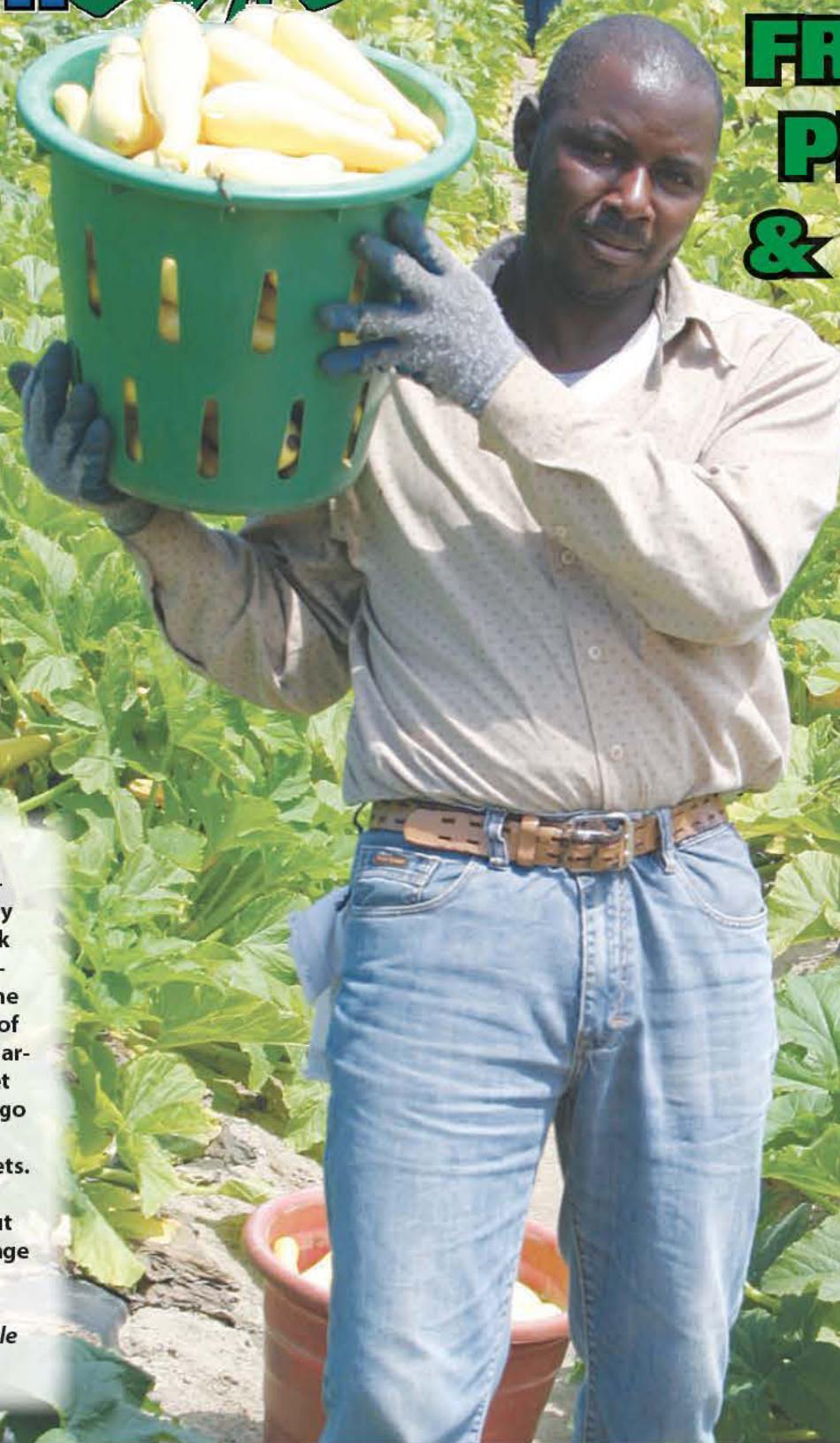


FRESHLY PICKED ... & NOWHERE TO GO



Lansford Brown, a Jamaican seasonal worker with Pleasant Valley Gardens, heads to a flatbed truck with another bucket of ripe summer squash. Every day, he and the crew behind him pick hundreds of squash that were intended for Market Basket. With the supermarket chain in crisis, the majority now go into storage as the farm's owner Rich Bonanno seeks other markets. Rich's wife Luanne mused, "The plants never got the memo about the (Market Basket) work stoppage so they keep on growing. We're losing about \$1,800 a day."

Photo by Steve Whipple



**Life lessons:
Here & abroad**
MHS Exchange Program
seeks hosts, Page 4



**Radio guy's
ride really rocks!**
:WCCM's Pat Costa
likes it loud, Page 38

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feel the love**
Appreciative group
donates meals, Page 19



**Leaders of
the band**
Passionate musicians
embrace camp, Page 6



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From the Editor



Steve Whipple, Editor

Shortly after receiving an honorary degree in Chemical Purchasing from the University of Namco, I decide, "Filling our pool with 7 parts shock/flock/algacide/clarifier to 3 parts green water has been fulfilling, but while our skin regenerates, how about we cool off in someone else's treated water for a day?"

We had never been to Water Country in Portsmouth, N.H., so this seems as good a place as any to empty my wallet in the name of hydrating.

Attending the soggy adventure are my daughter Geni, her friend Morgan, my wife and I. We are the ONLY humans over the age of 9 not sporting tattoos. Feeling sorry for us, the young lady behind the window allows us in anyway.

After shuffling horizontally and vertically for 20 minutes, I peer nervously over the railing of the Triple Giant Slides. I am not afraid of heights but around five floors up the knees get a tad shaky. My bathing suit is wet. I am still 10 feet from the water. But before I can fill out a request form for the de-fib unit, I am at the bottom of the wet, twisty ride.

At Adventure River, guests can meander along a winding swath of shallow water. And for those who prefer floating to trudging in waist-high current, clear plastic tubes can be rented. Rented?! For the \$40 daily park fee, visitors should be towed by a team of albino baby seals.

Unwilling to locate a rentable or free tube, I decide this part of the day is a spectator sport. And what a sport it is!

Some dude and his young son who are clearly from a weird waterless country like Uganda or Arizona fail several times to mount the tube. When they finally manage to scramble aboard, their trek lasts all of 20 feet before they tumble off.

A moment later two very busy women drift into view. They are situated in, on and through the tube, their bosoms heaved up beneath their chins. Why each didn't just opt for the 3-pack of tubes is anyone's guess.

The Whirlpool attraction seems innocent enough. The round pool features powerful uni-directional jets built into the wall that create ... well, a whirlpool. Current is non-existent in the center bull's-eye, but strong enough at the outer circumference to push folks effortlessly.

I decide that wading, even with the swirling water assisting, is more work than I am willing to muster. I lie on my back more or less and allow the current to propel me along at a relaxing 60 or 70 knots. As I reach the waterfalls I am still admiring my periscoping feet when I collide with a hefty woman in her 20s. I apologize twice, which is two times too many. The way I see it, anyone that collides with me is a reckless imbecile. Anyone I crash

When water & wedgies collide ...

into is an oblivious imbecile who should be more observant of the random trajectories of whirlpoolers.

Back on my back I sail off to collide with more bystanders ... bywaders ... whatever. At least I don't look nearly as silly as the portly dude attempting to swim against the current like a bloated, frisky salmon.

A series of small pedestrian bridges arc over the meandering Hooter River (see above). At one, a man wearing a skimpy bathing suit and a black shawl strides along the path with chums en route to the next attraction. A second glance reveals that the shawl is actually body hair – and tons of it. If I ever spot a Wanted poster of a Yeti in a Speedo, I'll lead the posse to Portsmouth.

I am convinced only about 4 percent of the population should wear a bathing suit in public. The other 96 percent of us should be required to wear waterproof burkas or invisibility cloaks, funded by the 4 Percenters.

I am still pondering how many freighters of tattoo ink supplied today's guests when Geni and Morgan dash off to "ride" Geronimo – a 5- or 6-story almost vertical water slide. I do not see any adults on this attraction as grownups tend to be more wary of death than the youngsters who rocket into the awaiting pool with great aplomb, then spring out of the water lobby like it's nothing more than a tub.

