS Lowell's Bachelor of Arts in Political Science program. She also took a concentration in legal studies.

Kannan has been employed for 17 years at Methuen based real estate company where she has received numerous awards for her perseverance in business.

She served as councilor at-large for three, two year terms, was chairman of the city council in 2012, elected by unanimous vote, was Vice-Chair of the City Council in 2009, was Chairman of the

MAYOR: PAGE 11

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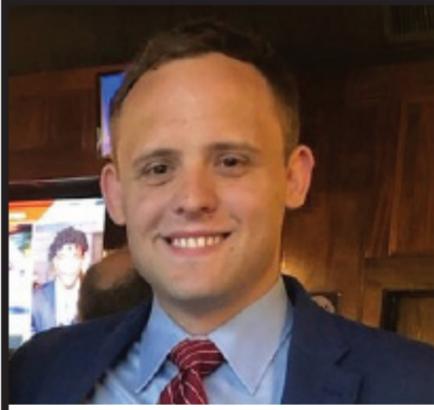
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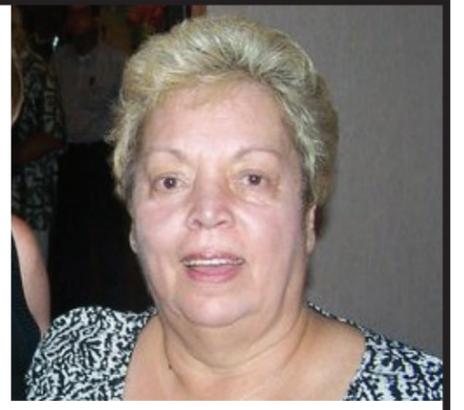
JIM MCCARTY



JOEL FARETRA



DENNIS (DJ) DEEB



JOYCE CAMPAGNONE

Central District Candidates - 2 to Be Elected

The race for Central District City Council is the campaign to watch on November 5th. Methuen residents will elect TWO city councilors in the Central District. Incumbent James McCarty topped the ticket in the primary as he seeks his second term, while fellow incumbent and longtime elected official Joyce Campagnone came in fourth.

But, a quick look at the actual votes show that where each candidate placed on primary day will be completely irrelevant in the November 5th election.

While conventional wisdom says that McCarty will top the ticket again as the young, new renegade on the council, the real fight will be for the second slot. The number of votes separating second place finisher (Joel Faretra) and third place finisher (Dennis Deeb) was a mere 26 votes. Furthermore, the number of votes separating second place finisher Joel Faretra and fourth place finisher Joyce Campagnone was a mere 27 votes. With a high turnout expected on the November 5th final election, all three of these candidates have a legitimate shot at that second seat representing the Central District for the next two years.

THE CANDIDATES

* JAMES MCCARTY

McCarty is a law student and has made a name for himself attacking the police department and showing hostility towards the Jajuga administration. He is a very effective attack dog for his partner on the council, East District Councilor Steve Saba and has called out Jajuga for his misrepresentations to the council on a regular basis.

McCarty voted to cut \$1.8M out of the police budget even after being told that it could result in 30 patrolmen being laid off. Eventually, after much delay, McCarty voted with the rest of the council to put the \$1.8M back in the budget, but not before a heroic attempt to reorganize the department criticizing Mayor Jajuga whose son is one of the police captains slated to get a reported \$435K salary. He also called for the elimination of two captains one of which would be Jajuga's son.

He supports mayoral candidate Jen Kanan and sees former mayor Sharon Pollard as a boogey man who pulls strings behind the scenes. McCarty has been seen opposing all things connected to Pollard including historic preservation.

McCarty made a stunning accusation during the Methuen Cable Access debate, saying that the police contract was the result of a "criminal conspiracy".

"Our process was manipulated," McCarty said on MCTV. "Every hurdle that was put in place was compromised. When you have five votes that are conflicted, all being rewarded on the council, you can get a \$434,000 contract, and you can have the city auditor not include a financial impact statement, when his going away present is boosted, and you have to look at who rewarded them."

"Why did this happen?"

"Who was rewarded the most out of all of this?"

"When you have your Police Chief who, in the calendar year 2018 was paid \$343,000 and you have city captains still fighting for \$434,000 through arbitration, something went wrong here. I know what went wrong. I believe there was a criminal conspiracy. There was malfeasance. There was defrauding the taxpayers. And to prevent this from happening again we need the Inspector General to come in and start getting people accountable and start holding people accountable so this doesn't happen again."

McCarty said he would not support privatizing the technology department but would like to privatize police construction details with civilian flag men.

[Editor's note: the police chief's pay is high because he won a lawsuit against the city for wrongful termination. His actual salary is not that high. After winning his suit, the city could not afford to pay him a lump sum, so the city is giving him lawsuit payments built into his regular paycheck to compensate him over an agreed time frame for the millions he won.]

* JOEL FARETRA

Faretra is the facilities manager at the Crest Collaborative School where Bill Bryant is the principal (council candidate in the west end). The Crest Collaborative School gets millions of dollars from the City of Methuen to educate special needs students. If Faretra is elected, his pay will not be affected.

Much has been made of Faretra being part of the Saba, Kanan slate of candidates recruited out of the MAIC sports group for the purpose of supporting his boss and friend Bill Bryant. But, Faretra says he is on nobody's "team" and will act "completely independent" if elected to the council.

During the two debates held before the primary, Faretra seemed to differ with Bryant and the Saba clan on issues. He insists that while he is friends with Saba and Bryant he is looking to work with everyone and simply wants to help the city move forward. He says being friends with

someone doesn't mean he agrees with them on issues facing the city and hopes people will consider him for what he can do for the city not who he is rumored to be connected to.

Faretra does have one conflict with his wife being a teacher in the Methuen School Department, none-the-less, Faretra showed objectivity when he called out the school committee for not firing former superintendent Judy Scannell, as well as the school's illegal overspending to the tune of \$4M.

Faretra is highly active in school sports and has children in the Methuen Schools. He took incumbent City Councilor Joyce Campagnone to task for funding the police contract after the council cut \$1.8M from the police budget.

"Your council voted to give \$1.8M back to the police department. There was a budget passed in July with the \$1.8M taken from the police budget and you gave it back. In hindsight you did fund the [superior officers'] contract," giving the impression that he opposed the return of that money to the police department.

Faretra also opposes the way the new charter changes will appear on the ballot in two years, saying he prefers that each charter change provision should be voted on individually by voters instead of lumping all the provisions into one vote where people have to vote yes or no on all the charter changes at once.

* DENNIS DEEB

Deeb was a member of the Dracut School Committee and the Greater Lowell Technical School before moving to Methuen and winning a seat on the School Committee. Deeb touts himself as an "ultra-fiscal conservative" and raised the ire of a local union when he said he opposed raising the minimum wage. Deeb was also taken to task by incumbent City Councilor Joyce Campagnone for criticizing (then) superintendent Judy Scannell's overspending by \$4M then voting not to fire Scannell when it was learned she was not certified or licensed to be a superintendent after serving nearly a decade in that position

Deeb has several master's degrees and

PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

FOUR NOMINATED
2 To be Elected Nov. 5th

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| James McCarty | 598 |
| Joel Faretra | 398 |
| Dennie Deeb | 373 |
| Joyce Campagnone | 371 |
| *Jordan Normandia 253 | |

says he knows how to read contracts, something he says the council desperately needs. He is hostile towards the police department and has attacked Chief Joe Solomon's spending on police vehicles as well as the controversial superior officer's contract. Critics of Deeb say that because he spent his time focusing on the police budget instead of the school budget while he allowed Judy Scannell to overspend \$4M, and he wasn't doing his job. Deeb says that he had no idea Scannell was overspending and that he and the committee were lied to.

* JOYCE CAMPAGNONE

Campagnone has served on the school committee and the city council prior to getting elected to represent the Central District on the council two years ago. Campagnone has been one of the biggest advocates for local veterans, raising money and volunteering for the VFW, the American Legion, and other veterans groups for more than three decades.

Campagnone was not on the city council when the controversial police superior officer's contract was passed in 2017, though she has often taken the blame for that vote.

Campagnone called the school committee task for mismanaging their budget to the tune of \$4M and says she doesn't believe all of the \$4M was spent on special education as Superintendent Scannell and School Committeeman Nick DiZoglio have publicly claimed. "They didn't do their jobs, that's all. They had a job, one job, run the school budget and they didn't do a very good job of it," she said.

Campagnone says that the school should provide a detailed budget to the council, showing line-by-line where the money is being spent.

"We did it on the council why can't they do it? We have to have transparency here; this is the people's money."

Campagnone voted to cut the \$1.8M from the police budget last year, which would have resulted in 30 patrolmen being laid off. Before that could happen, however, Campagnone and her colleagues on

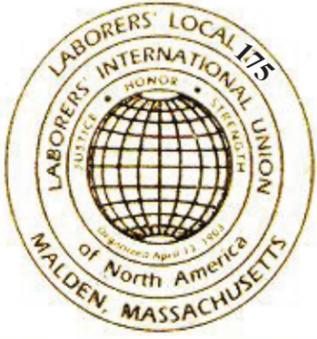
D.J. Beauregard

City Councilor At-Large

Beauregard

Moving Forward Together

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT DJ BEAUREGARD



Laborers' Union

(LOCAL 175)

Proudly Endorses



NEIL PERRY

For Mayor of Methuen

Neil Perry is a professional with no family members working for the city. We believe that Mr. Perry will treat union workers with dignity and respect. Neil Perry will use facts and data to make decisions on running our local government and doesn't care who anyone is related or connected to! Finally, someone who will put METHUEN FIRST!

Mike Gagliardi

Local 175 Laborers' Union of North America

VOTE NOVEMBER 5th IN LOCAL ELECTIONS - HERE'S WHY ITS IMPORTANT

November 5th is Election Day for cities in the Merrimack Valley. In Methuen and Haverhill voters get to decide who their mayor will be for the next two years. In Lawrence, Mayor Dan Rivera has two years left in his term and cannot run again. The Mayor of any city is the executive in charge of hiring and firing, promoting and demoting all city workers, negotiates and signs private contracts for trash, road repairs, construction and repairs of city buildings, and gets to appoint members of city boards like the zoning board, the planning board and special commissions. The Mayor is also in charge of enforcing city ordinances passed by the council. The city council on the other hand, is in charge of the budget and passing city ordinances (local laws). The city council can pass an ordinance - for example - that citizens cannot mow their lawns before 8am, but if the mayor does not enforce that ordinance it is meaningless. The city council can pass a budget for the city, but it's up to the mayor to spend the money. When the city council passes a measure with a majority vote, it requires the signature of the mayor to become law (so to speak). If the mayor refuses to sign it, that's called a veto. If the mayor vetoes a measure, the city council can override his decision with a vote of 2/3 of the city council, meaning the measure passes even without the mayor's support. But, remember it's up to the mayor to enforce the laws and ordinances passed. We saw this in Lawrence years ago when the voters passed a measure for a residency requirement for all city workers. The city council supported the measure, the voters passed the measure at the ballot, but Lawrence Mayor Mary Claire Kennedy refused to enforce it. This left city workers who did not live in the city to keep their jobs. THIS is why it is so important to exercise your right to vote in local elections. Everything from a local meals tax, to noise ordinances, and what kind of residential developments go into your neighborhoods, all depends on who is on your city council and who sits in the mayor's office. Financial mismanagement by the council or the mayor can result in police, school or fire layoffs, which means a lower quality of life for the citizens. SO VOTE November 5th! If you don't, YOU are part of the problem.

PAYING ATTENTION/VALLEY PATRIOT CANDIDATE DEBATES

As we did in the primary election in Methuen, The Valley Patriot and the Paying Attention Podcast will be holding a series of debates for candidates. Each debate will be podcast on YouTube, Facebook, and other on-line platforms. The Central District Candidates will debate on Thursday, October 10th at 5pm. The West District candidates will debate on October 17th at 5pm, the at-large city council candidates will debate on October 24th at 5pm and then the two candidates for mayor will debate on Thursday October 31st at 5pm, the Thursday before the November 5th election.

To sponsor one of our debates contact me at valleypatriot@aol.com. Sponsorships for the city council debates are \$250, the mayor's debate is \$350. Your name or your company name and logo will appear on the front of the news desk and you will be mentioned at least 4 or 5 times per show.

WHAT IS A BULLET VOTE?

You will often hear the term "bullet vote" during an election but you're not sure what it really means. In some races you can vote for more than one person, for example, in the city council at-large race you can vote up to three people, as three candidates will get elected city-wide. But, let's say you really like one candidate and not too thrilled with all the others in the "vote for three" at-large race. You don't HAVE to vote for three people. You can vote for only one if

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK



Carrie Weiland and Jana DiNatale were on hand last month at the Atkinson Country Club to raise money for Isaiah 58, a non profit in New Hampshire that helps feed, clothe, get housing and furniture for the homeless.

you like. That's called a bullet vote. It's like giving one person three votes. The candidate you voted for won't actually GET three votes when the tally is counted at the end of the night, but - by only voting for one candidate you have denied a vote for two of his or her opponents making it more likely your favorite candidate will. When you vote for only one candidate in a "vote for three" election it is counted as ONE vote for your candidate and two BLANK votes.

DEEB ACCUSES CAMPAGNONE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

During the MCTV cable access debate, Central District City Council candidate Dennis DJ Deeb accused incumbent city councilor Joyce Campagnone of having a conflict of interest, claiming her son worked for the city. But, Deeb's claim of conflict was quickly shot down by Campagnone who admitted that yes, her son is a constable in Methuen but does not work for the city. Campagnone has no conflicts of interest with immediate family members working for the city.

UNION ATTACKS DEEB

The builders and wreckers union has been on the attack against Dennis DJ Deeb's campaign for city council taking out a half page ad in last month's Valley Patriot and this month taking out a full-page ad. It seems members of the union are furious with Deeb over his opposition of a \$15 an hour minimum wage, his attacks on the police union, and his statements that if he were to open up a business, he wouldn't open it in Methuen but instead would open a business in New Hampshire. Deeb on the other hand, was not going to take this laying down. He wrote a letter to union officials attacking their president Tom Troy claiming that his ad was over the line and uncalled for, saying he was once vice president of a union, is not "anti-union" and that Troy's attacks on him were motivated by

get this.... Methuen Police Chief Joe Solomon. Deeb also posted online that the "political hit" he took from the union president was because Mr. Troy is "Chief Solomon's best friend". Which is weird, because I thought that "I" was Chief Solomon's best friend. It is true that Troy and Solomon are friends, and it is also true that Troy had words with Deeb over his treatment of Solomon, but Troy contends that his union's ads against Deeb are about exactly what he said they were, Deeb's opposition to a minimum wage, and his anti-union rhetoric. "He can shout that nonsense about how he was once a union vice-president as proof that he is not anti-union but we watched his votes. This guy has never seen a spending measure he didn't want to vote against." I guess the voters of the Central District in Methuen will have to decide for themselves on November 5th.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? WHEN A DIZOGLIO IS NOT A DIZOGLIO

You might think that with names like Nick DiZoglio and Ryan DiZoglio running for office in the Methuen city elections, Senator Diana DiZoglio would be supporting both candidates. But you would be wrong. First, Senator Diana DiZoglio is supporting Jessica Finocchiaro and Dave Beauregard for city council at-large city wide and is not supporting Nick DiZoglio who is also in that race. Senator DiZoglio says that while many people may think Ryan and Nick DiZoglio are related to her because they share the same last name, "We are not related and I do not support their candidacies," DiZoglio has said.

