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## Methuen Corruption Report

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**Methuen POLICE**

The Massachusetts Inspector General released a scathing report on his "investigation" of the process used to approve the Methuen Police Superior Officers' contract two years ago. The IG found fault with Former Mayor Zanni, Current Mayor Jajuga, and the previous city council, but held the Methuen Police themselves, harmless in the debacle.

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## VALLEY PATRIOTS OF THE MONTH

HERO IN OUR MIDST: 102-YEAR-OLD TONY ZUKAS, US ARMY, WORLD WAR II

**John Cuddy**  
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

Haverhill's Anthony J "Tony" Zukas lived at Haverhill Crossing on Amesbury Road near Northern Essex Community College when I interviewed him. The students at Northern Essex Community College, and all of us really, can learn much from this World War II Veteran. Originally, from Scranton, Pennsylvania,

he was the oldest in his family of fourteen children and dropped out of high school to help support the family during the Great Depression of the 1930s. First serving in the Pennsylvania National Guard, he later enlisted in the Regular US Army, and spent the war protecting the vital Allied strategic interests at the Panama Canal.

Typical of our Greatest Generation, the man who never finished high school could do anything! He built his family home

in Haverhill by hand, to quote Tony, "I touched every board and nail myself". He also built his own reflective telescope, to gaze at the stars. For most of his life, he held a HAM Radio License; he operated his radio as N1HDG. Tony loved to garden with his wife Frances. He and his wife were widely known for the orchids raised in their garden. Tony built his wife Frances a greenhouse on their property in Haverhill. He was also active in the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic Fraternal organization focusing on strengthening Catholic families. Besides carpentry, astronomy, and gardening, Tony also enjoyed painting and golf.

Tony Zukas spent most of his Second World War service protecting the Canal with the US Army's 33rd Infantry Regiment. How safe was this duty in Central America during the war? Both the Germans and the Japanese wanted to attack the Panama Canal. The German's had code-named their secret, project for disabling of the canal, Operation Pelikan. The plan also known as Project 14, and was the Nazi's bold plan for attacking the Panama Canal during World War II. During the fall of 1943, the German Wehrmacht had completed preparations to haul two Ju 87 Stuka Dive Bombers with folding wings on two U-boats to an unnamed Colombian island near the coast of Panama. Then the Germans would reassemble the planes, arm them with "special bombs", and send them to attack the Panama Canal's Gatun Dam. To learn more about this forgotten chapter of



World War II, I recommend reading Stan Cohen's "They came to Destroy America" or Ladislav Farago's work "The Game of the Foxes".

How and why Tony and the rest of the US Troops guarding the Panama Canal avoided attack by either the Germans or the Japanese is a mystery. The French started construction on the canal in 1882; they found the job dangerous and difficult. The United States took over in 1904 and finished just in time for the start of World War I in 1914. Many in the global

HERO: PAGE 19

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# IG Report Blames Council, Mayors, Not Police

The Inspector General's report on the approval of the Methuen Superior Officers' contract was scathing and eye opening to those who have not been paying attention to Methuen politics. (See page 5)

The report is harsh with criticism of former Mayor Zanni, current Mayor Jajuga, the previous city council, and others.

It detailed how the former mayor and councilors rushed through a vote on the police contract with no questions, no public input, and no concern for the financial impact on the city. It detailed conflicts of interest and all but spelled out a quid-pro-quo deal being made.

Within minutes of that report being made public, people took to social media boasting how Councilors Saba and McCarty were right, and that this report vindicates everything the current council has been doing, including cutting \$1.8M out of the police budget after the mayor already cut more than \$1M.

That point of view, however, is short sighted and designed to confuse the voters and the public. It also ignores the facts.

The fact is, Mayor Jajuga almost had to

lay off more than 70 police officers as the result of the city council's \$1.8M budget cut, not because of inflated superior officer's salaries, and not because he voted on his son's contract.

If the council had simply level funded the police budget from the beginning (after increasing DPW, fire, and school budgets) there would have been no proposed layoffs at all.

Of course, you would never know that reading the local paper or watching the Boston news channels. Their only interest is promoting the sexier (and more inaccurate) story that cops were being laid off in Methuen because of the superior officers' inflated salaries.

Lost in all of this madness and propaganda is the fact that, regardless of who the IG blamed for the mess Methuen is in, the police budget was still short nearly \$1.8M.

Councilors Steve Saba and Jim McCarty had emphatically stated that they would not put the money back in the budget under any circumstances. They wanted to punish the police. They want to punish the

mayor. Public safety be damned.

In light of the IG report, Mayor Jajuga has announced that he will start paying the superior officers based on the 2014 contract. Surprise! Now, Councilors Saba and McCarty say they are putting back at least \$1.5M. Had they done this 8 months ago, the turmoil and controversy that made Methuen a laughing stock would never have happened. Yet, here we are.

Councilors Saba and McCarty may be right about some of their positions on the matter of blame, but the one thing they were wrong about is putting the lives of innocent people at risk to score political points. And that's exactly what they did.

McCarty and Saba didn't seem to care about public safety when the chief said there would be at least 50 patrolmen laid off. They only cared about grandstanding, scoring political points, and trying to look like they are solving a problem that they alone created.

Truth is, they didn't solve anything. They made the problem worse.

In summary, the council cut the police budget by \$1.8M, grandstanded for

8 months, read the IG report and then put \$1.5M back in the police budget so they could look like heroes who saved Methuen from 70 patrolmen layoffs.

They were anything but heroes.

Sure, Mayor Jajuga could have ended all this last summer by eliminating two captains and reorganizing the police department. On that point, Saba and McCarty are right.

But, given that one of those captains is the mayor's son, did anyone really believe he was going to do that?

We didn't. And neither did the council.

We find it shameful that people who were elected to protect the public would rather play politics than solve problems.

Most shameful, however, is that the Methuen police officers at the center of all this were held totally blameless for any wrongdoing in the IG report, yet they have been the subject of public scorn because of inaccurate media reports and politicians who could care less.

We believe the men and women who are willing to die to protect the citizens of Methuen deserved more. ♦

## Like A Predator, Putin Pounced While Obama Slept

Ken Willette, Jr.

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

The Left's unsubstantiated theories on Trump's cozy relationship with Mother Russia have reached a boiling point. It is as if they haven't fully recovered from the deep psychological wounds of the 2016 campaign, or the fact that Trump is still their president despite their late-night rants on social media. Ironically, many leftists have had an often naive history of appeasement with the Soviet Union, her satellite states and now Russia. They have praised revolutions in both Russia and Cuba. Some of the college kids still wear Che Guevara t-shirts, without skipping a beat and without knowing his vicious history of political violence. I find it pathetic that liberals suddenly label Trump as a commie or Putin's puppet, especially since Putin achieved major foreign policy successes under Obama's watch after the 2012 presidential elections.

First of all, many leftists certainly have selective amnesia when it comes to Mitt Romney's warning back in 2012 about Putin. Obama openly ridiculed Romney for saying at the time that "Russia is our biggest geopolitical foe." He dismissed Romney's quote as a dangerous relic of an outdated Cold War mentality. Of course, Romney was right, but why let that powerful assessment get in the way of the present day liberal narrative? You see, Obama wanted greater 'flexibility' with Putin after

2012. Little did the world realize, until it was too late, the level of weakness and incompetence that the Obama flexibility approach would actually encompass. Or that his failures would diminish our standing in the world and, conversely, empower Putin.

For example, Obama contradicted his own 'red line' declaration and refused to launch air strikes on Assad in Syria, an ally of Russia, even after his usage of chemical weapons against innocent civilians. When Obama wrongly dismissed ISIS as a JV team and allowed them to gain significant ground in the Middle East, surprise, surprise, Putin used ISIS as a pretext to station more and more combat troops in Syria. Another historic military ally of Russia, Iran also gained ground under Obama with a questionable nuke deal. Even after Iran immediately proceeded to violate numerous UN Resolutions regarding ballistic missile testing, Obama did nothing to reinstate sanctions or derail the agreement. Can anyone realistically say that Putin had not gained more influence in Middle Eastern affairs in the absence of US moral leadership during Obama's second term?

Obama watched helplessly as Putin annexed Crimea. This action sent shockwaves throughout Europe and the independent nations adjacent to Russia. But Obama refused to even sell weapons for Ukraine to defend itself. He ignored the wishes of Poland, which sought to purchase Patriot

PUTIN: PAGE 14

## Message from the MA Judiciary: You're on Your Own!

Aliana Brodmann E. von Riechthofen  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Whoever held out hope that Massachusetts would ultimately come through as a constitutional state had to finally give in. After a three year effort to create better accessibility to and transparency in the handling of public records, the proposed expansion of the public records law to cover the Legislature, Judiciary and Governor's Office was terminated this month, rendering the entire effort useless.

In 2015 Chief Justice Paula Carey had appointed a Committee to develop and propose uniform Trial Court rules governing the public's access to view or copy court case records, including paper and electronic case records, in a courthouse and on the internet, consistent with current Massachusetts laws, court rules, and appellate court decisions. Any complaint of resistance by the courts or government agencies to act accordingly would go to the Secretary of State.

As it turned out, the Secretary of State's Keeper of Records was useful in obtaining some records, but she only monitors wrongdoings and does not enforce corrections of mishandled or "lost" documents. Her office essentially works like the Life-lock commercial where people are told by those expected to correct calamities that they merely monitor, not cure, them, leaving those stricken to their doom or at the mercy of a lawyer. Basically, six of one or half a dozen of another.

Now comes Massachusetts, true to its

reputation as a criminal enterprise where state offices and courts regularly collude, conspire and respond in lockstep, as the only state in the nation, to insist that its Legislature, Judiciary and Governor's Office had to remain exempt from the state public records law. The Legislature didn't even bother to file a proper explanatory statement and the commission simply dissolved as a result or under pressure. Their reason is obvious to anyone who ever dealt with these entities. We don't need any explanatory statement. The proof is in the pudding. Given the toxic state of affairs in these here parts where the well-connected can negotiate their interests "under the table," shop for judges who can refuse to explain arbitrary and contrary-to-law decisions without repercussions, and criminal complaints are dismissed by court clerks behind closed doors, the obstinate refusal of the Highest Court, Legislature and Highest Governing Office to allow transparency can only be seen as willful obstruction of justice. Access to the evidence of their habitual mishandling of documents in the well-known pay to play scheme that routinely deprives upright citizens of their constitutional rights to equality and due process is not wanted here.

Those who notice the display of the Sacco and Vanzetti Case in the John Adams Courthouse, where the Supreme Judicial Court hears appeals, may assume it is there as a reminder to the justices

COURTS: PAGE 11

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# “WEATHER 101” WITH AL!

**Al Kaprielian**  
VALLEY PATRIOT WEATHERMAN

Welcome to February, a month where the days continue to get longer. Recapping January we saw colder temperatures along with more snow compared to December. After temperatures being above normal in December with a lack of snow the jet stream moved southward and brought colder air in January. January was also a stormier month. On Sunday January 20th low pressure brought a variety of precipitation to New England. Mainly rain occurred over Cape Cod & the Islands with snow and sleet over interior sections away from the coast. Connecticut saw an ice storm with freezing rain from the storm; the weight of the ice on trees and power lines caused them to break and fall. The result was numerous power outages. Freezing rain falls as a liquid like plain rain. Temperatures at ground level are below 32 degrees causing the rain drops to freeze after they strike the ground. Colder air from Canada and northern New England moved south and caused temperatures to fall below 32 degrees on Sunday morning January 20th. Even over southeast MA, Cape Cod & the Islands temperatures dropped below 32 degrees that Sunday afternoon. This caused a flash freeze making for dangerous driving and walking conditions. Snow fall amounts from this storm were greater the farther away you moved from the coast. After this storm we saw another low-pressure system effect our area. This storm tracked to the north and west and brought mainly rain along with mild temperatures to the region. There was a strong low level jet stream with this storm which caused strong winds aloft above the surface of the ground. Many areas over southern New England saw these strong winds aloft mix to the ground. This means these winds were able to reach the ground causing strong and damaging wind gusts. Blue Hill in Milton, MA had a wind gust of 80 miles per hour. This is greater than hurricane force which is 74 miles per hour.

After this storm, our next storm occurred late in the day on Tuesday January 29th and Tuesday night. This low pressure system tracked over interior MA so areas along the coast saw mostly rain. The highest snowfall amounts with this storm were over interior northern, central and western MA into Vermont and New Hampshire. Places in central and southern NH saw 3 to 7 inches of fluffy snow. This was a fast-moving storm and as a result the clouds cleared away and we saw lots of sun on Wednesday January 30th. Late in the day on the 30th, an arctic cold front approached and brought scattered heavy snow squalls with brief bursts of heavy snow and strong winds. In Norwell MA, south of Boston, a tree fell and brought down power lines resulting in some power outages. Power outages did occur due to the strong winds associated with the arctic cold front.

These scattered snow squalls resembled to a squall line ahead of a cold front during the summer months when you can get brief heavy rain and strong damaging wind gusts. Not every location will get a brief burst of heavy snow/rain. This was the case with the snow squalls on the evening of January 30th. Some areas like eastern MA got heavy snow with white-out conditions and visibility can drop to 0. Heavy snow occurred in Newton,

MA where cars on the MA Pike were moving very slowly due to the poor visibility and slippery conditions. Other areas on that evening got lighter snow. January 31st saw bright sunshine and bitter cold temperatures.