"Geronimo" was an Apache chief whose name meant "great provider of atomic aqua-wedgies." His legacy lives with every swoosh! down the 58-foot slide.

The Warp 8 and The Black Hole are curvy water tubes where adventurers can climb atop a tube and zoom to the bottom without the distraction of daylight. The woman rider before me is 10 or 11 months pregnant. If her water breaks, it will go unnoticed in these torrents. I let a few dozen kids cut me in line. When I arrive at the bottom in less time than it takes to scream, "Great Provider of Atomic Water Wedgies!" the girls are dashing off to the next attraction.

At Dr. Von Dark's Tunnel of Terror, Jen and I settle into a 2-person inflatable raft facing each other where we can enjoy each other's look of terror. Which would be possible if we weren't plunging through complete darkness while spinning and splashing. Accustomed to dizziness, thanks to my homemade cologne, I kind of enjoy our brief descent. Jen, not so

much. She elects to sit out the remaining attractions.

The wave pool starts off as a few inches of water then slopes until the water is 7 feet deep. During the first round of tsunamis, we neglect to ride tubes. So we bob like flailing flotsam in the tube infested surf for 10 minutes – it may have been 10 hours – before I vow to obtain tubes for the next tidal event.

The girls and I spot three water-logged kids sloshing out of the pool. We commandeer their tubes and splash out to sea for the next round of waves that would capsize a destroyer. The deepest area where we thrashed has the highest waves and should be named "Seasick Adventures."

Wild Canyon beckons us for our final descent. The three of us align our bodies like jigsaw pieces into a sturdy round raft, then shove off for a ride down a wide yellow half-tube. For reasons unknown to me, I make the entire ride backwards. My attempts to spin the raft around to change the view are futile. This delights the girls all the more.

The weight limit for this bass-ackwards ride is 800 pounds. So now my strict summer regiment calls for unlimited lobster rolls, potato salad, onion rings and Corona. Cheers!



ON THE COVER

European vacation: MHS juniors Liam Rademacher, Madeleine McKeon and Alisa Stephanopoulos are shown in Venice during this year's Italian exchange.

Head-turner: PatCosta, of Costa-Eagle Broadcasting, loves cruisin' in his Slingshot Yellow 2004 Chevy SSR.

Cooking up a thank you: Members of the Friends of Methuen Firefighters deliver monthly meals to all four firehouses to show their appreciation.

Ready to play: The UMass Band Camp featured Methuen teens and teachers.

CORRECTION

In last month's issue, a MethuenLife writer incorrectly noted that retiring Methuen DPW Director Ray DiFiore and Methuen Mayor Steve Zanni graduated from the Central Catholic Class of 1961. They actually graduated in the Lawrence High Class of 1961. We apologize for the error.

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Boat-ramp project sets sail in fall

By Steve Whipple
MethuenLife Writer

Boaters, kayakers and anglers, rejoice! Construction of the Methuen public Riverfront Park and Boat Ramp - first proposed two mayors ago - is set to begin in autumn.

The boat ramp will be located on the site where Bea's Sandwiches stood from 1964 to 2002, where Riverside Drive meets up with Lowell Boulevard (Route 110).

Peter and Debra Yorke operated Bea's from 1983 to 2002. They sold the property to the city for \$512,000 with the stipulation the site would be home to a park and boat ramp, and also that a granite marker would be erected on the corner of the lot as a tribute to Bea's founders, the Consoli family.

Former Mayor Sharon Pollard oversaw the sale of the property. During her terms and also during Bill Manzi's years as mayor, the boat ramp project never came to fruition, despite a \$250,000 grant from the state.

Community Development Director Bill Buckley said, "The issue has always been the \$250,000. Even 10 years ago it was not enough money to complete the project. And it was apparent that we didn't have the resources to fund the project, and there's not much technical knowledge in this building on how to build a boat ramp."

Buckley met with Mayor Steve Zanni



and the two decided to hand off the endeavor to the Massachusetts Division of Fishing and Boating Access.

Fish and Game Department spokeswoman Amy Mahler said construction of the \$600,000 project will be this fall.

"The plans call for the installation of a concrete boat ramp, boarding slopes, landscaping, a paved lot and drainage improvements," said Mahler. "The new facility will provide access for trailered and car-top boats, ski boats, canoes and kayaks."

Plans and specs for potential contractors are available in early August.

The plans call for the entrance to be on the right, exit to the left; 14 long spaces are for vehicles and their attached trailers; 14 other spaces are normal car size. The granite marker and bench remain in their current location on the far-right corner.

Buckley noted, "The state has agreed to put the project out to bid and we've agreed to contribute the (\$250,000) grant. They've been very helpful in getting the project



The Merrimack River winding toward Dracut, as seen from the shore of Methuen's future public boat ramp.

done."

Plans call for the ramp to be situated at the far-left corner of the site (as you face the property from the street) and be angled slightly to the left -- downstream toward Lawrence. The small, oval privately owned Ivy Island sits about 75 feet from the shore.

The proximity to that island and the future ramp itself is troubling to Dennis Houlihan of Methuen, who lives and boats on the river.

"We're going to get a lot of jet skis and bigger boats ... and there's all the rocks," said Houlihan. "It's all ledge from the tip of the island all the way out to that marker I put in. There's more rocks to the right than

See RAMP, Page 5

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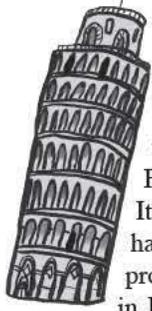
AT MYFUDDS.COM



Living in Italy ... with Italians!

MHS exchange program immerses kids in culture here, abroad

By Krista I. McLeod
Special to MethuenLife



Buon Giorno, Italia!

This past February, seven Methuen High School students were able to say those words during their February vacation trip to Italy. Methuen High School has been hosting an exchange program with a high school in Rome for the past six years.

Catherine Follonier teaches Italian at MHS and is the contact teacher at the school for the Italian Exchange Program. She works directly with Sue Boswell of Carousel Student Tours, a company based in Pocasset, Mass., that has been developing and operating student exchange programs for schools throughout New England for 25 years. While originally the program was intended for students taking Italian language classes at Methuen High, the program has expanded to include other students as well.

"The students learn that while 3,000 miles separates them from each other, they have a great deal in common," says Boswell.



Methuen High School students are shown at the train station in Rome during this year's Italian exchange adventure. Courtesy photos

swell.

Methuen's exchange program started in 2007, and has occurred every year except one year at the beginning of construction for the new high school, when it was decid-

ed that there was not enough space to host the Italian students in the school. Methuen generally co-hosts with another local community; in 2013-14, the other participating school was Peabody Veteran's Memorial High School.

The program starts out in the fall each year, with a group of 10 to 15 students from Liceo Ginnasio Statale Orazio in Rome arriving in Methuen to stay with host families. The Methuen program is particularly popular with the students from Rome, so they are specially selected by their teachers to participate in this exchange. The Liceo is considered a "classical" school in the Italian education system, where students focus on language studies. The students who visit Methuen all are studying English, and most are also taking a second or third foreign language as well. The Italian students take day trips to Boston and other area attractions, and they attend some days at Methuen High School during the two weeks they are here.

CONSIDER BEING A HOST

Any Methuen area family with a high school-age child is invited to host a student; any family, with or without children is invited to host the teacher-chaperone. For more information about the MHS Italian Student Exchange, please e-mail Sue at hostandgo@charter.net or call (978) 835-0133.

Boswell of Carousel Student Tours emphasizes however, the home-stay portion of the program in which the students live with local families, is their favorite part.

"Before the Italian students leave, we always ask them what their favorite thing was, and invariably the vast majority say the activities with their host families was the best part of their trip," she said.

The second part of the exchange occurs when Methuen High School students, who wish to participate as travelers, leave just before the February school break for a 10-day visit to Rome, with side trips to places like Florence, Venice and Naples. Many of the students stay in Rome with the families of the students they hosted the previous fall. Follonier accompanies the group each year.