CANDIDATES WITH CONFLICTS

Much has been made about candidates having a conflict of interest in this year's election in Methuen. The following is a list of each candidate with a conflict. It is important to note that simply having a conflict does not make a candidate a bad person or that they have done anything wrong. It

simply means they have relatives working for the city and at some point, they may have to remove themselves from a vote that affects their family member.

Central District City Councilor James McCarty's stepfather works for building maintenance department of the DPW. James says this is only an "appearance of a conflict" and legally not an actual conflict because a stepfather is not considered immediate family under the law. But they do live together and his relationship with his stepfather has already caused problems when he himself admits that his stepfather was offered a bribe by the Jajuga administration to get him to stop voting against what Jajuga wants on the council. McCarty says he did not file criminal charges as is required by law because the police and prosecutor are corrupt.

Bill Bryant has two conflicts as he is the principal of the Crest School, a public-private partnership with the City of Methuen. Crest receives millions of dollars from the City of Methuen. His wife is also a teacher in the school system.

Jen Kannan has three conflicts that have been highly publicized by the candidate herself in order to provide transparency to the voters. Her son is a hero police officer, and her brother is a hero firefighter for Methuen. She also has a daughter who works in the Methuen Schools.

Joel Faretra has a wife working in the school system and works under Bill Bryant at the Crest School as a facilities manager.

DAN SHABILIA, AS DESPICABLE AS THEY COME

I have to admit, it's been a long time since I've encountered someone as despicable as failed Methuen mayoral candidate Dan Shabilia. After Shabilia lost his bid to be the mayor of Methuen he announced a sticker campaign for the open school committee seat (there are five candidates for six spots). That means he is still a public figure running for public office and open to public scrutiny - something Dan apparently doesn't like. What happened next was something even former Lawrence Mayor William Lantigua has never done. You see, Dan is so thin-skinned that he cannot handle anyone criticizing his politics on social media. Shabilia was so upset that a private citizen (a Methuen voter no less) was taking him to task on-line, that he researched this private citizen's background and then literally blackmailed him into silence by threatening to reveal the damaging information he had found.

"I have this restraining order," Shabilia texted to this private citizen "I'm trying to decide if I should post it [on Facebook] to discredit your nonsense.... thoughts?"

Considering Shabilia is an attorney and a state worker, I certainly hope he didn't use Lexis Nexis from his state computer at work to find this damaging information on a private citizen to help his CAMPAIGN. Either way, I find it beyond despicable that someone who wants to represent local government to threaten to destroy someone's reputation for expressing views he doesn't like. People need to feel free to criticize those who run for public office. They need to feel free to participate in the election process without fear of retribution by those whom they criticize. I know a lot of people were really impressed by Dan during the primary election, in fact I was one of them. But, after seeing his text for myself, and then having two other candidates for office admit that Dan was personally spreading around this damaging information about a private citizen to silence his participation in the public debate, all I can say is Dan Shabilia does not deserve to hold any public office at any level - EVER. He is also lucky that the private citizen he threatened didn't go to the police, although, I believe there is a three-year statute of limitations to do so.



Roger Twomey

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FREDDIE SAYS

I'm only a dog so I can't vote but if I could I would be voting for Rich Russell in Lawrence!

**Freddie also Says
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**VOTE KENDRYS VASQUEZ,
BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE ARE
GUILTY EVEN WHEN PROVEN
INNOCENT**

Not quite as despicable as Dan Shabilia, Kendrys Vasquez, president of the Lawrence City Council got down and dirty last month when he publicly went after his political opponent Jorge Gonzalez to ruin his reputation. Jorge was involved in a gun incident a few years back. The police investigated Gonzalez and he was cleared of all charges. But, that didn't stop Vasquez from running to the Eagle-Tribune and other media outlets to spread the story faking outrage about how "troubled" he was by it and then intimating that this incident should preclude Gonzalez from representing the people of Lawrence on the city council. I have always liked Kendrys despite the fact that he is Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera's water boy. I always believed that he at least, had personal integrity. Unfortunately, Kendrys does not believe that people are innocent even when proven innocent as he is so willing to employ dirty tricks to try and win an election. Shame on you Kendrys. You are supposed to be a leader in this community, but you are nothing more than a bully who cares nothing about our constitution. For this reason alone, I hope Jorge Gonzalez wipes the floor with you on election day. Lawrence doesn't need any more dishonest politicians who can't win an election on the merits of their own record and have to rely on slinging mud at their opponents.

**FAILED JOURNALIST TIM WOOD
BECOMES UNHINGED**

Local blogger Tim Wood, (the failed publisher of the now defunct Loop Weekly) has a very bizarre view of journalism and free speech these days. [As a side note; maybe that's why he failed.] Wood decided to schedule candidate debates and became unhinged when mayoral candidate Neil Perry chose not to participate. Who can blame him? Wood has publicly declared his support for Perry's opponent, campaigns for her, has a political sign on his lawn for her, and has shown that he is incapable of being objective while covering local "news".

"Good Morning, Tim and thanks for reaching out," Perry told Wood in a text message. "I'm participating in all debates, interviews, and forums by impartial, established media outlets. For this reason, I am

declining your invitations, but wish you the best in your endeavors."

Well, you would think Perry ran over Timmy's puppy. Wood's response was very un-journalistic. First, he posted Perry's text message complete with personal attacks against ME (as if I have anything to do with this) and then he actually BANNED Neil Perry candidate for mayor, from his Facebook page. Real journalistic integrity there Tim! Then, Wood went on a wild rant against yours truly accusing me of (among other things) being on the host committee for a fundraiser for a Methuen City Council candidate (which was an outright lie). A day later, failed journalist Tim Wood deleted his posts about me and posted a message saying that he deleted it because he was getting backlash from his own readers. I posted a comment on his post saying that I would prefer he left it up, because, unlike Wood I believe in FREE SPEECH, even speech I do not like. For that... Wood banned ME from posing on his Facebook page. A journalist who believes in censorship ... who'd a thought?

Tim also texted me in a fury accusing me of selling drugs to underage kids showing just how totally unhinged he has become.

"You have zero personal life; everyone hates you except the 18-year olds you buy drugs for and you live in your office. Yup, that's success. Man of the year stuff right there," Wood texted me. While I have to admit it was pretty inventive, it's not exactly something you might expect from a professional journalist or man with any kind of integrity.

Wood also banned private citizen Tina Conway from posting on his page because he apparently didn't like her political opinions. He then attacked Dave Beauregard, candidate for City Council at-large with a post about Neil Perry's campaign manager donating to Beauregard's campaign. This was to insinuate that Beauregard was aligned with Perry. But Tim Wood conveniently forgot to inform his seven readers that Perry's "campaign manager" was a personal friend of Dave's and made the donation before getting the job with the Perry campaign. Now Timmy is starting a new venture called "Methuen Today" to try and rebrand himself as a real journalist, hoping that people will forget all of his election meddling and personal attacks. I wish him well in that venture but my suspicion is that Methuen Today will be just as much of a failure as Loop Weekly. And I say honestly, that Tim Woods implosion is really too bad. He really could have made a huge difference in educating citizens about their public officials. Unfortunately, Wood is far more interested in being a puppet for City Councilor Steve Saba and carrying his water on all issues in Methuen.

IN THE WEST, BILL BRYANT ENDORSES JEN KANNAN, ALLISON SAFFIE ENDORSES NEIL PERRY

The Methuen West District City Council race may hinge on who wins the mayor's race. With hero Lawrence Police Officer Mike Simard topping the ticket in the primary he is expected to do the same in the final election. With two open seats in the West End, that leaves Bill Bryant, Allison Saffie and Frank Gallo fighting for that second open seat. With Bill Bryant openly endorsing mayoral candidate Jen Kannan and Allison Saffie endorsing Neil Perry for mayor, Kannan and Perry supporters in the West could decide who gets that seat. For his part, Frank Gallo has not openly endorsed anyone in the mayor's race.

BILL GREEN, THE ULTIMATE LOSER

Fired and disgraced Lawrence Police Officer Bill Green sued the police department and lost, sued his former mistress and lost, took the city to the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination and lost, ran for mayor of Lawrence two years ago and lost, and now has one more loss to add to

NOTEBOOK: PAGE 24

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What Really is the Gospel

1. The Gospel is death, burial, & resurrection of Christ (1 Cor 15:1-4)
2. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes (Rom 1:16)
3. Believers are buried with Christ in baptism for the forgiveness of all sins and to rise to the newness of life. (Rom 6:4, Col 2:12-13)
4. The Gospel gives the gift of eternal life. (Rom 6:23)
5. The Gospel started the church. (Acts 2:14-36)

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Sunday Worship Service, 11:00 AM
Sunday Evening Service, 6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study, 7:00 PM

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(Rom 16:16)

"Churches of Christ proclaim this same message today."

Martes noviembre 5 es el DIA DE LAS ELECCIONES y les pido el honor de SU VOTO con la aplicación de mi STICKER que estaremos dando fuera las escuelas Rollins y Parthum (busque mis rótulos) para que lo aplique en la boleta en la área en blanco bajo los dos otros candidatos corriendo para Consejal. Con su apoyo continuó podré regresar a luchar y abogar por nuestra JUVENTUD y las FAMILIAS de nuestro hogar y ciudad de Lawrence. Gracias y no se olvide de votar por SANDY ELIZABETH ALMONTE Consejal por el Distrito A Prospect Hill

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LAWRENCE CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

There is no election for mayor in Lawrence this year. Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera is in his sixth year as mayor. His term runs out in 2021. Because of term limits he cannot run again. Lawrence's school system is still largely under state control so the school committee has very little control over the running of the Lawrence Schools. The Lawrence city council elects nine member. Three are elected at-large (city wide) and six councilors are elected by district. Here are this year's candidates.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>LAWRENCE CITY COUNCILOR AT LARGE (Vote for up to three)</p> <p>Ana Levy (I) Pavel Payano (I) Wander Morel Celina Reyes Richard Russell</p> <p>DISTRICT CITY COUNCIL</p> <p>District A</p> <p>Maria Delacruz (I) Frankie Caraballo (write in candidate Sandy Almonte)</p> <p>District B</p> <p>Estela Reyes (I) Alcibiades Acosta</p> | <p>District C</p> <p>Kendys Vasquez (I) Jorge Gonzalez</p> <p>District D</p> <p>Jeovanny Rodrigues (I) Lee Fickenworth</p> <p>District E</p> <p>David Abdoo (I) Jose Madera, Jr.</p> <p>District F</p> <p>Marc Laplante (I) Gregory Delrosario <u>Gr. Lawrence School Committee</u> ELECT 3</p> <p>Stphany Infante (I) Leo Lamontagne (I) Zoila Disla Vivian Marmol Brenda Rozzi</p> |
|--|---|

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MAYOR: FROM PAGE 5

City Council Consolidation Committee in 2010 and 2011, a member of the Finance Committee (2010 -2011) was secretary of the Forest Lake Association (2009-2012) was an Ashford School PTO- Volunteer, (1991-1993), CGS PTO- Volunteer, (1994-2009) and Methuen Girls Softball-Volunteer coach, (1999-2000).

As chairman of the city council for the last two years, Kannan has taken on a herculean effort to make the city budget transparent by going line by line through every single expenditure in the budget during public meetings so that the taxpayers of Methuen would know about every decision that was made.

Kannan has come under fire for her vote on the police superior officer's contract but has defended her vote, saying that the city council was lied to. "We were told this contract gave the superior officers a 0% raise in the first year and a 2% raise the next two years. That is what we were told. Had we known that the contract had 'stacking language' in it and that captains were going to be making \$435K I don't think anyone would have voted for it.

Kannan says that she did nothing wrong and voted with the majority of the city council to cut \$1.8M out of the police budget but when it became clear that 30 patrolmen would be laid off she joined her fellow councilors in putting the money back.

Kannan says she is the candidate for change and will bring independence to the mayor's office. She added that she has been an independent leader on the city council and wants to bring that independent leadership to the mayor's office. Kannan says she wants to bring fiscal stability

back to the city.

The CAFO is the Chief Administrative Financial Officer from the state sent to oversee Methuen's finances after the city borrowed \$4M to cover the overspending of the school department.

Kannan listed as one of her priorities to work with the CAFO to change the way Methuen does business.

Kannan has criticized her opponent Neil Perry for not having voted in city elections over the last 18 years. Perry admits that while he voted in elections for governor and president he did not vote in local elections until recently.

She has also criticized Perry for hiring North Andover Selectman Phil DeCologero as a campaign consultant since DeCologero worked in Mayor Zanni's office as his chief of staff.

Kannan told The Valley Patriot that if elected she will be focused on the 40R project downtown. It's a zoning change that would allow [mixed zoning] in the downtown and allow storefronts to have housing units which, she says, will bring needed foot traffic to downtown.

One of Kannan's priorities is to fix or replace the DPW facility that has a roof leaking and is in serious disrepair.

The Valley Patriot and the Paying Attention! Podcast are sponsoring a debate between the two mayoral candidates on Thursday, October 31st at 5PM at the Studio 21 Podcast Cafe.

You can view it live on The Valley Patriot Facebook page, YouTube, or you can listen to the audio on Podbean, Spotify, Speaker, iTunes and iHeart Radio. ♦

Fire Department Issues Cause Backdraft in Dracut

Brian Genest
DRACUT COLUMNIST

Where there's smoke, there's usually fire, especially in Dracut. Just ask town firefighters. As the result of a number of smoldering issues, members of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2586, joined by the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts, picketed outside the board of selectmen's meeting, before bringing the heat inside and torching town officials.

Firefighters sounded the alarm loudly and clearly over what Union President Leo McMahan described as the town's inappropriate and neglectful actions. Firefighters also fully exercised their First Amendment rights, including freedom of speech and petitioning the government for a redress of grievances. And redress grievances they did – a long list of them, including failed contract negotiations, neglected vehicle maintenance and retaliatory actions taken against firefighters.

McMahan said he was put under "house arrest" by Fire Chief David Brouillette after he was wrongly accused of abusing sick time. According to the union president, he was undergoing treatment for job-related cancer at the time. He asked selectmen to step in and rectify what's been going on in the fire department.

McMahan's wasn't the only speaker to blast town management.

"The hostile, toxic work environment that we live in is ridiculous," firefighter Justin George told selectmen during his gut-wrenching comments about his year-long battle with the fire chief and Town Manager James Duggan. "You ruined who I was and you made my family watch it."

George was placed on administrative leave in August of 2018 and ordered to undergo a psychiatric exam, after filing a town meeting article about military pay. Subsequently, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has determined

there was reasonable cause to believe the town discriminated against George. In addition, the American Arbitration Association found that Dracut's actions violated the collective bargaining agreement and ordered the town last month to reinstate George to his position in the fire department.

"In the present case, the Town's decision to direct Mr. George to have a psychological examination was directly related to Mr. George's advocacy on the issue of military pay for employees of the Town of Dracut, which is not a legitimate reason to require an employee to submit to a psychological examination as a condition of continued employment," the AAA ruling reads. "Moreover, the evidence demonstrates that Mr. George was capably performing the duties of the position, and was already receiving treatment for his PTSD from the Veterans Administration."

