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COVID-19 in the Valley



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Methuen Village resident Herb Muller receives his first dose of the vaccine

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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

Lawrence Detective Tom Murphy ~ Navy Veteran and Arson Investigator

John Cuddy

VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

This is our third US Navy Seabee, who after serving in the Navy, became a police officer. Tom Murphy Jr. is a retired Lawrence Police Officer, who later retired from the Merrimack College Police Department as well. He grew up across the street from my father Jim, and my four uncles, on the corner of Bowdoin and Brookfield Street. Tom graduated from Lawrence High School,

class of 1966. We spent a few minutes discussing the crowds at the Lawrence High football games in the 1950s, 60s, 70s and early 80s.

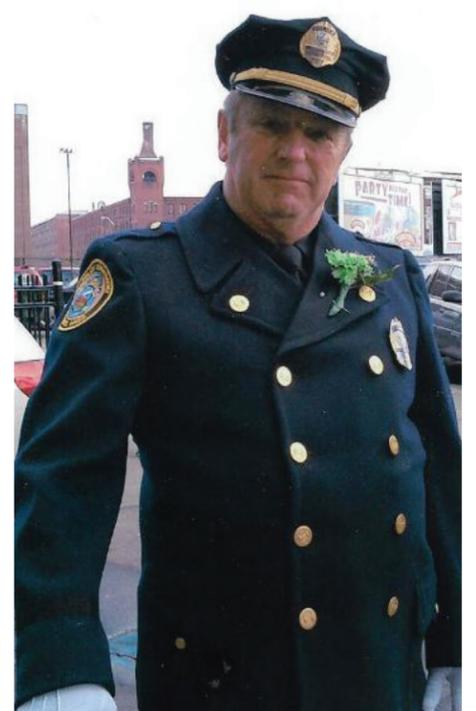
Tom recalled that the Lawrence Police details for the games often consisted of ten or more officers. Even more officers were needed for the Lawrence vs Lowell rivalry game on Thanksgiving Day when temporary bleachers were set up in the end zones for the overflow of fans. The Lawrence High Football Program, back then, could put 10,000+ fans in the

stands. Lawrence High School also sent three players into the NFL, during the 1950s, Bill Quinlan, who played for the Browns and the Packers. Later from the 1970s, Ray Preston and David Rozumek. Ray Preston played for the San Diego Chargers, and David Rozumek played for the Kansas City Chiefs. Bill Quinlan's 2003 oral history by historian, Cliff Christl, is on the Packer's team website, is a must read for football fans.

Military service in his family, included his Great Grandfather Timothy Murphy, who served with Company G of the famous "Fighting 69th" during the American Civil War. His dad, Tom Murphy Sr, was a U.S Army Cook during World War II, serving mainly in Texas.

While in the US Navy, Tom served on an Albany class Guided Missile Cruiser, the USS Columbus CG-12, a ship named after the City of Columbus, Ohio. It was assigned to the Mediterranean during Tom's period of service. Tom served as a Storekeeper. During that time, he received an award from the US Navy Supply Department Commander for his outstanding work. After leaving active duty, he served with the US Navy Seabees at the Navy and Marine Corp Reserve Center in Lawrence as a Third-class Petty Officer holding a Storekeeper rating. The Center was closed by Congress by the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

Another memory Tom shared, was being part of the security detail, serving



with fellow Veteran, Massachusetts State Trooper Jack Garvin, at the dedication of Division 8, Ancient Order of Hibernian's, Hall, on Sunday October 25, 1981. The Irish Cardinal who blessed the building during the dedication was Tomás Séamus Cardinal Ó Fiaich. He served as the Catholic Primate of all of Ireland and Archbishop of Armagh from 1977 until his death. Tom is a devout Catholic and a member of the Hibernians. On Saint Patrick's Day 2015, Tom was honored as

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Governor Baker Must Fire David Ismay Immediately

David Ismay, Governor Baker's Undersecretary for Climate Change, told a group of Vermont climate extremists that in order for Massachusetts residents to lower carbon emissions the state needs to "break their will" and "turn the screws on" ordinary people. No public servant should be approaching public policy with this kind of attitude.

The video of Ismay making these comments were posted on line by conservative think-tank Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance and has been viewed more than 15,000 times.

Here is Ismay's exact quote; "So let me say that again, 60% of our emissions that need to be reduced come from you,

the person across the street, the senior on fixed income, right... there is no bad guy left, at least in Massachusetts to point the finger at, to turn the screws on, and you know, to break their will, so they stop emitting. That's you. We have to break your will. Right, I can't even say that publicly..."

Yet, he did.

And somehow, Ismay still has his job.

We cringe when we hear people calling for the resignation or firing of public officials for saying offensive things or posting politically incorrect views on line.

As free speech activists, we at The Valley Patriot vehemently defend

anyone against 'cancel-culture' and will support anyone's right to express their views, even when we disagree with the views being expressed.

But, that is not the case here.

As Governor Baker's Undersecretary for Climate Change, David Ismay has an obligation to protect the citizens of Massachusetts, not seek to destroy their quality of life by "breaking their will" or "turning the screws" on Massachusetts residents.

This attitude is all too common among climate and social activists. Rather than seeking common sense measures to clean pollution in our rivers and streams, instead of trying to get the public on

board with policies that will positively affect the environment, they eagerly seek to use force to punish the public for not seeing things the way they do.

They have no interest in intellectual debate. They have no interest in educating and convincing the public to go along with their vision on climate and social change.

People like this have no business working in our government.

Governor Charlie Baker needs to make that point to the public by firing Ismay immediately and making it clear to everyone in his administration that they are here to HELP the public not "break their will". ♦

Public Notification of Sewage Overflows Becomes Law in MA

Rep. Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Under Massachusetts law, notifying the public when sewage overflows into rivers like the Merrimack will now be required. The bill I filed with Sen. Pat Jehlen and Rep. Denise Provost was signed into law in early January. Residents deserve to know when there is sewage in the water that could pose a risk to their health, and now they will be able to.

Under the new law, residents will be able to go online or subscribe for text or email alerts to know when sewage has overflowed into the Merrimack or other Massachusetts rivers. Local news organizations and local officials, including those downstream from the overflow, will also be notified under the new law. This will help residents know when to avoid swimming, fishing, and boating in contaminated waters, which can contain harmful pathogens and even COVID-19. It is also necessary to protect pets.

The law also requires the state to collect data and report annually on the status of sewage overflows. This data will be incredibly helpful as we work to further address this issue.

Combined sewer overflows, or CSOs,

are the result of very old wastewater systems that were designed to overflow during heavy rainfall, carrying sewage directly into nearby waterways. In 2018, over 800 million gallons of untreated sewage spilled into the Merrimack River. CSOs pollute our environment, make swimming and boating unsafe, and tarnish a treasured resource for tourism and recreation – hurting our economy in the process.

This new law is a critical step on the road to eliminating CSOs. Public notification will raise awareness and make it easier for cities and towns to apply for federal funds to upgrade the infrastructure that causes the problem. With this law, we are on the path to a cleaner environment, improved public health, and a stronger local economy.

It took many years, the amazing advocacy of the Merrimack Valley delegation, and a strong bipartisan coalition of state legislators, local officials, and environmental advocates to get this law across the finish line! The initial legislation I filed was endorsed by more than 80 bipartisan state legislators, over 140 local officials from across the Commonwealth, and 46 major statewide environmental organizations. It passed the House with unanimous support last



summer.

Further information on how to sign up for public alerts will be forthcoming. Under the new law, the Department of Environmental Protection will now develop specific guidelines for the public alert systems. The Greater Lawrence Sanitary District already has a way to sign up for CSO alerts at www.glsd.org/

[combined-sewer-overflow-2/](#).

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

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The Valley Patriot can be found in more than 800 locations in 48 communities in Massachusetts and NH.

Taking Care of Our Mental Health During COVID-19

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,
Beyond the physical and financial anxiety that countless of us have felt since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, many have also experienced feelings of loneliness and isolation.

While many of us have gone through life without the internet and mobile devices in the past, we haven't gone through life without face-to-face social gatherings and a shutdown of our businesses simultaneously. The emergency and its toll on our physical health and economy have had a detrimental impact on many people's mental health and created new barriers for people already suffering from mental illness and addiction.

According to a recent survey conducted by the non-profit Kaiser Family Foundation, more than half of adults in the United States reported that their mental health has been negatively impacted due to worry and stress over the pandemic. Many adults surveyed reported difficulty sleeping or eating, increases in alcohol consumption or substance use, and worsening chronic conditions.

Massachusetts residents have historically experienced difficulty accessing mental health services due to health inequities and persistent barriers to care, leaving many without the treatment they need and deserve. According to a 2018 report by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Massachusetts, over half of a representative sample of fully insured adults who sought mental health care services reported difficulty finding

IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR DIZOGLIO

services. We have too many families who struggle to obtain access to treatment, with many having to travel too far or wait too long to get help.

That is why I am grateful the Massachusetts Senate made mental health care reform a priority in the recent legislative session.

We passed with unanimous, bipartisan support the Mental Health ABC Act, comprehensive mental health legislation that seeks to increase access by removing barriers to timely quality care, providing the state with more effective tools to enforce existing mental health parity laws, and investing in the mental and behavioral health workforce pipeline. The legislation streamlines the licensing of qualified mental health professionals and requires insurance coverage of community-based psychiatric emergency service programs.

Every day across Massachusetts, adults and children arrive in emergency departments requiring immediate treatment. Due to restrictive medical necessity and prior authorization review processes imposed by insurance

companies, many patients experience barriers and delays in treatment – creating a dysfunctional system that allows insurance companies to have

more leverage in determining a patient's course of treatment than health care providers. This bill mandates coverage and eliminates prior authorization for mental health acute treatment for adults and children experiencing acute mental health crises, placing treatment decisions in the hands of the treating clinician, in consultation with the patient, rather than an insurance company.



To address the mental health workforce crisis that often limits patient access to care, the bill creates a pilot program through the Department of Higher Education aimed at creating a workforce pipeline to encourage and support individuals from diverse backgrounds to work toward careers in mental health. The bill also creates an interim licensure program for Licensed Mental Health Counselors so that they

can be reimbursed by insurance for their services and be eligible for state and federal grant and loan forgiveness programs, increasing the number of licensed providers able to serve patients.

Moreover, the Legislature this session secured record funding levels for mental health services for both adults and children and passed legislation prohibiting insurers from denying coverage for mental health services and primary care services solely because they were delivered on the same day in the same facility.

Now more than ever during this emergency, we have realized how vital mental health services are to our communities. Let's continue to look out for one another over the course of this emergency and check in on our neighbors, coworkers, family and friends to let them know they're not alone. A phone call from someone who cares can be just the thing someone needs.

If you or a family member are experiencing a mental health or substance use disorder crisis, the Commonwealth's Emergency Services Program/Mobile Crisis Intervention (ESP/MCI), operated by the Department of Mental Health, is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Call toll-free at 1 (877) 382-1609, anytime, day or night.

If you have questions about this or any other issue, please contact me and my team anytime via email at dizoglio@masenate.gov or phone 978-984-7747.

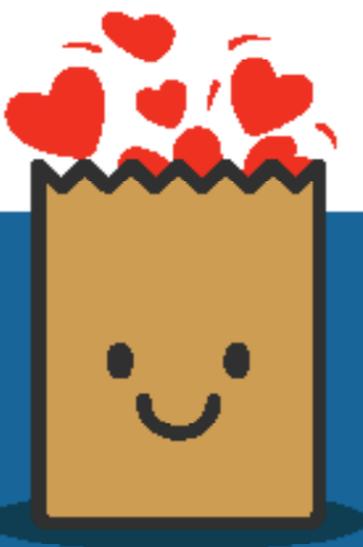
Yours in service, Diana ♦



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Annual Events Showcase Town Spirit in Dracut

Brian Genest
DRACUT COLUMNIST

Do you know someone in Dracut who deserves to be recognized for their service? Now's the time to make it happen: nominations for this year's Varnum Award are due February 19. The annual award, named after Dracut's most famous son, was established to recognize a member of the community who exemplifies the civic and patriotic spirit of Joseph Bradley Varnum through their volunteerism or demonstration of love of country through military service.