"Seeing the Colosseum, the ruins of Ancient Rome, the Vatican and all the museums are important activities," she says. "But what makes our program different is the opportunity for our students to live with Italian families and experience life in another culture."

One of the most challenging aspects of running the exchange program, according to Boswell, is spreading the word to Methuen families about this wonderful opportunity to host a student from Italy. Connecting with families that are ready, willing and able to welcome a teen from Italy for a short-term homestay is vital to the success of the pro-

See ITALY, Page 5

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Italy, continued from page 4

gram.

"In order to host a student, you must have a high school-age child in the home. They can attend any nearby school; the only requirement is that you are able to bring them to MHS each morning, and pick them up at the day's end," said Boswell. "We have had other families who have been great hosts, with their children attending a local private school or one of the technical schools. We have even had homeschooling families participate."

For some of Follonier's students, this trip has been the gateway to a new life filled with travel, education and working in a global marketplace.

"It is crucial for Methuen children to have opportunities to study foreign languages," says Follonier. "Global awareness is a critical skill for the 21st century, and I see it as part of my job to help Methuen and Methuen High students to become more internationally focused. This exchange program is one way to make a difference!"



Italian exchange students are shown with their Methuen host "brothers and sisters" visiting the bocce courts at Methuen's Sons of Italy Hall. They're pictured with Mayor Stephen N. Zanni and MHS teacher Catherine Follonier.

Ramp, continued from page 3

to the left."

The ramp is directed toward the safer water, away from the marker which designates a boulder that has been scraped by a handful of boats.

Houlihan cited the Lawrence boat ramp and lot, which is used for swimming, fishing and cookouts.

"If Methuen is going to do that, they have to be prepared for more police presence. There will have to be more patrols on the river, and they'll have to find a way to keep it clean," he said.

Roger Aziz has fished the river for 66 years and said that as long as anglers in small craft can co-exist with jet skis and larger boats that arrive on weekends, the ramp will be a boon.

"That area of the river has access to upstream and downstream and has excellent fishing," said Aziz. "We fish under that I-93 bridge and catch everything -- large and smallmouth bass, pike, walleye and crappie."



Construction for Riverfront Park and Boat Ramp will begin at the former Bea's property this fall, about 11 years after plans were initially discusses. Photos by Steve Whipple

"No matter how you look at it, it's a good idea to have the ramp. But you'll need to keep an eye out. During the week the kayaks and small boats should be fine."

Buckley agreed.

"This has been a godsend that the state has stepped up, and they've made some improvements and made it cost effective," he said.



The granite marker and bench on the right corner of the lot serve as a tribute to the Consoli family who founded Bea's sandwiches and the Yorke family who operated the popular eatery know for its cutlets from 1983 to 2002.

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Teens with passion for music attend UMass Band Camp

Tenney band director helps lead 'intense' program

By John Basileco
MethuenLife Writer

Nine Methuen musicians joined 150 others from around the country to sharpen their skills in a weeklong band camp hosted by UMass Lowell last month.

They immersed themselves in music, learning how to do everything from writing and recording music to understanding music theory and even how to conduct a band.

"The camp is unique because of how intense it is," said Brian Fulks, an assistant band camp director and the band director at Tenney School in Methuen. "The students are going from 7:30 in the morning to 8 o'clock at night. But they are around other students like themselves - who have a passion for music and want more. It's exciting to see students so passionate about it (music)."

Dubbed as a "training ground for future world-class musicians," the camp, which is now in its 18th year, includes honors music classes and workshops for students in concert and jazz bands and brass, wind and percussion ensembles.

Michaela Kiberstis, 14, one of the Methuen students who attended, said she



Methuen participants in the UMass Lowell Band Camp included high schoolers, Methuen High alumni and current UML students. They are (front, from left) Michael Hajjar, Julia Carter, Saul Cespedes; (back, from left) Michaela Kiberstis, Amanda Gable, staff member Paul Delabruere, Sasha Galloway, staff member Eric Poster, Liam Rademacher, staff member Jonathan Bousquet and Courtney Keller. Photos by Barbie Kiberstis

enjoyed the camp and hopes to attend again next summer. She recently graduated from the Tenney School and will be a freshman at Methuen High School in the fall.

"My favorite part of the camp was learning how to play different styles of

music that I hadn't played before," Michaela said. "I learned different techniques one-on-one with members of the camp staff."

Michaela, a percussionist, is a member of the front ensemble of the Methuen High marching band, and the group is already

practicing for the new school year.

For Shae Carter, 17, this was her fourth summer of attending the band camp. She will be a senior at Methuen High this fall and she plays the snare drum as a member of the school's marching band.

"The best part, the most satisfying part, was performing together in a big concert at the end of the week," she said.

Representing the culmination of the camp, all of the 125 students, including Shae and Michaela, performed a public concert July 19 at noon at Durgin Concert Hall on UMass Lowell's South Campus.

Shae also enjoyed the variety of the camp's daily classes, including sound recording technology, music theory and music composition. She has attended the camp four years in a row, and she may major in music when she attends college next year, but she hasn't decided yet.

"Either way, music will be a big part of my life," she said.

John Bousquet, 25, also attended the camp four years in a row when he was a Methuen High student. But for the past three years, he has stepped into the role of teacher as a member of the camp's staff, including this summer.

"I like seeing the joy in the eyes of the students as they learn new things about

See BAND, Page 7

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Band, continued from page 6

music and learn everything that music can be," he said.

Bousquet, who plays the saxophone, has been a professional musician for seven years. He earned his college degree in music education from UMass Lowell in 2012.

About 10 percent of the students who attend the camp will go on to attend UMass Lowell, according to school officials.

The camp was started by Debra-Nicole



Here's an upper balcony view of the full ensemble.



Sasha Galloway, Courtney Keller and Shae Carter received plaques for their final year at band camp.

Huber with financial support from the late Mary Jo Leahey, a 1937 graduate of the college who went on to become a popular music teacher and philanthropist.

Camp director Huber, who is UMass Lowell's associate director of university bands, said the camp is truly unique.

"It gives students a window into many

aspects of music," she said. "They grow together exponentially in what they're able to achieve. They gain self-confidence. They become better musicians in one week's time. They push themselves in what they can do. They achieve more than what they expected."

Other Methuen students who attended

this year's camp were Julia Carter, Saul Cespedes, Amanda Gable, Sasha Galloway, Michael Hajjar, Courtney Keller and Liam Rademacher.

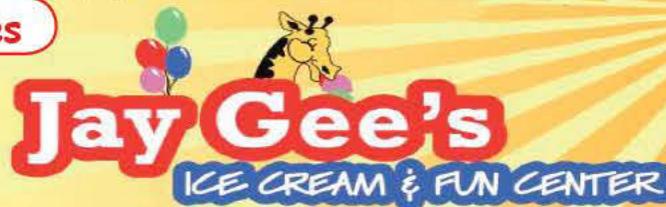
Students from several other states, including New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Missouri and Vermont, also attended this summer's camp.

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CALENDAR

- **Methuen artist Lolita Demers**, who works in pottery and mixed media, will have her work displayed in The Brush Gallery Studio Artists' Annual Exhibition through Aug. 3. Brush Gallery is located at 256 Market St., Lowell. www.thebrush.org.
- **Lawrence Ciclovía**: Free, fun, family event Aug. 3, 1 to 5 pm at Lawrence's Campagnone Common. Parts of Common and Essex streets will be closed to traffic so that visitors can walk, bike, skate and skateboard safely and easily. Sponsored by the City of Lawrence and the Mayor's Health Task Force - whose activities are coordinated by the YWCA to help make Lawrence a healthier community. Zumba, soccer clinics, water games and more!
- **Coffee and Sweets Community Discussion**: Hosted by Jessica Finocchiaro, state Senate candidate from Methuen, at the Methuen Senior Center, 77 Lowell St., on Aug. 12, 9:30 to 11:30 am. Food and coffee donated by Heav'nly Donuts.
- **2nd annual Community Resource Fair**: Aug. 13, 3 to 6 pm at Campagnone Park, Lawrence, hosted by the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council. Featured groups include nonprofit organizations and local businesses providing assistance with education, financial services, health, housing assistance, social services, job training and youth activities. Residents who visit the organizations at the fair and complete a checklist will be entered into a raffle to win one of dozens of donated backpacks with school supplies.
- **Methuen Garden Club yard sale**: Aug. 16, 8 am to noon at 36 Glen Ave., Methuen. Household items, clothing, toys, books, gardening items, etc.
- **Mattress Fundraiser Sale**: Aug. 17, 10 am to 5 pm at the Methuen High field house, to benefit the MHS football team. New sets of Simmons, Therapedic and Restonic at 30 to 60 percent off retail.
- **"Sunday Afternoon at the Music Hall"**: Aug. 17, 3 pm featuring organist Chandler Noyes and soprano Susan Navien. Adults, \$5; children, free. Tickets available at the door. Methuen Memorial Music Hall, 192 Broadway, Methuen.
- **State primary**: Sept. 9.