If you're not steaming mad about what's been going on, you're not paying attention. The firefighters and taxpayers of Dracut deserve better. As McMahan, George and other speakers pointed out, it's time for selectmen to step up and snuff out the personal, political and petty nonsense.

"You tried everything possible to silence me and ruin my life and I'm still standing here. I'm louder than ever," George said directly to Duggan, before turning and pointing to selectmen. "I'm not stopping or leaving until justice is done, by either you or your replacements."

How will Dracut selectmen answer the call?



Brian Genest is chairman of the Dracut Republican Town Committee and a member of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee representing the Second Essex & Middlesex district of Andover, Dracut, Lawrence and Tewksbury.

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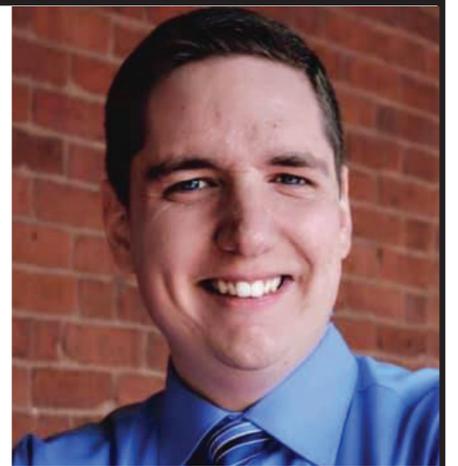
Steve Angelo



Jessica Finocchiaro



Nick DiZoglio



Dave Beauregard

At Large City Council Candidates - 3 To Be Elected

The Methuen city council is made up of nine members. Two councilors are elected from each of the three districts, and three councilors are elected city-wide or "at-large". The Methuen city council is in charge of passing the municipal budget, must ratify the mayor's hiring or firing of department heads and must approve all contracts above a certain amount of money. The Council is also in charge of creating, amending or doing away with city ordinances such as noise ordinances, what time you are allowed to cut your lawn or last call for local drinking establishments.

THE CANDIDATES

* Dave Beauregard - Dave was educated in the Methuen public schools, is married with a brand-new daughter, is a new homeowner and recently got his MBA. He first got involved in the city when he joined Kathleen Corey Rahme's Methuen Youth Corps when he was 14 years old. He also worked as an intern for former Mayor Bill Manzi where he said he got an education on the inner workings of municipal government. He has experience in private business and the non-profit world.

He says he decided to run for city council

this year to inject common sense and "a voice of reason" to the council.

* Jessica Finocchiaro is finishing up her first term as a city councilor at-large. She is the only incumbent running in this race. Jen Kannan is running for mayor while Ryan Hamilton is not seeking reelection.

Finocchiaro grew up in Methuen and went to the Methuen schools. She ran for state senate in 2014 against Katy Ives and served two terms on the Gr. Lawrence Technical School Board prior to getting elected to the council. Jessica has two master's degrees, one in public administration and one in government.

* Nick DiZoglio - DiZoglio is not a relation to State Senator Diana DiZoglio. He is recently married and is a new homeowner in Methuen. He is finishing up his second term on the Methuen School Committee. For the last two years he has been the vice-chair of the school committee and has run most of the meetings since Mayor Jajuga refuses to show up at most meetings.

Nick moved into Methuen in 1999. He graduated from Suffolk University with a bachelor's in public relations. He is a Human resources professional for a private bio-tech company in Cambridge. DiZoglio

says he is making the move from school committee to city council because the city needs major capital improvements. He says his plan, if he is elected, is to look at business growth and community development. He says he has a specific plan that would improve the facilities in all city departments.

His most controversial vote as a member of the school committee was when he voted to accept the resignation and not fire Superintendent Judy Scannell after it was learned that she was not certified as a superintendent and after she overspent the school budget by \$4M. The City of Methuen had to borrow \$4M from the state to cover that illegal overspending. DiZoglio defended his vote saying it was what the school attorneys told them to do. As the result no investigation was conducted by the schools to find out who was involved and how these things happened.

* Steve Angelo was born and raised in Methuen. He has never been politically active prior to this year. He works for the Town of Stoneham and has experience in municipal government. Angelo is the recreation director for the town. He says he runs his own budget, so he understands how municipal budgets work. He added that he wants to bring a new focus to recreation for the youth of the city if he is elected.

Angelo said he sees all the negative stories in the news about Methuen and wants the city to start concentrating on the positive. He says that the different departments in the city always seem to be at each other's throats and he wants to get on the city council to bring the different departments together so that everyone is on the same page.

A LOVE FEST ON THE ISSUES

All four candidates said during the Paying Attention! Podcast debate that they do not like the way the new charter change question will be presented on the ballot in two years. Each candidate agreed that the public should have the right to vote on every proposed charter change individually rather than voting yes or no on all the changes at once.

All four candidates also agreed that Methuen should stop cancelling primaries simply because there aren't enough candidates to eliminate in a primary election. Each of them also pledged that they have no conflicts of interest and do not have any family members working for the city.

THE POLICE CONTRACT

Much has been made about the city council vote in 2017 giving the superior officers raises that some deem to be obscene. To date, the real amount of the police raises is still not known. The Eagle Tribune published bogus numbers claiming captains would be paid \$435K each under the contract. Whatever the real numbers are, it is clear through the Inspector General's report that the 2017 city council broke the law at least twice during the ratification of

that contract. It is also clear from the IG report that none of the councilors actually read the contract before the vote.

Dave Beauregard criticized the city council saying that not one city councilor asked a question about the substance of what was actually in the contract during the night of the vote. "All anyone cared about was this rule of necessity [this allows councilors with a conflict to vote on a contract anyway]. Not one of them asked for a financial impact statement as required by law. The entire process of how that contract was passed can never be allowed to happen again."

Nick DiZoglio said that at this point we are 18 months down the road and we "have pointed fingers and laid blame, we've said the superiors shouldn't have sent that contract and the mayor should have read it." He added that at the end of the day he believes it's not a real contract and it is in the hands of the courts. He says the current council should not have taken it into their hands.

He said he would get rid of part time city solicitor Rick D'Agostino and hire a full-time attorney. He said that if Methuen had a full-time solicitor none of this mess would have happened.

Steve Angelo agreed.

"I agree with Nick. Unfortunately, what's done is done. It never should have happened for our city. It's unfortunate we are in the situation we are in. All we can do is move forward and try to find solutions for it. I also agree we should have gone to the courts immediately to remedy the situation we are in.

Councilor Jessica Finocchiaro disagreed, however. "The city council did not have the legal authority to go to the courts. Our hands were tied as to the legal structure of the City of Methuen. That's a function of the mayor. I agree with Dave Beauregard, it was a terrible way this contract was done. I was not on that council, that was before I got elected. It's a really dark stain on Methuen's history. But, moving forward, the best way to deal with it is to debate it in the paper but deal with it by coming together and that's not what happened. In my opinion I think that there were people involved who didn't want to solve this problem. I think we had all the tools to solve this problem and I think that was stymied in some ways." Finocchiaro did propose to the council a formal mediation process to resolve the police superior officers' contract but it was not supported by the rest of the city council.

The Paying Attention! Podcast in cooperation with The Valley Patriot will be hosting a debate in this race on October 24th at 5pm. It will be live on The Valley Patriot Facebook page and YouTube. Anyone interested in downloading the audio podcast can do so on PodBean, Spreaker, iTunes and iHeartRadio. ◊



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Nicky's Law Moves Forward

Rep. Linda Dean Campbell
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

One of my top priorities this session and last session, Nicky's Law, has taken a big step forward in the legislative process. The bill, which I filed to help protect individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities from abuse by care providers, recently received a favorable vote from the state's Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities. The bill now awaits a vote on the House floor.

This legislation fixes a major loophole in our current system: a care provider who is found to have committed serious abuse against a disabled individual often faces limited consequences for their actions, as these cases rarely make it to court. Even if the care provider loses their job, they can often find employment with a different agency that serves disabled individuals, allowing them the chance to abuse again and again.

Nicky's Law creates a registry of care providers that are found to have committed serious abuse against a disabled individual. Employers that are licensed or funded by the state's Department of Developmental Services will not be allowed to hire anyone whose name appears on the registry. This will ensure that willful abusers do not gain employment in this industry, thereby keeping disabled individuals safer and allowing the many dedicated care providers who do spectacular work to be rightfully appreciated.

The bill has been carefully crafted so that care providers have extensive due process and the chance to appeal their

case. Additionally, those who are added to the registry can petition to be removed every 5 years. The bill also states that all information in the registry will be kept confidential.

Nicky's Law came very close to passing last session, but a few last-minute concerns required us to rework pieces of the bill. Through diligent and collaborative work with all stakeholders, we addressed these concerns and made the legislation stronger – the bill successfully balances protections for disabled individuals with the due process rights of care providers.

A huge thank you to the families and advocates who have been pushing for this bill for years. We would not have gotten this far without their persistence and courage in sharing their stories. They showed up hearing after hearing to make sure the Legislature knew that action on this issue cannot wait. The instances of abuse are simply too numerous and too horrific.

In the last 5 years, the state's Disabled Persons Protection Commission has seen a 30% increase in reports of alleged abuse for a total of over 11,000 reports, with almost half of these involving individuals with intellectual disabilities. This is appalling and absolutely unacceptable. We must pass Nicky's Law immediately. The high level of bipartisan support for this bill is very encouraging, and I look forward to continuing the push.

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

IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR DIZOGLIO

Our SenaTOUR

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,

Recently, I was so pleased to host fellow senators from across the Commonwealth for a listening SenaTOUR of the Merrimack Valley. This was a prime opportunity to make the unique challenges facing our communities salient to legislators outside the region.

I opened the SenaTOUR with a policy forum at CI Works, a collaborative work environment that has established more than 200 jobs, helping to grow the local and state economies. The forum focused on three key topics: education, the environment, and small business and economic development.

At the forefront of our conversation on education were the challenges our school districts are facing in regard to funding. Our forum ultimately came just two days prior to the release of the landmark Student Opportunity Act, a comprehensive piece of legislation that makes an unprecedented investment in Massachusetts public education – including transportation, special education and school infrastructure – to ensure our school districts have the resources they need to provide students with the highest-quality education.

On the environment, we discussed the ongoing problem of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in the Merrimack River and efforts to protect our beloved resource. This includes one of my top legislative priorities in this session, the Merrimack River District Commission, which is bringing together stakeholders from all along the Merrimack to address pollution and safety hazards.

We are also at work on a pre-notification alert program that will inform swimmers and boaters about pollution hazards in the river. The pilot program will utilize both physical and virtual means to notify residents about potential CSO concerns, in the form of flagging and through a smartphone application.

During our visit at CI Works and later in the SenaTOUR, we met with several in-



novative companies doing business in the Merrimack Valley, seeing firsthand their incredible work and hearing from them the challenges they face as businesses on the New Hampshire border. As Chair of the legislature's Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Business, I am committed to ensuring their concerns are heard loud and clear on Beacon Hill as we work, amid the high cost of doing business in Massachusetts, to create a climate that fosters success for these start-ups and scale-ups.

The SenaTOUR was an enjoyable and exciting day but, more importantly, a chance to keep my Senate colleagues informed about the important work taking place in our neck of the woods. I have no doubt that bringing them up to the Merrimack Valley will be helpful moving forward with the passage of legislation to help our region.

If you have questions about any legislation currently being examined on Beacon Hill, please feel free to contact me via email at diana.dizoglio@masenate.gov or phone at (617) 722-1604.

Yours in service,
Diana ♦

Jessica: From Page 2

concerns to these agencies on a regular basis. I don't have family voting conflicts, and am able to vote on every department. I believe Methuen's best days are ahead.

While on the Council since 2018 I've served on the Economic and Community Development Subcommittee fighting for small businesses. I'm one of the founding leaders of the Methuen Day Committee, a new downtown festival where thousands of Methuen residents come together for a positive day.

I've hosted 15 office hour events at coffee shops and at the senior center to foster resident discussion and transparency. Since elected in 2018 I've attended over 400 community events and resolved hundreds of constituent requests personally. In this term, I've completed 5 municipal training programs, which helps me to bring new ideas to the Council.

Moving forward, I believe we can do

better for our veterans and seniors. If reelected, in my next term I will focus on supporting expanding our commercial tax base, and finding creative ways to generate revenue. I believe we need to modernize City Hall with a 311 system to give residents back their power to make a difference, and hold City Hall accountable in a transparent data-driven way. I will also push to make our budget process more transparent for residents. I've shown that I don't back down and I have the skills and put in the effort to get things done so we can get back on track.

In closing, I promise to keep asking the tough questions, and to STAND UP for you. Transparency, accountability, results, those have been my guiding principles, and I truly believe Methuen has a bright future ahead. November 5th, I hope to have earned one of your three votes, because there's a lot more work to do.



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Tuesday, November 5th is Election Day. I ask for the honor of YOUR VOTE in DISTRICT A by AFFIXING my CANDIDACY STICKER which will be handed out in front of the Rollins & Parthum Schools just look for my signs. Thank you again for your ongoing support as I hope to continue to fight & advocate for YOUTH and FAMILIES of OUR HOME, OUR CITY, Lawrence.

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 City Councilor District A
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*** JESSICA ***
FINOCCHIARO
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Vote Mike Simard
Methuen West District City Council

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DEEB'S TRACK RECORD

- * Anti-Union,
- * Anti-Jobs,
- * Opposes
Minumum Wage



The TRUTH About DJ DEEB

“If I’m opening up a business I will tell you right now, people know me as an ultra-fiscal conservative, I’m not opening up my business in Massachusetts I’m opening it in New Hampshire”.

~ *DJ Dennis Deeb on opposing a \$15 minimum wage.*

- * Complained for years about the mismanagement and misspending of Superintendent Judy Scannell
- * While Deeb was on the School Committee, Superintendent Scannell overspent by \$4M!
- * Then Deeb Voted NOT to fire Scannell for lying about her license, the finances, and over-spending by \$4M.
- * Did not call for an investigation into overspending or who else was involved in the Scannell cover up!
- * Blames School Lawyers for HIS decision not to fire Scannell
- * While on the School Committee, Deeb spent all his time scrutinizing police spending instead of doing his JOB and keeping an eye on SCHOOL Spending!
- * NOW he wants to sit on the CITY COUNCIL so he can do to the city what he did to the School System!

**‘I’m proud of my decision not to fire
Judy Scannell and I stand by it to this day.’**

DJ Deeb Talks a good game when it comes to accountability

But When it REALLY Counted

**Deeb Covered up for the insiders instead of standing with the
TAX PAYERS of Methuen!**

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WHEN EXPERIENCE AND LEADERSHIP MATTER

After years of fiscal turmoil, the city is getting back on track. As Chairwoman of the City Council, I led the effort to address the crisis resulting in the appointment of a Chief Administrative and Financial Officer (CAFO,) a municipal finance professional with responsibility for implementing changes in practices and procedures so that the city never finds itself in this situation again.

NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING.

With my experience and leadership during a time of crisis, I am prepared to keep the momentum going as Mayor. I will work closely with the CAFO and with the state's Fiscal Stability Officer to institute citywide reforms. As Council Chair, and throughout my life, I have not walked away from any challenge, and as Mayor I will keep the faith with Methuen's residents and taxpayers, who expect strong, experienced leadership.