Joseph Bradley Varnum was born in Dracut January 29, 1751. He was the son of Samuel Varnum and Mary Prime. Like his father, Joseph Bradley Varnum was both a farmer and military officer. At 18, he was commissioned to serve as a captain in the Massachusetts militia. He commanded Dracut's militia company during the American Revolution, fighting at Lexington and Concord, and attained the rank of major general.

After the war, Varnum served as a delegate to the Massachusetts state convention and voted for the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. He also served as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1780 to 1785 and as a member of the Massachusetts State Senate from 1786 to 1795. Varnum wasn't a lawyer, but he also served as a judge, including as a Justice of the Massachusetts Court of Common Pleas and Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Court of General Sessions.

Varnum was a member of the U.S. House from 1795 to 1811, serving as Speaker of the House from 1807 to 1811. Varnum then served in the U.S. Senate from 1811 to 1817, and was the Senate's President pro tempore from 1813 to 1814. After leaving the U.S. Senate, Varnum served in the Massachusetts State Senate until his death. He died in Dracut on September 21, 1821 and is buried at Varnum Cemetery on Parker Road.

You can get the Varnum Award Nomination Form on the town's website: <https://www.dracutma.gov/home/news/2021-varnum-award-nomination> ***

There's also another annual town event worth noting: the Dracut Scholarship Foundation Telethon. At this time every year, Dracut shows its tremendous generosity and Middie Pride. The event is now in its 38th year.



The Dracut Scholarship Foundation, a non-profit organization that works to raise money for scholarships for graduating students of Dracut High School, was incorporated in 1959. Since its inception, the Dracut Scholarship Foundation has awarded more than \$1.7

million dollars in scholarships to nearly 1,700 DHS graduates.

In 2020, the Dracut Scholarship Foundation awarded \$143,500 to 47 graduating Seniors at Dracut High School. In other words, it's a worthwhile cause and well worth your while.

The 38th annual telethon will take place in March. You can watch the telethon live on Dracut cable tv on Channels 8 and 22. You can also see a live stream of the telethon online at dracuttv.org.

Every year, the Dracut Scholarship Foundation Telethon brings out the best of Dracut, shining a bright spotlight on our community's long-term commitment to helping DHS students.

Please, donate to the Dracut Scholarship Foundation this year, if you can. No donation is too small and every donation helps a worthy student. By the way, all donations are tax deductible, too.

Visit the Dracut Scholarship Foundation's page on Facebook to get more information and updates about the telethon: facebook.com/dracutdsf Brian Genest is chairman of the Dracut Republican Town Committee and a member of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee representing the Second Essex and Middlesex district of Andover, Dracut, Lawrence and Tewksbury. ◇

WEATHER 101 with AL KAPRIELIAN

Understanding the Polar Vortex

GOOD EEEEEVENING!!

Welcome to February the last full month of the winter season. The days continue to get longer as we go through the month. During February sunsets will surpass 5PM. The nights in contrast will be getting shorter.

The sun angle will continue getting higher in the sky taking us closer to spring. By month's end, with a higher sun angle, any snow we get starts to melt faster. We can get big snowstorms in February. Remember the blizzard of 1978, which occurred in early February? The storm stalled out in the Atlantic Ocean and this resulted in snow being measured in feet instead of inches. How much snow we get this month will depend on the jet stream and if it brings cold air from Canada.

In addition to cold air, we need moisture to get snow. Time will tell if we get any phasing between the northern and southern jet stream this month. If we get the phasing along with cold air from Canada, then our chances increase in getting snowstorms.

Recapping January, much of the month saw temperatures above average with temperatures ranging from the upper 30s through the 40s. Even though this past January was mild, it was not as warm as January of 2020.

Boston reached a balmy 74 degrees on January 12, 2020. The reason for the mild weather last month, was a West to East Jet Stream located north of us through Canada. This brought milder Pacific air across the country into our region. The track of this jet stream kept all the real cold arctic air well to our north in Canada. We were south of the jet stream which is the warmer side. With this straight west to east flow called (a zonal flow) in the jet stream we did not see any significant or large snowfall in January.

In contrast we saw above normal snowfall this past December with a large storm which occurred during the middle of the month before Christmas. After this storm the weather was quiet and tranquil for most of January. Even though January was warmer than normal on average, winter is far from over.

By January 22nd we saw the jet stream to our north begin to track south, and bring much colder air down from Canada. A strong cold front leading to much colder

air produced some scattered snow showers early in the morning of January 23rd. Areas that got snow showers got a coating in some places up to an inch. This made for slippery roads. Remember you do not need a lot of snow to get slippery roads. A coating, to an inch of snow, can produce very slippery (slick conditions).

We finally saw some very cold arctic air from Canada for the last week of January. It was the coldest we have seen since January 2019. The reason for the very cold air was that a piece of the Polar Vortex broke away and brought very cold air into the Northeast US. The Polar Vortex is a persistent and large upper level, low pressure system located at the North Pole. An upper, level low pressure system broke off and away from the main area of upper level low pressure (the Polar Vortex) and came down over the Northeast U.S., bringing the arctic air with it.

On Friday, January 29th some ocean-enhanced snow occurred, mainly from the mid to lower (outer) portions of Cape Cod. A couple of inches of snow occurred which made for very slippery travel. When cold, arctic air moves over warmer ocean temperatures in the low 40s this causes an unstable situation and clouds and snow occur as a result of this. When the atmosphere is unstable, cold air is above warmer air - in this case over the ocean. Remember, cold air is heavy and sinks, as warm air is lighter and rises.

So, when warm air is above cold air near the ground, the atmosphere is stable and you cannot get many clouds. As a result of this, you get more sun than clouds. By January 31st, the upper level low that brought the arctic air away from our area and we saw a tranquil day with not as cold temperatures. After a clear and sunny start to the day, we saw an increase in high clouds (cirrus) and dimmed the sunshine for that afternoon.

After a very cold and clear sunny day on Saturday, January 23rd, what caused the high clouds to move in on the last day of the month? What were these high clouds associated with?? I will have the answer in next month's article so STAY TUNED!!

In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy the winter season and remember when the roads are slippery keep the speed down and allow extra time for travel!! ◇

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St. Lucy Parishioners

Monthly Report on Mayor Perry

Exclusively in The Valley Patriot

FUTURE OF THE LOOP

"I have been chasing the managers of the loop hard because I think the answer there is in the entertainment field. I have personally offered to charter management to solicit groups like Wamesit to get them there. Because, I think something like that would be a big hit in the city of Methuen. We have a lot of kids, and the property values are going up. I remember what was in Tewksbury before Wamesit lanes was there, a crappy old motel with prostitutes and drug addicts."

"People there said Wamaset would never work. Look at it now; the place is stocked out, they have virtual golf, the bowling, the entertainment, and food. It's a little different than bowling when we were growing up it's more like an entertainment experience. We need something like that in this city. I don't just mean Wamesit, I am using that as an example of the type of businesses we are looking for. So, I'm all out for lobbying for that."

"I think the Loop has a future. I really do. They are attracting some businesses, there is some work being done over there and I'm optimistic. We are jointly concerned with the long term viability of the place and I have to do my part to make sure we get as much help from the state so that we are looking for the right kind of tenants for the loop, or even other places in the city."

REPLACING TOM LUCCIER

Perry said that he would be replacing Tom Lussier - his former Director of Strategic Initiatives - after the city council cut his pay out of the city budget, effectively forcing Perry to lay him off.

Perry said he needs someone working in his office to help him bring new businesses to the city. City councilors only cut Lussier's pay at budget time because he is the husband of former Mayor Sharon Pollard and some councilors have personal animosity towards the former mayor.

Mayor Perry says that in order to bring businesses to Methuen he needs the cooperation of the city council and that the political rhetoric at meetings does not help.

"I've got councilors constantly asking, 'what are we doing to help local businesses?' Well, what are you doing to help me attract new businesses? What are you doing? I kept the tax rates down, both commercial and residential."

RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL

The contentious relationship between the mayor and the council has been "bumpy" over the last year, Mayor Perry admits. He also says he wishes the council would focus more on getting things done for the city. He expressed his frustration with some councilors who attack him at the meetings with what he says is "false information". He also admonished the Eagle Tribune for publishing false information and refusing to retract it once he has shown them their report was wrong.

Councilor Finocchiaro admonished the mayor at a city council meeting last month for making public comments in the media about the Inspector General's report (on the police department).

"I had a councilor (Jessica Finocchiaro) at the last meeting start debating me on what I've said about the police department publicly. All I had said since the Inspector



General Report came out is one comment. It came out that day, and I sit here and say on my children I have said nothing else since."

Perry also expressed frustration about councilors attacking his integrity.

"A councilor sat there the other night and called me a liar. The quote was; 'I don't want to call you a liar, and I don't want to go back and forth, but...' she then proceeded to call me a liar and go back and forth. She did that so the inference is there for the public. And that's not the first time that's happened. During the budget, a comment was made (by Councilor Finocchiaro) that "you are an over-spender", and I had to refute that. But, these comments are made for public consumption and they are false. I am trying to engender accountability in local government."

"This mayor put a million bucks aside because I understand it's been a difficult time for the citizens of this city. This mayor cut his own pay. This mayor

didn't take a stipend. This mayor is doing everything in his power to give back. This mayor put aside, and gave out \$200,000 of CARES money for residential rental assistance. This mayor wrote checks to give license refunds to the eateries in the city because they took it on the chin."

Perry also said that he meets with councilors privately on a regular basis to discuss upcoming issues facing the city, but noted that Councilor Finocchiaro was deceiving people to think something nefarious was going on in those meetings, especially with regards to the vote for council president.

"I assume she is alleging some sort of back room deal was struck. If you are naïve enough to think I am meeting with councilors to talk about who is going to hold the council chair position, then you are more naïve than this non-political mayor."

"I meet with every councilor, once

PERRY: PAGE 7

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VACCINE CALL CENTER IN LAWRENCE

The City of Lawrence has established a local call center for COVID19 Vaccination appointments. The number to call for appointments is 978-620-3330. We will be taking appointments in both English and Spanish. The Call Center at the Lawrence Public Library was established to help residents determine if they qualify for a vaccination and assist with the scheduling process. The city is aggressively exploring the opening of a second vaccination site. Currently the South Lawrence East School location that was opened with the collaboration of Lawrence General Hospital, City Officials, and Public School Nursing staff to distribute vaccines. The Greater Lawrence Family Health Center are also administering vaccinations at their clinics. The Call Center will assist those who may have difficulties with navigating the online appointment system. This is especially important for our population that is 75 and older. The call center is an integral part of helping our elder population with the technological barriers that they are facing in our community. For those who have questions about whether or not they qualify for the vaccine please call 978-620-3557. Right now those who are in phase 2 of vaccine distribution may qualify for a COVID19 vaccine. While supplies are limited those who are not able to get an appointment may be able to preregister and be placed on a waitlist until more vaccines are available.

UNH DECEMBER GRADS
DURHAM, NH - The following students graduated from the University of New Hampshire in December 2020. Students who received the honor of summa cum laude graduated with a GPA of 3.85-4.0; students who received the honor of magna cum laude graduated with a GPA of 3.65-3.84; and students who received the honor of cum laude graduated with a GPA of 3.50-3.64. Students are only graduated after the Registrar's Office has certified that all degree requirements have been successfully completed. Participating in the commencement ceremony is the act of honoring and celebrating academic achievement.