Bread & Roses Festival turning 30!

The 30th annual Bread and Roses Heritage Festival is a celebration of the ethnic diversity and labor history of Lawrence. It takes place in honor of the most significant event in the city's history: the 1912 Bread and Roses Strike, a move by textile workers fighting for fair wages and decent working conditions.

The festival takes place Sept. 1 from noon to 6 pm on Campagnone Common, 200 Common St. It offers a variety of music and dance performances, poetry and drama, ethnic food, walking and trolley tours, and a section for history and labor organizations. Returning for the eighth time is Lawrence History Live, a speakers' tent with presentations on history and current labor and social justice issues. There will also be pony rides, jugglers, face painting, an obstacle course and more for the kids.

Bread and Roses is the only festival in the East that celebrates Labor Day in the most appropriate location, the site of the Bread and Roses Strike - an event that helped improve working conditions across the country.

Races for state rep and Senate.

- **Methuen's Tenney High Class of 1954** is holding its 60th reunion Sept. 11 at Harris' Pelham Inn, starting at noon. \$35 per person includes turkey dinner. Contact Jack Boynes at (603) 537-2723 or cjb54@msn.com or Barbara Simonian at (978) 686-4754 or bdelcsim@comcast.net.
- **Fall Scholarship Fund Organ Recital**: Sept. 12, 8 pm at Methuen Memorial Music Hall, 192 Broadway, featuring Jacob Street of North Reading. Jacob has been the recipient of several international prizes in organ performance. Recently, as a Fulbright scholar, he has been studying organ in Lübeck, Germany. Sponsored by Georgetown Bank. Adults, \$12; students, \$5. Tickets available at the door.
- **Passion for Fashion**: Second annual fashion show benefitting the Nevins Alzheimer's Program at the Nevins Family of Services. Sept. 18, 6 pm at DiBurro's in Ward Hill. Channel 7 news anchor Steve Cooper will

emcee. Appetizers, dinner, show. Advance tickets only: \$50. (978) 682-7611.

- **"The Rat Pack is Back!"**: Sept. 20, 6:30 pm at the Collins Center in Andover. This award-winning tribute show, featuring four talented singers, is a nod to the popular Las Vegas lounge act of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Joey Bishop and Sammy Davis Jr. \$39. (978) 556-3870. Benefits the NECC Endowment Fund.
- **Methuen's Tenney High School Class of 1974** is holding its 40th reunion Oct. 18 at the Methuen Sons of Italy. Call (978) 683-2188 or e-mail tenneyclassof74@verizon.net.
- **Methuen's Tenney High Class of 1964** is holding its 50th reunion Oct. 25 at Promises to Keep, Derry, N.H. Cocktails are at 6 pm, followed by dinner at 7pm. Contact Jaki Skaff Russell at ths64reunion@yahoo.com.
- **State election**: Nov. 4.

NEVINS' BOCCE CHAMPS



Nevins Memorial Library's annual bocce tournament was held on library grounds July 11. The library wants to thank local bocce expert Mario Pagnoni and his team of referees from the Sons of Italy for all of their help in running the tournament. Pagnoni (back) is shown with the first-place team (from left) Laura Abreu, Christopher Simonian, Sue Juknavorian and Abby Juknavorian. Courtesy photo

HAPPY HUNDRED-PLUS!!



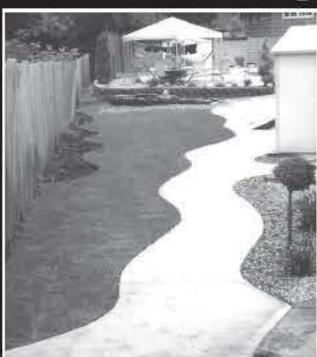
Residents at Nevins Nursing and Rehab Centre recently celebrated big birthdays. Shown are (from left) Agnes Leonard, age 101, and Elsie Claus, age 102. Kay Silloway (far right) is 103 and will be 104 in October. Courtesy photo

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To have an upcoming event listed in MethuenLife's calendar, send info to Melissa@MethuenLife.com or call (978) 682-4777.

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By Jamie Atkinson

CITY HALL MONITOR

Council OK's DPW supplies

JULY

- On July 7, City Council approved numerous contracts, the majority of which were supplies for the Department of Public Works.
- The Council formed a committee that will review the re-codification of the Municipal Code. Every five years the City Council is supposed to go through existing



Kerry Regan

ordinances and decide what, if any, ordinances need to be eliminated or altered. This hasn't been done for over a decade. The committee will be chaired by myself and include Councilors Sean Fountain and George Kazanjian. Solicitor Regan and Mayor Steve Zanni will also be involved.

• The council passed a proposed comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Amendment which puts a temporary moratorium on medical marijuana treatment centers and marijuana dispensaries.

• Gary Marcoux was appointed to the Conservation Committee and Ronald Pitochelli was appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate.

• By request of Councilor Tom Ciulla, the council passed an ordinance amending the fee charged by the city for ambulance services. Ambulance riders not covered by Medicare or Medicaid will likely see an increase in service fees, putting Methuen at the same rate as most cities in Massachusetts.

JUNE

- The city hired Kerry Regan, former assistant solicitor in Lowell, as the Methuen city solicitor. The solicitor handles the city's legal representation. Regan started June 17. Her salary is \$101,393.76 a year.
- On June 17, City Council passed the 2015 fiscal budget in the amount of \$149,110,108 by a 5-4 vote. This figure represents the city, school and water enterprise budget, and is an increase of \$4,301,520 over the 2014 budget.

The next City Council meeting is Monday, Aug. 4 at 7 pm in the Great Hall of the Searles Building.

Jamie Atkinson is chairman of the Methuen City Council.

EXCHANGE HOSTS ST. ANN'S PICNIC



The Methuen Exchange Club recently hosted its annual picnic for about 175 students at St. Ann's Home. St. Ann's nurtures, rehabilitates and supports those who are emotionally and/or behaviorally disturbed. Shown are some of the Exchange Club members who participated. Courtesy photo

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Methuen Farmers Market in full swing!

From fresh veggies and incredible flowers to handmade jewelry and local artwork, the Methuen Farmers Market at Holy Family Hospital got off to a great start last month! A half-dozen vendors took part in the first event July 11. The market will continue to run every Friday, 11 am to 5 pm in the very back of the hospital, near the chapel through Oct. 24. The hospital teamed up with Groundwork Lawrence, which has been running popular markets in Lawrence for several years now.

For more info or to become a vendor, call Rosa Pina, outreach and events manager for Groundwork Lawrence, at (978) 974-0770 ext. 7001.



Local officials cut a ribbon, officially opening the Methuen Farmers Market. Courtesy photo



Jessica Duran of Martin's Flower Mart sold beautiful and fragrant sunflowers, daisies, African violets and mixed foliage. Photos by Melissa Fili



Rosandra Velazquez (front) and Canneris Moquete of Riverdale Farm and Garden Center in Groton sold a large array of fresh vegetables.





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I miss my Market Basket!



Mom's the Word

By Melissa Fili
MethuenLife Writer

I have not stepped inside a Market Basket in 13 days.

That's a personal record for this Greater Lawrence gal, who is known for calling the supermarket chain, "My home away from home."