I respectfully ask for your vote in the Methuen election on Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

ELECT

Jennifer Aziz
Kannan
MAYOR





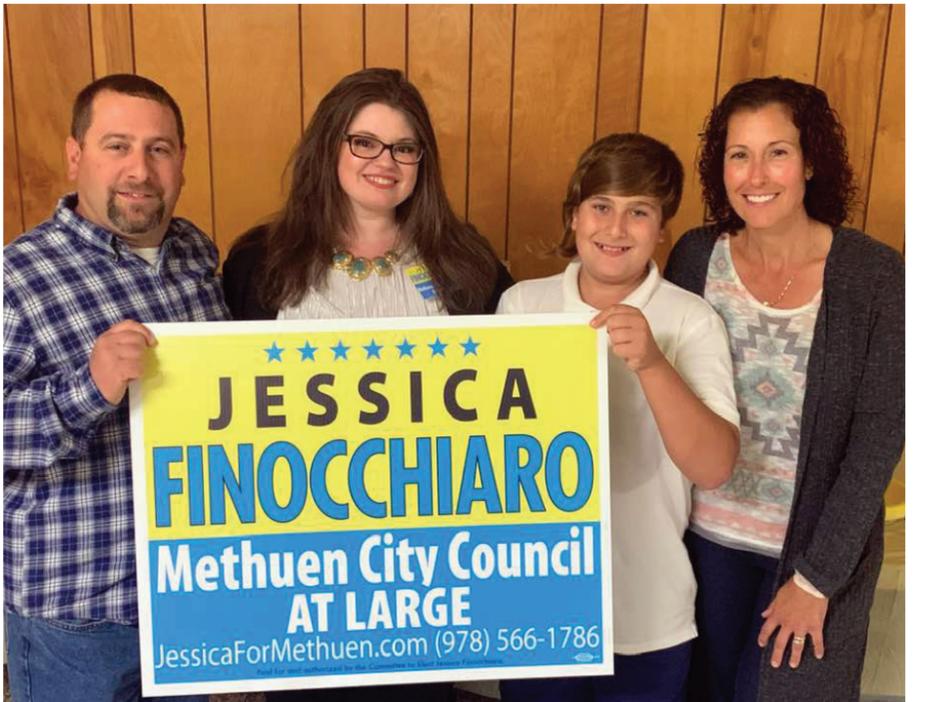
Jay Bonanno retired from the City of Methuen after 40 years of public service. State Senator Diana DiZoglio was on hand at his retirement party at the Pheonician last month to present Jay with a citation from the state congratulating him!



Homeless non-profit Isaiah 58 in New Hampshire works to improve the lives of homeless families who need housing and food. Isaiah 58 held their annual award banquet last week where they celebrated Dr. Swaitha (Sway) Maripuri for receiving the 2019 High Sheriff Michael Downing Humanitarian Award for Community Service!



Andrew DiStefano, Brian D'Amico, president and owner of NewFed Mortgage, Jill Bromberg, and Lauren LeBlanc from Senator DiZoglio's Office who presented a citation congratulating NewFed Mortgage on their grand opening on Sutton St. in North Andover.



The DiGloria family was on hand last month at the VFW to support Jessica Finocchiaro for city council. From left to right are Aron DiGloria, Jess Finocchiaro, Aron's son Vince and his wife Lisa.



(Courtesy Photo Salem Police Department)

Salem Detective Named Law Officer of the Year

Salem Detective Robert Farah, left, is pinned at a ceremony in Manchester on Sunday by David Hargreaves, the Law Enforcement representative for the American Legion. Detective Robert Farah was recognized at a ceremony as the Law Officer of the Year by La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, a charitable honor society also known as the "Forty and Eight," which is comprised of American Wartime Veterans. The event was held at the Forty and Eight Association in Manchester. Detective Farah was also named the New Hampshire Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by the American Legion this summer. Additionally, he was named the Salem Police Department's Detective of the Year in May in recognition of his efforts in handling many sensitive cases involving juveniles.

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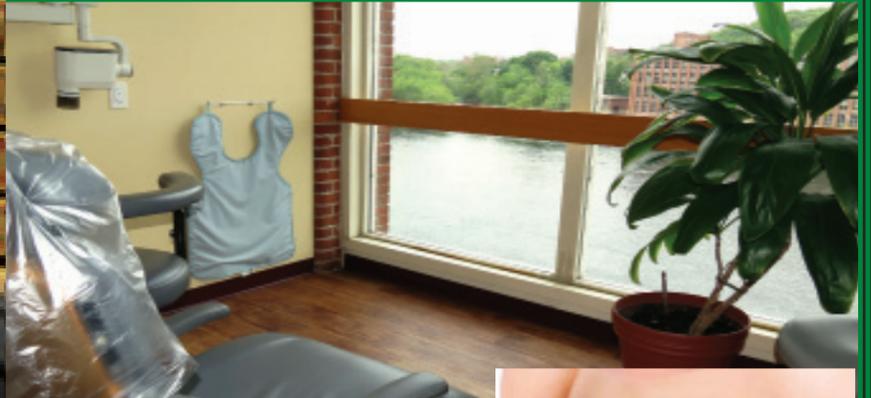
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Jana Zanni Pesce School Committee



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PAID FOR BY HEATHER MARIANI

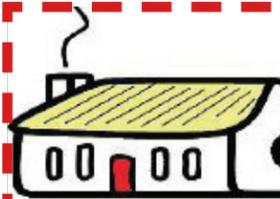
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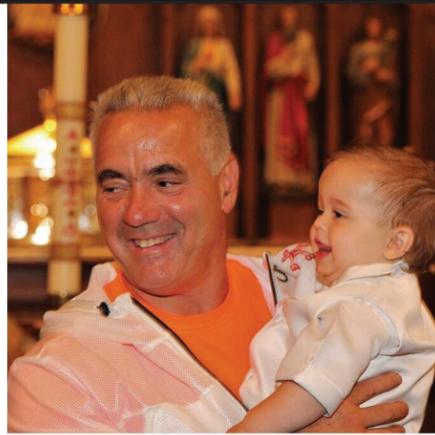
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Mike Simard



Bill Bryant



Frank Gallo



Allison Saffie

West District City Candidates for City Council

WEST END

The Methuen City Council is made up of nine members; three city councilors are elected at-large (city-wide), and two councilors elected from each of the three districts (East, Central, and West). In the West End, both incumbent city councilors George Kazanjian and Lynn Vidler are not seeking reelection, leaving two open seats. Kazanjian cannot run again because of term limits.

Four candidates made it through the primary (out of five) to replace Vidler and Kazanjian. In the primary, hero Lawrence Police Officer Mike Simard topped the ticket, beating the second-place finisher Bill Bryant by 492 votes. This means it is most likely Simard will hold that top spot in the November 5th final election.

It also means that Bryant, Gallo, and Saffie will be fighting for that second spot on the city council to represent the West End.

A quick look at the actual election tallies (to the right) shows that only 166 votes separated 2nd place finisher Bill Bryant, and fourth place finisher Allison Saffie.

Because a much larger turnout is expected in the November 5th election, all three candidates have a legitimate shot that second seat.

THE CANDIDATES

Hero Lawrence Police Officer Mike Simard received the Officer Tom Duggan Hero Public Safety Award last year for his bravery in the line of duty. He has three children in the Marsh School. He is also a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

Simard got involved in Methuen politics a few years ago when the owner of the Sweetheart Inn wanted to sell his property to a developer that wanted to put in more than a dozen units of housing. Simard appeared before the city council and called Mayor Jajuga corrupt, spoke out against the project, and demanded that the community development board follow the legal restrictions as to how many units of housing are allowed on that property.

Surprisingly, Simard has also been

outspoken about what he calls “mismanagement of the police department” and has called Chief Solomon to task saying that what was going on at the police station is not much different than the corruption in city hall. He was overheard at his kickoff party telling supporters that he decided to run for council when he saw Bill Bryant pull nomination papers. “We need to stop electing people with conflicts of interest”, he said.

“That’s what got us into this mess.”

Simard has run a positive campaign, refraining from attacking his opponents and focusing on the issues facing the city. He says he wants to increase the amount of businesses in the city to relieve the tax burden on residential homes. He also said he wants the school department to provide line-by-line information the way the council was transparent with their budget earlier this year.

“City government is a mess; years of waste and mismanagement have led us to this point and it’s going to take objective people with no conflicts to get in there and start fixing things.”

BILL BRYANT

Bill Bryant has lived in Methuen for the past 25 years and is originally from Lawrence. He is married and a father of three children who go to the Methuen schools. His wife works as a teacher in Methuen. He has been active in Methuen sports and is president of the Methuen Boosters as well as the MAIC vice-president.

Bryant originally gained his notoriety on the political scene when he co-hosted Tim Wood’s “Ranger Nation” podcast, and then as co-host of the political show “Looped In Live”. He is the principal of the Crest Collaborative School which gets millions of dollars from the City of Methuen.

Bryant says he understands the problems in Methuen and the lack of communication between officials and the public is a big concern. He promises to be open and transparent and be a voice for the people in his district.

Bryant advocated at a city council

meeting, taking money from the police department and giving it to the school department.

“I also want them [police] to make a wage that is comparable to other cities and towns and keep it fair, and not put our city in a position to have to cut from the school department or have to cut from the fire department,” he said on the Paying Attention Podcast debate.

Bryant has injected himself into the mayor’s race with his public endorsement of Jen Kannan. He is also a strong political ally of controversial East District City Councilor Steve Saba. With a grueling campaign schedule in a hotly contested race in the West, Bryant had no problem taking time away from his campaign to raise money for the Methuen Boosters last week. he says his focus has always been on the kids in the city and he can better serve their needs as a member of the city council.

FRANK GALLO

Frank Gallo was born and raised in Methuen and owns a construction and plowing business in the city. He currently sits as chairman of the Housing Authority board and has for the past six years. Frank says he is running to bring fresh ideas to the city council and move Methuen forward by resolving the issues that are currently clouding the city.

During the Paying Attention Podcast debate Gallo said he blames the controversy over the police superior officers’ contract squarely on the city council.

“The city councilors should have read the contract. Somebody should have gone through and dotted the “i’s” and crossed the “t’s” and that’s where I think the ball got dropped. The city council should be held accountable for that.”

The 2017 city council voted for the contract without a financial impact study and further violated the law when they took two votes in one night. State law requires two different votes at two different meetings before the contract becomes legal.

He said he doesn’t understand why nobody can answer just how much police

PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

FOUR NOMINATED
2 To be Elected Nov. 5th

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Mike Simard | 1,199 |
| Bill Bryant | 707 |
| Frank Gallo | 613 |
| Allison Saffie | 541 |
| *Jeri-An Betal | 281 |

officers are making. “I’m a no-nonsense kind of guy,” he told The Valley Patriot. “You mean they can’t tell us just how much people are being paid? I don’t buy that at all. If you want to know the real numbers let’s just take a look at their W2s and this mystery is solved. I just don’t think the people involved want to know the real numbers. It gives everyone deniability and let’s everyone point the finger at everyone else. We need accountability here.”

Gallo joined all the other candidates in this race opposing the Sweetheart Inn project. He said he feels bad for Mike and Leanne Condon, but the voters need to stand behind what the community development board ruled was the standard for two-acre zoning. “You can’t bend the rules for one person,” he said during the Paying Attention debate.

ALLISON SAFFIE

Saffie got involved in the political process during the Sweetheart Inn controversy and opposed the project. She says her number one goal if she is elected is to start holding people accountable. “We have to have these very uncomfortable conversations. Nobody wants to have them, but we are adults and we need to do it,” she says.

WEST: PAGE 24

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Methuen Superior Officers Union Denies Two Contracts Used to Deceive Council- E-mails Show Willingness to Accept 0% Raise

The Methuen Police Superior Officers Union has issued a public statement disputing public claims that there was sleight of hand or that two different contracts were used to deceive the city council. The claim is, one contract had “stacking language” in it which grew the police salaries larger than the contract that was presented to the city council the night they illegally voted in favor of the contract.

“There has been much discussion about the so-called stacking language in the contract – or the inclusion of certain benefits as part of an officers base pay, which then triggers higher salaries because of a larger number is used as the base figure, this is an important discussion.”

“Initially, it is significant to point out that both versions of the contract contained so-called stacking language – meaning the draft rejected by the mayor as well as the final draft approved by the

council. In fact, the union’s position is that both versions have the exact same cost value, which is why the union signed the first one and would have lived with that one had it not been rejected.”

“There were never two contracts. The city has suggested that copy of a draft agreement signed only by the union is somehow evidence that there were two agreed-upon versions of the contract submitted to the council, and that someone swapped out agreed contract language after the fact; this is ridiculous.”

“Only one agreement was ever submitted to the city council. The parties met several times during bargaining and work through different iterations of the contract. The so-called draft agreement signed only by the union was rejected by the mayor and returned to the union for further revisions, including suggested edits by the mayor to highlight COLA [Cost of Living

Adjustment] increases. Importantly, the union signed that initial draft document not because it wanted new language, but because it would have agreed to it. The mayor never signed it, and that version was never submitted to the council.”

Methuen councilors have long contended that the union was unwilling to negotiate and accept less money in their contract. The emails below show that the union was indeed receptive to work with the State Department of Revenue on the matter. The union was willing to accept a 0% raise on an extension of the MOU. Within days of this exchange and their meeting, the city council, led by Saba and McCarty cut \$1.8M from the police budget which would have resulted in the layoff of 30 patrolmen.

The Methuen Police Superior Officers’ Union released a statement on their website stating:

“On January 24, 2019, the MPSOA met with Sean Cronin from the Department of Revenue. The mayor’s Chief of Staff, Paul Fahey, was also present. The meeting was to discuss Mr. Cronin’s suggested resolution to the Collectively Bargained Agreement between the City of Methuen and the Union. After meeting with Union President Gallant, Mr. Cronin then met with Methuen City Councilors Saba and McCarty. The Union was agreeable to Mr. Cronin’s possible resolution as proposed. Councilors Steve Saba and James McCarty refused the possible resolution. This exchange should give the residents some transparency on the fact that the Union has been willing to work with the city and other parties to resolve the issues. The city councilors have not. The below email reflects this exchange. In the interest of transparency, I wanted to let you know that we have deleted from the email below the cell phone no. of Capt. Gallant”

The following is an email exchange last January between The Superior Officers Union and The Department of Revenue.

From: Gallant, Greg [mailto:GGallant@ci.methuen.ma.us]

Sent: Friday, January 25, 2019 11:14 AM

To: Cronin, Sean R. (DOR)
Subject: Methuen Superior Officers Association **EXTERNAL EMAIL**

Hi Sean,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet yesterday. After our meeting, I spoke to members of the executive board who were receptive to your suggestion of zero raise



Methuen Superior Officers’ Union President Greg Gallant

extension with language for an escape clause. I agree with you this would be a fair resolution, and would avoid the stress to the community. Mr. Fahey related that the councilors [Saba and McCarty] were not as receptive, unfortunately.

We sincerely appreciate your interest and effort. If we can be of assistance in the future, please feel free to contact me.