Even though we saw very cold temperatures, it was not as severe as Minnesota and the Upper Midwest areas. The arctic air from those areas modified as it moved across the Great Lakes and towards our region. As we start February will milder air return? February is known as a month where big snowstorms can occur. The Blizzard of 1978 occurred in early February. Next month we will recap February and take a look at what we can expect in March. In the meantime stay warm and be safe!! ♦

# Valley Patriot Renames Hero Veteran Award for John Ratka

Last month, hero veteran John Ratka of Veterans Northeast Outreach Center in Haverhill unexpectedly passed away.

Ratka was a member of The Valley Patriot family and received the 2016, Valley Patriot Hero Veteran Award for all the work he has done to help homeless veterans, and provide services for veterans in need.

Ratka was a staple at the Valley Patriot’s annual charity BASH! and was always there to help us honor veterans who have been overlooked.

Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan, a longtime friend of Ratka, has announced that at this year’s BASH on April 5th, the annual Valley Patriot Hero Veteran Award will be renamed the John Ratka Hero Veteran Award so that future generations will not forget his service and sacrifice in the military, but moreover, his continued dedication to helping veterans when he came home.

John Ratka had a distinguished 26-year career in the United States Navy.

He enlisted in the Navy in 1972. He completed 21 submarine deployments, numerous surface ship deployments, and attained the rank of Command Master Chief.

John’s major tours of duty included: Command Master Chief Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Command Master Chief Submarine Squadron 22, Command Master Chief Naval Air Station Lakehurst, New Jersey and Chief of the Boat U.S.S. Alaska.

John was appointed to the position



of Executive Director of the Veterans Northeast Outreach Center (VNEOC) in Haverhill, in October 2002. Under his leadership, they established great partnerships with the Veterans Administration, Bedford, the VA, the MA Department of Veterans’ Services, Housing and Community Development, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Veterans’ Services Officers and many local community agencies.”

John’s two sons, Ryan and Jacob, reside in Salem, N.H. ♦

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# Blistering Report Details Methuen Corruption

## REPORT: Four Councilors Benefitted from Police Contract Vote

The state Inspector General's Office (IG) is an independent state agency that conducts investigations of government agencies and makes recommendations when wrongdoing is found.

The IG investigated the process of the City of Methuen's superior officer's contract approval that has long been the subject of dispute.

The IG's office found that at least four members of the previous city council personally benefited from the contract they approved, and that the city council's vote to approve the police contract was "likely" illegal.

Contrary to what some Methuen officials have said since the report was released, the report also states that the illegal activity of certain councilors does not necessarily void the police superior officers' contract.

### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Former City Council Chairman Jamie Atkinson and Sean Fountain voted on the police contract and then within weeks of leaving office, both took a job in the police department, despite a law that prohibits councilors from taking a city position within a year of leaving office. In order for this to happen, the new council asked State Rep. Linda Dean Campbell to seek special legislation at The State House to waive the legal requirement.

### VIDLER AND JAJUGA

"On July 10, 2017 (while contract negotiations were ongoing) Chief Solomon, with then-Mayor Zanni's approval, increased the number of captains on the force from three to five and promoted then-Councilor Jajuga's son to captain."

Councilor Lynn Vidler's husband was also promoted to sergeant.

"Because Councilors Jajuga and Vidler had immediate family members who stood to gain from approval of the Superiors' Contract, they likely were prohibited from voting on the Superiors' Contract. Accordingly, Councilors Jajuga and Vidler could only vote on the contract if the Council properly invoked the Rule of Necessity.

The fact that the Council likely improperly invoked the Rule of Necessity does

not automatically void the Council's vote to approve the Superiors' Contract."

The report further states that in order for the contract vote to be rescinded, two things must happen;

1) "In order for the vote to be rescinded, the Council must first request its rescission to the State Ethics Commission.

2) Second, the State Ethics Commission must find that a violation of the Conflict of Interest Law "substantially influenced" the action taken by the municipal body."

That means the Ethics Commission would have to find Councilors Atkinson, Jajuga, Fountain, and/or Vidler guilty of violating the conflicts of interest laws in a way that substantially influenced the vote.

### WHY?

Conflicted councilors said they were allowed to vote on the contract because of what they called "The Rule of Necessity". It states, in part, that if an elected body has too many members with a conflict of interest that there aren't enough votes to pass a measure, the conflicted councilors can vote anyway. But, "The Rule of Necessity" has very specific requirements before it can be invoked.

Councilors with a conflict of interest can only vote on a measure if:

A) The body is legally required to act, which in this case they were not, and:

B) There are no alternatives, which there were.

Because the council could have delayed the vote of the superior officer's contract until the new council was seated in January of 2018, it is clear that the council had alternatives, and therefor conflicted councilors improperly invoked the "Rule of Necessity" to vote on their own family members contract.

### ADDING CAPTAINS

"On July 10, 2017 (while contract negotiations were ongoing) Chief Solomon, with then-Mayor Zanni's approval, increased the number of captains on the force from three to five and promoted then-Councilor Jajuga's son to captain. Chief Solomon promoted Councilor Vidler's husband to sergeant. [EDITOR'S NOTE, THE CHIEF DOES NOT MAKE

PROMOTIONS, THE MAYOR DOES] Because Councilors Jajuga and Vidler had immediate family members who stood to gain from approval of the Superiors' Contract, they likely were prohibited from voting on the Superiors' Contract. Accordingly, Councilors Jajuga and Vidler could only vote on the contract if the council properly invoked the Rule of Necessity."

Which they didn't.

### JAJUGA ILLEGALLY PAYING POLICE SUPERIORS

Methuen Mayor Jim Jajuga, faced with the option of paying the superior officers under the approved contract, negotiated with the union to pay them less than what the original contract called for. This is called a Memorandum of Understanding or MOU. The Superior officers willingly agreed to accept the lower pay amount in the MOU, saving the city hundreds of thousands of dollars.

But, the IG ruled that: "The MOU is a contract. Contracts in the City of Methuen require the approval of the City Council. The City Council did not approve the MOU. As a result, the City is paying the superior officers based on the MOU in violation of both M.G.L. c. 40, § 4, and its Charter. Plainly speaking, the MOU is likely unenforceable. By continuing to pay superior officers based on the MOU, the Mayor is frustrating the purpose of M.G.L. c. 40, § 4, which is to provide checks and balances between the legislative and executive functions of the City." That means legally the mayor has to pay superior officers the higher amount under the original contract until or unless the vote for the original contract is rescinded.

### TWO VOTES IN ONE DAY

Contracts such as the police superior officers', require that the council vote twice at two separate meetings before the contract is legally considered approved. The IG report states that the council voted twice at the same meeting on the superior officers' contract.

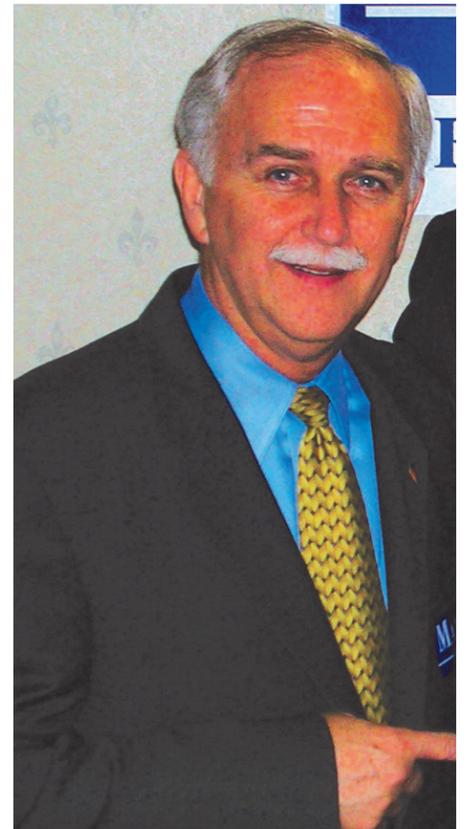
### INFLATED BASE PAY

Much has been made of the inflated salaries of superior officers under the original contract and how those salaries rose so fast.

The IG report states that previous superior officers' contracts counted "base pay" as only the base salary and did not include education and longevity differentials, detail and overtime, etc. But, the new contract voted on by the previous council defined base pay as including those extras. This caused what some people are calling a "stacking" of the salaries.

### NO WRONGDOING FOUND ON BEHALF OF POLICE

Throughout the 17-page report by the Inspector General on the police superior



officers' contract, fault was found by former Mayor Steve Zanni, current Mayor and former Councilor Jim Jajuga, current Councilor Lynn Vidler, former Councilors Jamie Atkinson, and Sean Fountain.

Nowhere in the report, however, did the IG find any wrongdoing on behalf of the Methuen Police, the Superior Officers, or the Superior Officers Union.

The report also didn't change the position the city was in regarding 50+ layoffs after the council cut \$1.8M out of the police budget. Yet, in light of the report Mayor Jajuga has announced he will start paying the superior officers at the 2014 contracted salary rate, that is, if the council puts back nearly \$1.5M of the \$1.8M they cut last year from the police budget.

For their part, the Superior Officers' Union has stepped up on more than one occasion to negotiate a lower salary amount for the betterment of the city, but councilors had no interest in resolving the issue.

Chief Solomon, who has no culpability in this matter, [as the mayor is legally responsible for all promotions] proposed that the city council level fund the police department to last year's numbers, saying that would prevent all layoffs.

The council ignored his request.

According to police, the firefighters and teachers' contracts all have the same language that is in their contract.

They said all they wanted was to be treated fairly on a level playing field. ♦

*Jillian*  
CARDARELLI

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**IG REPORT HAS TONS OF ERRORS... LIKELY, MAYBE, KIND OF**

One thing that popped out at me while digesting the IG report on corruption in Methuen was the fact that it never actually concluded anything. It didn't really rule anything and contained words like "Likely illegal" and "may be" against the law. People who are looking at this report as a conclusion to an actual investigation have to realize that it is nothing like that at all. The IG took "publicly available" information, (some of which is incorrect), never interviewed the police chief or former mayor, and compiled that information for a "report" based on what was in the public arena. We are hoping it is "likely" that a grand jury is convened and "maybe" those involved in illegalities on the city side are held criminally accountable for their actions. The IG report did make some silly recommendations, like recommending that the council consult with their attorneys (as if they haven't been doing that). Seems to me that the IG "likely" mailed it in on this report and could have done so much better... like an actual investigation.

**KANNAN BLAMELESS**

Buried in the Inspector General's report was a paragraph exonerating current city council chairman Jen Kannan. According to the IG, the previous city council (which Jen was a member) illegally voted for the superior officers contract because then-councilor Jajuga voted on it while his son was a superior officer, and councilor Vidler voted on it while her husband was being promoted to sergeant. The IG suggests that the councilors with conflicts did not have to vote because councilor Kannan only had an appearance of a conflict - as her son is a cop but not a superior officer. The IG says that, had she disclosed her appearance of a conflict, she could have voted on the superior officers' contract and there would have been no need for Jajuga and Vidler to illegally invoke the "Rule of Necessity" to vote on the contract anyway. But, the IG didn't take into account the fact that the council needed six votes. Since Kannan would have only been the fifth vote on the contract, at least one other councilor with a conflict would have had to vote anyway. Nonetheless, Kannan recused herself from the vote and didn't have to. At least we have ONE councilor who aired on the side of caution and recused herself even when she didn't really have to.

**SOLOMON'S SALARY** - With all the animosity surrounding the Methuen police situation, some have wrongfully attacked Chief Joe Solomon after an irresponsible member of the press reported his salary as nearly half a million dollars a year. The fact is, Solomon's salary, according to his contract, is approximately \$375K a year. But he is only being paid \$250K of that due to the fact that Mayor Jajuga refuses to

**TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK**



Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan with Carrie Wieland from House of Mercy in Lawrence with piles of donations from Valley Patriot readers and people who follow us on Facebook. At least twice a week someone in our reading audience will randomly show up at the Valley Patriot office to donate blankets, hats, coats, scarves, deodorant, and other items to be handed out directly to people who are homeless. Thank you to everyone who donates and thank you to Carrie Wieland and Roger Farrah from House of Mercy for doing homeless outreach.

pay him what the contract calls for. What's more, \$125K of Solomon's pay is due to partial payments from the city after the chief won a lawsuit for being wrongfully fired.

So, when people say Solomon is making more than the president of the United States, they are ignorantly dismissing the fact that Solomon's "salary" is supplemented by lawsuit payments the city owes him.

**CAMPAGNONE OUT OF CONTROL**

You have to love Methuen City Councilor Joyce Campagnone. She is a wonderful person who does a lot for veterans and the elderly, and I hear she also really loves puppies. But, when Campagnone is acting as city council chairman (in the absence of chairman Kannan) she is often confused, abrasive, abuses her power, and is woefully undereducated about Robert's Rules of Order, City Ordinance, and council procedure. At one point last month, once councilor talked about "back room deals" being made and Joyce went volcanic. She screamed at the top of her lungs that "there are no backroom deals here" and then called the offending councilor "Out of order" and would not let her speak. NO back room deals? Is she kidding? The Methuen City Council is ALL ABOUT back room deals. The real problem here is that there are always people like Joyce to

run interference or create distractions any time someone starts talking about the real problem with Methuen politics; corruption. I think it's time that councilors are allowed to talk about whatever they want at council meetings whether it offends Joyce, Jen Kannan or anyone else. In fact, last month Chairman Kannan ruled Councilor Jessica Finocchiaro out of order and followed up by saying she was no longer allowed to speak for the rest of the night. WOW! How dare she? Jessica Finocchiaro - like every other elected official - serves the public, not the council chairman. They have every right to speak for their constituents. The mere fact Kannan did that, and that no other councilor objected, says a hell of a lot about their philosophy on the first amendment and the constitution. What's most odd is that when Ryan Dugan (a member of the public) was thrown out of a meeting for expressing HIS free speech, Councilor Saba went on a rant about the chairman silencing people. It was outrageous! It was uncalled for! It was simply WRONG! Not so, however, when it was Jessica Finocchiaro. Weird huh?