I, personally, don't have anything at stake in this very public company feud. I'm not an employee fighting for Artie T's return and I don't have a relative who could lose their job. A stint at Market Basket isn't anywhere on my personal résumé.

I'm just a Methuen mom who has shopped at Market Basket my whole life and misses a big part of my weekly routine that, until now, I obviously took for granted.

For the past 18 years, I've been married to an Italian. NOT that our family's world revolves around food, but this on-the-go foursome likes to eat. A lot. And I'm not good at planning out a week's worth of meals (no matter how many Good Housekeeping articles I read), so several times a week I pop into Market Basket. There's

Pleasant Valley Street or Haverhill Street in Methuen, Route 114 in North Andover, Route 28 in Salem, N.H. (the "old" one OR the mega-one, which always costs me a bundle more) and sometimes Route 125 in Plaistow, N.H. I'm comfortable in Market Basket - I recognize the layout, know the drill at the deli counter, feel good about buying certain MB-brand products and am familiar with where each store stocks ice (key when you are running late and just dashing in for a bag to fill to cooler).

I like walking in and seeing red coats. And name tags that include each worker's years of service. And special deals at the end of the aisles!

I used to joke with my husband that he should experience Market Basket at least weekly, in an attempt to spare myself at least one visit. But now, with the shelves bare and workers protesting and Artie T. going so far as offering to buy back the company he built, I haven't been there in nearly two weeks - and life feels a bit off-kilter.

There's so much I miss about my Pleas-



ant Valley Street store ...

- The petite woman at the deli counter who always verbally repeats my meat and cheese order, ensuring that she gets it right the first time.

- The weekday clerk whose grandkids played baseball and basketball with my boys years ago and takes a few minutes to get caught up on what those "big boys" are all doing now.

- The teenagers in produce who always accommodate me when I ask for a package containing just three jalapeno peppers - because there's no way I'll eat six.

- The cheerful longtime worker who takes time from stocking the pasta shelves to say hi to me.

- The elderly "bag boy" who reminds

me every week, "Your eggs are on the top. Be careful!"

- My extra 4 percent off. I don't agree with the conspiracy theorists who say MB upped their prices before offering the extra discount. Shop for groceries anywhere else and you'll pay more. The 4 percent is a nice little bonus and I'll take it!

- The double-sided sales receipt. Genius!!!

Like many folks, I've taken my business elsewhere during this time of strife. While on vacation, I was forced to shop at Hannaford's - two packages of meat and a few "extras," including a \$4.75 gallon milk - totaled \$42. Are you kidding me? I walked into Shaw's and headed up the cereal aisle - where nothing was on sale and there were no "family size" boxes. Good-bye!

I'm willing to take one for the Market Basket team. I'll pay more and make a few extra trips (hint: a gallon of Hood milk at BJ's is the lowest price I've seen) in order to keep my kitchen stocked.

But in my heart, I just want to head back into Market Basket, get More for My Dollar and see all those familiar friendly faces ...

In between heaps of laundry and endless errands, Melissa Fili writes a column for MethuenLife. She can be reached at Melissa@MethuenLife.com.

Carnivorous plant show makes debut

The award-winning New England Carnivorous Plant Society (NECPS) for the first time will be hosting its Pre-Carnivorous Plant Show at the Lake Street Garden Center in Salem, N.H. Plant lovers and all those who enjoy something different will be able to get up close to over 100 carnivorous plants exhibited by the members of the NECPS.

NECPS member Shaun Montminy lives in Methuen and was featured in a recent issue of MethuenLife when his plants were in display at Nevins Library.

The show's featured plants will include pitcher plants from Malaysia with traps the size of softballs that are capable of eating lizards and mice. There will also be sundews from Australia ranging from the size of a dime to 12-plus inches high and the ever-popular Venus Fly trap. For you native plant lovers, NECPS will also display carnivorous plants that grow locally throughout New England.

Free seminars on growing and feeding carnivorous plants will also be offered.

The show will run Aug. 9, 8 am to 5 pm and Aug. 10, from 8 am to 3 pm. Admission is free.

Lake Street Garden Center is at 37 Lake St., Salem, N.H.

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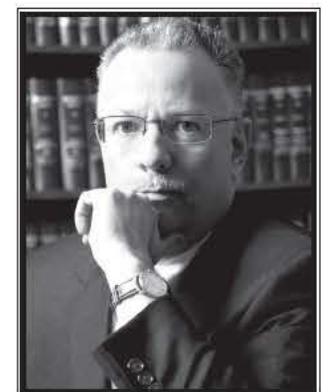


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Teamwork brightens Methuen Square

Methuen Square is a lot more colorful thanks to the combined efforts of the city, Enterprise Bank and Simone's Riverside Farm. The Methuen branch of Enterprise Bank purchased 26 hanging baskets of petunias and lobelia from Simone's Riverside Farms that were hung from a couple dozen lamp posts in downtown Methuen.

"We're in the community, and we like to support the community. This adds to the vibrancy of downtown," said Leland Fastnacht of Enterprise.



Hooking a new hanging basket on a lamp post in front of The Guitar Garage in Methuen Square is city electrician Jeff Farelli. Photos by Steve Whipple

With a freshly hung basket behind them are (from left) Mayor Steve Zanni, John Simone, his dad Bill Simone, John Simone Jr., Enterprise Vice President Leland Fastnacht, Methuen City Council Chairman Jamie Atkinson, and Enterprise Bank Vice Presidents Eileen Regan and Cheryl Parent.



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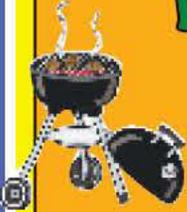
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Check It Out!

Historic tree removed from library

The Trustees of the Nevins Library regret to announce that the large weeping beech tree in front of the library's main entrance has been removed.

"We feel very badly about the fact that this tree is no longer healthy, but now it has become a safety issue and we just don't want anyone to get hurt," said Krista I. McLeod, library director. The tree was removed by the Methuen Department of Public Works on July 17.

The tree was probably planted around the time that the original library was built and the grounds were landscaped, in approximately 1883. As far as library staff and local historians know, the planning for the library's grounds as an arboretum was done by Henry C. Nevins, one of the library's founders, and the second son of David Nevins Sr. in whose memory the library was built.

During construction of the new wing of the library in 2002, the old tree was well cared for, and planning for the building and construction was very much focused on the health of all of the trees on the property, including the weeping beech that would be a focal point of the new main entrance. In the 12 years since construction was completed, the tree has been cared for, including having regular fertilization and nutritional treatments by SavATree, a local firm from Middleton.

"Unfortunately, trees, like all living things, have a certain life span, and our weeping beech is at its end," says Ralph Prolman, vice chair of the Library Trustees. "The tree lost a very large section two years ago, and it was lucky that no one was walking under it when a large limb snapped off unexpectedly."

Since that time the tree's appearance has declined, bark has completely stripped off, and it has become infested with carpenter



Before



After

the library's 8-acre grounds and park. The Friends of the Library have funded a small children's garden that is being constructed on the north side of the building, and the Methuen Arbor Group donated eight new trees that were planted on the library property in the past year.

"Caring for a historic building with a beautiful setting like this is an ongoing responsibility," said McLeod. "We have to continue to care for the property so it can be enjoyed for generations to come."

August closings

Due to repaving of our main parking lot and driveway, the library will be closed on the following dates: Aug. 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29.

Due dates for all books and materials will be extended so that nothing will be due on those days. The library's Book Drop will not be accessible. Library staff encourages patrons to use other area Massachusetts Libraries on those days, and to make sure that students get their summer reading books early! For more information call Library Director Krista McLeod at (978) 686-4080 ext. 10.

Great War 1914: Discussion Program

This year marks the centennial of the outbreak of World War I. Join a discussion of the war's causes, the involvement of the United States and the Great War's continuing legacy, with discussion leader Matthew McKeon. If you are interested in learning more about this important time in modern history, you will be able to read, discuss and learn more than the basic facts you learned

See LIBRARY, Page 35

ants.

The Trustees are looking into options to beautify the main entrance, which may include planting a similar tree species, or

making some other gardening and planting changes that will enhance the area.