Laura Zubricki of Methuen, MA graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BS in BusAdm:Marketing

Emily Fox of North Andover, MA graduated with a MS in Occupational Therapy

Victor Martinez of North Andover, MA graduated with a MBA in Business Admin: Marketing



Methuen Firefighter Bobby Cole showed up with his family at the TMF Family dinner for the homeless in Lawrence with a free dinner they purchased from the Chateau in Andover. Thank you to Firefighter Cole and his family for stepping up to help the community.

William Paterson of North Andover, MA graduated with a MFA in Writing
 GLCAC Offers Tax Prep Assistance
 The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. is offering free virtual tax preparation assistance for low- to moderate-income families and individuals.

GLCAC's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program includes a team of IRS-certified volunteers that provides free basic federal and state income tax return preparation to qualified individuals. The program runs from Feb. 1, 2021 through April 15, 2021.

VITA is available to qualifying individuals generally earning \$65,000 or less, persons with disabilities and limited-English-speaking taxpayers.

"Our experienced team helps clients claim valuable tax credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Care Credit – savings that help lift millions of hard-working Americans out of poverty each year," said GLCAC's Executive Director Evelyn Friedman. "This year, more than ever, we want to help people keep more of their hard-earned money."

VITA volunteers are not meeting with clients in person this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Clients can submit required paperwork electronically through GLCAC's tax website, www.getyourrefund.org/glcac beginning Feb. 1. Volunteers will begin processing returns Feb. 12.

Documents can also be dropped off at several locations, including new partner sites.

They are:
 * GLCAC's Help Desk, 305 Essex St., Lawrence, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or in a secure drop box outside the offices, Feb. 1-April 15.

* Hands to Help, 60 Island St., Suite 310, Lawrence, Monday through Friday, Feb. 12-April 15.

* CTI, 17 Kirk St., Lowell, Saturdays only, Feb. 6-April 10.

Please visit the VITA page of GLCAC's website, www.glcac.org for a list of all required documents.

For more information, clients can reach GLCAC at 978-620-4762; Hands to Help at 978-764-699; and CTI at 978-341-3702.

GLCAC is a multi-faceted social services agency that assists more than 32,000 individuals through a range of programs including early childhood education, fuel assistance, WIC nutrition assistance, immigration services, lead poisoning prevention, child abuse prevention, English-language lessons, and consumer protection.

CAMP CONSTITUTION 13TH ANNUAL FAMILY CAMP July 18-23

Camp Constitution's 13th annual family camp will run from Sunday July 18 to Friday July 23. This year's camp returns to the Singing Hills Christian Camp and Conference Center in Plainfield, NH <https://www.singinehills.net/>. Instructors include author and journalist Alex Newman; Attorney Jonathan Alexandre of Liberty Council; Debbie Bacigalupi, an expert on Agenda 21; atmospheric scientist, Professor Willie *Soon; Constitutional expert, Mrs. Catherine; Rev. Steve Craft, and Pastor David Whitney of the Institute on the Constitution <https://theamericanview.com/>. Returning to run the Junior Patriot program is Mrs. Edith Craft. In addition to the classes, attendees have recreation opportunities which include swimming, marksmanship, basketball,



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volleyball, chess tournaments, martial arts, campfire, hiking and a field trip to the Calvin Coolidge Homestead nearby Plymouth, VT, and plenty of good, wholesome fun.

Our family camp is open to entire families, unaccompanied minors from 12 to 17, and adults- staff and non-staff. The cost for campers 13 and older and non-staff adults is \$300. Camper 4-12- \$200. Children three and under- free-must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Staffers \$250. A \$50. "Early Bird" discount is available for each tuition for those who register by June 1. The tuition includes lodging, meals, and materials. We encourage early registrations to insure availability: <http://campconstitution.net/camp-registration/> Fill it out, make a copy with a check payable out to Camp Constitution and send it to Mr. Charlie Everett by E-mail halleckeverett@gmail.com or by mail: 5945 Quail Hollow Road, Unit D Charlotte, NC 28210-5028.

Payments may also be made via our PayPal account accessed from our website's home page <http://campconstitution.net/>. Not able to attend camp but would love to help send a worthy young person or family to camp? Please consider donating. For questions or more information, please feel free to contact me by phone: 857-498-1309 or E-mail campconstitution1@gmail.com.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS
 MVCC Virtual Conversation with Acting Lawrence Mayor Kendrys Vasquez

Friday, February 19, 2021 Noon – 1PM
 The MVCC invites you to attend our virtual conversation with Lawrence

NOTEBOOK: NEXT PAGE

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Covanta; Eastern Bank; Lowell Five Bank; Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce Means Business Program; National Grid; UniCare

\$5 for MEMBERS

\$10 for FUTURE MEMBERS

Registration is required to attend. Webinar link will be sent within 24 hours of registration. Register at merrimackvalleychamber.com

Did you know that webinars can also be viewed with your co-workers? Make this a professional development opportunity for you or your whole team!

MVCC Virtual Business Networking
Wednesday, February 24th, Noon - 1pm!

Make one on one Business Connections virtually with MVCC Speed Networking!

CONNECT - EXCHANGE - PROMOTE

The program format will be a speed networking event with break out rooms to help you open the door to new business connections. You will connect with other professionals 1-1, gain visibility in the Merrimack Valley and discuss your products/services with others. All participants will be sent contact information from the other attendees to continue relationship building after the event!

FREE for MEMBERS and \$5 for all FUTURE MEMBERS to register.

Register at merrimackvalleychamber.com or call 978-686-0900

Sponsorships are available – call Michael Bevilacqua at 978-686-0900 or email: Michael.bevilacqua@merrimackvalleychamber.com

Webinar link will be provided through email within 24 hours of registration

Did you know that webinars can also be viewed with your co-workers? Make this a professional development opportunity for you or your whole team!

MVCC Virtual Women in Business Program with Susan Leger Ferraro, Humanitarian and CEO of Imagine That,

G3, Inspirational Ones, & Peace Love & Happiness Real – “Advice for Women in Business”

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 Noon – 1PM

Attend this Women in Business Program with the MVCC to hear Susan discuss balancing work and family life and offer advice to fellow women in business.

Open to All! \$5 for MEMBERS and \$10 for all FUTURE MEMBERS to register.

Register at merrimackvalleychamber.com or call 978-686-0900

Thank you to our Sponsor to date: The Savings Bank and Merrimack Valley Chamber Means Business Program. Sponsorships are available – call Michael Bevilacqua at 978-686-0900 or email: Michael.bevilacqua@merrimackvalleychamber.com

Webinar link will be provided through email within 24 hours of registration.

MVCC Networking at Noon Luncheon at Shadi’s

Thursday, March 11th, Noon – 1:15PM
585 Chickering Rd, North Andover, MA

Join the MVCC for lunch at Shadi’s. Includes complimentary soft drinks and your choice of one of the following: Arabic Platter, Baked Haddock, or Chicken Kabob. Each meal served with salad, Rice pilaf, and French fries

MVCC Members: \$20

Future Members: \$30

Please wear a mask when entering and exiting the facility. Attendance is limited, register today: merrimackvalleychamber.com or call 978-686-0900. All COVID-19 Re-opening guidelines will be followed by restaurant.

Thank you to our Sponsor to date: A.P. Michaud Insurance Agency, Inc. Sponsorships are available – call Michael Bevilacqua at 978-686-0900 or email: Michael.bevilacqua@merrimackvalleychamber.com

MVCC Virtual Business Networking
Friday, March 12st– 10am-11am!

Make one on one Business Connections virtually with MVCC Speed Networking!

Connect with us on social media! Facebook, Instagram, YouTube &

NOTEBOOK: PAGE 14

Methuen Mayor Announces MASSWORKS Grant

Methuen Mayor Neil Perry is pleased to announce that the City has received state funding to further enhance the economic development of the downtown area by improving the transportation and parking infrastructure on Charles and Lawrence Streets.

Gov. Charlie Baker, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito and Secretary Mike Kenneally of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development announced on Thursday November 19th that the City of Methuen will receive \$990,000 in the form of a MassWorks Infrastructure Grant to re-build the Charles Street retaining wall and improve the transportation infrastructure along these streets including upgrades to the Lawrence Street public parking lot.

This project is expected to help bring new housing to the area as well as support for small businesses in the neighborhood

that rely on public parking. This project proposes to directly support the continued success of Downtown Revitalization efforts through the rebuilding of the damaged retaining wall in the heart of Downtown Methuen.

The stabilization of this critical infrastructure will lead directly to the creation and preservation of 54 parking spaces in the Lawrence Street Public Parking Lot and along Charles Street, 8 units of housing on Charles St. and Osgood St., and 6,000 square feet of new commercial space for small businesses and a restaurant. It will also result in the continued economic development of the historic downtown by relieving the increasing stress that new development is placing on the dwindling supply of public parking.

MASSWORKS: PAGE 7

PERRY FROM PAGE 5

every two weeks, except for Councilor Finocchiaro - and that is by her choice, not mine. So, there have been claims (by her) that I have intimidated her, physically or otherwise, and that I did some unlawful activity. That’s not true. Then the other night she made the statement that I am not going to call you a liar or go back and forth.... and then she called me a liar and went back and forth. The public needs to understand that, whether it’s Steve Saba or Jessica Finocchiaro who is council chair, I do not care and I don’t get involved. It makes no difference to me. I will work with whoever they decide to elect. I did not get actively involved in who got elected last year. Nor did I get actively involved in who got elected this year. Nor does it matter to me.”

Perry says that some councilors use the council meetings to try and embarrass him. As one example, he pointed to the City Council changing the order of items on their agenda the day it was revealed that he was not giving hazard pay to teachers.

“Now, I will say (ask) publicly, was the city council agenda moved around the other night to embarrass me? Absolutely! I’m naïve as a politician, but I’m not naïve. But, I wish we could put that all aside. The citizens of this city are ready for change. We’ve got bigger fish to fry.”

“Another claim that was made publicly is that we never used this blended rate for the commercial and residential tax rate. You’ve got to be kidding me! Don’t take this mayor’s word for it, it’s been like that for ten years! Yet, a statement is made out there for public consumption that this is the first time we’ve ever done it this way. No, that’s factually not true.”

CORRECTING THE RECORD

Perry says that one of the obstacles to getting his job done is the misinformation that people get from the daily paper. He pointed out a number of things that he says have been falsely reported that were never corrected even after he gave them the right information.

“Look at the DPW situation that was wrongly reported by the Trib. And I say this candidly, I know the truth. I know the facts, I know the discipline. I am the one who gives out the discipline. About eight-tenths of what was in that story in the Trib was wrong. So, where’s the retraction? Where is the responsibility of journalism to come out and say we booted it (got it wrong)?”

“Now the hazard stipend I gave out has

replaced the IG report on the front page again the other day, there I am and it’s wrong.”

“I am responsible for the hazard pay, not the council. I understand that people are upset with my decision (not to give hazard pay to teachers). You have to walk in my shoes and understand what I understand before you get upset with me. And that still does not take away your right to be upset with me.”

“But the Trib still should have gotten it right.”

“In the paper the other day, they said Chief Solomon got the hazard pay. No he did not. Nor did the fire chief, nor did the mayor. But that was in the Tribune.”

RUNNING AGAIN

Mayor Perry says that he is going to run this year for a second term, but that he will not seek another term after that. The Methuen charter limits the mayor’s position to three, two-year terms. Why make the decision now to limit himself to two terms?

“I have to admit, there are days when I think about whether or not I should be running again (this year), but I think the city does need consistency. There are things that the pandemic impacted that I haven’t been able to get done, that I committed to do. But, I’m not running for three terms. I would say this, it’s a difficult job and it wears on you physically and mentally. I’m no spring chicken. I probably shouldn’t have said I won’t run for a third term but that’s where I am now.”