-Greg

Captain Greg Gallant
Support Services Bureau Commander
Methuen Police Department
Methuen, Ma. 01844

From: Cronin, Sean R. (DOR)
[mailto:croninse@dor.state.ma.us]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2019 11:19 AM

To: Gallant, Greg
Subject: RE: Methuen Superior Officers Association **EXTERNAL EMAIL**

Captain, thanks again for meeting yesterday on such short notice. And thank you for this email. I’m going to speak with Paul again and see if he’s willing to speak with a city councilor(s) and continue to push this as a solution.

Sean R. Cronin
Senior Deputy Commissioner of Local Services
Division of Local Services
PO Box 9569
Boston, MA 02114
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Charlie Baker's Empty Vaping Ban Is Peak Massachusetts

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD, PhD
MEDICAL CORRUPTION COLUMNIST

On September 24, 2019 Governor Charlie Baker suddenly declared a public health emergency and invoked MGL chapter 17 § 2A, which allows the Public Health Commissioner to “during such period of emergency, take such action and incur such liabilities as he may deem necessary to assure the maintenance of public health and the prevention of disease. The commissioner, with the approval of the public health council, may establish procedures to be followed during such emergency to insure the continuation of essential public health services and the enforcement of the same.”

The Public Health Council immediately rubber-stamped the Governor's desire to be the first in the nation to ban the sale of legal e-cigarettes to the public, as the procedure “to be followed during such emergency to insure the continuation of essential public health services and the enforcement of the same.”

Predictably, in a classic example of pedophrasy, mainstream media and the Massachusetts Medical Society immediately parroted the official narrative of a huge epidemic of life-threatening disease in Massachusetts youths due to vaping, which surely justified Charlie's ban.

What was not as widely reported was the Commissioner's Standing Order, allegedly pursuant to lawful authority granted by MGL chapter 17 § 2A, that declared Over The Counter nicotine gums and patches to be treated as lawfully prescribed to people who had instantly lost access to legal e-cigarettes.

This Standing Order is a prescription issued to all persons and pharmacies. And why a prescription for OTC products? Because that way you can get the OTC gums and patches paid for by insurance companies.

If you had been vaping because nicotine gums and patches had not helped you in the twenty years they have been on the market for anyone with cash, now Charlie has granted, allegedly pursuant to MGL chapter 17 § 2A, a giant giveaway to GlaxoSmithKline, by banning vaping and allowing insurance to pay for GSK's

Nicorette gum, to entice you back.

To have your major competitors banned by the Governor, who then encourages pharmacies to bill insurance for your OTC cash product, is a crony-capitalist dream. If only I held GSK stock, I would be in head-clutching ecstasy.

But here is a massive problem. Unlike this alleged vaping lung disease epidemic, we have a real crisis here in Massachusetts, a “Deaths of Despair” crisis that leads to illegal fentanyl overdoses that has killed hundreds of Massachusetts persons, unlike e-cigarettes which have killed precisely zero Massachusetts persons.

People actually interested in saving Massachusetts lives have been crying for a Standing Order for buprenorphine or at least methadone. The scientific evidence is irrefutable that persons addicted to opiates benefit greatly from stress-free prescribed access to medicines that stop them from buying unknown powders from the street, stop them from dying in large numbers. With that Order in place, persons with opiate receptor disease can get their cravings suppressed by safe legitimate medicines and ably build their lives within society. Makes way more sense than a supervised injection room.

Charlie has steadfastly refused to issue that Standing Order, which makes me wonder about his motives. Perhaps, in addition to making GSK happy, Charlie is making nice with the Feds in order to get yet another Medicaid Waiver approved, in a huge giveaway to the powerful hospital lobby.

If Charlie actually cares about lives, the buprenorphine/methadone Standing Order is the one to issue immediately as a Public Health Emergency. I request all “health policy advocates” to make that happen now. Charlie has already opened that door with Nicorette gum for an alleged emergency. If you can't make that happen in progressive, liberal, woke Massachusetts, where can you?

Bharani Padmanabhan MD PhD treated patients with multiple sclerosis in the Boston area until July 2017 when the state medical board stole his license on behalf of persons who committed Medicare fraud. scleroplex@gmail.com ♦

Your Health with Rick Bellanti

Oh Nuts!

Rick Bellanti
HEALTH & WELLNESS COLUMNIST

Do you remember that old saying, “Sometimes You Feel Like A Nut – Sometimes You Don't.”

Well you may want to start feeling like adding more nuts to your healthy diet, because those little guys pack an awful lot of goodness in them. It's a healthy snack that's good for you (like anything else in moderation though). You still need to be wary of the high fat and calories but these little all natural snacks provided by Mother Nature pack a powerful punch. The fats are heart healthy fats; they are filled with vitamins, minerals, protein and even fiber, to help you stay satisfied longer between meals.

Nuts may reduce risk factors for metabolic syndrome, such as high blood pressure and cholesterol levels studies have shown that nuts may reduce your risk of other chronic diseases such as improving blood sugar levels in your body. All nuts are about equal when you are talking calories per serving, eating them in moderation will make a great addition to any diet. A mix of Omega-3 fatty acids, protein, and fiber will help you feel full and suppress your appetite.

Let's look at some nuts:

One of the healthiest nuts to add to your diet is the Almond.

An almond is a tree nut, that is low in calories and has more calcium than any other nut. Almonds are rich in fiber and vitamin E, an antioxidant that helps fight dangerous inflammation, and may improve cholesterol levels, making them a great food for overall health. A small handful in between meals is a great snack and the fiber will keep you full until your next meal. Almonds are the number one snack for dieters because they are the lowest calorie nut per serving.

Did you know that the healthiest nut for your heart are Walnuts?

They have high amounts of heart healthy Omega-3 fatty acids found mainly in plants. We all know that Omega-3 fatty acids are important fats that you must get

from your diet. A recent study suggested that walnuts were just as effective as olive oil at reducing inflammation and oxidation in the arteries after eating a fatty meal, and it only takes a small amount of about 8 to 10 walnuts daily.

Peanuts are high in folate which is considered a mineral essential for brain development and is highly recommended to individuals who don't get folate in their normal diet, such as vegetarians. Along with folate, peanuts have vitamin E and are full of brain boosting healthy fats. Just watch the salted ones, it's best to buy dry roasted or plain unsalted peanuts (always avoid nuts roasted in oil).

Eating a small handful of pistachios after a meal has been known to help reduce the rise in blood sugar levels and a diet rich in cashews reduced blood pressure and both may help increase “good” HDL cholesterol.

In general, nuts are good sources of fat, fiber and protein and a great addition to add to any healthy eating choices. Which ever nut you choose, it's always best to purchase them raw and unsalted for the best health benefits. Most of the nuts we mentioned a serving is the small inside portion of your hand (peanuts about 30, almonds about 15, walnuts about 10 etc.) The best way to purchase snacking nuts is in the individual serving bags. Each bag is 100 calories per serving so there's no guessing involved.

Nuts are one of the healthiest snacks you can eat, as they contain a wide range of essential nutrients, minerals and fiber. When incorporated into a healthy diet consisting of other natural, whole foods, nuts may help reduce risk factors for many chronic diseases. Till next time, “Go Nuts”!

Rick Bellanti is a wellness columnist and is on a journey himself to lose 240lbs, and has lost 160lbs since the start of 2015. If you have any questions or comments, please post them to his Getting Healthy with Rick Bellanti Facebook page and once a month he will address a few of the topics here. ♦

CENTRAL DISTRICT: FROM PAGE 6

the council voted to put the money back, effectively funding the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) negotiated by Mayor Jajuga, whose son is one of the police captains who benefitted greatly from superior officer's contract.

“The problem is that not all of the facts were on the table, we still don't know all the facts, and that's what most people don't understand. Every time we ask for real numbers we get something different from the last time we asked.”

Campagnone attacked Mayor Jajuga during the Paying Attention Debate saying that Jajuga wanted everything his own way and that there was no reasonable way to negotiate when you have a mayor who isn't willing to work with anyone.

“He was like, ‘I'm the boss and that's the way it's going to be.’”

Campagnone says Methuen needs a new mayor who is willing to work with everyone and put their petty personal differences aside.

The final election is November 5th. Voters in Methuen will choose two councilors from each of the three districts in the city, three city councilors at-large (city wide) and a new mayor. All political terms in Methuen are two-year terms.

Watch the Paying Attention! debate with the Central District City Council Candidates on the Valley Patriot Facebook Page, & YouTube. You can also download the audio podcast on PodBean, iHeartRadio, and iTunes. ♦

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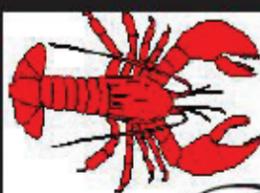
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NOTEBOOK FROM 9

his resume of failure. Last month Green ran for city council in District "C" and only got (drumroll please) 48 votes. You might remember Green as the guy who, after being fired from the police department, trolled the city looking for homeless people to harass and accost. Green even videotaped his antics at Pemberton Park last summer when he found a group of homeless people sleeping by the river, took a stick and started banging it on an empty barrel to wake them up. He then confronted and insulted them blaming them for Lawrence's problems. A week later, Green showed up at the TMF Family Dinner for the Homeless pretending to be a homeless advocate who really cared. After being confronted by real homeless advocates Green left and never came back. I suggest Green do that in all aspects of Lawrence politics and civic engagement. Please go away and don't come back. Lawrence doesn't need a corrupt former cop getting involved in anything. As Sully from Godsmack once sang, "Just Go Away".

WHO WROTE THE LANGUAGE IN THE POLICE SUPERIORS CONTRACT IN METHUEN?

It's a funny thing. For the last 8 months people in Methuen, particularly political people have been running around trying to figure out who it was that wrote the language of the superior officers' contract which is the subject of such conflict and controversy. People have speculated that it was Chief Solomon, others speculated that it was corrupt Mayor James Jajuga, while others have openly blamed former City Auditor Tom Kelley.

So, two months ago I published an interview with Greg Gallant, president of the Methuen Police Superior Officer's Union. In that interview I asked Gallant directly, 'who wrote the language of the superior officers' contract'?

"You know what's funny, Tom?" he replied. Everyone is running around speculating but you are the only person who has bothered to even ask me. Yes, I wrote the language of the contract. My members wanted that language and the city approved it. There was no trickery or sleight of hand. It is what it is."

Still, to this day, everywhere I go in Methuen people are still asking who wrote the language in the contract. All you have to do is go to the Valley Patriot website and search for "Greg Gallant" and the answer is right there at your fingertips.

STRAIGHT TALK ON KANNAN

While it is perfectly within bounds for a candidate to criticize Jen Kannan for having a conflict of interest with family members working for the city, I am getting really tired of people blaming her for things that she had nothing to do with. Yes, she voted for it, but Jen Kannan had nothing to do with the language of the police superior officers' contract. She had nothing to do with her son getting on the police force or her brother getting on the fire department. And while we are at it, let's not lose sight of the fact that her son is a hero cop who puts his life on the line every single day, running towards the bullets while the rest of us are running away. Her brother, a hero firefighter runs into burning buildings to save people's lives. Jen Kannan had nothing to do with her son getting on the police department. She had nothing to do with her brother getting on the fire department. Whatever you think of Kannan's work on the council or her vote on the police SUPERIOR Officers' contract, it had no affect on her son who is a patrolman. If you want to attack Kannan for legitimate city council issues I will never have a problem with that. But, when I hear these ridiculous rumors about her family and how they got their jobs, it makes me furious.

EVENTS

REP. NGUYEN OFFICE HOURS

Rep. Tram Nguyen's (D-Andover) October Office Hours. Thanks for your consideration of publishing the relevant ones.

- 10/21 (Monday) Boxford at Boxford Town Hall Conf. Room 2, 9:30 - 10:30AM

- 10/25 (Friday) North Andover at Stevens Memorial Library Reeve Room, 10-11AM

- 10/25 (Friday) Andover at Memorial Hall Library Activity Room, 11-12PM

- 10/25 (Friday) Tewksbury at Tewksbury Public Library Trustees' Room, 12-1PM

NORTH ANDOVER SANTA PARADE

Saturday, November 30th at 12PM
Santa and Mrs. Claus are packing up their sleigh and heading to North Andover to kick off the 2019 holiday season. Both will be participating in the annual North Andover Santa Parade and so can you! The town of North Andover is looking for businesses, organizations, groups, schools, clubs, etc. to join in the fun. Participation is free and it is strongly encouraged to be as festive as possible.

The parade starts at the North Andover Middle School and continues down Main

Street to end at Sutton Street. This tradition brings together North Andover and surrounding communities and is highly attended. The parade is also live broadcast on Community Access Television. It is a great way to highlight your business or group and give back to the community as such a wonderful time of year.

This event would not be possible without our sponsors Pentucket Bank, Stop & Shop, AFC Urgent Care, and Jade.

NORTH ADOVER TRINITARIAN CONGREGATION CHURCH HOSTS INDOOR FLEA MARKET ON OCT 26th

North Andover's Trinitarian Congregational Church will host an indoor Flea Market on Saturday, October 26, 2019, from 8 to 1:30PM in the church's Carvel Hall, 72 Elm Street. There are still a few 8-foot dealer tables available, at \$20 each. The Flea Market will also feature delicious homemade baked goods for sale, and a raffle. Proceeds of the Flea Market benefit the church's ministries and missions. To buy a table, or for more information, contact Sarah Dunlap at 978-886-2191 or sedunlap@aol.com.

LOWELL - THE TOWN & CITY FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES NEW ACTS, TIMES AND VENUES PLUS A NEW APP FOR FANS

More than 50 Acts to Perform in Lowell, MA October 18-19, 2019

The Town and the City Festival has just added a handful of new acts to its extensive lineup for the two-day music and arts festival in Lowell, Massachusetts on Friday, October 18th and Saturday, October 19, 2019. In addition, Smokehouse Tavern has come onboard to host an evening of music. To keep track of the more than 50 acts at 10 different venues fans will be able to download The Town and the City Festival app. Available for the iPhone and Android, the app will allow fans to view the updated schedule and find information about the performers and the venues.

Sarah Borges & The Broken Singles, Carolina Story, Old Jack, LCK Poets (featuring Steve Edington and Suzanne Beebe from Lowell Celebrates Kerouac), and poet Frank Messina join a schedule that now features more than 50 locally-based and national touring acts. Daily schedules and venue information can be found below.

Named after the novel The Town and the City, the first major work published by Jack Kerouac, the two-day music and arts festival is set to take place in event spaces, bars, cafes, and galleries throughout downtown Lowell. Designed as a walkable festival, one ticket will provide access to dozens of shows across downtown Lowell.

The Smokehouse Tavern on Middle Street is the latest 21+ venue to join the 2019 festival. The Luna Theater, Christ Church United, Gallery Z, Donahue Family Academic Arts Center (at Middlesex Community College,) UTEC, and the Parker Gallery at the Whistler House Museum of Art will host all ages performances. Other participating venues include Warp & Weft, Zorba Music Hall, The Old Court, and The Worthen House Cafe, which will host 21+ admitted shows.

The Town and The City Festival is produced by Porter Productions in association with the Greater Merrimack Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau and Lowell Cultural Council.

Single day passes are \$42, weekend passes are \$55 in advance and \$60 once the festival begins at www.thetownandthecity-festival.com.