The library is currently engaged in several ongoing projects to continue to improve

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In The Garden

By Chris Young
MethuenLife Writer

What is the best-kept secret in Methuen? Hint: it's located in the heart of the city and

includes the most picturesque part of the Spicket River.

Answer: The Methuen Rail Trail and Nevins Bird Sanctuary. The trail is 2.4 miles of walkable gravel path through a cleared wooded area which connects to similar trails in Lawrence and Salem, N.H. The bird sanctuary is 18 acres of trails and peaceful tranquility. Lots of birding too, depending on the time of day. The Spicket River attracts water birds and produces a garden of water lilies.

The Rail Trail Alliance was started in 2005 by a handful of people who are still working together.

"Membership has grown to 30 members," said President Tim Vermette. "But like any organization, it has only 10 or 15 active members."

But those 15 have created a beautiful urban haven, just steps from busy Lowell Street and Five Corners and backing up to Route 213. The walking surface is crushed stone on a path 8 feet wide. Walkers, joggers, bikers and horseback riders - even



A lone runner enjoys a late-July day on the Methuen Rail Trail. Photos by Melissa Fili

people in wheelchairs - share the quiet, safe path.

Nine years ago, the spot was overgrown weeds and rusty railroad tracks from the former Manchester and Lawrence Branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad.



This bridge over the Spicket River provides a great view.

How to remove the tracks?

Member and founder Joyce Godsey searched the Internet looking for a company to remove the tracks for free. She found Ironhorse Preservation Society of Nevada, a nonprofit that removes old tracks and finds a way to reuse them.

In Methuen, Ironhorse not only removed the rusty rail and old wooden ties, it cleared the path, laid down gravel and

smoothed it for walking, then built a bridge over the Spicket. In exchange, The Rail Alliance gave Ironhorse the steel and wood.

"They did the same for Salem (N.H.) Trail link," Vermette said. The Ironhorse website said the company has completed rail-removal projects in other Massa-

See GARDEN, Page 20



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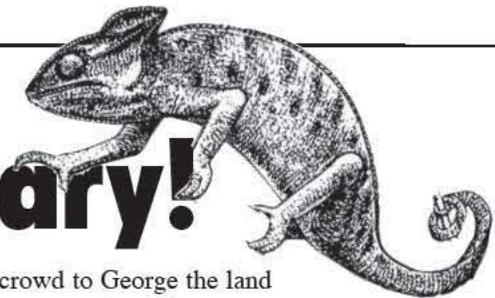
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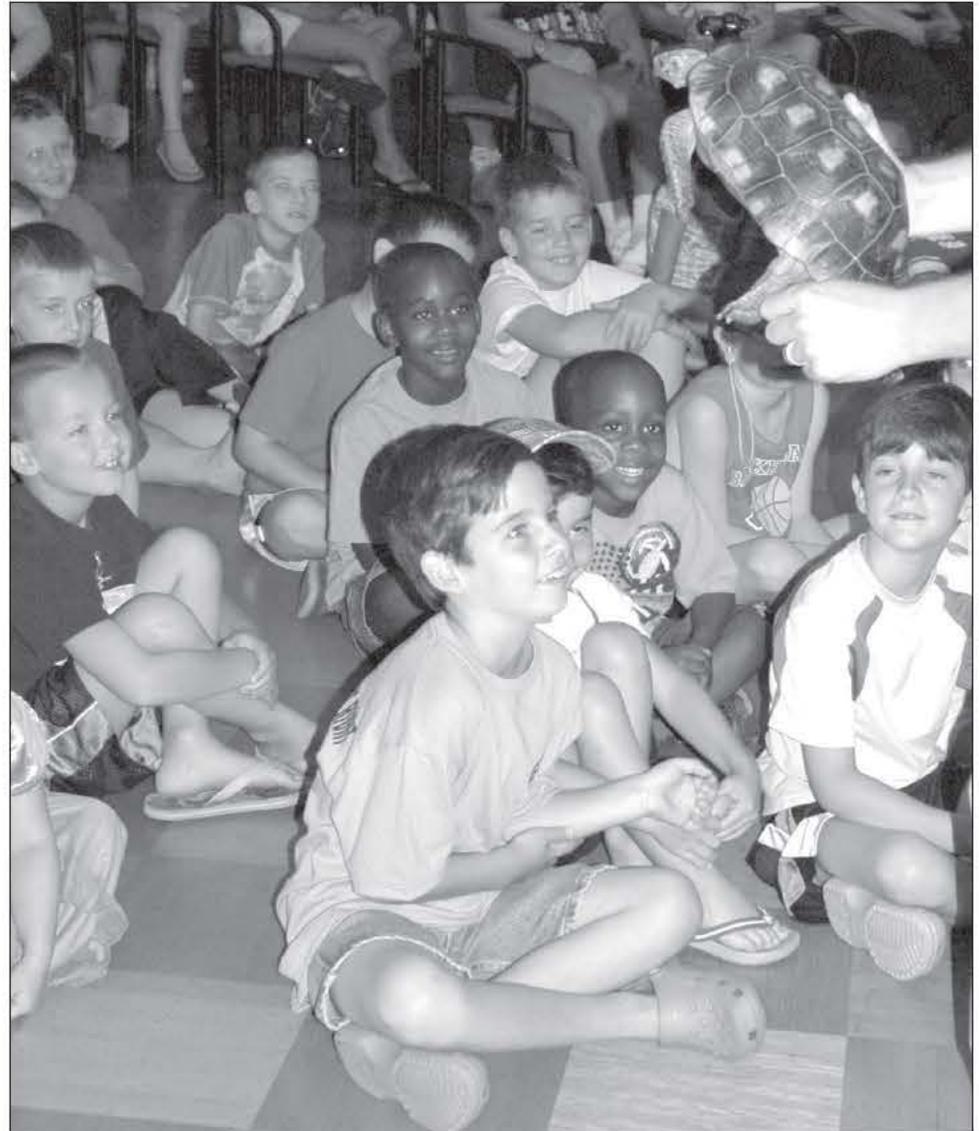
Reptiles invade library!



The Rainforest Reptile Show stopped by Nevins Library last month. Herpetologist Brendan Kelly introduced the crowd to George the land tortoise and Sydney the tegu, among other creepy, crawly and slithering friends. All creatures appearing at the show were rescued reptiles, meaning that they were owned by humans at some point in their life. The program was sponsored by the 21st Century Learning Program.



Henry, a brave volunteer, gets "sniffed" by Sydney the tegu, showing how the South American creature uses his tongue for more than tasting. *Photos by Melissa Fili*



All eyes are on George the land tortoise. He's 55 years old now, but could live up to 200!

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MHS dedication is Aug. 14

The dedication of the newly renovated Methuen High School will take place Aug. 14. The dedication will be at the High School Performing Arts Center at 11:30 am, 1 Ranger Road. From 5 to 7 pm, there will be an Open House to tour the high school. The public is welcome to attend.

The \$98 million renovation started in 2011. The school was built in the 1970s with an open-concept design and had not been updated since then. Consigli Construction Co. of Milford is the renovation contractor.

For info on the dedication, call the Methuen School Department at (978) 722-6000.

Political-forum season kicking off

The summer season of politics heats up in the First Essex Senate district Aug. 11. Incumbent state Sen. Kathleen O'Connor Ives and challenger Jessica Finnochiaro will take on voters' burning questions. The Candidates Forum, hosted by Methuen Community Television, will be held in the Timony School Auditorium, 45 Pleasantview St., Methuen. This event is free and open to the public. Doors open at 5:30 pm.

Michelle Houle, host of "Methuen Now," will serve as the moderator. She will kick things off with some questions on the issues. Then, the candidates will field questions from the audience.

Nothing is more American than apple pie and ... politics? Methuen Community Television is returning to Mann Orchards for the 14th Essex State Representative Democratic Candidates Forum. Incumbent Diana DiZoglio is facing challengers Phil DeCologero and Oscar Camargo. The forum will be Aug. 25 at 7:30 pm.

MCTV is looking for your questions for these Democratic candidates for state representative. The public is welcome to register and ask a question in person during the forum. Doors open at 7 pm.