“I say candidly I haven’t done a perfect job as mayor in the first year. It’s been a learning experience for me and I have made mistakes but I have also done some really good things for the city. I intend to keep that going here in the second year.”

GOALS FOR THIS YEAR

Perry says he has started working on a capital improvement plan adding that he hopes to have it done by the end of the year.

“We need to buy new police vehicles; the last time we bought was 2017,” he added.

Perry also says he is “dusting off the Collins center plan,” as he wasn’t able to do that last year because there was no money.

“But, we are going to prepare it this year and see what the situation is and try and make a common sense decision.” ♦

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Lawrence, Methuen Men Indicted on Fraud Charges Involving SBA Disaster Funds

BOSTON – A Lawrence man and a Methuen man were indicted yesterday by a federal grand jury in connection with a scheme involving the use of stolen identities to fraudulently obtain Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the Small Business Administration (SBA) and to launder the funds.

Darwyn Joseph, 24, of Lawrence, and Ramon Joseph Cruz, Jr., 24, of Methuen, were each indicted on one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, four counts of wire fraud and aiding and abetting and one count of aggravated identity theft. The defendants were charged by criminal complaint and arrested in December 2020.

According to the charging documents, the defendants were involved in a conspiracy to use stolen identity information of United States citizens to apply for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans. Specifically, Joseph and Cruz used stolen identity information of U.S. citizens to open fraudulent bank accounts which were then linked to other fraudulent bank accounts set up to receive the SBA funds. Joseph and Cruz also received through the mail some of the debit cards associated with fraudulent bank accounts into which SBA funds were deposited, and then laundered those funds by using them to

purchase large numbers of iPhones for resale. Joseph and Cruz also wired a portion of the funds to the Dominican Republic in furtherance of the scheme.

It is alleged that over \$452,000 in SBA funds were fraudulently obtained in connection with this scheme. Approximately \$250,000 of this money was used to purchase iPhones in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

The charges of wire fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud provide for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss from the offense. The charge of aggravated identity theft carries a mandatory two-year sentence that must run consecutively to any other sentence imposed, up to one year of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based on the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling and William S. Walker, Acting Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Boston made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Elianna Nuzum and Adam Deitch of Lelling's Major Crimes Unit are prosecuting the case. ◇



Public Health Museum Open for Indoor Tours

The Public Health Museum in Massachusetts is welcoming back visitors, albeit in a slightly different, socially-distanced manner. The museum is offering timed entry tours limited to two per day. "Our volunteers will remain safely spaced and masked as they guide visitors through our exhibits" said Sandra Price, the museum's Coordinator of Volunteer Engagement.

Through original artifacts, memorabilia, and archival materials, the museum explores the history of public health in America and the story of Tewksbury Hospital, one of the first public health hospitals in the country. Started as an almshouse in 1854, the hospital was home for a short time to Anne Sullivan, Helen Keller's teacher.

Museum exhibits include Infectious Diseases, Patent Medicines, Food Safety and Pasteurization, early Mental Health,

Nursing/Education, and early Dentistry. Well preserved WPA art posters and murals frame the museum's walls.

The Public Health Museum is a non-profit educational and cultural institution dedicated to public health history. The Museum also serves as a resource to the community, exploring public health initiatives that address current health issues with online content and programming for high school students interested in public health careers. The museum partners with libraries and senior centers to bring its programs to the community.

Tours are by reservation only, limited to three persons per hour. Please visit our sign up for a list of available dates and times, and our COVID-19 modified tour guidelines. <https://bit.ly/3myD75o> ◇

DiZoglio Bill Calls for a COVID-19 Preregistration in MA

Under a new bill filed by State Senator Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen), the Commonwealth of Massachusetts would be required to provide for pre-registration regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.

Senate Docket 709, An Act relative to COVID-19 vaccination preregistration, tasks the state's Department of Public Health with establishing a centralized system for residents to pre-register. Vaccines would be distributed to persons based on which phase they fall under.

DiZoglio's bill comes on the heels of rampant frustration among Massachusetts residents with the state's rollout of the vaccine, in particular the Commonwealth's vaccine website, which has left many spending hours in search of an appointment, only to hit a dead end.

Should the bill be signed into law, it will join several U.S. states, including Florida, New Jersey, and West Virginia, that have produced a vaccine preregistration tool for residents to

utilize. Moreover, several municipalities in Massachusetts, including the Towns of Cohasset and Hingham, have proceeded with similar preregistration systems at the local level.

"We need to get ahead of this pandemic instead of continuing to chase after it," said DiZoglio. "The vaccine rollout has been less than ideal but we can ensure that the frustration experienced by the first group of eligible recipients is not replicated during subsequent phases of the vaccine distribution plan. We can do that by giving all Massachusetts residents the opportunity to establish eligibility and preregister for the vaccine instead of spending time and energy trying to schedule appointments whose availability is determined by the vaccine supply chain.

A centralized state-level preregistration system would provide residents a way to effectively hold their space in line and alert them to available appointments as their vaccination eligibility phase opens." ◇

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COLIZZI MEMORIALS

Kane's Tour of Clear Path for Veterans New England

Kane felt privileged to tour Clear Path for Veterans New England to learn about the numerous ways the program assists Veterans in building upon their many strengths to create a well lived and balanced life, after honoring their country in the military. The program provides direct and indirect programs and services to members of the Veteran, Active Duty, Reserve, and Guard community as well as their families. He was pleased to meet with Vice President Donna Bulger and Peer Program Lead Brendon Bregal for his informational session and tour. Clear Path for Veterans New England is nestled in Fort Devens in Ayer, MA in a recently purchased (2017) and rehabilitated building with lots of light and space to explore a variety of veteran interests, vocational culinary professions, wellness, and self-care opportunities. Kane thought the building was beautiful especially since there is a Dogs2Vets program for dog obedience and service dog training. These specialized programs allow the participants to bring their own pups for training, while networking and socializing with other participating veterans.

A key component of the program is peer support and wellness exploration. Participating veterans have the opportunity to meet privately with Peer Program Lead Brendan Bregal who is dedicated to helping fellow veterans find joy and wellness in the civilian world after serving their country. Kane knows that the ability to relate to your mentor is the key component in peer mentoring services. Since Brendan is a veteran himself, he is very well suited to understand the challenges veterans experience after deployments and acclimating back into civilian life. Brendan explained that what helps the program stand out is including the veteran's family in the programming. According to Brandan, families are welcome to enjoy meals and program activities with their participating veteran. Kane likes this idea since he enjoys hanging out with his family too. Strengthening the family unit and communication creates a supportive environment for the veteran to grow towards their life desires and goals. Family members have the opportunity to attend training workshops on what it's like to be in the military and how to best support your loved one through specific challenges.

Since Kane wasn't in obedience school during his visit, he toured the facility on a loose line. He was impressed by the teaching kitchen as part of the Working Warrior program with lots of room to

learn culinary arts and meal preparation. Secretly when the humans were not looking, he shopped for crumbs but didn't find anything since the floor was so clean. Next, we went into a large dining area where veterans could spend time eating together and meeting other veterans and their families. He thought what a nice place for participants to hang out with peers who have had similar experiences in the military. He imagined people coming in to learn the varied aspects of the restaurant industry then going out to use these skills in a local restaurant. This is quite a "win win" for the veteran and the lucky business that hires them.

On our way upstairs out of the middle of nowhere a beautiful girl dog appeared. She was yellow and young, like me, and Kane truly couldn't believe his eyes. Kane said, "I tried to be polite but kept staring at her then she started talking and I didn't know what to say, I was feeling shy, then she was gone out the door. I didn't mind that she talked a lot, being a man of few words." Hopefully some time I will see her again. I learned from Donna that she was a 6-month old Yellow Labrador Retriever and participating in the service dog training, with 5 other dogs.

Next we toured the many wellness rooms upstairs. There were specific rooms for the creative process to explore art, meditation, massage, and yoga to name a few. Kane was excited to learn that community volunteers that specialize in these areas will donate their time to provide these services. Kane is familiar with massage. He likes to have his paws massaged as a way to calm himself before bed. He also likes yoga but thinks he is a bit more interactive during class than his humans would like him to be. Still, he downward dogs better than them.

You may ask why wellness? Well research shows that mindfulness, or the ability to find the present moment allows one to experience the life they are living in the moment instead of perseverating about the past or worrying about the future. Recent trauma research shows that the brain changes from the experience of traumatic events but creativity, yoga, mindfulness and other practices may assist with helping the brain heal. As many of you know our military members as a population may experience trauma during their time in service so learning these skills is a helpful means to heal the body and mind from past experiences.

Next we went downstairs to where obedience and service dog training takes place. (Dogs2Vets) What a beautiful facility for veterans and their dogs to



bond and learn how to navigate their best life together. When a participant finishes all aspects of obedience school they are eligible for their canine good citizen certificate and other dogs are working to be certified through the Service dog program. Since dogs are family, the family is also involved in the process. This program is currently up and running. Brendan let Kane sniff around the area a bit. Kane said he tried to leave his scent on a pole where the cute little yellow dog may have been, but that was shot down by the humans. Sometimes I think they read my mind, really it's just like leaving my phone number.

Donna explained to us about The Family Force Adopt a Family Program. Kane learned that 27% of veteran families, including veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, struggle to put food on the table. For \$10 dollars per month, community members may provide holiday food to local New England families. Each box contains the fixings to have a holiday meal for 4 to 6 people. If you would like to participate go to www.clearpathne.org/programs/family-force to learn how you can help. Family force

programming also includes education on topics such as PTSD, Resiliency, and Healthy living. Other components of the program include community service, fundraising, and of course socializing and having fun together.

In conclusion Kane wanted to mention the program has an inviting feel to it. This was his first inside interview since becoming a columnist for the Valley Patriot. The staff is excited about their resources and a few people in the hallways said hello to him by name. He provided them with a mask kiss because he was feeling included and comfortable. If you are a veteran or community member looking to give back to a population that has done so much for our country, reach out to see how you may be of service. If you are a veteran or military member interested in learning about any of the programs you will be greeted with warmth and acceptance. How do you connect with Clear Path for Veterans New England call 978-384-8800 or email at info@clearpathne.org. Kane Peaslee, Columnist the Valley Patriot, Woof! ♡

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Covid-19 News Across The Valley

Eric Spagnoli
VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER

Although COVID-19 cases continue to rise, certain towns have adopted cautious optimism, as trends improve in some areas and some have received their first shipments of vaccines.

As of February 4th, Lawrence has reported 73 new positive cases, while the total number of COVID deaths stands at 220.

The office of Mayor Vasquez also announced last week that the city has established a call center for vaccination appointments.

The call center will provide citizens with assistance in English and Spanish. It is specifically aimed to help Lawrence residents aged 75 or older.

The city currently has a vaccination site at the South Lawrence East School, and officials are actively looking to open a second location.

Meanwhile, North Andover has only reported 8 new cases this month and 1 recovery as of February 4th. The total number of COVID deaths in this town remains steady at 81. The number of active cases stands at 125, a total of 2,099 residents have recovered from the virus so far.

Town employees have begun calling residents aged 75 or older to register them for vaccinations, the first shipments of which have arrived in the previous two weeks.

According to a report released by the office of Mayor Neil Perry on the city's website, Methuen's COVID trends continue to improve. The number of new cases between January 24 - 30 stands at 189, which is a 29% decrease from the previous week. In addition, the number of recoveries has exceeded the number of new cases for the third consecutive week, which is the city's best weekly trend improvement since September, 2020.

Methuen also launched a vaccination clinic for residents aged 75 and over on February 6th. Despite the gradual improvement, the report warns citizens against overconfidence.

Mayor Perry says the demand for vaccines far outweighs the number of doses they have and will receive. Perry says that there is a waiting list and would like the state to provide more doses.

In Haverhill, the positivity rate amongst residents is 8.78%, which is down from 10.4% in the previous week.