**METHUEN'S NICK DIZOGLIO ANNOUNCES RUN FOR REELECTION**  
Methuen School Committeeman Nick DiZoglio appeared on the Paying Attention! Podcast

last month to announce he is running for reelection. In a one hour interview, DiZoglio defended his position on accepting the retirement of faux superintendent Judy Scannell, parking fees for students, the \$4M overspent by the schools last year and a lot more. To watch the interview you can go to the video gallery of my personal Facebook page, or search for Paying Attention Podcast on YouTube.

**METHUEN RESTAURANT WEEK**

The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce has teamed up with AFC Urgent Care in launching their annual Methuen Restaurant Week. Scheduled for April 7-13, Restaurant Week is organized by the business community to encourage consumers to visit the many different restaurants, bakeries, pubs, and eateries that call Methuen home. Many of these businesses offer patrons special promotions or discounts during the week. For more information, please visit [www.Methuen-RestaurantWeek2019.com](http://www.Methuen-RestaurantWeek2019.com)

**WHEN THE PRESS GETS THE RUNAROUND - LAWRENCE CITY COUNCIL TAKE NOTE**

Last month the Mayor of Lawrence decided to conceal all crime calls in the city by encrypting the police scanner. That means members of the public now have no oversight on the police and have no idea what's going on in their neighborhoods. It also means the Lawrence police cannot communicate with other law enforcement agencies if another disaster happens like the Columba gas explosions.

After a respectful conversation with the Mayor and the police chief on this matter I was assured that the encryption was not to conceal anything and was done purely for "officer safety". I was also assured that if I wanted copies of any radio calls after the fact, they would be made available to me.

Well, that just didn't seem to sit right with me. So ... to ease that feeling that I was being played, I submitted a public records request for the four hours of radio transmissions prior to the Columbia Gas explosions back in September.

Should be easy right? Find the file on the computer, put it on a USB drive, and leave it at the front desk. Everyone's happy. Tom's nagging feeling that this is about concealing things from the public would be debunked - and we all go on our way... right?

**NOT SO FAST.....** Instead, I got a letter from the police department claiming I had to pay more than \$450 so that a cop could go through the radio calls and censor things they didn't want me to hear. So much for public transparency and "officer safety".

Since the tapes I requested were prior to scanner encryption, and all the information on those tapes had already been broadcast

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to the public, this looks more like the new operating procedure for the city to withhold public information through outrageous fees that most Lawrence residents could never afford. Not only does this violate the state's public records law (MGL Ch. 66) it leaves even the most die-hard police supporter like myself, thinking the cops now have too much power and not enough civilian oversight.

Here's the best part. The recordings of radio calls I was seeking from the Lawrence police are already publicly posted online on RadioReference.com, uncensored and FREE. So why the runaround? It's a good question, one that members of the Lawrence City Council should be asking out loud. Does a community like Lawrence really want to be a city with 'secret police' who track your every move, but won't let the public have oversight of their routine day-to-day calls in your neighborhoods?

The Dan Rivera administration is actively working against public oversight of police, concealing crime calls, making public records out of reach for 90% of Lawrence residents through outrageous costs, and putting cameras in your neighborhoods

to track your every move and can read a candy wrapper a half block away. All the while, telling the public with a smile that "you have nothing to worry about" and "this is all about officer safety." Now we all know those are lies.

**LYONS ELECTION BAD NEWS FOR LIBERAL REPUBLICANS**

If there was ever any doubt that the core base of the Massachusetts Republican Party (MAGOP) is socially conservative to the extreme, the election of Former State Rep. Jim Lyons as Chairman of the MAGOP has now put those doubts to rest. Lyons was by far, the most conservative member of the legislature for nearly 14 years. What's more, Lyons replaces a liberal republican Kristen Hughes, who pulled the state party to the left on issues like gay marriage, transgender bathrooms, and abortion. Lyons, by contrast is pro-life, against gay marriage, against pandering to transgenders, opposes higher taxes, and has long railed against the corruption on Beacon Hill, including in his own party. With Lyons at the helm, you can look for socially conservative candidates to challenge liberal republicans in next years' primary, as Lyons' goal is take back the Republican Party for conservatives. We are excited to see Jim at the helm of the MAGOP as he has been a strong advocate for public transparency and rooting out corruption. Let's just hope he can gain some success at the ballot box in a state that is to the left of Vladimir Putin.

**MERRIMACK RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL BACKS SEWAGE BILLS**

The Massachusetts Legislature has just started its 2019-2020 legislative session.

Three bills have been filed that call for sewage treatment plants to alert the public whenever sewage is dumped into the Merrimack River.

This dumping of sewage is called a Combined Sewer Overflow, or CSO. It commonly happens during heavy rainstorms, when stormwater enters sewer pipes and creates more volume than the wastewater treatment plant can process. Last year, over 750 million gallons of CSO water was released into the Merrimack -- the largest amount since 2011.

Two other bills related to Merrimack River pollution have also been filed; one that would create a study commission, and one that would require Massachusetts sewage plants to have backup power generators.

The Merrimack River Watershed Council says they are glad to see so much attention is being placed on the CSO issue.

"We spent much of 2018 working on a major public education campaign that included public forums, newspaper, TV and radio interviews, social media post-

ings, and many meetings with sewage plant operators and local, state and federal officials. What started as an uphill battle has changed into a groundswell of concern, support and action.

What's happening at the Massachusetts Statehouse? Here's a look at what's been filed:

An Act promoting awareness of sewage pollution in public waters

This is essentially a refiled and updated version of a comprehensive bill that passed the Senate last year, but was not taken up in the House. The bill calls for sewage treatment plants to notify the public within 2 hours of a Combined Sewer Overflow. The public will be notified by email, websites, or similar means. It also requires sewage plants to do a better job tracking how much sewage is released, and requires the state to maintain more comprehensive public records of CSO incidents. This bill applies to all rivers in Massachusetts that experience CSOs -- including the Merrimack, Connecticut, Charles, Mystic, and Taunton rivers. The bill was filed by Sen. Patricia Jehlen, D-Somerville, and state Rep. Linda Campbell, D-Methuen.

An Act relative to notification of potential water pollution in the Merrimack River

This bill, filed by newly elected state Sen. Diana DiZoglio, D-Methuen, calls for the creation of a "flagging" system along the Merrimack River. The state will create a color-coded flag system based on the level of CSO pollution in the river. The flag that reflects the current warning level will be flown at well-used public access points, such as boat ramps. The state will also create a "mobile notification system" that people can subscribe to find out what flag is being flown. This kind of alert system is used in other parts of the country.

An Act to create a Merrimack River District Commission

Filed by Sen. DiZoglio and state Rep. James Kelcourse, R-Amesbury, this bill would create a commission to review the health of the Merrimack River and recommend ways to address problems. The commission would include state and local officials, as well as a few environmental non-profits including the Merrimack River Watershed Council. The commission would be required to produce a report within one year of its founding.

An Act requiring reserve electric power at wastewater treatment facilities

This bill, proposed by Rep. Campbell, would require sewage treatment plants have a back-up generator onsite in case of electrical failure. This bill is in direct response to a power failure on Oct. 30, 2017 at the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District that caused the plant to release untreated sewage into the Merrimack.

An Act relative to combined sewer overflow

Filed by Rep. Kelcourse and state Rep. Leonard Mirra, R-West Newbury, this bill would require the state Department of Environmental Protection to establish regulations regarding public notification of CSO events. The bill does not contain any specific guidelines, but rather calls upon the department to use its own judgment, in concert with other state agencies and municipalities.

There are 4 sewage treatment plants in the Merrimack River watershed that would be subject to these bills -- Haverhill, greater Lawrence, Lowell and Fitchburg. The other 2 plants in the Merrimack watershed that have CSO events -- Nashua and Manchester -- would not be impacted because they are in New Hampshire. So far this year, no bills have been filed in the New Hampshire legislature regarding CSO notifications.

WILSON MUSIC SERIES: Ensemble Chaconne. - The Jean C. Wilson Series closes its 33rd season with Ensemble Chaconne on Sunday, Feb. 17th, at 4 pm at the Unitarian Church, 26 Pleasant St.,

Newburyport. Called "a powerhouse of great playing" by Classical Voice of North Carolina, Ensemble Chaconne returns to the Wilson Music Series with a concert of early French music. The Jean C. Wilson Music Series is named for one of the founders and the director of the music series for 29 years. Now, under the auspices of the First Religious Society Unitarian Universalist Church, the Music Series typically offers three or four concerts held during the winter months. Suggested donations are \$20, \$10 for seniors, children and students free. For more information about the concert go to frsuu.org/jean-c-wilson-music-series or call 978-465-0602 x401.

DCU to Host Job Fair at its Chelmsford, MA Operations Center

DCU, CHELMSFORD JOB FAIR - Digital Federal Credit Union, better known as DCU, is hosting a Job Fair for Full and Part-Time Entry Level positions in their Account Services, Call Center, and Collections departments on Tuesday, February 12th from 3 to 6 p.m. at its Chelmsford, MA Operations Center located at 297 Bilerica Road.

Onsite interviews will be conducted.

If you have Call Center experience, Customer Service experience, are computer proficient, and/or have prior credit union/banking experience -- DCU might just have a position for you. DCU, New England's largest credit union, is unlike any place you have ever worked. In the first year of employment, DCU offers three weeks' vacation, a competitive salary, a generous bonus program, 401K plan with 100% company match up to 7%, tuition reimbursement, a student loan payment assistance program, and much more.

Additionally, DCU offers more unique employee benefits that include: free seasonal snacks, coffee and soda, casual dress, daily raffle drawing for tickets to sporting events and concerts, and that's just the beginning. For further information about the job fair and other career opportunities, please visit [www.dcu.org/careers](http://www.dcu.org/careers) or email [careers@dcu.org](mailto:careers@dcu.org).

**BANK OF AMERICA SUPPORTS GLCAC'S FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

LAWRENCE - Bank of America has partnered with the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. to help keep residents impacted by the gas fires warm this winter.

Bank of America recently donated \$50,000 to support GLCAC's fuel and heat assistance programs.

GLCAC also received a \$250,000 grant from Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey's office to help low-income residents who heat with natural gas.

GLCAC will provide funding to residents who qualify for the federal LIHEAP fuel assistance program, but would otherwise not receive financial help due to limited funds, and also those who don't qualify for the program but make less than 80 percent of the state median income. GLCAC will also use the grant to help residents weatherize their homes.

The grants come in the wake of the Sept. 13th gas explosions in the Merrimack Valley that left thousands of residents and businesses without gas service for heating, hot water and cooking.

GLCAC's fuel assistance is available to help pay a portion of winter heating bills for income-eligible households in Lawrence, Methuen, Andover, North Andover, Reading and North Reading.

For more information, call (978) 681-4950 or visit the LIHEAP program at [www.glcac.org](http://www.glcac.org).

VALLEY PATRIOT BASH! - Put April 5th in your calendar now! The Valley Patriot will be holding our 15th Anniversary BASH scholarship and award night at the Firefighter's Relief In, 1 Market Street in Lawrence. Each year we honor police



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## Senate Approves DiZoglio Bill Banning Non-Disclosure in Sexual Claims

### Minicucci Explains Why She Voted NO

Last month State Senator Diana DiZoglio, (D-Methuen) made significant changes to Senate rules banning non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) regarding incidents of sexual assault, harassment, or discrimination.

The rule change, proposed by Senator DiZoglio, was passed unanimously during a formal session of the Senate. In addition to banning NDAs, the rule change also bans similar clauses in an agreement or contract, and enforcing previously entered into NDAs.

"This rule change establishes an important precedent for this legislature," said DiZoglio, who was sworn in as senator for the 1st Essex District this month after serving three terms in the House.

"The Senate has spoken today in favor of more openness and accountability in state government."

During her speech on the Senate floor Thursday, DiZoglio said that nondisclosure agreements have been used and abused by many powerful men during the #MeToo era and implored the Senate to maintain its record of transparency.

"Any use of nondisclosure agreements, which silence victims of assault, harassment or discrimination, while protecting powerful perpetrators who may be elected politicians or their staff, in this legislature is, simply put, shameful," DiZoglio said.

Senator DiZoglio's Rule change in the Senate made its way to the House of Representatives where the Speaker of the House was reportedly "furious" over the wording of the bill and lobbied hard to defeat it.

As a former member of the House, DiZoglio had previously disclosed that she had been the victim of sexual harassment in the House when she was an aide to State Rep. Paul Adams. DiZoglio said at the time that everything was swept under the rug.

State Rep. Christina Minicucci (D) - who replaced DiZoglio in the House - voted against DiZoglio's ban on Non-disclosure agreements in sex harassment and sex assault cases at the State House.

We asked Minicucci why she voted against the bill. This was her response:

Running for office for the first time this summer, the feedback from residents was that they were tired of business as usual. I got my first taste of that this week when I was told to vote certain ways with little-to-no notice of what I was being asked to vote on. That's not acceptable. It's why my first votes this week were for



leadership term-limits and that committee testimony be posted online for the public. Most important, I voted for lawmakers to be given a guaranteed window of time before having to vote on a bill or amendment. Why? Because I've seen too many examples of politicians rushing to pass policy, only to have that policy produce unintended consequences.