If you are unable to attend, questions can be e-mailed to info@methuentv.org or mailed to us at MCTV, 13 Branch St., Methuen, MA 01844. The Republican candidates will be included in a future forum.

Forums will be available on Comcast 22 and Verizon 33 cable stations in Methuen and streamed online at methuentv.org.

National Night Out is Aug. 5

The City of Methuen, along with the Methuen Police Department and Methuen Fire Department, will be participating in National Night Out which will be held Aug. 5 from 6 to 8pm. This is an opportunity for neighbors to get out and spend time with each other as well as meet their first responders. There will also be visits from Sparky the Firedog and McGruff the Crime Dog. If you're interested in participating or have questions, contact Sgt. Gunter at (978) 983-8792.

How about a moonlit walk?

Here's what's happening with the Methuen Rail Trail:

Moonlight walk on Aug 10 at 8 pm. Meet at the IHOP parking lot on Route 28 in Salem, N.H. The group will be heading north to walk the Salem section of the trail.

On Aug. 12 at 7 pm, the group will hold its monthly meeting at Nevins Library. Topics will include upcoming fall events.

There will be a leisurely trail walk Aug. 16, leaving from the depot on Railroad Street in Methuen at 8:30 am.

Next month's meeting will be Sept. 9, 7 pm at Nevins Library.

For more info, visit methuenrailtrail.org.

O'Connor Ives' city office is open

State Sen. Kathleen O'Connor Ives opened two campaign headquarters during her re-election bid.

The Methuen office is at 17 Hampshire St., and is open Wednesdays and Thursdays from noon to 2 pm and 6 to 8 pm. The Salisbury headquarters is at 106 Bridge St., and hours are Mondays and Tuesdays, noon to 2 pm and 6 to 8 pm. Contact number for the offices is (978) 886-4792. The senator invites constituents to stop by and pick up a bumper sticker or a lawn sign and sign up to volunteer for the campaign.

The Democratic primary is Sept. 9 and the general election is Nov. 4.

O'Connor Ives is running for re-election in the First Essex State Senate District which includes Methuen, Amesbury, Haverhill, Merrimac, Newburyport, North Andover and Salisbury.

tion in the First Essex State Senate District which includes Methuen, Amesbury, Haverhill, Merrimac, Newburyport, North Andover and Salisbury.

Are you an author?

Nevins Library is looking for local authors. Anyone with a published book (self-published included) is invited to attend the library's first Local Authors Fair on Oct. 4. This is your opportunity to stand out from the crowd by briefly touting your book at this event, which is free and open to the public. You will also have the opportunity to sell copies and chat with other authors.

Authors should register in advance by calling the reference desk at (978) 686-4080, ext. 12, or by signing up through the library's online event calendar.

Planned Parenthood endorses DeCologero

The Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund (PPAF) announced its endorsement of Phil DeCologero to represent the 14th Essex District in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. PPAF is the advocacy and political arm of Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts.

"DeCologero understands that access to health care and comprehensive sexuality education are essential to building a healthy community," said Marty Walz, president of PPAF. "With states across the country

passing hundreds of bills to restrict access to sexuality education and women's health care, Massachusetts can and should be a national leader on these issues. Voters can trust that DeCologero is the candidate that will work to make that vision a reality in the coming legislative session."

DeCologero (D-North Andover) is challenging Rep. Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) for the Democratic nomination in the Merrimack Valley district which includes Methuen.

DeCologero, 27, formerly worked at the Massachusetts Statehouse and most recently spent over two years as a member of Mayor Steve Zanni's senior staff.

New school year for adults

Do you want to improve your skills to communicate in English or pass the HiSET (formerly known as the GED) to get a better job, or enter college or a training program? New classes are starting soon at the Methuen Adult Learning Center to help you achieve your goals.

Registration begins Sept. 2, 9 am to 2 pm at the Dr. Shirley Forrest Callan Methuen Adult Learning Center, 36 Boylston St., Methuen. All classes are free and funded by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Methuen Public Schools and the City of

See METHUEN, Page 20

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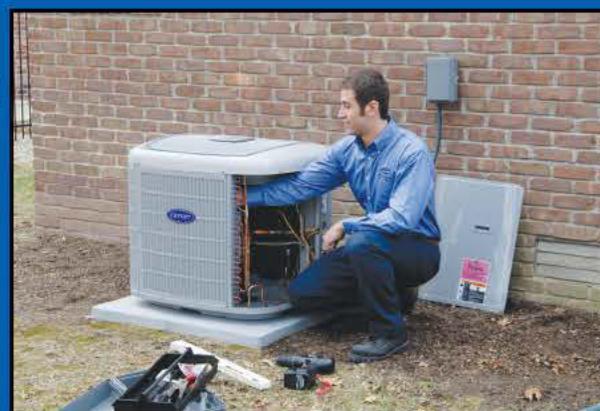


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By Christine McLaughlin Howell

INSPIRING PEOPLE

FRIENDS OF FIREFIGHTERS SAYS THANKS WITH FOOD DELIVERIES

There are people who talk about appreciating the work our firefighters do, and then there are people who do something about it. Maureen Campaiola is a doer.

The notion to form a group that "expresses gratitude through random acts of appreciation" came to her after two firefighters lost their lives in Boston's Back Bay fire last March. Campaiola got to thinking that although the outpouring of support was wonderful, it should not take a tragedy for the community to acknowledge the daily work of firefighters. With that mindset, Campaiola stopped at Mann Orchards, picked up some pies and quiches, and dropped them off at Methuen's North End Fire Station. After that, she contacted a few local business people, created a Facebook page and the Friends of Methuen Firefighters was up and running.

"I thought, 'If no one joins me in this endeavor, I'll do it myself,' but I was surprised at how many people joined me," said Campaiola.

Although the Friends of Methuen Firefighters was her idea, Campaiola is quick to point out that she is part of a group - a very enthusiastic group. Currently, the group has 18 members and is looking for



A group of residents shows their appreciation to Methuen's firefighters by preparing a meal for the 4 firehouses monthly. Shown are (back, from left) firefighter Mark Abraham, Maureen Campaiola, Tom Firth, firefighter Jim Killelea; (middle, from left) Debbie Ingalls, Jean Tiani, Erin Prindle, Connie Doto, firefighter Susan Vallera, Sarah Gurule; (front, from left) firefighters Dave Lahey and Kevin Wright. Photo by Christine McLaughlin Howell

more volunteers. The Friends are paired up and deliver food once a month to all four fire stations. There are 23 firefighters

to feed: five at the North station on Howe

See PEOPLE, Page 21

BEING A FRIEND: WHAT A FEELING!

Here's what members of the Friends of Methuen Firefighters say about being involved with this project:

"I found it to be so rewarding and gratifying to see just how much every single firefighter truly appreciated being recognized and appreciated. Your idea and execution was spot on!!! Thanks for including me." - Ric Beaudoin

"They were all so appreciative and wonderful! Ric and I felt so great doing this. We really can't say enough about how wonderful our experience was and how amazing our firefighters are!! - Kim Carter

"What a great thing you organized for us!! and I had a blast with Scott! I can't wait to do it again. Thank you for doing this. You are amazing!!!" - Bridget Grella

"Feels good!!" - Scott Martin

"I wanted to help show our appreciation because they put their lives on the line." - Jean Tiani

"I've been doing this on my own since 9/11 and it's another way of giving back." - Debbie Ingalls

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Methuen, continued from page 17

Methuen.

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For info, call (978) 681-9407 or visit methuen.k12.ma.us and click on Currier.

Giving the gift of life

During the summer months, on average about two fewer donors give blood at each American Red Cross blood drive than what is needed to meet the needs of patients. Here's your chance to ensure an adequate blood supply.

Upcoming Methuen blood drives are:

Aug. 4, 2 to 7 pm, Knights of Columbus, 462 Broadway.

Aug. 9, 8 am to 1 pm, Holy Family Hospital, 70 East St.

Aug. 13, 2 to 7 pm at Knights of Columbus, 462 Broadway.

To make an appointment to donate blood, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or log on to redcrossblood.org.