CREEDENCE REVISITED

Sat., Oct. 12 •TOPSFIELD FAIR•
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topsfair.org/event/creedence-clear-water-revisited

UPCOMING AUDITIONS IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, Non-Musical Dramatic Play. All auditions held at Byfield Community Arts Center, 7 Central Street,

Byfield, MA. For more information, contact Mike at (978) 476-6053, or email coachmikefay@gmail.com or ttsplayers@gmail.com

All adult and youth actors are welcome to audition. The auditions are fun and include readings from the script.

When: Sunday, October 13, 5:30-7PM

Monday, October 14, 6-7:30PM

Sunday, October 20, 5:30-7PM

Registration and Cast Meeting

Where: Byfield Community Arts Center
7 Central Street, Byfield, MA

Rehearsals: Will be held Sundays, 5:30-8PM and Select Cast call Thursdays, 6:30-8:30PM

Show Dates: December 13th, 14th, 15th

\$125 Production Fee

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NECC HOSTS TRANSFER DAY with OVER 35 SCHOOLS REPRESENTED
Individuals, who hold an associate degree or college credits and are interested in transferring to a four-year college or university, are invited to attend Northern Essex Community College's Transfer Day held on both the Haverhill and Lawrence campuses.

Some 35 schools will participate in Transfer Day. The events will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2019, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Hartleb Technology Center, 100 Elliott St., Haverhill, and Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Atrium of the Dimitry Building, 45 Franklin St., Lawrence.

Representatives from state universities from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine as well as private institutions, such as Simmons College, Suffolk University, University of New Hampshire, Merrimack College, and Southern New Hampshire University will attend.

Transfer Day is a great opportunity to plan early, and for students to check in and make sure they are taking the appropriate courses they will need to transfer once they graduate. Students are invited to speak with representatives from the schools and gather materials from their tables. Students are encouraged to bring an unofficial copy of their transcript for on-the-spot-admissions or just to discuss their status as a transfer student.

These events are open to students and any community members who are interested in talking with representatives from public and private colleges from across New England. Get information on program offerings, transfer requirements, financial aid, scholarships and more.

For more information about either of these Transfer Day events, please call the Director of Transfer, Articulation and Academic Center Advising at 978-556-3719 or email her at msunday@necc.mass.edu.

NATIVE GARDENS, September 27th to October 20th, by Karen Zacarias, Directed by Kelly Galvin

Karen Zacarias' comedy follows the high-powered lawyer Pablo, and his very pregnant wife doctoral candidate Tania, who have just purchased a house next door to community stalwarts Virginia and Frank. Soon a disagreement between the neighbors over a longstanding fence line derails their plans of realizing the American Dream.

Native Gardens, directed by Kelly Galvin and lead by an entirely female design team, runs from September 27 through October 20th. Performances are Wednesday through Saturday at 7:30PM and Saturday and Sunday at 2:00 pm at Gloucester Stage Company, 267 East Main Street, Gloucester, MA.

LIONS HOLD CHOWDERFEST

The Ipswich Lions, again this year, are sponsoring their fantastic Chowderfest. This year it is on Saturday, October 19 from Noon to 2PM on the Ipswich Riverwalk. There are many things to do besides tasting the best chowders on the North Shore. You won't be disappointed. It's a great time for the whole family. ♦

WEST END FROM PAGE 20

Saffie is publicly supporting mayoral candidate Neil Perry and says she is still angry that former City Auditor Tom Kelley refused a direct order by the city council to reveal which councilors he told about the "stacking provisions" in the police superior officers' contract in 2017.

"I think that's a problem. There's no accountability. So, there are people sitting on this council who knew this was a bad contract, there's evidence that no one read it according to the Inspector General report."

Saffie said she is sick of city workers getting away with doing whatever they want and if she is elected, she will demand accountability.

Saffie said she was also troubled that the school committee refused to fire superintendent Judy Scannell and then refused to investigate who else was involved and how it happened in the first place. She hinted that a new mayor and school committee can still conduct an investigation

after the election if the right people are elected. Saffie says she is eager to hold the school department accountable for what she called out of control spending.

"It's easy to say 'we have to move forward' but you can't fix anything unless you confront it. We have to hold people accountable because if you don't, they get away with it and then it is going to happen again. I am adamant about holding people accountable," she said. She also added that having no family members working for the city and having no conflicts of interest will make it easier for her to do exactly that.

The Paying Attention Podcast in cooperation with The Valley Patriot will be holding a candidate debate for the West District City Council on Thursday, October 17th at 5pm. The debate will be podcast on YouTube, The Valley Patriot Facebook Page, The Methuen Sound Off Facebook page, and Tom Duggan's personal Facebook page. ♦

YE GAY OL'E VALLEY

BENEATH THE SURFACE

The War on LGBTQ+ Rights

Love is Also Truth & Justice

Dani Langevin

VALLEY PATRIOT LESBIAN COLUMNIST

“How fortunate for governments that the people they administer don’t think,” Adolf Hitler. This should be the current administration’s mantra. As far as I can see, Trump’s administration and most of his followers don’t think or at least have checked the part of their brains that has a conscience at the “wall”. Since his induction, Trump has supported almost 60 proposals targeting the reduction of LGBTQ+ rights. This administration is systematically taking efforts to eradicate the equality of 15 million people in the U.S. alone. That number could change and drop dramatically due to many policies that have been put in place that no longer allow certain agencies from collecting data about the LGBTQ+ community numbers and needs. In essence, there appears to be a concerted effort to eradicate this community from existence. What will stop them from coming after you when they’re done with us?

Trump’s first move at destroying this community happened on January 31, 2017, just eleven days after his inauguration, when he nominated Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court. Gorsuch has a history of anti-transgender rulings. He was passed over only to be replaced by another with the same mindset. After that, Trump nominated several other anti-LGBTQ+ supporters to a number of district courts, I imagine, to carry out his agenda against us. Under his guidance the Department of Health and Human Services has proposed and were successful in passing a multitude of discriminatory rulings to undermine the lives of this population. These acts have rolled back protections for healthcare, housing, and education for LGBTQ+ U.S. citizens. They are not the only federal department to do so. The Department of Labor, Justice, State, Housing and Urban Development, Defense, Labor, Education, Homeland Security and even the UN have gotten in on this sick and twisted Machiavellian enterprise.

One disturbing trend is the attack on our LGBTQ+ youth. Data collection on this community have been stripped as well as protections for transgender students, LGBTQ+ caregivers, students who have been attacked due to their sexual orientation, and LGBTQ+ homeless teens. There are approximately 5 million of these young people in the

United States. A recent study by the Human Rights Campaign has found that 70% of them (3,500,000) have expressed a sense of worthlessness and hopelessness. And why shouldn’t they? Their own government, the one that is supposed to protect their unalienable and constitutional rights is doing everything possible to roll back the advances by previous administrations to level the playing field. This is our posterity and their being told by these actions that they are, in fact, worthless.

In the past, our country has prided itself on being the champion of the underdog. After all, it was the underdog who took on the most powerful country in the world to become independent. “With silent lips. Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.” Remember those words? Perhaps we should add, “As long as they are white and straight.”

Health care for this community is being gutted. The Department of Health and Human Services, “. . . proposed a rule that would remove all recognition that federal law prohibits transgender patients from discrimination in health care and encouraged hospital officials, staff and insurance companies to deny care to patients based on religious and moral beliefs,” (National Center for Transgender Equality). What happened to, “First do no harm”? Some of these moves have even affected the disabled.

In December of 2017 the Justice Department made it easier for businesses to illegally discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community as long as they can cite religious reasons. This is known as the “license to discriminate”. Does anyone else see a problem with this? Who will be next? What if it were you? Would you speak up then? Is anyone “THINKING” about the ramifications of all of these actions on all American citizens? This same department released a memo earlier in 2017 encouraging attorneys to, “Take the legal position that federal law does not protect transgender workers from discrimination. These are people! American citizens! That’s a workforce of 1.4 million.

There are over a half million homeless people in America alone. Studies are varied when it comes to how many of these homeless belong to this com-

LGBTQ: PAGE 29

Paul Murano

VALLEY PATRIOT MORALITY COLUMNIST

A Moral Relativist (a), and Natural Law theorist (b), Discuss Homosexuality

a) Homosexuality is something you’re born with. There is no moral issue with homosexuality.

b) Some people may experience same-sex attraction from an early age, but this isn’t relevant to the ethical question, which is whether one ought to act on it. While a propensity or orientation may be involuntary, choosing to act is voluntary. Further, a recent study has concluded that there is no genetic link to homosexuality.

a) People can’t help how they feel.

b) But people can choose how they act, regardless of how they feel.

a) Since homosexual orientation is not chosen, it is morally acceptable to act on it.

b) That does not follow. We must first ask if the acts in question correspond to human nature and the ends for which we are designed. If not, these acts violate human dignity and are objectively disordered.

a) People have strong attraction toward sex, homo or hetero, and can’t help but act on it.

b) Humans are not simply animals. We have reason and free will, and are not forced to act on anything. Vice, obsession, and addiction could diminish one’s freedom, but If what you say is correct in principle, there would be no moral responsibility for acting on any sexual impulse.

a) But homosexual behavior is an expression of love. How can you say love is wrong?

b) True expressions of love correspond to human nature. Counterfeit love does not. A small percentage of the population are also sexually attracted to siblings, to children, and even to animals; and a large percentage attracted to many people at the same time. Are these attractions “love”? Disordered feelings of tenderness are not love. There is a natural order to love.

a) But homosexual behavior harms no one. Who does it hurt?

b) HIV and AIDS are disproportionately present among practicing homosexuals, as is depression, breast cancer, domestic violence, suicide, poor general health outcomes, and considerably lower life spans. And this doesn’t even speak of the negative psychological, spiritual, family, and societal ramifications.

a) Since some people have a homosexual proclivity or orientation, it must be

natural for them.

b) “Natural” is not something proper to the individual, but to the species. Male-female reproduction is natural in most species of the earth, including humans. And since humans are also persons, this union also has inherent meaning as an expression of marital love. Even when procreation is not possible (as with infertile or post-menopausal couples), persons of the opposite sex still become one flesh by virtue of the union for which they are designed. Neither union nor procreation – the double significance of marriage – is possible in people of the same sex. To use an analogy, the union of a plug and a socket produces something beyond itself – electricity. This is something two plugs or two sockets can never produce, no matter how hard they desire it. People of the same sex can never unite as one flesh. This is simply a reality of human nature.

a) Of course it is natural; a certain percentage of the animal kingdom is homosexual.

b) Activity between animals of the same sex occurs, but it’s not necessarily homosexual. People observing other species’ is analogous to aliens observing the human species from space. They may witness two boys wrestling in their back yard and proclaim, “Look, homosexual behavior.” Likewise it is when humans observe the activity of other animals. No sexual penetration akin to intercourse has been observed under normal conditions in the animal kingdom. Even if it was, it is not always natural to act like animals.

a) Homosexual relationships, if of consenting adults, are fine and nobody else’s business.

b) What is ethically relevant here is whether or not sexual acts between persons of the same sex are natural and healthy – physically, psychologically, for the family, and society. If they are not, it is the “business” of loved ones and society to never condone deviant behavior.

a) Homosexual behavior makes some people happy. Why would you want to keep people from being happy?

b) Many people may ‘feel’ happy but are not, like an addict getting their fix. Adulterers feel happy as they commit adultery, but are not. Feeling happy doesn’t necessarily mean being happy. The question can be asked this way: Can people truly be fulfilled in choosing to act against their nature? The answer is clearly no; no matter how much they may desire it.

a) You sound like a bigot. A homo-

LOVE: PAGE 29

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There is a Power Outage!

Peter Larocque
RELIGION COLUMNIST

I would like to begin this column where we left off last month concerning why it is to our advantage that Jesus went back to his Father and sent the Holy Spirit.

Do you remember the last power outage you have experienced? For those of us who live in South Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover area, around this time last year, we lived through some horrific gas explosions and in order to stop these terrible explosions and loss of life from continuing, the only decision left to do for the public's safety was to cut the power! Everything went dark! No gas and no electricity, no power! And, more recently, on Friday, September 27th, of this year there was another gas leak situation in Lawrence and citizens were evacuated in the affected area! Again, power was cut to prevent another potential ugly event. Thank God no explosions, no loss of life, just loss of power. These power outages in the physical, if I may use them for illustration, exemplify what trying to live the Christian lifestyle without the Holy Spirit looks like. On the flip side of this, it doesn't have to be so.

After the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, right before Jesus ascended to go back to His Father, Jesus gave instructions to His Disciples which we read in Luke 24:49, "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." Then again speaking concerning this same event, in Acts 1:8, Jesus said, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Jesus was very clear here! Go to Jerusalem and wait until you be endued, which simply means, to be clothed with, they were about to be clothed with Power from on High! In the book of Acts, Jesus gives more instructions, you shall [absolutely] receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you. Here we have what is called a Mathematical Rule of Reasoning, "Things which are equal to the same thing are equal to each other." The Promise of my Father equals to be endued with Power from on High which equals you shall receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you! I love it when God places these diamonds in His Word for us to find!

Notice Jesus said, not until that they received the Holy Spirit that they would be witnesses unto Him and not before? Once the believer was fully equipped, then and not before then they became witnesses. This special event that Jesus was refer-

ring to, where His disciples would receive the Holy Spirit was The Day of Pentecost which you can read about in Acts chapter 2! The birthday of the Church, for the first time Jesus's disciples became born-again or born of the Spirit! Too many Christians miss this point!

Case in point, some Pastors and Bible teachers love to quote Matthew 9:36-38, to inspire their people to go out witnessing. "But when he [Jesus] saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers [the workers] are few;38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers [[workers] into his harvest." Jesus had lots of compassion on the multitudes because they were like sheep scattered without a shepherd. But Jesus didn't send His workers out to the multitudes empty-handed! He sent them with Power! Which when we continue reading in the next chapter, Matthew 10:1, "And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease."

The Bible also tells us that this Holy Spirit is available to anyone. You don't have to be a special Pastor, Priest or Minister, all may ask. And according to Jesus, that is all one needs to do. It says in Luke 11:13, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? Jesus knew we would need the Holy Spirit to live the Christian lifestyle in this world!

This is abundantly clear, especially when it comes to carrying out the Great Commission which is stated in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

According to scripture, this is the way this is supposed to happen after a Christian believer receives the Promise of the Father, which is Power from on High, which is the Power of the Holy Spirit! Then the Christian believer is fully equipped to be a witness of Jesus! Then Jesus says, I am with you always, even to the end of the world. I wonder, just how Jesus does this?

Things to think about! More to come! Love you all.

Peter Larocque
peterlarocque@hotmail.com ◇

TV TALK with BILL CUSHING



'Unbelievable'

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

Netflix's 'Unbelievable' is the streaming network's latest binge-worthy drama. It stars Emmy winners Toni Collette and Merritt Wever as two detectives investigating a series of sexual assaults. But even though they are the series' top billed stars, they don't even appear in the first episode.

The first hour (and most of the series) belongs to Kaitlyn Dever, an incredibly talented young actress who plays Lynwood, Washington teen Marie Adler. As Marie, her life is scarred twice. Once by the brutal crime she suffers, and then again by the doubt and mistrust thrust upon her by the police and her community. She is forced to endure telling what happened to her over and over and over again to the police. In her obvious distress, her story differs a little at times, causing the police to question what actually happened. She eventually, after being bullied by the two detectives investigating the crime, recounts her story.