This is why I struggled with this NDA language. I've spent years as a sexual assault hotline advocate and many years after that on the board of the YWCA fighting for survivors. It's quite honestly been a lifetime. What Senator DiZoglio has done to give a voice to survivors is amazing. She is shining a light on a culture where abuse of power has been the norm. NDAs were a tool that could be used to protect perpetrators.

The language in the house rules package released and approved was new (based on her testimony last year) and allowed NDAs only when initiated by the survivor. Mr. Kearney's amendment changed that new policy to simply eliminate their use all together. On the surface it sounded like a great idea, but I wanted to make sure the people on the ground working with survivors didn't have a different take I wasn't aware of. However, since I didn't get the amendment language until two hours before we were supposed to vote, I was not given sufficient time to get answers to my questions. Most important - how might a survivor be able to work out an NDA on their own? How would they pay? Who would represent her? I was worried that to put the onus on the survivor without a framework or structure of support, would create its own set of concerns. I used my limited window to seek out answers and as a response I learned multiple advocacy groups stated that the proposed rules included language that they agreed would

NON-DISCLOSURE: PAGE 17

## Why Isn't 'Economic Development' Benefitting Dracut Taxpayers?

Brian Genest  
DRACUT COLUMNIST

Here we go in Dracut, again. Town Manager Jim Duggan is getting a pay raise, again. Homeowners are getting higher property taxes, again.

"Economic development" is what the politicians in town call it. It's a very interesting formula: the money comes in and trickles up to Jim Duggan and the town government, instead of down to taxpayers.

Nice work, if you can get it.

Speaking of which, Jim Duggan now makes more money than a member of Congress. With the latest bump, his annual pay is \$174,250. Plus, there's the perks, including a car paid for by the town. (Why can't he use a personal vehicle and get reimbursed for mileage like everyone else who uses their car for work?)

In case you missed it, Jim Duggan got these scores from the selectmen on his latest performance evaluation:

- Joe DiRocco - 2.67
- Tami Dristiliaris - 3.0
- Jesse Forcier - 4.0
- Tony Archinski - 4.45
- Alison Hughes - 4.58

Before the 4-to-1 vote raising Jim Duggan's pay, some selectmen praised his focus on economic development. Only Selectman Tami Dristiliaris voted against the 2.5% increase, saying the town manager's growing salary is becoming unsustainable and pointing out that other town employees are being held to 2-percent raises.

Jim Duggan appeared less than thrilled with the raise. According to The (Lowell) Sun: "In a terse comment immediately after the board meeting, Duggan said, 'I appreciate the board's investment in me.' He declined to elaborate. Then, Wednesday morning, in an unsolicited email, Duggan said he is not worried about 'lack of support' from some selectmen 'because I'm always focused on enhancing municipal services and the schools to benefit our residents and businesses through improvements in Dracut's governance and economic vitality of the town.'"

Based on all those words, he's probably a little worried. What he should be is grateful. In case you've forgotten, Jim Duggan got a \$24,000 raise in 2017. Selectman Alison Hughes said at that time that Duggan's performance warranted a large raise based on the impact he's having on the town financially.

Apparently, Jim Duggan's economic impact hasn't been substantial enough for Dracut to stop trying to chip away at Proposition 2 1/2 and squeeze every last dime from town taxpayers. While he's taking in his second raise in as many years, Dracut homeowners are shelling out even more property taxes.

Don't get me wrong: Having The Arbors and Circle Health on Broadway Road is truly a good thing for the people

in town. Believe me, I can't wait for Top Donut to open on Lakeview Avenue, either. But real "economic development" should benefit the taxpayers — and that's far from the case in Dracut right now.

Instead of stabilizing or even lowering property taxes, Jim Duggan and his economic development keep resulting in higher taxes for town residents. In fact, every two or three years lately, Dracut property owners have to go through this special-election-to-raise-taxes crap.

Last year, Jim Duggan pushed yet more debt exclusions: \$4 million for a new fire station in Collinsville and \$950,000 for security in Dracut Public Schools. It's not like property taxes are low in town. Residents are already paying additional taxes above the limits set by Prop 2 1/2 as a result of debt exclusions that have been passed for the new library, police station and \$60 million high school.

In case you've lost track, this was the third time in six years that Dracut property owners were asked to raise our own taxes. In 2013, a whopping 72% of voters said "no" to two Prop 2 1/2 overrides — \$2.9 million for schools and \$200,000 for police, fire and public works. In 2016, voters again rejected two Proposition 2 1/2 overrides — \$560,000 for additional police officers and firefighters and \$550,000 to install wireless technology in the elementary and middle schools.

Operating expenses and capital projects should be part of the budget, not contingent on continual tax hikes. It's a bad way to do business. And it's apparently becoming business as usual at town hall.

Here's my economic development question: Why isn't Dracut budgeting for capital projects? The fact that Dracut needs a new fire station in Collinsville shouldn't be a surprise to anyone with eyesight.

What should be surprising and alarming is the lack of capital planning in recent years to ensure projects like fire stations happen within the budget, instead of through additional tax increases.

Hold onto your wallets, grab a shovel and put on your boots. When it looks like bull manure and stinks like bull manure, it's economic development in Dracut.



Brian Genest is chairman of the Dracut Republican Town Committee. A marketing and communications expert with 20 years of success driving growth, maximizing ROI and boosting profits for consumer and high-tech brands, he has developed and executed strategic initiatives for a range of disruptive technologies, including robots, mobile commerce solutions and SaaS products. Earlier in his career, Genest worked as a newspaper reporter and editor for the Dracut Dispatch, Derry News and Billerica Minuteman. ◇

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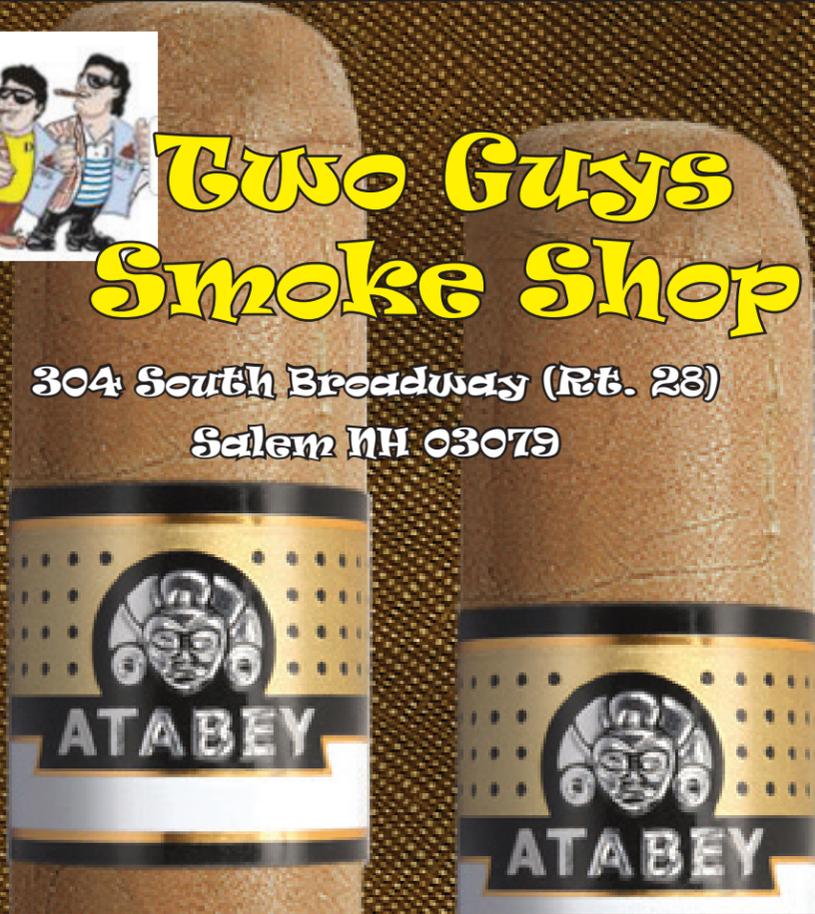
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# Some Bills I Have Filed This Legislative Session

Rep. Linda Dean Campbell  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST



I have filed a number of bills this session to address issues important to the residents of the Merrimack Valley and the Commonwealth. I will be filing additional legislation throughout the session, but some legislation has been put forth at this time as residents have already emphasized the urgency.

This past year, I have been attending meetings and informative seminars on the issue of Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) into the Merrimack River. Understanding that solving the problem in its entirety will require a large investment of federal dollars, I want to ensure that we do what we can here in the Commonwealth to address the issue and work with our federal partners. I am sponsoring two bills pertaining to this issue, one to require the public notification of CSOs and one to ensure sanitary districts have immediate back-up power in the case of power outages, something that is happening more frequently with climate change.

I want to ensure communities and sanitary districts have input and I will be seeking ways to improve both pieces of legislation right away.

Last session, I filed a bill widely reported in the press best known as Nicky's Law. The goal of the legislation is to protect the intellectually and developmentally disabled from abuse at the hands of care providers. It passed the Senate but did not pass the House due to last-minute concerns brought forth regarding the rights of accused care providers. Since being sworn in on January 2nd, I have held meetings and worked with all interested parties, and I have refiled the legislation with Senator Michael Moore.

The legislation now includes some changes to ensure that care providers who are found to have committed substantiated abuse (following a thorough investigation) are properly notified and made

aware of their right to appeal the findings. I am hoping that the legislation gets to the Governor's desk right way to prevent further abuse. The statistics demonstrating abuse are upsetting and overwhelming, so we must pass this legislation as soon as possible.

Other legislation I have filed will:

- Protect the disabled and honor their decisions in end-of-life situations
- Support Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) programs
- Reform the SNAP application process for senior citizens
- Expand licensure opportunity for school guidance counselors
- Provide for greater oversight of animal kennels and the sale of pets
- Require health insurers to cover lung cancer screenings for firefighters
- Improve safety regulations for public utilities' hoisting operations in the Commonwealth
- Require doctors to report drug overdose deaths to law enforcement channels in order to identify areas of high need
- Allow detection monitoring systems to identify those failing to stop for school buses

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the State Legislature. She can be reached at [Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov](mailto:Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov) or at 617-722-2380. ♦

## IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR DIZOGLIO

# Sunlight is the Best Disinfectant

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,  
Since the start of this legislative session, I have filed dozens of bills that seek to make Massachusetts a better place to live and work.

On Thursday, I gave my first speech on the floor of the Senate about the need to eliminate taxpayer funded silencing agreements, known as non-disclosure agreements (NDAs), that have been used to cover up misdeeds by politicians in recent years.

Having the opportunity to give my inaugural speech on an issue of critical importance to the State House - and personal significance to me - was an experience I will carry with me for the rest of my life. What made it an even better experience was that my colleagues in the Senate, both Republicans and Democrats, unanimously voted for my proposal.

I am so humbled and grateful for their support to change the status quo on Beacon Hill by supporting this measure that increases transparency and accountability to you, the taxpayer.

During a time of partisan bickering at the national level, these types of small victories in focusing on what's right, rather than party loyalty, gives me hope that we will continue to see meaningful change for our communities here in Massachusetts.

While this measure passed unanimously in the Senate, however, it failed almost unanimously in the House of Representatives where it earned the support of just 5 state representatives. But, I am prepared to speak about this issue for as long as it takes to affect the change we need at the state house to end the covering up of misdeeds by politicians who are able to use tax-payer dollars to silence victims of



harassment, discrimination or assault.

The use of non-disclosure agreements that silence victims while protecting powerful politicians is simply put - shameful. But the fact that our taxpayer dollars are being used to fund them, is completely outrageous.

We, in the legislature, should not be in the business of silencing our critics or covering up any harassing or discriminatory behavior— or even giving the appearance of doing so with public funds.

I'm humbled by the victory of passing this important proposal to end the use of taxpayer funded NDAs unanimously in the upper chamber. But, I remain vigilant in working to make sure this proposal continues to get the support it needs in the House of Representatives, and in the Governor's administration, to end their use all together in the people's house in Boston.

Sunlight is the best disinfectant...

Thank you for reading. If you would like more information on this and other pieces of legislation I'm working on, please feel free to email me at [dizoglio@masenate.gov](mailto:dizoglio@masenate.gov) or call my office at (617) 722-1604.

Warmest regards, Diana ♦



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# ACE SOLAR: Saving the Planet One Panel at a Time

**PART I**

With the benefits of new technology and a growing interest in the solar industry, The Valley Patriot sat down with Casey Bolduc of Ace Solar in North Andover to talk about the benefits of homes and small businesses going solar.

Based in North Andover at Osgood Landing, Ace Solar is a family owned business.

“Bob and Mark Kiley are brothers and their nephew Eric McLean own the business together,” Bolduc told us. “They are all local guys who grew up in the area. Bob and Mark’s father was once mayor Kiley of Lawrence so they have a strong connection to the area. Eric has a background in engineering and is really good at understanding how it translates to the end user, the homeowner or business owner and finding new and unique ways of making it happen.

At Ace Solar we are really trying to spread the word of what the solar impact can have.

The company was formed in 2015 when they officially came together. They were in solar in a couple of different facets separately, and then as they started working on more projects with other companies they came up with the idea to start Ace Solar.

What we can do for our customers and the environment is helping people find ways to lessen the impact of the draw on the electric grid, taking away dependency on the energy systems. Eliminating electric bills is certainly a nice benefit as well. I don’t think I know anyone who doesn’t want a more cost effective home or business.