According to an update posted to the city's website, the number of new cases on February 1st was 22, while the total number of deaths stands at 97, and the total number of recoveries is 6,389.

The first 100 shots of the Moderna vaccines were delivered to Haverhill this week. Appointments to receive the vaccine were made available to citizens aged 75 or older on Wednesday. The first rounds of the vaccine were administered to these residents at the Citizens Center on Friday.

Dracut, on the other hand, has seen 233 new cases in the last 14 days as of February 4th. This puts the town's total number of cases at 2,796.

These COVID statistics highlight the severity of the virus in certain cities and towns, while others, especially those who have received the vaccine, have cause to look forward to the future. The numbers of vaccinated residents will likely be available in the coming weeks.

Until then, standard COVID practices, such as social distancing and mask-wearing, remain in place.



Eric Spagnoli is a Senior English and Communication student at Saint Anselm College in Goffstown, NH. He is an aspiring journalist with a passion for sports, comedy, and public service. You can email him: espagnoli@Anselm.Edu



Methuen Village resident Herb Muller receives his first dose of the vaccine.

Methuen Village Holds COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic for Residents and Staff

On Thursday, January 21st, residents and staff of Methuen Village were able to get their first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine.

The vaccines were administered by CVS Health/Omnicare through an arrangement between the healthcare company and Senior Living Residences of Braintree, MA, which manages Methuen Village.

"This was a very exciting day for our residents and our entire team, who have sacrificed so much during this pandemic" said Tracy Valletti, the community's Executive Director. "We're very thankful that Assisted Living communities are being prioritized to receive the vaccine, and we're already looking forward to our next clinic in February!"

After receiving their first dose of

the Pfizer vaccine, each person was monitored by a nurse in a waiting area for fifteen minutes. During that time, the mood was upbeat. Many posed for photos or took selfies with their "I Got My Covid-19 Vaccine" stickers, and there was a whiteboard where individuals could share their reasons for getting vaccinated. Methuen Village had also set up a COVID-19 piñata for residents and staff to have a little bit of fun.

"It was a really special day for our entire community, and one we definitely won't forget," said Valletti. Methuen Village is an Assisted Living and Compass Memory Support Community located in Methuen, MA. For more information, please visit www.MethuenVillage.com.

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2017 Lawrence High Grad Earns Oprah Winfrey Scholarship

Jeurys Santiago is a 2020 NECC Grad

Television talk show host and author Oprah Winfrey is helping Jeurys Santiago, a 2020 Northern Essex Community College Business Transfer graduate, to continue his studies at UMass Lowell.

Santiago, a 2017 Lawrence High School graduate, was awarded the Oprah Winfrey Scholarship, which will provide him with \$5,000 a year while he attends UMass Lowell, working on his bachelor's in business with a focus on entrepreneurship in the Honors College. He will start this semester.

Santiago was nominated for the scholarship by staff in the Northern Essex PACE Program, a federally funded student support program which he participated in. When he first received his congratulatory email, he thought it might be a joke, since he didn't know he had been nominated. "I was super happy. Things like that don't happen to everyone. Who doesn't know Oprah."

The scholarship was created after Winfrey spoke at a 2018 UMass Lowell event that raised \$1.5 million for scholarships through ticket sales and sponsorships. Winfrey matched that figure with another \$1.5 million to create a \$3 million scholarship fund.

Recipients of the Oprah Winfrey Scholarship are selected based on academic need and commitment to academic achievement.

Santiago has always been an entrepreneur, selling bracelets and hats from his father's barber shop in New York City and Yu-Gi-Oh cards as a kid.

Last year, he started his own business, Minds with a Purpose, a networking platform designed to bring together the Lawrence community including local businesses to do "good works" in the city.

He organized a "giveback challenge" which encouraged good deeds that were shared on social media; "A Merry Christmas Giveaway", which supplied 70 people in need with winter clothing; and "Music Mondays", events showcasing the talents of local performers.

Because most Minds with a Purpose initiatives were focused on live events, he had to change course when the pandemic hit.

For now, his focus is on helping business owners and performing artists market their businesses on digital



channels such as social media; marketing his new clothing brand through 35 brand ambassadors located throughout the country; and launching a new podcast featuring conversations with successful entrepreneurs.

While at Northern Essex, Santiago participated in National Leadership Society; the Civic Scholars Program, which provides an opportunity for students to explore and grow their civic knowledge and skills; and the Alpha Beta Gamma business honors society. He also had an internship with the college's Athletic Department, where he ran the department's social media accounts and created photography and videos.

Santiago is excited about the direction his life is taking. "It would not have been possible without Northern Essex and its amazing teachers. I don't regret not starting at a four-year college."

He's also happy that financial aid and scholarships covered the full cost of his education at Northern Essex.

After receiving the scholarship, Santiago sent Oprah a personal thank you, sharing his goals and his desire to meet her.

As Santiago has learned, anything is possible. "I put out the positive energy and who knows what will happen."

Northern Essex offers a Business Transfer Associate Degree which can be transferred easily into bachelor's degree programs at college's such as UMass Lowell, UMass Amherst, Merrimack, Salem State, Boston University, and more. The college also offers associate degrees in Accounting, Business Management, Business Management: Healthcare Practice, and Hospitality Management as well as a Culinary Arts certificate. [U](#)

Former Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera Endorses Vilma Martínez-Domínguez for Mayor

Vilma Martínez-Domínguez's campaign for Mayor announced that former Mayor Dan Rivera has endorsed her campaign

"I've known Vilma for years, first as an advocate for our most vulnerable families, and now as a public servant for our city," Said Rivera. "She will be a fighter for all of Lawrence, and I'm proud to endorse her campaign for Mayor."

The endorsement comes on the heels of Martínez-Domínguez formally launching her bid for the Mayor's office this year with the release of a new campaign video. Martínez-Domínguez' campaign for Mayor is also leading the pack in fundraising, with over \$60,000 raised to this date.

"Mayor Rivera has been a steadfast champion for Lawrence's working families and small businesses, and his leadership will be sorely missed," Said Martínez-Domínguez. "I'm honored to have earned Mayor Rivera's support in my campaign for Mayor, and I look forward to building upon the progress he's made across this great city."

Martínez-Domínguez's campaign has committed to building a broad coalition of support, ranging from activists, business leaders, and elected officials

in Lawrence and across the Merrimack Valley.

About Vilma Martínez-Domínguez: Vilma and her family arrived in Lawrence from the Dominican Republic in the early 1990s, and her desire to provide a better life for her family fueled her dreams and aspirations. A former student of Northern Essex Community College, and a graduate of Springfield College and the Institute of Nonprofit Practice's Core Certificate Program in partnership with the Tisch College at Tufts University, Vilma was propelled to a life of community service.

Vilma's running for Mayor because she believes that residents deserve to live in a city where every person and every family has access to opportunities that help them meet their fullest potential.

Vilma is married to Luis Martínez, her partner of 16 years. She is the mother of three adult children, Pavielle, Luis Jr., and Abner, and grandmother to six year old Niah. Vilma and her extended family are proud residents of the City of Lawrence.

[Learn more at www.vilmaformayor.com](http://www.vilmaformayor.com)

Lupoli Companies Begin Pre-Leasing Final Phase of Riverwalk Lofts

LAWRENCE, MA, Lupoli Companies has begun pre-leasing the final phase of Riverwalk Lofts, a luxury loft community located in Lawrence, Massachusetts on the North Andover line. The final phase will feature 338 brand new loft apartments, which completes the Riverwalk Lofts community, bringing the total number of units in the community to almost 600.

Riverwalk Lofts offers a luxury living experience that blends modern design with a historic setting. The final phase of units will feature sprawling 16-foot ceilings, 12-foot windows, exposed brick, quartz countertops, hardwood floors, custom cabinetry and spacious second floor mezzanine lofts. The community will offer an abundance of amenities including two fitness centers, a wine and coffee bar, game room, semi-private work areas, conference rooms, private dining areas for entertaining, covered parking, rooftop patio and grilling area, and much more.

Situated on the west side of the sprawling fifty-acre Riverwalk Innovation District, Riverwalk Lofts truly offers a one-of-a-kind live, work, play experience. This unique neighborhood has slowly grown over the past twenty years and has transformed into a destination in and of itself. With restaurants, cafes, spas, salons, banks, medical offices and more located right on campus, residents at Riverwalk Lofts have everything they need just steps from their door.

This summer, Lupoli Companies plans to open The Pavilion at Riverwalk,

featuring a 1,250 car parking garage, cafes and retail stores, an upscale restaurant and function facility, Class A office space and a regulation sized football field and track on the roof. Residents of Riverwalk Lofts will be able to walk from their home across a connector bridge bringing them right to the amenities at The Pavilion. With the addition of The Pavilion and more exciting plans for the Riverwalk Innovation District, this unique neighborhood is on-track to become "the new main street".

While there is plenty to do at Riverwalk, the community is also conveniently located only 10 minutes from beautiful downtown Andover - a quaint downtown with restaurants, shops and cafes. Riverwalk Lofts is also only 20 minutes from the New Hampshire border, offering easy access to tax-free shopping at the Rockingham Mall and Tuscan Village, skiing, walking trails and more.

Residents looking for a transit-oriented community will enjoy immediate access to the MBTA commuter rail to Boston, located directly adjacent to the Riverwalk campus. The property is also located directly off I-495 and just minutes from I-93.

Units in the final phase of Riverwalk Lofts start at \$2,000 and sizes range from 866 square feet to 1,544 square feet for studio, one bedroom and 2 bedroom units. To learn more, view photos and check availability, please visit www.theriverwalklofts.com. [D](#)

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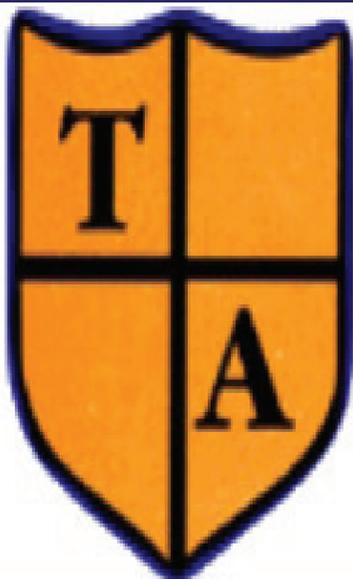
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MISSIONS 2021 FOOD DRIVE

We are starting the new year getting ready to help and bring joy to those in need. We want to invite you to be part of our next Missionary event by donating the necessary items to complete our food drive. Here is a list of what we want to collect:



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info@houseofmercy.lawrence.com

GRAINS

- Rice
- Oatmeal
- Cereals
- Granola bars
- Canned or dried beans
- Pasta
- Flour

VEGETABLES (canned)

- Beans
- Green beans
- Corn
- Peas
- Mixed veggies
- Carrots
- Tomatoes
- Tomato sauce
- Pasta sauce

FRUITS

- Canned fruits
- Apple sauce
- Dried fruits

NUTS

- Peanuts
- Pecans
- Almonds
- Peanut butter

MEATS (canned)

- Chicken
- Tuna
- Salmon
- Spam
- Cornbeef
- Ham

SOUPS & STEWS

- Dried ramen noodles
- Canned stews
- Chili

MILK

- Powdered milk
- Canned evaporated milk
- Baby formula

MISCELLANEOUS

- Cooking oil
- Olive oil
- Salt
- Sugar

IMPORTANT:

Most people do not own a microwave. **DO NOT** buy instant products that will require a microwave to prepare.
THANK YOU!



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CP4VNE is continually serving our Service Members, Veterans, and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. To date we have provided over **14,000** Food4Vets food supply kits in partnership with Massachusetts Military Support Foundation across New England including Middlesex, Essex, Rockingham, and Hillsborough counties.

To further support our mission [click here to donate](#).