By the way, this crime actually happened. It was written about in a Pulitzer Prize-winning ProPublica article 'An Unbelievable Story of Rape,' by T. Christian Miller and Ken Armstrong and discussed in the 'This American Life' podcast episode 'Anatomy of Doubt,' both of which served as the basis for this series. Both the article and the podcast state plainly, from the beginning, that whether the crime they'll be discussing really occurred is not up for debate. It definitely did.

'Unbelievable' does things differently from many crime dramas. Unlike other shows, we see the crime almost entirely from Marie's perspective. We see what happened to her, and how it lingers, and also the violations that came after. Executive producer, Susannah Grant, is much more interested in the survivor's point of view.

Beginning in episode two, the series jumps ahead three years and shifts locations to Colorado, where we meet Detectives Karen Duvall (Wever) and Grace Rasmussen (Collette), based on real-life detectives Stacy Galbraith and Edna Hendershot. They work in different precincts but are brought together by the similarities in the rape cases they're investigating. Eventually tying them together and attributing them to the work of a serial rapist.

The contrast between the investigation in Washington, and the investigation in

Colorado is striking. Duvall and Rasmussen's interviews are conducted with gentleness and empathy. When one woman named Sarah tells Rasmussen and Duvall that she doesn't remember many details about the assault, Rasmussen quickly reassures her, telling her that it's self-defense, that it's common, that she shouldn't apologize for doing what she had to do in order to feel safe. Later Rasmussen tells Duvall that being questioned about the rape by yet another stranger with a badge may do more harm than good.

Watching the scene, realizing that even the kind, soft-spoken Duvall may have unintentionally traumatized Sarah further with her single well-intentioned question, it makes you understand what Marie had to endure. Describing her assault over and over, in painstaking detail, to a constantly rotating carousel of mostly male strangers who thought she was making it all up. The story is presented brilliantly, and you realize that the kindness and compassion that Duvall and Rasmussen conducted themselves with was sorely lacking from Marie's painful experience with investigators and most definitely led to her confusion with details.

All three leads deliver powerhouse performances, with Wever and Collette they play their roles so well that it feels like it isn't the first time they've played these characters.

I don't want to give more details and ruin it for you. It's better for you to experience this important and riveting story unfold on your own. But I will say that although this is a story about a sexual assault, it's also a story about survival. It's about the failure of the system, the unwavering pursuit of justice. But most importantly, it lets these women be more than the worst thing that happens to them. This is not a series about reliving trauma, but about healing from it.

'Unbelievable' is available to stream on Netflix.



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

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Anny Arroyo & Lorinaldo Caspagnette, Chloe LLC, \$220,000, 166 Park St
Anny Arroyo & Lorinaldo Caspagnette, Chloe LLC, \$220,000, 168-170 Park St
Maureen T Hayward, Rafael Mejia, \$215,000, 5 East Pleasant St
Evelyn V Tavarez/Evelyn V Urena, Sopheak Duong, \$213,000, 42 Kingston St
Benchmark Realty Trust & Randall F Hart Tr, Jermaine Rivera, \$188,000, 71 Railroad St Unit 4
Paula J Tasch, AA Real Estate Enterprises LLC, \$173,500, 182 Mt Vernon St
Bank of New York Mellon Tr, Maria Nesel Matias, \$131,000, 9A Hobson St
Carlos Dasilva, Anthony Ansaldi Tr & Cameron-Bishop/Janton Trust, \$120,000, 24-26 Inman St Unit 28
Altigracia Hernandez, Pablo Camilo Diaz, \$115,000, 262 East Haverhill St Unit 9
Sree Family Trust LLC, Pasha Realty LLC, \$100,000, 9 Bevel St
Gabriela Matos, I & H Realty Associates LLC, \$75,000, 71-73 Saratoga St.

METHUEN

Appleton Square Realty Trust & Myrna Zelenitz Tr, Arrowpoint Burlington LLC & Appleton Investors LLC, \$29,300,000, 171-176 East St
Century Builders Inc, Marsan Properties LLC, \$800,000, 148 Merrimack St
John R & Deborah Isensee & Sandra M Dobens, Patricia A Ohlson & Doulas A & Michele D Ohlson, \$690,000, 1 Nikki St
Theresa B Leone Tr & Joseph A Leone III Revocable Trust of 2016, Wendy Y & Jose A Estrella, \$680,000, 28 Morgan Dr
Toll MA Land IV LLC, Theresa Leone, \$670,677, 95 Pine Tree Dr Unit 62
Toll MA Land III LP, David R & Michelle J Moody, \$599,575, 1 Phoebe St Unit 6
Toll MA Land III LP, Patrick J & Cheryl A Nolan, \$598,695, 5 Phoebe St Unit 8
Huong T Nguyen & Julie Huong Nguyen, Tania & Herivelto Macedo, \$589,000, 12 Tamarack Rd
Daniel A & Donna M Parisi, Ileana & William Gallagher, \$579,000, 46 Arrowwood St
Toll MA Land III LP, Robert & Doreen Mason, \$562,609, 3 Phoebe St Unit 7
Kevin A & Cherylann Feole, Wallace C Lima, \$560,000, 30 Merrimack St
Carriage Homes LLC, Lynda Ferrara, \$560,000, 23 Country Club Cir Unit 78
Homes at Great Oaks LLC, Henry & Susan Nassar, \$549,900, 6 Tucker Ter
Richard L & Andrea B Harman, Karen M Eichhorn, \$549,900, 39 Harmony Ln
Jose & Wendy Estrella, Frank P Maddalone, \$525,000, 585 Forest St
Jorge M Doleo & Xiomara Lara-Cifre, Francisco Bano Maza, \$520,000, 94-96 Brown St
Joseph P & Joy Anne Santoro, David & Tanya Witkum, \$520,000, 30 Sugar Pine Ln
Joseph M & Kimberly Ann Nye, Gustavo & Elsa Mendiata, \$505,000, 331 Hampshire Rd
Quynh Tram Nguyen & Thao H Nguyen, Pierre Nicolas & Aniolite Bence, \$505,000, 107 Tyler St
Walid El Khoury & Mona Merheb, Joseph & Joanna Rodriguez, \$495,777, 58 Cornelia Rd
Anthony J & Stacia Perrotta, Claudine Bernadeau, \$486,500, 64 Calumet Rd
Thomas Messina, Ibrahim Elhafi, \$479,900, 157-159 Swan St
Adam M & Elizabeth R Bruce, David J & Cherish P Wilson, \$474,000, 14 Crestshire Ln

MIA Investements Properties LLC, Paulina Rodriguez Arvelo, \$470,000, 24 Comet Rd
Richard & Nicole T Nault, Victor A Gonzalez, \$470,000, 23 Wintergreen Cir
Craig & Melissa Mack, Mercy Mukami Irura, \$470,000, 2 Huntress Ave
Raymond S & Sally A Lavigne, Wifredo & Tacianna DeMarco, \$465,000, 18 Olympic Village Dr
Jorge B Torres, Urbano Guzman & Rosalinda Maldonado Ramirez & Migdalia Guzman Lopez, \$462,500, 11 Chelmsford St
Michelle R & Robert Mignogna, Miguel A Diaz & Jescenia Castillo, \$445,000, 0 Clayton Ave
Richard J Harb Tr & Edward & Ann Harb 2010 Family Trust, Jorge Luis Garcia & Ybonis De La Cruz, \$440,000, 39 Oakmeadow Ln
Anny Sanchez & Andrea Rossetto, Katherine Tamayo, \$435,000, 5 Tech Cir
Bailey Realty Trust & Amy C Bailey Tr, Wallace G Njuguna & Jane W Gitau, \$428,250, 64 Newbury Ave
John P Salvetti, Harrison A Fitch Jr & Carrie L Fitch, \$425,000, 50 Lisa Ln
Daniel P & Jennifer E Thompson/Jennifer E Bradley & Kristen M Godin/Kristen M Bradley, Marie Saint-Louis, \$425,000, 4 Tedesco Rd
Deborah A Anthony, Glenna J Amero & Matthew Haney, \$421,500, 59 Salem St
William Quinones, Nikolay Glita & Darya Marukhina, \$421,000.00, 23 Oneida St
Michael Solomon, Yaser M Samerraei, \$420,000, 12 Jane Rd
Eric Blais & Louis Tango, Tania A DaMota & Jessica DaMota, \$405,000, 97 Weybossett St
Richard J King, Kevin R Chasse, \$404,000, 106 Elm St
John A Piccolomini, David M Place, \$400,000, 3 Lady Slipper Ln
Bryson D & Meagan Geary/Meagan Harrigan, Hatice & Amine Ekinici, \$400,000, 3 Emsley Ter
Carmen L Rickenback Tr & Douglas L Rickenback Tr & Rickenback 2014 Family Trust, Lucy Alsina, \$399,000, 43 Anderson Dr
Anna Maria Contarino/Ann-Maria Contarino, William C Hale III, \$393,000, 7 Agnes Ter
Roman & Kristen Spada/Kristen Mercier, William M Smith Jr & Colleen R Smith, \$390,000, 22 Davis Rd
Wassim Khiami, Patricia C White, \$389,500, 10 Roosevelt Ave
Carmen R Mattuchio Jr, Theresa Kelley, \$383,000, 10 Myrtle St
Brian & Alison O'Toole, Gregory Alvarado, \$377,500, 34 Woodland St
Joel Martinez/Joel Martinez-Aguilar & Rosa Martinez/Rosa Martinez-Chacon, Sandra C Lopez, \$375,000, 89-91 Ashland Ave
Alisson D Garcia & Jairo A Naranjo, David & Daniela Correa, \$370,000, 6 Lupine Ave
Pearl Peng, Daniel & Maria Y Reynoso, \$370,000, 133 Oak St
Elizabeth Medina, Alberico R Cruz, \$370,000, 138 Oakland Ave
Patrick W Wlodyka Est & Jeg Trust & Audrey Brinson Tr & Darlene Suliveras, Hilary M Kaba, \$366,500, 182A East St

Lily Van Lai, Karen C McCracken, \$365,000, 3 Breen Ave
Theresa M Kelly, Steven Margison & Yazeiry M Brito Margison, \$355,000, 12 Field Ave
Anthony Grasso & Jennifer Willyard, Juan Carlos Flores, \$355,000, 5 East Brook Pl
Vicki J Gardner Tr & V Gardner Irrevocable Trust, Francis Sanquintin & Yrma Lara De Sanquintin, \$352,900, 24 James Rd
Carol Perrotta & Joseph Gibeau, Amanda Waldie & Luis A Quimby, \$350,000, 305 Jackson St
Phillip J Sanguedolce & Sandra Marie Desrosiers & Paula Ann Hartt, David J & Laraine G Zappala, \$345,000, 2 Church St
MTGLQ Investors LP, Randy Ovalles, \$343,900, 157 Maple St
Kevin A & Laura M Jacques, Andrique Smart & David Harvey, \$340,000, 156 Edgewood Ave
Roger R Albert, Christine Anne Desrosiers, \$339,000, 15 Currier St
Gary & July Notenboom, Kevin & Samantha DeVasconcelos, \$335,000, 160 Edgewood Ave
Premium Properties Inc, Richard Alvarado & Johanny Jimenez De Alvarado, \$330,000, 500 Prospect St
Ileizy & Marquis Victor, Silvia J Lopez, \$325,000, 14 Horne St
Donna M Ramirez, Rita Villaman, \$320,000, 494 Prospect St
Jason & Erika Velazquez/Erika Hardy, Wendy R Rosario-Burgos, \$310,000, 14 Belmont St
Kevin Lynes, Charles Campbell Jr & Jennifer Campbell, \$300,000, 55 East St
Leon C Asadoorian Tr & Lindbergh Avenue Realty Trust, 101 Lindberg Avenue LLC, \$300,000, Lindberg Ave
Peter G & Dian Rossi/Dina E Savastano, Charlene Shastop, \$295,000, 7-9 Gervias Wy Unit 7
Jonathan & Erin Hudson, Beth A Baker, \$285,000, 4 Druid Hill Ave Unit 4
Happy Penguin Properties LLC, Eugene C & Danita B Scione, \$278,000, 1 Albermarle St
Helen C Devlin, Fatmata Kanu, \$274,400, 1 Riverview Blv Unit 8-212
Maroun & Mirna Bechara, Ronald J Pitocchelli & Tracy L Porter, \$250,000, 18 Pine Tree Dr
Riverside Drive LLC, De Chau & Quyen L Diep, \$246,000, 34 Burnham Rd Unit 204
Chiquita Penrose, Fernando Medeiros, \$245,000, 16 Norgate Rd
Riverside Drive LLC, Lan Wu, \$242,500, 34 Burnham Rd Unit 102
Theodore D Larkin/Theodor D Larkin Jr, Renee M Montague & Anthony J Giampa, \$240,500, 34 Burnham Rd Unit 201
Stephanie Lucente & Jason Elder, Joseph Fitzgerald Jr, \$240,000, 75 Weybossett St
Elizabeth A Cartier, Christopher Bettano, \$225,000, 10 Parker Ct
Robert J Palmisano Tr & Robert J Palmisano Revocable Trust, Luis J Javier, \$220,000, 42 Gaston St Unit 42
Courtney Taylor, Jane Duboff, \$211,450, 23 Hampshire Rd Unit 307
Nancy Quinlan, Rivers Edge Properties LLC, \$131,000, 175D Pleasant Valley St
Patricia A Bonds, Jeffrey Scott, \$105,000, 268 Lowell St
Maureen T Hayward, Wiston Almanzar, \$10,000, East Pleasant St