It’s a combination of saving money but it’s also saving the environment. The financial benefits are great. The incentives in Massachusetts are some of the best in the country.

Even in surrounding states there’s not as much of a local level incentive for people to jump on board and make it worthwhile. With the new SMART Program, it’s basically paying people to go solar.

**SMART PROGRAM**

Whereas before there was something like a credit system; they were using calls SREC that were basically certificates



for the energy that was produced by the system but works on the system similar to a stock. Now there’s a more tangible and definable incentive that goes along with it. So, whether we are working with homeowners or business owners who apply for the SMART program and depending on the energy rates in the area, and types of systems they have, there’s a rate attached to their energy production. Once they get signed up for the SMART program, whatever that incentive rate is, it’s locked in at least ten years.

**WHAT KIND OF SAVINGS CAN PEOPLE EXPECT?**

Everyone wants to eliminate their electric bill and that’s really the goal. The way we approach it is, we are not going to try and max out the rooftop filled with panels and go as big as we possibly can. We are really looking at the energy you use on a daily basis and then create and design a system that gets you as close to that amount of energy that you need.

With the incentives, that help make our case a little easier because a lot of people don’t need a really large system.

The greatest incentive is that it’s an actual rate of return. It’s a little different

from town to town. On a traditional roof top, let’s say they establish that they get 30 cents per kilowatt hour generated.

With that incentive you can generate the electricity or energy needed for the month. Anything extra that you are not using goes back to the grid and you are compensated for that.

I think a lot of people think going solar is too big or people feel it’s out of reach for them, but it is becoming more and more affordable. The prices are coming down on equipment. There are also new opportunities evolving in the industry. One is community solar. It’s a movement. The way that it works is, some large companies or organizations come together and pool their users and resources to garner interest in a certain area. So, if enough people sign up for this community solar program it prompts companies to developed large scale solar farms. The folks who sign up for community solar receive the benefit of the energy in the form of a discount on their electric bills.

We’ve partnered with a company called Blue Wave to help people get on board with that. So, the people who sign up for that program usually end up saving about 5-10% on your total bill without installing anything.

The typical payback period for homeowners usually is 3-5 years. When we are designing a system for somebody, we are looking at arranging a payment so that, at the very least, you will be paying less than what you are paying now for electricity. If you are taking a loan payment to pay off the system that loan payment will be less than what you were paying for electricity to start. So, if someone came to us with a \$200 electric bill, we are going to design a system and a loan payment to be less than \$200. Once that is paid off within three to five years, you will be looking at a \$4 electric bill.

**NEXT MONTH:** The environmental benefits of Solar and the ways Ace Solar of North Andover sees the science of solar contributing to a healthier planet. ◊

## COURTS: FROM 2

of the greatest miscarriage of justice in American history and a call to conscientious duty. But I believe otherwise. To me it seems like a cynical inside joke to brazenly advertise how (in)justice is served in these so often desecrated halls. Not for nothing did Chief Justice Marshal ambiguously state, upon the opening of this exhibit in 2007, that it was: “...part of the high court’s effort to give the public opportunities to learn about the legal system.” Indeed.

She, in fact, herself proved this travesty to me in 2014 before she abruptly stepped down, leaving the Appeal on my Retaliation case against the serial abuser Dana-Farber Cancer Institute hanging with significant documents “missing” and/or visibly altered upon review.

I speak from personal knowledge of the three sitting Chief Justices since 2010, Margaret H. Marshall, Roderick L. Ireland, Ralph D. Gants and the two Governors, Deval L. Patrick and Charlie D. Baker Jr. All five of them guilty of

racketeering, colluding and conspiring to prevent hundreds, if not thousands, of parties to obtain their appropriate verdicts according to law.

Many people have been harmed by these depraved perpetrators, judge imposters, who betray instead of defending the law. Their victims write to them regularly in the hope that a pang of remorse or at least concern about their legacies will eventually cause them to come clean.

But I know better. If anything causes them anxiety it is the knowledge that by law a statute cannot expire as long as the conspiracy is in effect. And this is precisely what the State of Massachusetts has just proven by coming out full monty in its audacious attempt to evade accountability. That conspiracy is in effect in our highest echelons and by endeavoring to hold itself above the law Massachusetts must all the more be held to it.

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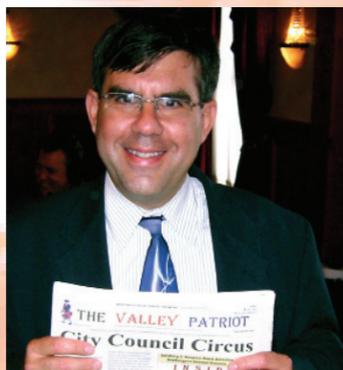
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Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Services Francisco Urena, and Methuen State Rep. Linda Dean Campbell. Campbell was honored by Veterans Services Officers in Massachusetts at an event last month.



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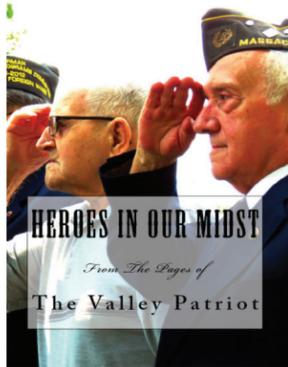
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### ANDOVER

Stephen B & Ellen E Mackay, Klay A & Krissandra Lee Thompson, \$545,000, 264 River Rd

Glenn M & Kristin C Koehler, Michael P & Katelyn E Finnegan, \$725,000, 17 Messina Dr

Michael P & Katelyn E Finnegan/Katelyn E Bienia, Matthew M Irons & Milena Przbyla-Irons, \$595,000, 89 Haggetts Pond Rd

Ann Tohill, Nicholas & Ashleigh Algieri, \$445,000, 460 South Main St

Shuhao Wen & Qian Xu, Nivalda Pires Gomes, \$204,795, 18 Atlantic Ave Unit 18

Maureen Doherty & Andovers Colonial Drive Condominium Trust, Melissa Marama, \$162,500, 3 Colonial Dr Unit A3-2

Christopher C Witt/Christopher Witt & Sabrina J Witt, David Engel II, \$589,000, 38 Maple Ave

Ning & Gengxi Chen, Zaheer Shaik & Asma F Khizer, \$375,500, 502 Brookside Dr Unit 502

Pulte Homes of New England LLC, Arleen L Zaft, \$169,000, 1 Francis Dr Unit 205

John G Kotsiras Est/John Kotsiras & Deborah A Johnson, Thomas Scolastico, \$125,000, 10 Colonial Dr Unit 10A-1

Nicolette N & W Blair Heavey Trs & 12 Cloverfield Drive Realty Trust, Flavio Zanetti & Flavia Dallagnol Zanetti, \$965,000, 12 Cloverfield Dr

William & Allison Washkurak, John Kenrick Barnes & Angela Barnes, \$779,900, 304 North Main St

B & B Real Estate Development LLC, Brenda L & Ronald D Dudevoir & Gregory A Dudevoir & Tamara E Rose, \$480,000, 70 River Rd

Katherine H Morin/Katherine H Lynch, Richard A & Julie L Dalton, \$455,000, 39-41 Balmoral St

Jill Robbins & Estelle Janowitz, Souad & Rachid Halloul, \$205,000, 40 Washington Park Dr Unit 2

Alan Pierre Jouhier & Nyuk Lian Lai, Jon P & Lucia Archibale, \$895,000, 4 Iroquois Ave

Alan E & Christine E Gould, Michael D & Lauren J Molloy, \$527,500, 41 Enmore St

Haley Jane Davies/Haley Jane Benitez & Nerki Benitez, Wen Dan Wang & Jugrin Tantiwanichagul, \$268,000, 3 Longwood Dr Unit 107

Herbert & Ann P Kazer, David DeInnocentis & Helena Minton, \$690,000, 20 Martingale Ln Unit 10

Michael J & Stephanie W Tresh, Mark A

O'Bryan, \$565,000, 2 Avella Cir

Marie E & Frederick W Galinski Trs & 8 Kathleen Drive Realty Trust, Holly Slauter & Sharon Ryan, \$505,000, 8 Kathleen Dr Andrea B & Eric J Stoll, Daniel Hu & Yanna Yao, \$888,000, 29 Stinson Rd

Rebecca & Jeffrey Cutts, Clifford & Michelle George Jr, \$760,000, 12 Bobby Jones Dr Unit 2-3

Michael J & Santina Wilson/Santina Pizzimenti, Toshiro R Sado, \$284,900, 700M Brookside Dr Unit 700M

93 Building LLC, 90 River Road LLC, \$1,000,000, 90 River Rd

Richard W Perry Tr & Deborah McConnell Perry Tr & Perry Family Trust, Brian & Lydia Sheehy, \$900,000, 17 Granli Dr

Jane V Wardrobe, Charles D & Ashley B Jennings, \$645,000, 2 Serenity Ln

Thomas S & susanna Donnell, Leslie St Pierre, \$524,000, 9 Rocky Hill Rd

Henry J Pruisken, John & Katelyn Papadopoulos, \$580,000, 94 Jenkins Wy

John & Christine Nason/Christine Hsu, Christopher A & Stephanie C R Perriello, \$555,300, 12 Lancaster Pl

Thomas W & Carol M Muldoon, Maureen A Finneran, \$550,000, 49 Martingale Ln Unit 22

Sally E Freeman Tr & Freeman Family Revocable Trust, Peter & Nicole Dunbar, \$425,000, 61 Harold Parker Rd

David B & Susan P Currie, Brian D Brown, \$940,000, 6 Whittemore Ter

Nathaniel & Tatiana Ryan, Juliet & Obomwan Edebiri, \$415,000, 4 Juliette St

Michael Daly, Darpan Seth Tr & Darpan Seth Family Trust 2017, \$1,670,000, 3 West Hollow

Christian J Baker, Mark S & Christine M Barsanti, \$1,147,500, 6 Blueberry Cir

Micahel H & Deborah B Miller, Kevin & Marlo O'Donnell, \$855,000, 5 David Dr

George D & Jennifer R Michaels, Linda J Foley, \$744,900, 8 Douglass Ln

Edward A & Cynthia Kelley, TWOLIP Realty Trust & Dina L Latulippe, \$675,000, 57 Marilyn Rd

Darron R Smith & Nelly Cristina Mantilla Diaz, Peter T & Corie D Little, \$595,000, 61 Wildwood Rd

Daniel D Hu & Yanna Yao, Cornelius Croitoru & Elena Mircea, \$550,000, 199 Salem St

### LAWRENCE

Ezequiel Taveras, Ysabel Guerrero Delara & Daniel Lara Guerrero & Miguel A Dominguez, \$320,000, 165 Water St

Arianny Arias, Robert A Hiraldo & Luis

Ramos, \$459,400, 9-13 Springfield St Julianne Y Shelzi Tr & Second Generation Trust, Jose M & Evelina Javier & Miguelina Javier Lopez, \$490,000, 250-250A Farnham St

Raquel Hernandez Tr & 630-632 Andover Realty Trust, Carmen Ramirez Tiburcio & Felix M Lopez Cordero, \$450,000, 630-632 Andover St

Keeth A & Rathana S Khey, Carmen D Nunez De Alvarez & Gerardo A Alvarez Rodriguez & Jonathan G Alvarez, \$473,000, 214-218 Farnham St

Juan B Castellano, Eliaset R Hernandez Espinal, \$380,000, 10-12 Bennington St Willington F Mosquea & Evelyn Mosquea/Evelyn Mosquea, Jonathan L Santiago & Adrian C & Lissette Santiago, \$370,000, 126 Cross St

Brien W Corey, Dennis Kolodziej, \$120,000, 11 North Boylston St

Arturo V Reynoso, Abram Investment Holdings LLC, \$48,571.43, 178 Park St Unit A

Arturo V Reynoso, Abram Investment Holdings LLC, \$48,571.43, 178 Park St Unit B

Arturo V Reynoso, Abram Investment Holdings LLC, \$48,571.43, 180 Park St Unit A

Arturo V Reynoso, Abram Investment Holdings LLC, \$48,571.43, 180 Park St Unit C

Arturo V Reynoso, Abram Investment Holdings LLC, \$48,571.43, 180 Park St Unit D

Arturo V Reynoso & Maria Manzueta & Rafael P Vazquez Jr, Abram Investment Holdings LLC, \$43,571.43, 180 Park St Unit B

RJJM LLC & Jesus Manuel Trejo Jr, Jary Pena Ortiz, \$545,000, 123-125 Cross St Edwin Adames, Maryelin Torres & Randy Capellan, \$485,000, 148-150 Oxford St

Steven D & Linda Joaquin, Jesenia Delacruz & Jocelyn Santos, \$450,000, 5-5A Campo Seco St

Rafael Geronimo, Yu Ping Chen, \$405,000, 57-59 Butler St

Cedar Best Construction LLC, Geli Saroufim, \$150,000, 11 Broadway Ave ABI Realty Corp, Jose Marine, \$1,200,000, 9-17 Appleton St

Doris Soba, Alfonso Rodriguez Jimenez & Karen L Rodriguez, \$440,000, 270-272 Farnham St

RJJM LLC & Jesus Manuel Trejo Jr, Jose O Liriano & Miguelina Vargas Then, \$399,900, 18 Jamaica St