To learn more about our programs, workshops, and upcoming events visit us at clearpathne.org or by scanning the QR code below with your smartphone.



NOTEBOOK: FROM PAGE 7

LinkedIn - @MerrimackValleyChamber or Twitter - @MVChamber. Visit our website to learn more: www.merrimackvalleychamber.com

POLICE AND STATE TROOPER EXAM

This examination is being held to establish an eligible list from which to fill Police Officer vacancies in Civil Service Municipal Police Departments and the MBTA Transit Police in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and State Trooper vacancies in the Massachusetts Department of State Police.

Please note that this posting includes information specific to the positions of Police Officer and State Trooper; please read carefully as the requirements for these positions may differ.

Application Period Begins: Jan 27th
Application Deadline: April 20, 2021*
Notices to Appear for Written

Exam: TBD; See the Next Step below.
Written Examination Beginning Date: June 12, 2021
Score Release Date: TBD
Employment/Experience (E/E) Last Day to Appeal: TBD
Eligible List Established Date: TBD
Examination Processing Fee for ONLY Municipal Police and MBTA Transit Police: \$100
Examination Processing Fee for ONLY State Trooper: \$100
Examination Processing Fee for Municipal Police, Transit Police AND State Trooper: \$150
*There is an additional \$50 late fee for applications received after this date.
Applications will not be accepted after May 4, 2021.

Written examination location: Various sites across the Commonwealth
Eligibility: Entry-level, open to public



Jackson Lumber & Millwork Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Headquartered in Lawrence, Massachusetts, family owned and operated since 1946, Jackson Lumber & Millwork serves contractors, remodelers, and homeowners throughout eastern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire.

Owned and operated by the Torrisi family since 1946, the company celebrates its 75-year milestone this year.

Founded by Joseph A. Torrisi, the company started at a small site on Jackson Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts, in 1946. Joe recognized the building materials supply business opportunity created by the post-World War II building boom. Named Jackson Lumber for the street where it was located, the company quickly outgrew the initial location and moved to Market Street, where they could spread out over an entire city block. Innovative for that time, the property included a drive-through lumber yard and a rail spur to facilitate lumber delivery by rail.

Throughout the ups and downs of the national, regional, and local economy, Jackson Lumber & Millwork enjoyed steady growth under the Torrisi family leadership. Today, the company has a millwork manufacturing facility in Raymond, NH,

lumber yards and retail stores in Amesbury, Massachusetts, Woburn, Massachusetts, and Lawrence, Massachusetts, as well as a state-of-the-art kitchen design showroom in North Andover, MA. Joe's son, Al Torrisi, was at the company helm for 30 years before he passed control of Jackson Lumber & Millwork to the third generation of family leadership in 2012.

Current Jackson president, Mark Torrisi, is committed to continuing the company mission to "provide customers with quality products, services & solutions on-time and in-full every day." The Torrisi family management team is known for incorporating innovative business practices to produce better outcomes for their customers. One of the premier building materials and supply firms in New England, Jackson Lumber was recognized in 2014 as the National ProSales Dealer of the Year, becoming the first New England dealer to be so recognized.

After 75 years in business, Jackson Lumber & Millwork and the Torrisi family continue their commitment to stay close to their customers and help them with their project needs, to give back to their communities, and to actively participate in lumber industry associations.

MASSWORKS: FROM 7

Methuen Representative Linda Dean Campbell, whose office has been instrumental in bringing many public dollars to the City, was very happy to hear of the successful application.

"This very significant state grant is both very exciting and important to the City of Methuen as it gives us even more momentum to continue downtown redevelopment. The MassWorks grant program is one of the most important programs funded by the Legislature as it provides the funding to launch excellent programs that have been well planned by our communities. Congratulations to Methuen for presenting a great application!"

The MassWorks Infrastructure Program

is a competitive grant program for municipalities, and other eligible public entities, investing in public infrastructure projects. MassWorks is the largest and most flexible source of capital funds the Commonwealth makes available to municipalities.

The goal of the program is to provide State support to infrastructure projects that also achieve economic development by accelerating housing production, spurring private development, and creating jobs throughout the Commonwealth. The Department of Economic and Community Development expects that construction will begin in summer 2021 and will be complete by the fall of 2022. ♦

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Property Sales, Foreclosures for January, 2021 in Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover. (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, price, address.)



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of Massachusetts

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William P & Rosemarie Squeglia/
Rosemarie Diccico, Christopher Michael
& Amanda Jean Ott, 805,000, 4 Tobey Ln
Jason White/Jason R White &
Jacquelyn White/Jacquelyn DM White,
Timothy Meho, 715,000, 33 High Plain
Rd

Carlos A Madrid, Yu-Chieh Tsai &
Felix W Rohrer, 645,000, 82 Greenwood
Rd

Robert G Millar III, Corey M Welch
Tr & 9 Countryside Way Realty Trust,
578,000, 9 Countryside Wy

Martha Porter, Andrew S Dalbec,
225,500, Colonial Dr Unit A1-9

Lienchu McGuire, James Luks,
215,000, 20 Washington Park Dr Unit 11
Ann C & Jeffrey D Liotta, David &
Kimberly Guerriero, 800,000, 59 Wild
Rose Dr

James & Lisa Miller/Lisa Durbeck, Tho
Tran & Mai Nguyen, 705,000, 75 Wild
Rose Dr

Stephen G & Katherine S Johnson,
Edward Cetrone & Leila Souhail,
675,000, 18 Downing St

Martin F Denning & Clifford J Pattullo,
Stephen G & Katherine S Johnson,
875,000, 10 Cheever Cir

Richard A & Julie L Dalton, Kayla L &
Devon L David, 835,000, 16 Paulonette
Cir

Alan S Kao Tr & Charissa M Rigano Tr
& Kao/Rigano Family Revocable Trust,
Joshua & Sarah Galgano, 825,000, 18
Lincoln St

Justin B & Lindsay M Murray,
Christian D & Kristina Loren Olmstead
& Victor & Judith Olmstead, 815,000, 4
Pleasant St

William H Murray Jr & Lynda S
Murray, Justin & Lindsay Murray,
820,000, 8 Ellsworth Rd

Janet A Berberian, Ibram & Fadi

Joulak, 1,800,000, 59 William St
Brigitte Duborg Revocable Trust &
Brigitte Duborg Tr & Jens Duborg Tr,
David & Isabelle Celine Bravet, 664,000,
377 High Plain Rd

Michael L & Sharon L Hone, Mark J &
Catherine S Boullie Trs & Boullie Family
Investment Trust, 975,000, 7 Bobby Jones
Dr Unit 11-1

Darpan Seth Tr Ind & Darpan Seth
2017 Family Trust, Janina Emilia
Syrotenko, 600,000, 2 Powder Mill Sq
Unit 6B

Salvatore F Stramondo Tr & Salvatore
F Stramondo Family Trust, Indumathi
Pattabiraman & Saravana Soundararajan,
419,900, 172 Haverhill St Unit 235

Sharon M & John R Wade, John Pino &
Molly Miller, 2,125,000, 10 Acorn Dr
SAI Builders LLC, Adam E &
Elizabeth A St Germain, 1,300,000, 12
Belknap Dr

Cindy R Cromer Revocable Trust &
James W Nesteruk Tr & Cindy Cromer
Tr & James W Nesteruk Revocable Trust,
Stephanie Howard, 840,000, 3 Island St

James A & Laura D Danner, Erica
B Fienman & Daniel L Kupferschmid,
665,000, 96 Cross St

Wallace Ferris Jr & Mary N Ferris,
Joseph Park & Younjung Choi, 520,000,
66 Pleasant St

Keith G Watterskog, Andres Felipe
Barreto & Fu-Shan Kuo, 235,000, 40
Colonial Dr Unit 6

Martha Russell, Jonathon & Margarita
Dreyer, 915,000, 11 Azalea Dr

Brandon & Amanda Angiolillo, Elona
Palushaj, 272,500, 247 North Main St
Unit 7

Michael Giberti, Linda Bourgeois,
195,000, B1 Colonial Dr Unit B1-7

Janyce R Ball Tr & J & J Ball Realty
Trust, Michale Murnane, 469,900, 47
Spring Grove Rd

Judith M Towlson/Judy M Towlson,

Diana Collins, 230,000, 96 N Main St
Unit 1

David L Whitley & Ubel Ortega,
Juliana Seminerio & Mark Eramo,
815,000, 216 Beacon St

Brian P & Elizabeth M Shea, Casey &
Sarah Dannolfo, 745,000, 16 Enmore St
YBAH LLC, Marouane Bah,
2,600,000, 65 Central St

Ven H & Armanda K Shui Trs & Shui
2018 Trust, Nicholas & Nicole Cipriano,
718,200, 1 Will O Wy

David H & Roselle S Heckendorn, Alan
Balcom & Katie Loeffler, 560,000, 11
Lincoln St

Neil J & Alison C Senior, George D
Moores Jr & Allysha Moores, 552,000, 14
Alderbrook Rd.

LAWRENCE

Joanne Finnegan, Yashira Cruz &
Rafael I Bermejo Chico, 350,000, 81
William St

Gabriela Castillo-Aguilar & Juan C
Gallego Castillo, Ana Bautista Camilo &
Jesucito Amparo Medina, 350,000, 281
Mount Vernon St

Ramanvir Saini Tr & 186 Broadway
Trust, Estrella Realty Investment LLC,
370,000, 186-188 Broadway

Juanito Infante, Rudleny Abreu,
140,000, 312 Water St Unit 29

Victor A & Adaime Urena, Karina M
Lopez & Victor Esteban Urena, 480,000,
42-44 Arlington St

Patricio & Luz A Hernandez, Ratish
Raj Shrestha & Stela Vaidya, 600,000,
54-56 Dracut St

Donna B Giles, Associate Solutions
LLC, 200,000, 11 Brookfield St

Robert L Marcoux, Heber Bran,
349,900, 50 East Pleasant St

Nicos Papousakis, German Luis &
Rosario Pimental, 297,000, 32 Park St

Anna Maria Hoffman & George D
Michalopoulos Est, Strategic Real Estate

Solutions LLC, 200,000, 38 Berkeley St
Charlotte Veit, Laurence J Zurek Jr &
Lea M Zurek, 150,000, 29 Lynn St

Alex Jimenez, Ana Carolina Villar De
Jimenez, 650,000, 40-42 Cambridge St
Daher Group Inc, Thalys Tanisha
Estevez & Cesar A Batista, 539,900,
Pleasant St

Rita E Teoli Tr & 77 Colonial Road
Realty Trust, Isabel Martinez, 404,000, 77
Colonial Rd

Abigail Santiago, Ashley N Pflug &
Kelvin J Estevez, 273,831, 10-12 Tyler St
Unit 3

Melissa & William Mazola, Cesar A
& Marisol Cordoba, 450,000, 17 Mount
Vernon St

Red E&V Realty LLC, 201 Merrimack
LLC, 8,250,000, 197-201 Merrimack St
Etc

James & Ann Marie Lambert, Kelly J
Gomez Lopez, 415,000, 25 Beaconsfield
St

Melissa Sequinot & Edwin Rodriguez,
Jose H & Bernarda P Velasquez, 390,000,
46 Rollins St

Dario Vargas & Yurdey Rodriguez,
Manuel Osinaldo Soriano Perez & Karen
Esmeralda Soriano de Ramirez, 378,000,
37C-37D Knox St

Timothy M Petty, Gladys Jimenez,
370,000, 15 Adams St

6 Orchard Street Trust & Julianne
Shelzi Tr, Henry Gonzalez, 215,000, 6
Orchard St

E & G Realty Trust & Eddy I Guzman
Tr, Antonio Martinez, 195,000, 204
Walnut St Unit 3

Chantall P Ontivero, Harison Terrero
Payano & Hamilton A Terrero Payano,
597,000, 39-41 Swan St