NORTH ANDOVER

NAOP LLC, 203 Turnpike Street Realty

LLC, \$1,969,920, 203 Turnpike St Unit G3 ETC
North Andover Realty Corp, Srinivas & Aparna Kallakurchi, \$1,657,597.67, 36 Agency Pl
Catherine J Dawson & Margaret E Torla Est & Robert F Torla & John E Torla & Cindy L Torla Murphy & Suzanne Hall & Jill Torla, 1120 Osgood Street LLC, \$1,200,000, 1120 Osgood St
Ronald C & Karen M McCluskey Trs & Ron and Karen McCluskey Family Trust, Martha & Wade Jones, \$925,000, 870 Great Pond Rd
Melahat & Peyman Samali, Jesse & Kathleen Lelievre, \$875,000, 15 Kittredge Rd
Frank Marr/Francis J Marr Jr & Theresa Marr, Ravichandran Vancheeswaran & Aruna Viswadoss, \$825,000, 253 Appleton St
Abbas & Susanne A Torabi, Dan Wu, \$710,000, 45 Weyland Cir
Carolyn Gala, Craig & Loretta Taylor, \$684,000, 43 Mayflower Dr Unit 23
Robert G & Cynthia A Moore, Eric T Landry, \$670,000, 137 Forest St
Wu Miao & Xiaoqing Guo, Kalyan Chakravarthy Nallaparaju, \$670,000, 345 Boston St
Michael I & Lois P Jacobs Trs & Michael I Jacobs Revocable Trust of 2014, Mario & Kathleen DiPerna, \$660,000, 94 Cortland Dr Unit 40
Jayson J DesRochers, Joanne F Lynch, \$659,000, 36 Woodberry Ln
Stephen R & Maureen C Doherty, Savvas & Janelle Pesiridis, \$639,000, 284 Salem St
Milind S & Priya N Heble, Ana Paula Martins Fernandes, \$625,000, 102 Penni Ln
Frank John Stewart Tr & Frank John Stewart Living Trust, Kourtney & Eric Crampton & Matthew & Carolyn Rea, \$625,000, 19-21 Enfield St
LS Property LLC, Craig DeCosta & Laura Moxley, \$575,000, 32 Cabot St
Gerry & Meredith Varcariolis, Elise K & Timothy C Edson, \$525,000, 220 Osgood St
John S & Joanne T Gallagher, Marisol Carrero, \$500,000, 9-11 Cleveland St
Craig DeCosta & Laura Moxley, Frederick C & Christine B Edgett, \$475,000, 11 Little Rd
Alan & Carolyn Goldberg, Christopher J & Margaret A Surette, \$467,000, 26 Trinity Ct
Tyler & Stephanie Cote/Stephanie Cocce, Timothy & Melanie Healy, \$450,000, 36 Silsbee Rd
Dale Street Realty Trust/Dale Realty Trust & Claire M Hagan Tr, Audley H Jones, \$430,000, 185 Dale St
Keith D & Toniann Alter, Ahmed D Mahaba, \$418,000, 20 Millpond
Costin R & Irina Popescu, Ralitsa Kalmukova, \$329,000, 4 Harvest Dr Unit 202
Zhao Wang & Zhihua Xiao, Edward J & Carole E Felix, \$327,500, 4 Harvest Dr Unit 208
DGG Realty Trust & Diana G Gould Tr, Cherylann T Ferullo, \$319,000, 190 Chickering Rd Unit 113D
Levine Family Revocable & Catherine M Kneeland Tr, Elizabeth Post Elliot, \$318,858, 350 Greene St Unit 413
Jennifer & Kevin Finnigan, Timothy Carroll, \$318,000, 505 Massachusetts Ave
Center Realty Trust of North Andover & James Worden Tr & Kathy Stevens Tr & Christian McVey Tr, Kevin Murphy, \$315,000, 32-34 Johnson St
Mary Carroll, Michael & Heidi Connelly, \$290,000, 148 Main St Unit A211
Ngaitun Chow & Eva Ping/Eva Peng, Eric Lawrence Liberti & Lindsay Elizabeth Liberti, \$278,500, 45 Kingston St Unit 109
Martha Higuera, Pia Alagna Salerno, \$227,500, 70 Farrwood Ave Unit 10
Danielle A Swinarski, Carolina Properties LLC, \$200,000, 326 Campbell Rd
Susan T Quealy, Donna & Glenn W Thompson, \$200,000, 28 Fernview Ave Unit 9
Gustavo & Elsa Mendiata, Richard Salazar Gonzalez, \$192,500, 1103 Acorn Dr Unit 1103
Michelle L Colantonio/Michelle L Goodnow, Marybeth Hannah, \$174,000, 11 Walker Rd Unit 5
Floyd A Ribeiro, Ronald M & Darlene Wallis, \$128,800, 14 Walker Rd Unit 2

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HERO: FROM PAGE 1

1946. Pat was finally issued the famous World War II Honorable Discharge Pin to wear on his uniform, called the "Ruptured Duck" by the Troops. This pin, made of brass, sometimes plastic, sometimes simply a cloth patch, allowed the servicemen or women, after World War II to wear their military uniform home, taking advantage of free public transportation offered to servicemen. The Ruptured Duck also prevented US Military Officers and NCO's from putting the recently discharged Veterans on work details.

Pat earned a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, the coveted Combat Infantry Badge, The European Campaign Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the Distinguished Unit Ribbon, and the World War II Victory Medal. He wore the Sharpshooter Rifle and Marksman Pistol Badges.

The 9th Infantry Division fought in North Africa, Sicily, Normandy, and ended the war in Dessau, Germany. The Unit spent over 300 days in combat during World War II, was one of the first American Units to engage the enemy on the ground. Soldiers in the 9th Infantry earned four Medals of Honor, 86 Distinguished Service Crosses, and a staggering 1,769 Silver Stars. These are considered the "top three" US Medals by Veterans.

After serving in World War II, Pat married Eleanor Mscisz of Danvers, Massachusetts and together they bought their own dairy farm in Dracut. They sold their milk to Merrimack Valley's legendary dairy, Glennies, of North Andover. When I was a child growing up on 12 East Boxford Street in Lawrence (now a Tennis Court) we had a Glennie's Milkman. Sitting with the man who provided the milk to Glennie's was quite the experience.

In 1957 there was a terrible fire. Pat and Eleanor lost everything – their home, the barns and all their cows and pigs. It was just too expensive and too hard to start over so Pat switched from milk cows to beef cows and went to work for Holihan's Brewery in Lawrence for many years. He then went to work for Polaroid in Cambridge from where he ultimately retired.

Pat and Eleanor, his wife of sixty-six years when she passed in 2013, raised their four children, Joe, Patty, Sandy and Mary on their family farm in Dracut. The family now includes eight grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild with more coming in a few months!

Dirt farmer, soldier, dairy farmer, cattle rancher, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, great-great-grandfather,



and the best neighbor and friend anyone could ask for; Pat is a great representative of the sixteen and a half million heroes who saved the world in 1945, then came home and quietly raised their families, built their communities, and made the United States the greatest nation ever – undoubtedly The Greatest Generation .

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



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

LOVE: FROM PAGE 25

phobe. Hating homosexuals is very wrong!

b) Hating anyone is very wrong. In fact, ethical discernment should always be motivated by love. No parent allows his child to act against his good without correcting him, and no true friend allows one to languish in unhealthy or unnatural behavior without challenging him. Love wills the objective good of the other. Hate doesn't care, often allowing evil to prevail out of a misplaced compassion.

a) Same-sex marriage has been legalized by the U.S. Supreme Court, and many people agree with the court's decision. Therefore, homosexual behavior is acceptable. You're behind the times.

b) Supreme Court decisions have been wrong. Abraham Lincoln affirmed this fact after the Court codified racism. Throughout history, courts and majorities have been wrong (cf. slavery, genocides, etc.). Truth and morals are not judged by a calendar or by popularity.

a) People with same-sex attraction should have equal rights. You're no better than they are.

b) Of course they should. All human beings inherently possess human dignity and rights that spring from their humanity. However, no one should be given special rights due to their disordered desires, which we all have in some way or another.

a) Do you expect gay people to live as celibates, like priests or nuns!?! That is mean.

b) I prefer the term "people with same-sex attraction" rather than "gay people", since people should not be labeled or

identified by their feelings or attractions. To answer your question, some people with same-sex attraction have been able to change through maturity, counseling, prayer, or all three. Others choose celibacy and find fulfillment in other ventures. Sexual relationships are not necessary for happiness. Countless celibates throughout history have proved this by living happy and fulfilled lives.

a) Homosexual behavior and same-sex marriage are not going away. It's here to stay so you're wasting your time.

b) If you think my reasoning is faulty, please correct it. Truth is the only goal here, for there is no love outside of truth. The only way to freedom is to live in accord with the truth of our nature. Success in social change is secondary, and outside of my power.

a) I'm not interested in your truth.

b) I don't have a truth. It has me, as it has you. Truth isn't something we create, it's something we recognize and conform to.

a) You live your truth and I'll live mine.

b) But I ...

a) Goodbye!

b) Okay, so long. Have a good day.



Paul Murano teaches college philosophy and theology and is the talk host of 'Beneath the Surface' radio and video podcast. Check out Paul's website at Paulmurano.com, and email him at PJDM@aol.com

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LGBTQ: FROM 24

munity being attacked presently. It is somewhere between 11 and 40%. So, Let's be conservative and say it's 20%. That is upwards of 100,000 LGBTQ+ homeless. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has: removed requirements that applicants for homelessness funding maintain anti-discrimination policies and demonstrate efforts to serve LGBTQ people and their families and proposed a plan massively cutting regulations prohibiting discrimination against transgender people in HUD-funded homeless shelters (National Center for Transgender Equality).

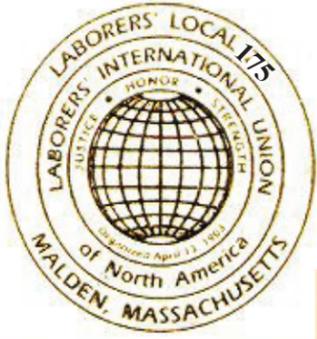
This has got to stop. Tyrannical and dictatorial administrations in the past began by attacking the marginalized. They slowly and incrementally took away rights a little at a time, with seemingly no notice by the masses. By the

time it was noticed, it was too late. Once one group was "taken care of", they targeted the next and then the next. Think!

Our country was built on diversity NOT religion or discrimination. It is our differences as much as our similarities that connects us and makes this country great. If we don't protect those who need it the most, then what are we but a nation of empty promises and hypocrites. ♦



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



Laborers' Union

(LOCAL 175)



CONFLICTS! CONFLICTS! CONFLICTS!

If there was ever any doubt about the desperation of political insiders to hold onto power in this year's Methuen election, it's the alignment of mayoral candidate Jennifer Kannan and West End city council candidate Bill Bryant.

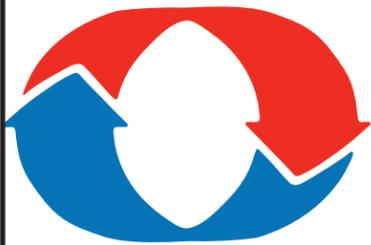
Both have family members working for the city. In Fact, Bill Bryant himself is the principal of the Crest Collaborative which gets million\$\$ from the city! He is endorsing Jen Kannan who has three family members working for the city.

~ Mike Gagliardi, Local 175 Laborers' Union of North America

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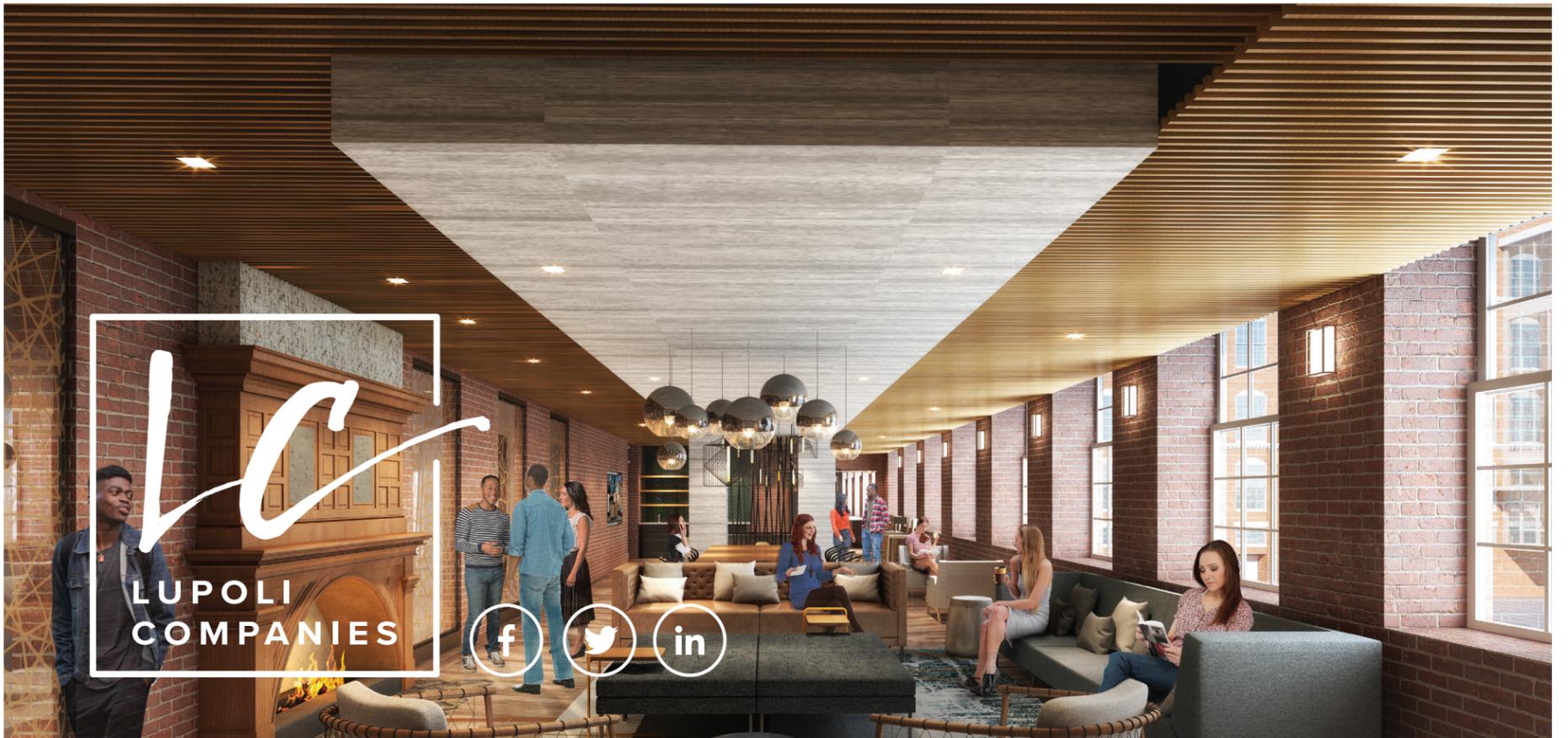


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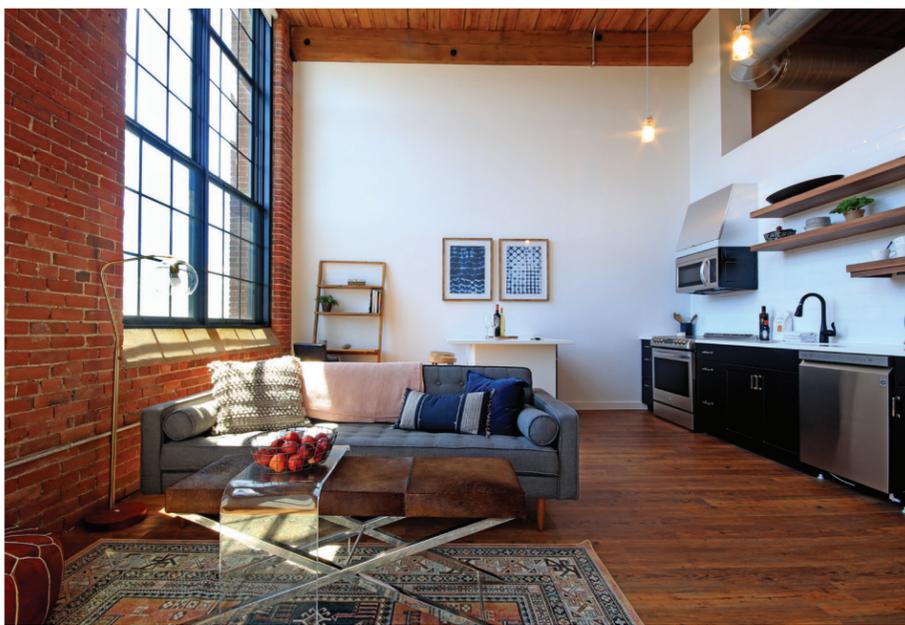
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