Benchmark Realty Trust & Randall F

Hart Tr, Raul A Carreno, \$197,000, 26 Ferry St Unit 9

Hermes Godoy, Andrew William Tchate Ndeugoue, \$510,000, 53-53A Bellevue St Mary Beth Haggerty & Kathleen Carol Bush Est & John J Bush Est, Christopher Fernandez & Ana Estevez, \$355,900, 7 Crestwood Cir

Augustin Rosario, Miguel Angel Rosario Reyes & Maria Reyes, \$307,000, 14 Pere Marquette St

Michael R Sweeney & Laura Ann Rooney, Han N Pham & Nhattai Ky, \$280,000, 21 Glennwood Dr

Kathleen M Foster & Margaret B Jewell Est, Omar Loaiza, \$255,000, 206-208 Saratoga St

Robert J & Maria McHugh, Joel Chalas Rojas, \$325,000, 19 Rockwood Ln

Dawn L Simmonds/Dawn L Donoghe, Osagie Matthew, \$430,000, 151 May St

Joseph Baviello & Gina Vettraino & Lisa Baviello & Frank Baviello Life Est, Anarosy Martinez, \$287,000, 17 Brookline St

Victor Perez & Alba Montano, Garcia Family LLC, \$50,000, 8-10 Elm St

S-BNK Lawrence Essex LLC, Estrella Vault LLC, \$715,000, 238 Essex St

La Belle Maison LLC, DLC Phase One LLC, \$779,500, 62-64 Manchester St

LLB Construction Inc, Patricio & Luz A Hernandez, \$460,000, 54-56 Dracut St

Tan Duy Nguyen & Lieu Thi Do, Evelyn D Lopez & Luis R Maldonado Rodriguez & Nicolas N Rodriguez & Inocencia A Lopez, \$449,900, 65-67 Buswell Ave

Esmirna Encarnacion, Dario Taveras Pena & Maria Almanzar, \$440,000, 136-138 Butler St

Carmelito Trinidad, Berlin Sanchez, \$410,000, 83-85 Thornton St

BOSTON AND MAINE CORP, PARRL LLC, \$10,000, Merrimack St

Wilfred P Beliveau Jr, Felix M Gonzalez & Maryury Jaramillo Ramirez, \$350,000, 20 Rockwood Ln

Manuel V Javier, Luis Porfirio Payano Sosa & Ruth Del Carmen Payano Sosa, \$465,000, 176-178 Dawes St

Rafael Liriano, Robinson A Calcano, \$430,000, 53-55 Buswell St

Marcos Urena, Hector Torres, \$420,000, 66-68 Shattuck St

RJJM LLC, Maria R Trejo De Rosario & Daniel I Rosario Hiciano, \$390,000, 66-68 Texas Ave

Apolinar A Joaquin & Fatima M De La Cruz, Lissa Medina, \$320,000, 18-20 Cedar St

Martha Marmol De Pina/Martha Marmol, Leudys P Ortega, \$270,000, 101 East

REAL ESTATE: PAGE 23

## PUTIN: FROM PAGE 2

defensive missiles. During Obama's second term, he actually reduced US defense spending and ignored North Korea.

What was Obama hoping to accomplish with flexibility toward Putin? Putin is a former KGB agent who has effectively suffocated political opposition, enriched his circle of oligarch friends and sanctioned attacks on members of the GLBTQ Russian community. Obama even opened up relations with Cuba, another friend of Russia, even though Cuba was not obligated in kind to change its regime to allow free elections and restore political dissent.

And despite accusations that Trump has had 'friendly' chats with Putin, the president has reversed or countermanded many of Obama's policies relative to Russia and

her 'autocratic' allies. He has revoked the Iran nuke deal and reapplied sanctions. Does anyone need a refresher course that Iran funds terrorist groups that are in conflict with our interests? Trump has sold arms to Ukraine and Patriot missiles to Poland. He reversed Obama in Cuba. He is holding NATO members directly accountable for increasing their defense spending. He is rebuilding the US military and modernizing our nuclear deterrent. Trump also increased sanctions and froze additional assets in Venezuela, another failed socialist state where Putin has made substantial inroads into its energy industry.

Are n't liberals in favor of sanctions as opposed to direct military action? Trump is incorporating the effective tool of sanc-

tions, as the world's leading economy, to clamp down on autocratic regimes that continue to violate human rights. But somehow, somewhere Trump is kowtowing to Putin's tyranny. Huh??? And let's not forget that Trump has successfully applied the most comprehensive sanctions in history against North Korea, despite the strong objections of Russia. And how does Trump flooding the world marketplace with surplus US oil and natural gas, thus lowering prices, help with Russia's corrupt coffers? News Flash--- all of these above mentioned actions by the Trump administration adversely impact Putin!

Based on all of Obama's foreign policy mistakes and disasters, would I identify Obama as a Russian lackey or just really weak in foreign affairs? Using the twisted logic of the Left, what con-

clusions would someone draw? I, for one, would rather wait for concrete evidence rather than engage in unproven speculation—unlike many on the Left.

I will definitely say that Obama was fundamentally weak and factually wrong many times relative to Putin's motives and actions during his second term. The United States is still recovering from the global ramifications of this historically flawed strategy. It may take many years to restore our military strength and credibility with our democratic allies. Sadly, many liberals are more worried about shadow conspiracies rather than confronting Putin in a unified front. Isn't that what Putin ultimately wants:--Americans questioning their own president with a wild, mob-like fury based on zero facts? Hey, my liberal friends, you can't say conservatives didn't warn you about Putin! ☐



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**NOTEBOOK: FROM PAGE 7**

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**LEGAL DEFENSE FUND** - It's no secret that Methuen Mayor Jim Jajuga is suing us, and he hired a multimillion-dollar law firm to try and bankrupt us by lawsuit. We have set up a GoFundMe page on line for those who want to contribute so that we can pay our lawyers to fight yet another 1st amendment lawsuit. Your contribution can help us stay in business! Please donate at [gofundme.com/valley-patriot-legal-defense-fund](http://gofundme.com/valley-patriot-legal-defense-fund)

**CLADDAGH ROAD RACE**

Join us on Sunday, March 3, 2019 at 11am for the World famous Lawrence Claddagh Barry Kara 4-mile race! Hosted by the Claddagh Pub in Lawrence at 399 Canal Street corner of Amesbury St.

The online registration fee for the single race is \$40.00 (plus processing fees). Shirts to all entrants, famous race course, post-race party, and entertainment!

This is the second race and the crown jewel of the Wild Rover Series; Haverhill - Lawrence - Lowell.

**VETERANS SERVICES OFFICERS HONOR REP. LINDA CAMPBELL**

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell was selected as "Legislator of the Year" by the Massachusetts Veterans' Service Officers Association and presented with the award at their annual legislative luncheon at the State House. The luncheon serves as an opportunity for Veterans' Service Officers to meet with legislators regarding issues important to them in the upcoming session.

In her remarks, Representative Campbell focused on teamwork and thanked Speaker DeLeo for his many years of leadership in setting a high bar for the care of our Veterans and for focusing on legislation that matters in Veterans' day-to-day lives. She also highlighted the critical role of Veterans' Services Officers in our cities and towns.

"VSOs are at the heart and soul of what we do to support our Veterans," noted Representative Campbell. She commended VSOs for helping Veterans navigate the difficult process of obtaining assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Typically, a Veteran in need must apply over and over again to get help from the VA. I have seen this play out personally many times," Representative Campbell

said in a statement. "It is all too frequently both a slow and exhausting appeal process even for those most acquainted with the system. One can understand why a Veteran, especially a Veteran with service-connected health issues, could never navigate the system successfully without the help of our VSOs. But I know from personal experience, and our VSOs know, that you never give up. Whatever it takes, if you have to appeal, you keep on appealing. You do not compromise."

**POLICE & FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

For the 57th year, the Exchange Club of Lawrence will recognize the outstanding service of our community's finest; Police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians from Andover, Lawrence, and North Andover, the communities served by the Exchange Club of Lawrence, as well as paramedics from Lawrence General Hospital will be honored at a dinner on February 13th at the Doubletree Andover Hotel, sponsored by Wheelabrator Technology, North Andover, Inc.

This year, Miss Massachusetts, Gabriela Taveras will sing our National Anthem.

This year's honorees include:

Andover Fire Department : Deputy Chief Scott Gibson, Lt. Brian Wright, FF Michael Uttley, FF Ryan Beirne, FF Stephen Stabile, FF/EMT Brian Decourcy, FF/EMT Andrew Loonie, FF/EMT Jonathan Booth, Lt. Barry Thornton, FF Michael Oteri, FF James Bancroft, FF/EMT Kevin Farragher, FF/EMT Flanagan

Andover Police Department : Officer Glen Ota

Lawrence General Hospital : EMT Chris Locapo & EMT Kristen Harris

Lawrence Fire Department : Captain James Driscoll and Lieutenant Joseph Murphy

Lawrence Police Department : Officer Leo Silvera

North Andover Fire Department: Jeff Crosby

North Andover Police Department : Officer William Gordon

The February 13th event will begin with a social hour at 6pm. followed by a dinner at 7pm. While uniformed officers are the guests of the Exchange Club, the public is invited for a ticket price of \$35.00. Tickets may be purchased by contacting Sharon Birchall, Event Chairman, at 978 -609-6883 or email at [Ladysb57@aol.com](mailto:Ladysb57@aol.com).

Tickets may also be purchased by visiting the <https://exchangecluboflawrence.com>

**NON-DISCLOSURE FROM PAGE 8**

sufficiently protect survivors - and no advocacy groups could confirm or deny whether or not the standalone amendment would help survivors. I tried my hardest to get an understanding, and in the meantime I heard from many female lawmakers, several who are survivors themselves of sexual violence, who expressed concern that this could hurt survivors by limiting their ability to initiate private resolutions.

I've spent my life as an advocate, and now that I'm in this position I'm going to make sure I have the greatest impact on improving lives of people. But since I had to vote right then, I couldn't vote yes without knowing if it risked the rights of survivors.

Just because this vote is over doesn't mean I accept this issue as being resolved. I made a promise to Senator DiZoglio - as my friend, colleague, and constituent - that I would ensure that the House creates an environment that stops harassment and coercion and supports survivors. In the Senate they have the benefit of more transparency. They have never used NDAs and Senator DiZoglio was able to have the time she needed to speak to colleagues, answer their questions and garner their support. Additionally, to add more support, her colleague put forward a tandem amendment including even more support and protections against harassment in the workplace.

Clearly there remains strong disagree-



ment about who would be helped or hurt by the amendment I voted on this week. I'm proud of Senator DiZoglio's bravery for taking this to the Senate. And it's why I've spent the days since that vote to learn about the ideal language to best protect survivors. And it's why I am already working with colleagues and advocacy organizations on how to incorporate the best language without leaving questions unanswered, or risking it being watered down through biennial Rules votes. This needs to be made law and not subject to these debates each and every year. Senator DiZoglio makes a compelling argument as she speaks from personal experience. Thanks to her there is a lot of momentum to make a culture change. It's happening and this vote is not the end of this discussion. It's only just the beginning." ♦



**BOXFORD** - The day after the big snowstorm last month this driver in Boxford skidded off Main St. into a wall. The Boxford Fire Chief was on hand minutes later saying the woman in the car was not hurt.

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## Being in The Presence of Jesus!

Peter Larocque  
RELIGION COLUMNIST

In this day and age of high technology mixed with Social Media at every one's fingertips and instant news 24/7 concerning Governmental uncertainty, our days seem to be getting more and more confusing and darker. Have you ever thought, if only I had a clear light illuminating my path? Well my friend, for the Christian Believer, Jesus is here, present an accounted for! We read in Psalms 97:5, "The hills melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth." Hills represent large obstacles obstructing our way and in the Presence of the Lord they melt away like wax!

Check out these other verses of Scriptures in Psalms, Psalms 16:11, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." Psalms 23:4, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Psalms 91:15, "He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him."

These Scriptures tell us that in God's presence is fullness of joy and pleasures for evermore. If we were to go through a bad season, we wouldn't have to fear because He is with us comforting us and that He will be with us in trouble and He will deliver us!

We know that while Jesus was on earth bodily, He always did the Father's will, so He would do exactly the same that the above verses say His Heavenly Father would do.

I have a question for all of you, have you ever said, "if Jesus were only here?"

There is a fantastic demonstration of the power of God told in the Bible of Jesus raising a man from the dead! It speaks to what I have been writing about. Jesus had a very good friend named Lazarus who had two sisters, Martha and Mary. As the story unfolds, Lazarus got sick and eventually died. Word about this got to Jesus and when he finally got to where Lazarus's tomb was, Lazarus had been dead for four days.

We pick up the story in The Gospel of John 11:17-21, "Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.18 Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off:[2 miles] And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them

concerning their brother.20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." Martha (being in the presence of Jesus), takes Jesus to the past and says to Jesus, "if thou had been here." The story continues John 11:22-24, "But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Martha now takes Jesus to the future and says to Jesus, "he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus responds back to Martha, John 11:25-26, "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" Jesus brings Martha back to living in the Now! "I am [not was, or going to be] I am the Resurrection and the Life"

Now the other sister, Mary, shows up and says in John 11:32-38, "Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. 33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled,34 And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.35 Jesus wept.36 Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him! 37 And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died? 38 Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it." Mary and some of the Jews in the crowd, just like Martha took Jesus back to the past!

Jesus Response, John 11:38-45, "Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God?41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard

JESUS: PAGE 19

## BENEATH THE SURFACE

### Abortion Up to Birth: Does it Matter?

Paul Murano  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

In order to prepare for the possibility that Roe vs. Wade be overturned within this presidency, the states of New York, Virginia, Vermont, and others have been attempting to legalize abortion up until birth. The governor of New York publicly celebrated their new bill while the governor of Virginia stated proudly that their legislation would allow for "the mother" (his words) to decide whether or not her baby who was accidentally born alive would be left without aid to die. Many are appalled by these developments. Social media has erupted. Yet, none of it surprises me.