Emilio Jose Marchena, Johanna R
& Anthony O Villa, 591,000, 327-329
Broadway

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 Wilmen A Lopez, Felix Manuel Roque S R Bautista & Yohanna Maria Aecvedo, 380,000, 35 Washington St
 Imelda Violeta Nauffal Ayingono, Eddy Garcia, 165,000, 86 Beacon St Unit 3
 20 Spring Street Realty Trust & Deirdre A George Tr, Yeison Mora, 145,000, 20 Sprint St
 Renov8 Homes LLC & Jowamar Co LLC, 261-269 Park Street LLC, 960,000, 261-269 Park St
 Jin Won Jun & Young Hee Jun, Rafael R Beato, 577,500, 311-313 Broadway
 Fernando Pena, Yokasty Pena, 250,000, 301 Water St
 Oscar Mahecha Diaz, Cleo P Rivera, 512,000, 154-156 Farnham St
 Johnny Rivas, Wendolie Frias Santos & Jorge Garcia, 400,000, 17 McCarthy Rd
 Willard J Farrell & George P Farrell & Mary Farrell Est & Joseph Farrell & Louis Farrell, George P & Susan Farrell, 300,000, 58 Thorndike St
 Maria Ventura, David Martinez & Ingrid A Mercedes, 535,000, 91-93 Railroad St
 Maggy Mendoza, Ricardo De Jesus, 395,000, 4 Florence St
 Jesus Trejo, Scottie Mateo, 800,000, 124-126 Farnham St
 Radelkiz Gomez & Maria N Almonte De Gomez, Julia M Macario, 600,000, 1035-1037 Essex St
 Esthenly Medina & Seferina Medina & Manuel Medina, Edwin J Jimenez & Tyana Marie Rivera & Daniela Medina, 553,000, 244 East Haverhill St
 Chamrong Tes & Sovan Vo euth Tes, Justin C Nigrelli, 386,825, 26 Jefferson St
 Mario R Lantigua, Jacquelyn Molina, 355,000, 77-79 Basswood St
 Douglas J Clarke, Lorenzo Ovalles, 350,000, 14 Vandergrift St
 Rickie D & Beth E Johnson, Mary Luz Rivera Colon, 295,000, 139 Osgood St
 Mauricia Pichardo, Christopher N De La Rosa, 425,000, 1 Wachusett Ave
 Olegario Perez & Bertilla Tejada, Ramon Enrique Estrella Reynoso, 190,000, 15H Crescent St Unit 16
 Jennifer A Hurley/Jennifer A Looney, Serefina & Manuela Medina, 178,000, 90 Beacon St Unit 10
 Hilberto C Rivera & Wendy C Mieses, Michelle Almanzar, 175,000, 20 Knox St Unit 12

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254 Broadway LLC, Broadway Building Associates LP, 1,350,000, 254 Broadway

Trium Perfectum LLC, La Belle Maison LLC, 1,330,000, 11 Hampstead st
 William Alexander McFedries III, Cecilia Francis Daher & Wilfredo Pagan Jr, 479,999, 4 Sampson St
 Alamer L & Aghaby L Mansy, Jose Alberto Polanco & Debra M Nunez-Polanco, 470,000, 14 Beacon ST
 Daniel Evans, Vinicio Borgen & Victor Borgen, 334,000, 912 Riverside Dr
 Patrick J Mallon Tr & Brian Zimmerman Tr & 191-195 Howe Street Realty Trust, Jeffrey J Reese & Patricia L Davis, 699,900, 195 Howe St
 Andrea A Chase Revocable Trust & Andrea A Chase Tr, James & Lisa Miller, 635,000, 6 Kerri Ann Cir
 Edward Groswald Est & James E Gaudette, Jonathan Ruiz, 560,000, 53 Arlington St
 Alex Garcia & Arelis Villa, Carlos Estevez & Alberto Villavicencio, 530,000, 21-23 Burgess St
 Jessica Gagnon Tr & Charest Irrevocable Trust, James M & Deborah Bruce, 412,000, 15 Sheldon St
 Augustine B Scannell & Sharon LaBranche & Gary LaBranche Sr, Alexis Antonio Rosario & Nancy Acosta & Alexander Rosario, 405,000, 81 Cross St
 Kelly A Lavoie/Kelly A Dineen, Tom Debenedictis & Sean McNamara, 290,000, 47 Tedesco Rd
 Toll MA Land III LP, Stephen P & Daisy A Langley, 604,104, 9 Plover Ln Unit 113
 Daniel M Riccio, Oscar M Reynoso Gomez & Juan C Reynoso Gomez, 515,100, 9 Wallace St
 Mary Kavanagh & Madison Realty Trust & Madison Drouin Tr, Antonia Cardona, 325,000, 20 Golf Ave
 Aaron S Gatton, Debra Walsh, 317,000, 1 Riverview Blv Unit 7-103
 Radames Rodriguez-Cora & Melitza Nazario, Ismael Reyes & Isiris Urena Reyes, 665,000, 21-23 Arnold St
 Ana Barcelos-Rosa Tr & Maria M Barcelos Trust, Eric & Kristen Swales, 640,000, 11 Copley Dr
 68 Ames Street Realty Trust & Janis H Tunstall Tr, Glen Johnson, 310,000, 68 Ames St
 Mary T Reade/Mary T Caulfield, Samantha E Gerrior, 267,000, 1 Riverview Blv Unit 1-213
 Kristen M McPhail & Thomas Palmerino, Ashley N Febbi & Alycia Rao, 445,000, 38 Sandra Ln
 Sean L & Cathy Pollard, Lorrana Cristina Dasilva, 392,000, 609 Lowell St
 Jodie R & Jeffrey D Wise, Andrea Perkins, 380,000, 10 Windsor St

Andrea Chase & Dorothy J Fortune Est/ Dorothy Jean Fortune Est, James P Durso, 226,000, 32 Stone Castle Dr Unit 19
 Toll MA Land III LP, Williams Family Realty Trust & John A Williams Tr, 711,123, 11 Plover Ln Unit 114
 Toll MA Land III LP, Francis J Piche Jr Tr & Susan S Piche Tr & Piche Family Trust, 692,413, 7 Plover Ln Unit 112
 Maria Enerolisa Ramos & Ignacio Lugo & Maximo R Toribio, Walter F Lopez & Clara L Zacaria-Guzman, 600,000, 3-5 Annis St
 Cheryl Morin & Robert Belair & Catherine Weatherly, Alfredo Pena Castro, 540,000, 86 Phillips St
 Michael Bistany Est/Michael J Bistany Est & Thomas P Dilello, Taylor L Leger, 408,500, 527 Lowell St
 Richard J Brown Jr, Michael J Francisco & Lisbanessa F Rodriguez De Francisco, 401,820, 65 Clayton Ave
 Kathleen A Moran, Rudy Sosa, 395,000, 41 Boston St
 Andrea Myles & Donna Moylan, Evelin Alvarado Ulloa, 349,900, 30 East Brook Pl
 Walter H & Michele N Lynch, Giordano Lynch, 340,000, 108 Ashland Ave
 Paul Nartiff Jr, Miguel A Batista Hernandez & Melissa Rojas, 540,000, 14 Central St
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 Michael Nelson & Kimberly Jenner, Ronald Victor Ernst, 390,000, 19 Kensington Ave
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Dracut Construction Business Owner, James P. Enwright Charged with \$1 Million Tax Fraud

BOSTON – The owner of a commercial and residential construction business in Dracut was charged on Friday, Jan. 29, 2021 with an income diversion and payroll tax scheme resulting in a tax loss that exceeded \$1 million.

James P. Enwright, 53, was charged and has agreed to plead guilty to one count of tax evasion and one count of failure to pay over taxes. A hearing has not yet been scheduled.

According to the charging documents, Enwright owned and operated Enwright Construction. From 2013 through 2018, Enwright allegedly withheld from his tax preparer over \$2.8 million of Enwright Construction's gross receipts.

In addition, during the tax quarters ending March 31, 2013 through Sept. 30, 2019, it is alleged that Enwright paid over \$3 million in wages to his employees in cash "under the table."

As a result of his conduct, Enwright underreported his personal income tax obligations and failed to report and pay the IRS the employment taxes owed on the cash wages. In total, Enwright allegedly caused a loss to the IRS of \$1,025,312.

The charging statutes provide for a sentence of up to five years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss, whichever is greater. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Andrew Lelling and Ramsey E. Covington, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation Boston Field Office made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney James R. Drabick of Lelling's Securities, Financial & Cyber Fraud Unit is prosecuting the case.

Illegal Alien Anyelo Aybar-Franco from Lawrence Indicted for Fentanyl Possession

BOSTON – A Dominican national previously living in Lawrence was indicted yesterday by a federal grand jury in connection with fentanyl possession.

Anyelo Aybar-Franco, 25, was indicted on one count of possession with intent to distribute more than 40 grams of fentanyl. Aybar-Franco was previously charged by criminal complaint.

According to the charging documents, on Oct. 20, 2020 in Lawrence, Aybar-Franco possessed with intent to distribute over 65 grams of fentanyl.

Aybar-Franco faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years and up to 40 years in prison, a minimum of four years and up to a lifetime of supervised release and a fine of up to \$5 million. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based on the

U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling and Brian D. Boyle, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Boston Field Division made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was provided by the Essex County Sheriff's Department, Homeland Security Investigations in Boston and the Lawrence Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles Dell'Anno of Lelling's Major Crimes Unit is prosecuting the case.

The details contained in the charging documents are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

HERO: FROM PAGE 1

the Grand Marshall of the city's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

We talked about many topics regarding law enforcement. First, was the infamous career criminal Willie Horton, who killed a Lawrence teen. Joe Fournier was working at a gas station when Horton killed him during a robbery. The second crime, we discussed was the disappearance of Andy Puglisi, from the South Lawrence State Pool. Detective Murphy praised Retired Sgt. Tony Lorenzo and the late Officer John Lundy, who were both instrumental in solving the Fournier murder, resulting in Horton's arrest. Both crimes left a lasting impression on me as a child, and I vividly remember the neighborhood reaction to them. Joey Fournier, the young man Horton killed, was a few years older than me, Andy Puglisi was three years younger. The deaths of these two young men cast a shadow over my neighborhood for many months. The South Lawrence East neighborhood, while working class during the 1970s, was very safe, and our streets were always filled with children and parents.

The deaths of five family members in a house fire that occurred on 397 Lowell Street during February of 1988, affected him deeply. A brutal murder of eleven-year-old Melissa Tremblay, in September of the same year, in the Boston and Maine Railroad yard, off Andover Street, a crime he investigated, will always be on his mind, until the case is solved.

Tom served in a transitional time for police work, having a career that started with the iconic police call boxes, and traffic officers on three wheeled motor bikes, and ending with the internet and dash mounted laptops in patrol cars. Detective Tom Murphy retired from the Lawrence Police Department in 2005, after serving for 32 years. He was a detective specializing in arson investigations, auto theft, and insurance fraud. Murphy talked about the dedicated members of Federal investigators from ATF and Massachusetts State Police Fire Marshal's Office. He served, along with Lawrence Fire Department Arson Investigator, the late Lt. Jack Burton, both men working together investigating

the arsons that occurred in the City of Lawrence during the late eighties and early nineties. "Those were very busy times", he stated.

On January 1, 1990 he received the "Man of the Decade" from the Lawrence Eagle Tribune. In 2005, the Lawrence Exchange Club named him "Police Officer of the Year". In addition to his work with the Lawrence Police Department and the Merrimack College Police Department, he also served on the Lawrence Liquor Commission

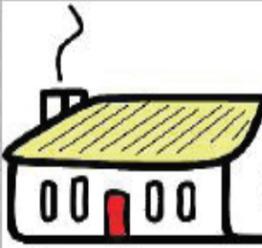
He is the father of four, and the grandfather of eight, one of his sons is now serving as a police officer. His wife Lynne would also be a great story, her parents were in the US Foreign Service, she was raised mainly in South America, and speaks both English and Spanish fluently. While her parents served their last five years with the Foreign Services in Vietnam, Lynne completed high school in Chile. After graduating, she went to live with her Polish Immigrant grandparents on Avon Street in Lawrence. While living on Avon Street, she and Tom met.

A "Hero in Our Midst", a policeman, a veteran, a father, a grandfather, and a husband.

The Dracut American Legion asks all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans, to call (603) 518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington DC! Veterans of all eras are asked to go the American Legion's Web site www.legion.org, and join the American Legion, preserving our Veteran's Benefits for future generations.

John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history and a master's in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 24 years. If you know a World War II veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@yahoo.com.





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‘Cobra Kai’

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

In 2018, the original cast members of the iconic 1984 film ‘The Karate Kid’ reunited for the revival series ‘Cobra Kai.’ What resulted was a fresh, thoroughly enjoyable spin on the well-established franchise, as well as a surprisingly heartfelt look at the immense power the past can hold over us.

In season 1, we picked up the story of Daniel Larusso and Johnny Lawrence, 34 years after their clash in the All Valley Karate Tournament in 1984, in which Daniel beat Johnny with his famous crane kick. We then see how that event went on to affect their entire lives. Daniel’s life has turned out much like that tournament. He has become a winner. A beautiful family, and owner of the most successful car dealership in the valley. Johnny’s life hasn’t turned out so great. He and his son are estranged, he loses his job, wrecks his car, and lives in a rundown apartment.

Although Johnny appears to be on the road to redemption, after his next door neighbor Miguel asks for his help learning karate and inspires him to clean up his act, Johnny reopens the Cobra Kai dojo. Meanwhile Daniel has taken Johnny’s son Robby under his wing, teaching him what he learned from Mr. Miyagi, just enhancing the rivalry between Johnny and Daniel.

In Season 2, we saw the return of the evil Sensei John Kreese and his continued attempt to influence Johnny and take over Cobra Kai to exact revenge against Larusso culminating in an all-out brawl at the local high school between Cobra Kai and Miyagi-Do.

The current season, Season 3 picks up in the aftermath of that violent brawl. Kreese has taken back the Cobra Kai dojo as his own, and Johnny, mostly still down on his luck, has a message from his high school sweetheart, Ali (Elisabeth Shue), waiting for him on Facebook.

This setup gives the characters a lot to deal with in Season 3. Add to that, the brawl has sent a ripple through the community and has caused Daniel’s business to start to struggle. In turn, Daniel travels to Okinawa to meet with the company executives. While there he meets up with friends and foes from ‘The Karate Kid Part II’ film.

We also get a glimpse at Kreese’s

backstory. Showing us how he became the man he is today, exploring his past as a young man and his experiences in Vietnam during the war. All culminating in a wild season finale.

‘Cobra Kai’ never takes itself too seriously. Many of the scenes and plot points are kind of silly, but those scenes are done so ‘tongue-in-cheek’ that it’s hard not to be amused by them.

Additionally, throughout the series there are some great action sequences, and heartfelt moments that help viewers care about these characters. The show is absolutely loaded with ‘easter eggs’ and references to the films, making it especially nostalgic for fans of the original movies.

The cast does a tremendous job rejuvenating these beloved characters. Ralph Macchio is excellent playing a much more mature and wiser Daniel. Martin Kove is a great villain, playing Kreese with a terrifically campy performance.

The kids in the cast are equally as good, doing a great job stepping into an existing world as newcomers, which can’t be easy.

But ‘Cobra Kai’ is really William Zabka’s series. His wonderful dramatic/comedic performance as Johnny is what drives the show. He turns Johnny from the bully he was in the films to a very likeable, sympathetic character.

At a time when so many franchises are getting reboots or revivals, ‘Cobra Kai’ has stood out by surpassing all expectations and has become a great continuation of its original source material. Co-creators Jon Hurwitz, Hayden Schlossberg, and Josh Heald deliver a great love letter to the fans of these beloved films and characters.

‘Cobra Kai’ is loads and loads of fun and worth the watch. It has been renewed for a 4th season and all seasons can be found to stream on Netflix.

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



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



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Knowing God's Expectation for Our Lives

Peter Larocque

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

How many times will it need to be declared that we can have as much of God as we want? And how many tears will we shed from the sadness of knowing that most people only want enough to get by? How often we find ourselves being so overwhelmed with problems, worries, and stress that we are just too exhausted to invest time with the Lord, and it's sad but common that many of us are guilty of basing our attitude toward Him according to what type of mood we are in. In Jeremiah 33:3, the Lord invites us to seek His face regardless of our emotional state. "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee, and show you great and mighty things which you have never known." It's worth considering that not having a passion to communicate with God could be the reason why many people are anxious and fearful about their future.

The battle between following how we feel and obeying what God is saying is not to be taken lightly. To choose which side we will accept has everything to do with our destiny and the joy we experience in the journey. When our mind and conscience agree that we can steer our ship according to our own compass, we have failed to comprehend the true meaning and purpose of our lives. Our creator brought everyone into His world and offers them an opportunity to be redeemed and spiritually transformed in order that they might live with Him forever. "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil" John 3:18-19. Those who would rather be the manager of their personal affairs and not accept this invitation of salvation will not only suffer loss in this life but possibly the next one as well.

Maybe some of you today are discouraged and frustrated for whatever reason and we know that being in the wilderness is a challenging and difficult place to be. Sometimes it feels like we have been dealt a terrible hand of cards

and within the sadness we are not sure what to do or have anyone we can talk to about it. I have listened to others share about their bitterness and pain from life's disappointments that can become so heavy in our soul that it's difficult to envision ever having hope and joy again. Allow me to say, these attacks on our heart and mind can be defeated when we give them to Jesus and allow Him to be our Lord. Aside from the mocking and relentless accusations from the devil, or the painful consequences of our decisions, we have been designed to meditate about our discouragement and suffer through our grief in order to learn from our experiences and advance in our wisdom and grow stronger in our spiritual maturity. We are given the choice to learn how to overcome or keep going around in circles. "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you" James 1:19-20.

Within our human nature, we are vulnerable to physical and emotional affliction and there is nothing wrong or sinful with going through these experiences. We are not robots that cannot feel rejection and we are not immune to the despair of loneliness or the agony of being betrayed. Many of us have walked through severe trials and tribulations, yet let us not forget that Christ in His infinite wisdom and His own personal sufferings can relate to everything we have endured. James 1:12 says, "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." Be encouraged today and know that God has always loved you and is waiting to reveal your destiny. We are a work in progress and our life is to be a continual classroom dedicated to learning who God is and who we are in Him.

Read more about the Christian life at billyhollandministries.com

Love to all of you,

Peter Larocque

BENEATH THE SURFACE

Why Did God Make Creatures That Can Choose Evil?

Paul Murano

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Many people ask the question: Why did God create us knowing we could choose evil?

It's a good question. To attempt an answer, we must go beneath the surface with two concepts: person and being.

To begin, we must first recognize God did create beings that could not choose evil. Inanimate objects, plants, and animals cannot freely reject God and choose evil. While some animals express affection and passion, love must be freely chosen for it to be love. It must come from a will that can rise above one's physiological instincts, desires, and training to freely choose good or evil. Animals are conditioned by God and nature to respond to stimuli for the sake of survival. That's why we don't take an alligator to court for biting a child.

While God could have stopped after creating rocks, plants, and animals, He would have a personal relationship with a portion of His creation. To do that, He'd have to create persons in His image, having intellect and free will. To have a true personal relationship, there must be freedom in both parties.

If one accepts the faith premise that God is personal, not just a force or impersonal higher power, it makes sense He would want some creatures like Himself to relate to – and to freely love Him back.

The problem is that it's highly improbable that free-willed creatures in time would never sin.

Free will is a two-edged sword. It can be used to choose good or evil, God's will or selfishness. Further, love must be freely chosen for it to be love. Forced or instinctual compliance is not love. In a sense, God took a chance by creating us.

This brings us to our second big question: If free will is constituent of personhood, and God is Personal, then can God choose evil? If so, how can we trust Him?

To deal with this question we have to go deeper beneath the surface. Consider St. Augustine's doctrine that all being by its nature is good, and that evil is a lack of being, hence a lack of good. Evil is not "something", but rather the lack of the goodness in a being's pristine state. We

humans are finite beings with a limited nature, and hence have the ability to do good or evil. God is unlimited infinite Being and cannot be diminished in any way.

Two Scripture passages speak specifically about God's nature, which provides for us a clue to this mystery. In Exodus 3:14, God calls Himself 'I Am', leading us to believe He Is Personal infinite Being, with no boundary or definition. 1 John 4:8 proclaims "God is love" in His very nature. Putting these two passages from opposite ends of the bible together, we get a glimpse of who God is. He cannot choose evil because, as perfect Infinite Love, there is no ontological "space" to choose contrary to His unlimited nature. And since God is also Truth (Jn 14:6), He could never contradict Himself in Who He Is.

Taking all this into consideration, we can begin to understand why it is prudent not to trust in ourselves, but to trust completely in God.

Only total immersion into the Life of God who is pure Goodness renders the free-willed creature immune from the potentiality to sin. This immersion is freely chosen in this life and fully experienced in the next, after one's wounded human nature prone to sin dies and is restored.

This union with God is the end for which we are made. It is the fulfillment of all personal creatures made in God's image. All distractions from this end, this purpose, are obstacles to happiness. Like the potential bride whose lover has proposed to her, our free will must respond either Yes or No to our divine Lover's proposal, who knows and loves us infinitely more than we do ourselves.



Paul is producer and host of *Beneath the Surface* video and radio podcasts, teaches philosophy & theology, is a staff writer/producer at St. Michael's media, and a singer-songwriter-musician. See his web pages at Paulmurano.com and Youtube.

com/user/Veritas3737. E-mail him at PJDM@aol.com



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Newburyport Lions Continue to Support Local Needs

The Newburyport Lions Club has recently donated food, medical, and gift cards for clothes to the Newburyport Community Services for the many families that have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Just in the past 9 months the Newburyport Lions Club has donated over \$10,000.00 to local food pantries and soup kitchens. They also cooked and delivered over 350 Thanksgiving dinners. This past Christmas the Lions adopted and provided presents to all members of 3 needy local families. They also donated a wall mount TV, \$300.00 worth of toys and \$200.00 worth of children socks to the Boys and Girls club.

Future plans include a food drive to be held on Saturday March 27th from 8:00AM to 2:00PM.

to benefit three local food pantries: The Salvation Army, First Parish Church in Newbury and the Pettengill House. Lion

volunteers will be visible in the Shaw's supermarket parking lot at a collection station under A tent. They are looking to fill the Lions District EYE MOBILE van with food donations, personal care items and food gift cards. All will be gratefully appreciated.

Lions International is the world's largest service organization in the world with more than 1.3 million members in approximately 45,000 clubs in more than 200 countries around the world. Anyone interested in learning more about the Newburyport Lions Club can contact club membership chairman Andy Perry

tel. # 603-315-9221 or Club President Lion Bob LaFrance @ 978-270-3951 or email at r.lafrance@comcast.net Meetings are currently being held via zoom every 2nd and 4th Monday of every month. All are welcome.

Bob LaFrance, Club President ♦

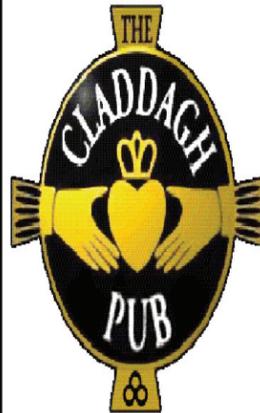
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