Infanticide is the logical extension of abortion. If human life is not respected at one stage of maturity it will not be respected at any stage. I can almost guarantee you that in the not-so-distant future there will be a bill on some governor's desk making "post-birth abortion" (killing infants) legal up to the third day after birth. Then eventually up to the third year, with the claim that personhood does not kick in until then. These are questions already being debated by academics.

Governors like the ones from New York and Virginia are at least open about their dire support for murder. I find this preferable to the dishonest murder supporters that make up the bulk of today's pro-choice movement.

Many pro-lifers see a silver lining in all this. People seem to be waking up to the horror of abortion, they say, and that is a good thing. I am skeptical about this. In fact, I am a bit saddened that all the recent media chatter seems to be focused on the emotional responses of (mostly) women rather than their principled conviction that all innocent human lives are sacred and inviolable. Embedded in the media ruckus is the unspoken belief that robbing a person of his/her entire future is more grievous if committed later in his/her prenatal development. Even in many "pro-lifers" there is a sense that abortion is less justified if the preborn child is more developed. This is truly nonsensical, and contributes to the abortion mentality that a person's value depends on their stage of maturity.

Will this be a moment that finally be-

gins to turn things around in favor of protecting human beings from the beginning of their lives, the moment of conception? I hope so, but think not. Most of the emotional reactions of revulsion have been expressed by those who are otherwise 'pro-choice' on killing preborn children. There seems to be no thought or principle accompanying their protestations, only emotion. Do they express this same alarm for these same preborn children in danger of death a few months younger? Even if the current uproar leads to some states protecting babies in their third trimester of maturity, abortion minded women would simply choose to kill them a little earlier. It's the same human being. Same death. Same future denied. How does this protect human life?

To illustrate my point, let's delve beneath the surface to ponder a thought experiment. Imagine that your grandmother was aborted. Your grandfather would have never met her. Your mother would not exist. Your uncles, aunts, and cousins would never exist, and neither would your brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews.

You would never exist.

This is the great tragedy of each abortion. It doesn't matter whether the person is killed one week after conception or nine months later. Late-term or early-term makes no difference. With every abortion at any stage of life the person's entire future is stolen, as is the potential future of their posterity.

From conception these are real people with real futures and immeasurable human dignity - whatever their current stage of development may be. This is the great tragedy, the grave injustice, and the real heartbreak of abortion.



Paul Murano is a college instructor and radio talk show host of *Beneath the Surface* on WCAP 980 AM. Podcasts available at <http://breadboxmedia.com/paul-murano/>.

Paul has graduate degrees in philosophy and theology, and is certified in health care ethics. He speaks on topics relating to faith and reason, and is a musician that sings oldies in a one-man band. E-mail Paul at [PJDM@aol.com](mailto:PJDM@aol.com)

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**IN THE GROOVE with CNDYANNIS**

# Paul McCartney - Part III

**Cindy Annis**

HEALTH & WELLNESS COLUMNIST

So, here we are on our way to finishing up the “greatness” of the one called Paul McCartney.

In 1991, Paul tried something a little different than anything he had done in the past. He got together with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society and came out with Liverpool Oratorio. This was to be used to celebrate the society’s sesquicentennial. Composer Carl Davis would work with him on this. It would feature three opera singers, Kiri Te Kanawa, Sally Burgess Jerry Hadley, and Willard White. There would also be the Liverpool Cathedral’s choir. The critics of the area wouldn’t give it much applause, but it still hit #1 on the UK Classical charts.

The Beatles Anthology was his next project. George Harrison, Ringo Starr and George Martin would all be heavily involved in this gig. In 1995, he would get an Honorary Fellowship to the Royal College of Music from Prince Charles. Paul said, “kind of amazing for someone who doesn’t read a note of music!”

On April 10, 1999 he performed a tribute, Concert for Linda. He and Linda were married for 29 years when she died from cancer the year before this benefit.

Paul was at the JFK Airport when the 9/11 attacks of 2001 happened. He was one of the main characters for the Concert for New York City. He released a studio album that November called Driving Rain. One of the songs, “Freedom,” was of Paul’s writing in response to the attacks. The very next year he went on tour. He had his friends, Rusty Anderson, Paul “Wix” Wickens, Abe Laboriel, and Brian

Ray with him. The “Driving the World Tour” would be simply amazing. They earned about 126 million dollars on that tour. Billboard Magazine named it the tour of the year. They ended up with a double album that was released as “Back In the US.” When it was released internationally it was renamed, “Back In the World.” Paul says that he has played more with this band than he did playing live with the Beatles, and they still play together.

Paul remarried in July of 2002. His new wife was Heather Mills. They had a daughter named Beatrice Milly in 2003. The marriage lasted about 5 more years and then that dreaded “D” word happened. Paul now being available and, on the market, it didn’t take a long time. After dating Paul for a few years, Nancy Shevell and Paul were married in 2011. They got married at the same place Paul and Linda got married in 1969. No pre-nup, here. This is true love.

Paul had a tremendous career playing the pre-game of one Super Bowl, and then he played the half-time show of another Super Bowl. Isn’t that enough?! In 2017, Paul went after Sony to reclaim his share of the McCartney-Lennon music catalogue. After a certain amount of years, the original owner can go after it to reclaim it. He was right on top of the time limit and he got what he wanted. He and Sony came to a confidential agreement in June of the same year.

I could just sit here and type in concert after concert that Paul performed, and album after album that he recorded and released. There isn’t enough space here for that. But I will say he has played venues

**MCCARTNEY: PAGE 22**

**TV TALK with BILL CUSHING**



# Bill’s TV Talk Mailbag

**Bill Cushing**

VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

From time to time, my column will feature questions asked by readers regarding the world of TV. Feel free to email me with any questions you may have about TV at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com, and I’ll do my best to answer you and may feature your question in a future column. Here’s what we got!

Hi Bill, love your column. I just binge watched ‘Bodyguard’ on Netflix and it was so good. Is there going to be a second season? – Terry from Dracut, MA

Thanks Terry! There’s nothing official yet, but ‘Bodyguard’ producers are talking about a second season. Golden Globe winning star Richard Madden says he’s on board. One idea being floated around is David Budd protecting a member of the royal family. My guess is that you’ll see a second season sometime in early 2020.

Anything you can tell me about the final season of ‘Game of Thrones’? I can’t wait for April! – Randy from Newburyport, MA

Randy, producers are being very secretive about the end of the series, but there are a couple of things we do know. 5 of the 7 episodes will be supersized. The first 2 episodes are 60 minutes each, and the remaining 5 will be 80 minutes each. Bringing the total time of season 8 to 7 hours and 20 minutes, the exact same length as season 7 even though there is one less episode. One other little tidbit that has leaked out is that the final season will contain an epic battle scene that is being described as the most expensive scene ever produced for television and took 55 days to film. Producers also say that “a surprising number of characters that fans might not have expected to see appear in the series finale.” ‘Game of Thrones’ returns to HBO on April 14.

One of my favorite shows is ‘Suits’, can you give me any scoop on the show? Is this the final season? – Steven from Lawrence, MA

It’s not the final season. ‘Suits’ has been renewed for one more season. The

ninth and final season will consist of 10 episodes and will premiere in early 2020. I can also tell you that producers are offering a six figure charitable donation if Meghan Markle will return for the series finale. A spinoff is also in the works featuring Gina Torres character, Jessica Pearson.

Bill, I love ‘A Million Little Things.’ How’s it doing in the ratings? Can you give me any idea about what’s going to happen? – Kristen from Andover, MA

Kristen, ‘A Million Little Things’ is doing well for ABC. In fact, it recently moved to Thursday nights and has been doing even better there. It has not yet been renewed, but don’t worry, a renewal is foregone conclusion. As far as what’s to come, we all know Jon was in some serious financial trouble, but I can tell you that is NOT the reason he took his own life. Also a member of the cast will be saying goodbye before the season is over.

I used to be a big fan of ‘Lethal Weapon’ but since the casting shakeup that left Clayne Crawford fired, the show just isn’t the same. How has the show been doing this season? – Maggie from Haverhill, MA

Maggie, you’re not the only one that feels this way. The show’s third season has suffered. After all of the behind the scenes drama that led to replacing Clayne Crawford with Sean William Scott, the show’s ratings have plummeted by about 30%. No decision has been made on a fourth season but a renewal is a long shot at this point.

That’s it for this mailbag. Thanks for all the questions and keep ‘em coming!

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



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

# HERO: FROM PAGE 1

community considered this seizing of the Canal, an act of war between the United States and Columbia. At the time, Panama was part of Columbia. The first ship to transit the canal, the SS Ancon, passes through on August 15, 1914. Guarding the Canal was tasked to the US Military. Panamanian unrest culminated in riots on Martyr’s Day, January 9, 1964, when over twenty Panamanians and several US soldiers were killed. Twenty-three more US Troops were killed in the 1989 invasion of Panama to remove dictator Manuel Noriega known as Operation Just Cause directed by President George H. W. Bush.

After coming home from the Second World War, Tony worked for Western Electric and Lucent, first in Newark, New Jersey, and later wrapping up a 40+-year career at the North Andover plant. The men and women of our Greatest Generation grew up during the Great Depression, as young men and women they fought a two front Global war, then they simply came home and raised families. More often than not, our World War II Veterans spent the rest of their careers working for the same company. Most of these men, stayed married to the same woman too. During my interviews for this newspaper, I am coming across 50, 60, and even 75-year marriages.

Tony enjoyed talking to me about his siblings, his children, his grandchildren, and his great grandchildren. An American Hero, both during the War for defending our Nation, and after the war for quietly building his home. (He boasted to me, that he built it without permits from the City of Haverhill) and with his wife, focused on

raising his family.

Sadly, two weeks ago Tony passed on after 102 years, shortly after our meeting. Our Nation and the Merrimack Valley are better for having known Tony. Married for 60 years to his late wife Frances, the couple had two daughters, four grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. I am very glad I was able to meet, and have a cup of coffee with Tony. The Valley Patriot thanks Craig Crom and Carol Arnold of Haverhill Crossing for their invaluable assistance with this article. We ask the Valley Patriot readers to, like Tony, become more engaged in their community, and be involved with your children and grandchildren’s team and clubs. Join organizations such as the Knights of Columbus and the American Legion and help make your community better. Do you want to live as long as Tony did? Simply love your family, garden, and play lots of golf! What an honor and privilege to meet him!



*John Cuddy served in the US Navy’s Construction Battalions (known as the Seabees) after retiring from the US Navy; he used his GI Bill and earned a BA in History and an MA in Economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. For the last twenty-two years, he has been employed in Logistics at FedEx. If you know a World War II Veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com ♦*

# JESUS: FROM PAGE 18

me.42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.45 Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus

did, believed on him.” Both Martha and Mary and the Jewish crowd saw the Glory of God right there and then, They were in the presence of The Resurrection and The Life, Jesus Christ!

Jesus demonstrated time and time again that in His Presence whatever is in our way will melt away like wax and the fullness of joy and pleasures evermore are ours! ♦

## MA Medical Society Supports Violating Physicians' Rights

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD, PhD  
MEDICAL CORRUPTION COLUMNIST

That our government cannot simply take a person's liberty or property without due process is a bedrock principle of the United States as found in the 5th Amendment to the Constitution.

That "governmental purpose to control or prevent activities constitutionally subject to state regulation may not be achieved by means which sweep unnecessarily broadly and thereby invade the area of protected freedoms" was the Supreme Court's explicit declaration in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, 381 U.S. 479 (1965).

The Massachusetts Medical Society (MassMed) does not agree.

Progressives have historically been contemptuous of learned professionals. They rejoiced when professors were turned into taxi drivers or bricklayers and blocked innumerable physicians' children from attending any kind of university. Having lived seven years in progressive East Europe, I personally know many victims.

The Constitution's Framers insisted that once a person was granted a license to do something, that license becomes that person's vital interest and may not be taken away without due process.

The government was allowed to design reasonable hurdles in the path of the person obtaining that license, to protect the public interest, such as requiring persons to pass the bar exam before obtaining a law license. Once a license was issued, however, full constitutional protections come into force because that license now is the means to that person's livelihood. Such is the Massachusetts Controlled Substance Registration (MCSR) certificate. It is issued by the government to physicians who hold a medical license. It is impossible to work as a physician without it.

Following bedrock American principles, once that certificate is issued, the government is ordered by the Act (Ch. 94C § 7(f)) to provide full due process to physicians before taking it away.

In 2014, Massachusetts progressives brought learned physicians to heel, once and for all, through a new rule that massively changed regulations that implement the state's Controlled Substance Act. It was conceived by the progressive state Health Secretary Marylou Sudders; Ms. Sudders is not a physician. The entire exercise was to control physicians by controlling their ability to earn a living practicing their profession.

Before 2014 the state recognized the need for due process. The new rule (105 CMR 700.120) states: A registration is void if the registrant's underlying professional licensure on which the registration is based is suspended or revoked. Through this new concept of voidness, the progressive Sudders declared that she did not need to provide full due process before taking a physician's Controlled Substance certificate away, which goes against both the Act (Ch. 94C § 7(f)) and the American constitution. She did not care and neither did MassMed.

The fact is inescapable that MassMed doesn't exist to protect working physicians and their bedrock due process rights; it exists solely to be loyal to the state and advocate for the population collectively. MassMed's refusal to oppose the voidness rule reminds me of the practice of investigating parents in progressive East Germany who blocked their school-going son from becoming a Stasi informant. After all, if the parents were loyal to the state, why would they disapprove of their son spying for the state?

Of course MassMed approved, and the state brought that rule in. The chance of the Massachusetts Medical Society protecting physicians' bedrock American rights from the government, is zero.

*Bharani Padmanabhan MD PhD is a neurologist who specialized in multiple sclerosis in the Boston area till July 2017 when the medical board stole his license because he reported Medicaid fraud to the feds. scleroplex@gmail.com* ♦

## Is Your Body (and mind) Ready for a Sugar Intervention?

Rick Bellanti  
HEALTH & WELLNESS COLUMNIST

Sugar is one of the leading contributors to obesity and people that consume more sugar are more likely to be overweight or obese. For many people sugar and junk foods can become an addiction just like abusing drugs or alcohol. The more cookies, candy and donuts you consume, the more your body will crave it, but not just your body, your mind will too. Sugar releases dopamine, the feel good chemical in the brain and there have been studies that suggest dopamine plays a role in impulse control and addiction. So when I'm on a diet and I hear someone say you can have anything you want "in moderation", I know it just doesn't work for people like me who are addicted to sweets because the only thing that I know will work is complete abstinence.

Right now, there is an epidemic in America and that is type 2 diabetes. It currently has afflicted about 27 million people, and another 86 million people have been diagnosed with pre diabetes. I was diagnosed with pre diabetes back in January 2015, I was very unhealthy and eating the wrong types of foods. I was addicted to sugary sport and energy drinks and getting little to no exercise. They say there is no cure for type 2 diabetes, but I was able to reverse the diagnosed pre-diabetes and I was taken off my medication by staying away from sweets and sugary drinks, following a program consisting of a protein based, nutrient dense diet with moderate exercise.

It is important to know that all sugars are not bad for you.

Sugars found in natural whole foods like fruits and vegetables provide essential nutrients for proper nutrition and as a bonus vitamin C, vitamin A and fiber, all needed for a healthy diet. The simple refined sugars, found in processed foods (not made by Mother Nature), are just a source of energy and have no nutritional value. Its job is to create a spike in blood sugar and then eventually a crash which in turn makes you crave more. Low blood sugar causes hunger, and the whole process repeats in a vicious cycle.

A sugar detox is a way to break the hold sugar has over you.

You may not think that you consume too much sugar, but studies have shown that the average American now consumes between twenty two and thirty teaspoons

of added sugar every day (some, without even realizing it).

Try a sugar detox for a short period of time by cutting all sugar out of your diet. It's not as easy as it sounds because there are hidden sugars everywhere. Items like honey, maple syrup, breads, alcoholic drinks, so no natural sweeteners or artificial sweeteners either, and the worse culprit High Fructose Corn Syrup (treat it like poison); it's in so many products that you wouldn't realize, like ketchup and salad dressings. There are so much more. So, get to reading those ingredient labels on the products you purchase to consume and look for hidden sugars.

The first three to four days are the hardest, but try to get through them because

you'll notice your cravings for sugar will go away, then within a week or two your palate will become more attuned to the natural sweetness of fruits and vegetables. You will notice foods without sugar will start tasting better to you, it's like a whole new world opens, you will

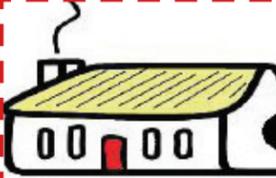


be amazed.

During the two weeks of the sugar detox, there are some foods you shouldn't eat because of the high carbohydrate content, including starchy vegetables like corn, white potatoes, sweet potatoes, squash, and pumpkin. And any naturally high sugar fruits like bananas, pineapple, and watermelon. Stay away from canned and dried fruits, because the sugar content is concentrated and many fruits are actually candied, which means they were boiled in sugar syrup to make them sweeter.

If you completed a two week sugar detox and feel great, next time try a month, if you can do a month, then work on making it a lifestyle change for good. A sugar detox shouldn't be a one-time quick fix but a new, healthier way to live your life, the results are incredible. You'll lose weight, have fewer headaches, less inflammation, you'll find you have more energy, and feel so much better overall. You'll be amazed by how much better you'll feel when you cut the added sugar out of your daily intake.

*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.* ♦



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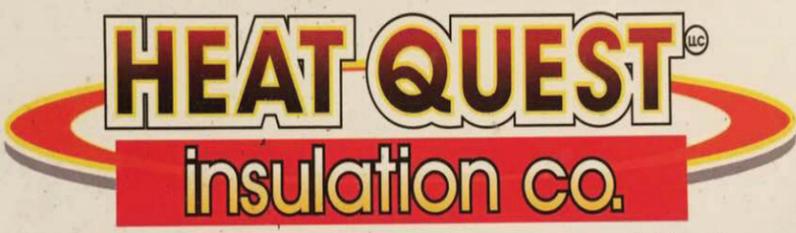
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## Methuen Police Share Animal Control Success Stories

METHUEN — Chief Joseph Solomon is pleased to highlight the recent successes of the Methuen Police Department's Animal Control Officer.

In just the last several weeks, Methuen Animal Control Officer Renee Falardeau has reunited two lost pets with their families, including one who was missing for months.

In early December, ACO Falardeau responded to a call about a stray cat near a residence on Sandra Lane. Upon arrival, she immediately recognized the cat — Fluffy — as one that had been reported missing by its owners in early July.

She then quickly made contact with Fluffy's owners and subsequently returned her to her family.

On Tuesday, Jan. 15, a resident brought a small white dog to Animal Control, and ACO Falardeau exhausted all options to try to locate the dog's owner, including checking the dog's microchip — which contained outdated information — and turning to social media.

A good Samaritan volunteered to hang posters, which ultimately led to his owners being located and reunited with their pet. "Our Animal Control Officer does a lot of great work, including reuniting families with their beloved pets," Chief Solomon said.

"These cases are the reason why we maintain a missing pets database, and I'm proud of the work that Officer Falardeau has done to uphold the highest professional standards in protecting residents and animals."



ACO Falardeau joined the Methuen Police Department in October 2017 after working for the MSPCA at Nevins Farm, focusing on animal welfare.

She also recently completed the 13-week Animal Control Officers of Massachusetts Academy.

The Animal Control Officer maintains a Facebook page, which features local events and updates on missing animals, as well as a variety of engaging tips and important facts for residents.

Methuen Animal Control can also be reached by phone at 978-983-8670.

## SUSAN'S BOOK CORNER

### "I'm Dead. Now What?"

SUSAN PIAZZA  
VALLEY PATRIOT BOOK REVIEW

Important Information about My Belongings, Business Affairs and Wishes" by Peter Pauper Press © 2015

Peter Pauper Press, Inc., White Plains, NY - Hardcover-Spiral, 96 pages  
4.75 Bookmarkers

This book is an excellent source of estate planning. I've had other aids over the years, some better than others. I've found this to be the most comprehensive.

Checking on Amazon I saw that Peter Pauper Press, started as a family business in 1928 and continuing as such, shows a similar planner, "Peace of Mind Planner: Important Information about My Belongings, Business Affairs, and Wishes" by Peter Pauper Press. From the comments I read, it appears that both books are the same, the only difference appears to be the cover. So, please look at the comments if you are checking out another estate planning book.

Subjects (Contents) covered range from: financial information, medical information, vehicles, commercial property, stocks and bonds, social media accounts, etc. There is even a place for ones obituary.

Many of the documents, such as automobile title, VIN no. and insurance are more private matters, but an obituary will last, presumably, hundreds of years. It is how future generations will judge you as a person. And, they will judge. So, it is vital your life is as up to date as you want it to be.

Several veterans I know who have died had no record of their membership in veteran's organizations in their funeral notice. Inclusion in the newspaper is important for it alerts officers and members of the organizations that they need

to coordinate to perform the appropriate ceremony. Rotary members, Elks, and other groups are similarly affected by their inclusion or exclusion in one's obituary.

This aid is updated for our current lifestyle. Essential nowadays, is the section dealing with "Email and Social Media". We have all heard the stories of a family's inability to close or post to accounts once the primary holder has died because of their inaccessibility to that person's passwords. This book provides space for this.

There is a section for caregivers if one is unable to communicate. Firearms, locations of hidden valuables, and utility accounts are also covered.

Do you want to be cremated? Have your ashes spread at sea? People need to know your wishes ahead of time, and where all your information is located. The day you die may be hectic and possibly overwhelming for your loved ones. Having everything in one place will make things much easier and it will ensure your desires are remembered and followed.

The one drawback to this book is that once information has been entered, if it needs to be changed, one has few options for doing so. Whiting out, tearing out the page, crossing out the information, none of these worked for me.

The ability to neatly update information has always been extremely important to me. If interested in learning how I rectified this flaw go to my website: [susanpiazzaauthor.co](http://susanpiazzaauthor.co) Space provides the ability to supply additional information that this article doesn't have room for.

Nominally priced, this book is well worth the time and energy you and your heirs will save.

I highly recommend this estate planner.

SUSAN PIAZZA IS AN AUTHOR, COLUMNIST, AND BLOGGER. SHE CAN BE FOUND AT [SUSANPIAZZAAUTHOR.COM](http://SUSANPIAZZAAUTHOR.COM)

## McCARTNEY: FROM PAGE 19

all over the world. And he is still putting out albums. His last album was released in September 2018 and it was called Egypt Station. This was his first album to start off in the #1 position on the charts. He makes more money than he can count. He does, however, give an awful lot of that money away to all kinds of charities. He plays just as many charity concerts as he does pocket money concerts. He has been involved in many causes. I think cancer is one of his big charities. He and Linda were big into animal rights. They didn't eat meat. They were having a lamb dinner one evening and out the window in a field they saw the lambs eating grass. After he married Heather Mills, they got involved in trying to rid the world of land mines even as far as going to Russia to speak with Vladimir Putin about the problem. They were also into saving the seals off Prince Edward Island. Paul is also

involved in "Make Poverty History." The list goes on, and on.

That's all your gonna get! I hope you enjoyed this piece. I am and always have been a huge Beatles, and Paul McCartney fan ever since my dad turned me on to him. The Beatles had come and gone before I was even a thought! Dad brought them into my life like they were a brand-new group just starting up. Thanks, Dad!

It has been an honor and a pleasure. Please look forward to more great biographies of the rock and roll's best!

You can hear Paul's music when you listen to Cindy's Vinyl Vault. Remember, we play the best music ever recorded on vinyl. We're at 980 WCAP Radio every Sunday night at 10pm, Monday night at 11pm and Wednesday night at 10:00, and remember folks, it's not how old it is, but how great it sounds! ♦



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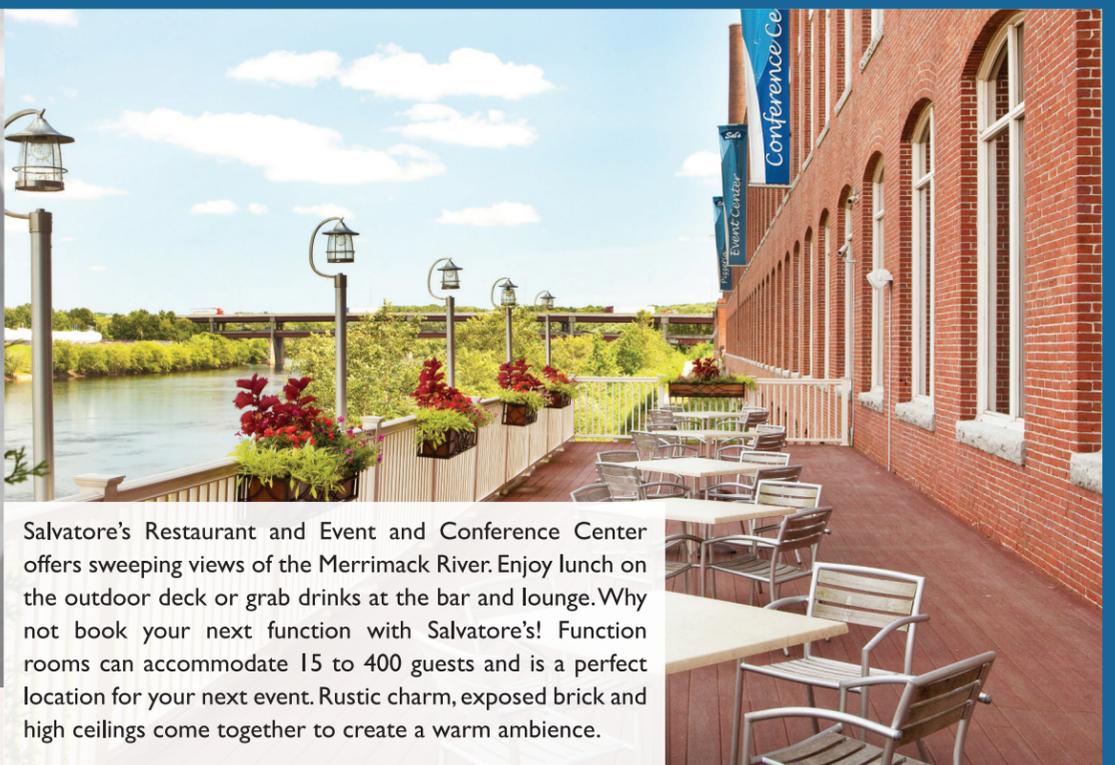


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