PMA hosting yard sale

Presentation of Mary's Indoor Yard Sale is set for Sept. 27 from 8 am to 1 pm at the Dupre Center, located on the PMA campus, 209 Lawrence St., Methuen. Table rentals are available for a donation of \$25 or if you just wish to come and treasure hunt, then this is the yard sale for you. Proceeds to benefit student scholarships.

For more information, contact plaliberte@pmamethuen.org.

Farm-to-Fork is Sept. 27

It doesn't get much fresher than food that goes from the farmland to the table!

Pleasant Valley Gardens' annual Farm-to-Fork Dinner is set for Sept. 27, 6 pm at the farm on Merrimack Street, Methuen. Enjoy a sumptuous four-course meal made with fruit, produce, meat and dairy from local farmers and prepared by local farm chef Carolyn Greico.

Cost is \$75. Only 75 tickets are available and must be reserved by Sept. 13. Pick up tickets at the greenhouse or by visiting pleasantvalleygardens.com.

Garden, continued from page 15

Massachusetts communities including Haverhill, Saugus, Danvers, Wenham, Everett and Rockland.

Lawrence Mayor Daniel Rivera is working with Groundworks Lawrence on clearing a 1.4-mile stretch of abandoned track to build a walking trail that connects with Methuen's.

Far from feeling abandoned now, Methuen's Rail Trail is a pleasant, open path cut through woods and neighborhoods. Walkers (or joggers, bikers, etc.) walking north will see well-tended flower boxes, backyards turned into vegetable gardens to feed families that live on Pine Street. Before they reach the Nevins Bird Sanctuary, they will walk across the wooden bridge that spans a charming, meandering section of the Spicket River. If they are lucky, they could spot a hawk, ducks or Great Blue Heron.

The Alliance (methuenrailtrail.org) holds guided walks every month and other special events such as a Moonlit Walk starting at 8:30 pm on Aug. 10 and a trail race on Sept. 20 as part of Essex Heritage Society's Sails and Trails. Alliance members are always looking for ways to improve the trail. Recently, they applied to Groundworks Lawrence for a \$50,000 grant for more improvements.

Methuen Rail Trail connects three communities in northeastern Massachusetts as it follows the route of the former Manchester and Lawrence Branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad.

The Rail Trail's northern end begins in Salem at the state's border with New Hampshire. From there, the trail heads south through Methuen and crosses the Nevins Bird Sanctuary, where you can spot hawks, herons, egrets, woodpeckers, ducks, and many other types of birds in the park's woodland, marsh and meadow habitats.

About a half-mile farther, you'll pass a relic of the trail's rail history: the Methuen Railroad Depot which was built in 1907

and sits at the corner of Union and Railroad streets.

The trail ends at Manchester Street Park in Lawrence, where you'll find a playground, picnic tables and a connection to the Spicket River Greenway.

Parking is available at the northern end of the trail at Hampshire Road in Salem. Farther south, parking is available at the Methuen Railroad Depot and at Manchester Street Park, 77 Manchester St., Lawrence.

Blossom bonanza

Torry Sciacca said he is a pretty good gardener who loves to "futz" around in the garden.

But even that does not explain why his Asiatic lilies are sprouting 26 blossoms per lily, instead of the usual six to 10. Asiatic lilies are true lilies (*lilium*), unlike daylilies

See BLOSSOM Page 26



26 blooms per lily for Torry Sciacca!

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ABOUT THE BIRD SANCTUARY

The sanctuary, located off the main trail just north of the Train Depot, adds a unique flavor to the Methuen Rail Trail. Here are some highlights:

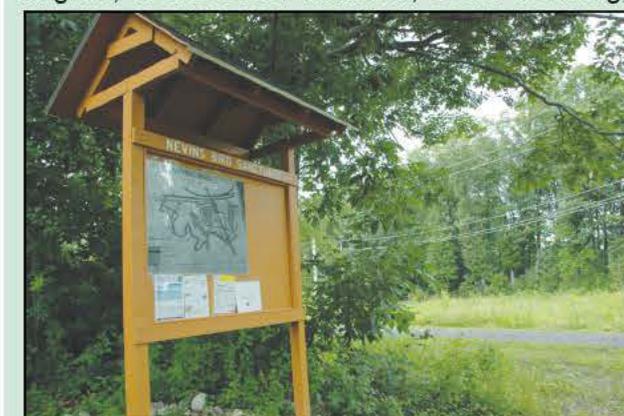
Species of note: You could see Red Tail Hawks, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, American Bittern, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Wood Ducks, Mallards, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Chimney Swifts, American Goldfinch, Eastern Kingbird, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Cedar Waxwing; occasionally Great Egret,

Black Ducks, Cormorant and Osprey.

Habitats: woodland, marsh, small meadow, riverbank.

Rookery: A Great Blue Heron rookery on the Spicket River can be best viewed from a point on the Rail Trail a quarter-mile north from the sanctuary.

Warning: Beware of poison ivy and deer ticks.



The entrance to the bird sanctuary is indicated by this large kiosk which includes a map and other info.

Meticulous Victorian honored for preservation

A picture-perfect and meticulously maintained Queen Anne Victorian has earned this year's Preservation Award, courtesy of the Methuen Historical Society.

Owners William and Judith Raitt and David and Ellen Burke, who share the home at 6 Quincy St., were honored during the Historical Society's annual meeting, held recently. Both couples have lived there for decades and have enjoyed raising their families in the spacious and well-loved historic property.

"The Preservation Award Committee was impressed by the excellent condition of the original details and materials on this large Queen Anne Victorian," noted Preservation Awards Chairwoman Katherine Robinson. "Of particular interest is the original slate roof, siding and stained-glass

windows."

The home is approximately 125 years old.

Every year, the Methuen Historical Society's Preservation Awards recognize appropriately renovated and well-maintained residential and commercial properties in Methuen. To qualify, properties must be at least 75 years of age (100-plus-year-old properties are preferred), have their original or restored materials and details (no vinyl replacement windows) and must be in excellent condition as viewed from public roads. Nominations from the public, including self-nominations, are welcome. Please contact the Methuen Historical Society by Feb. 28 if you have a nomination that you would like to be considered.



This Queen Anne Victorian on Quincy Street was honored by the Methuen Historical Society. Photo courtesy of Tom Grassi/Image-Tec



SILVER AWARD WINNER

Methuen's Ariana Lee Ellsey, 14, was recently presented with the Silver Award from the Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts. The award applauds effort, determination and commitment to Girl Scouting. Ariana Lee's service project, "Making Education Fun for Kids Outside," consisted of sprucing up the play area for kindergartners through fifth-graders at the Tilton School in Haverhill. She belongs to Haverhill troop No. 61458 and worked on the project with fellow Scouts in her troop. Courtesy photo

People, from page 19

Street, three at the West station on Bean Street, 12 at the Central station on Lowell Street and three at the East station on Swan Street.

"They don't know when it's coming, we just show up," said Campaiola. The type of food delivery is up to the pair who are scheduled that month. Bridget Grella brought a homemade dish of lemon pepper chicken and pasta, and Scott Martin donated bread and strawberry cream logs from Piro's Bakery. Maureen Campaiola and Jean Tiani chose candy bags for their contribution, and Kim Carter and Ric Beaudoin surprised the fire departments with pizza, salad, pie and ice cream.

"I think it's great that the community recognizes us," said firefighter Jim Killelea.

Firefighter Susan Vallera also said that it is a "great thing that they are doing," and added, "We get taken care of by the area businesses, too."

Campaiola, 52, has lived in Methuen her whole life (except for a brief time in Tewksbury) along with her daughter, 31, who now lives in Haverhill. Campaiola cares for her mother, which is another reason that she feels grateful to the Methuen Fire Department: Her ailing mother has needed help over the last several years and the firefighters have always shown kindness, she said. For every time that they make a trip to her house to treat her mother, her resolve to pay back strengthens. She continues to work on scheduling drop-offs so all firefighters



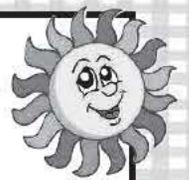
Maureen Campaiola presents Lt. Aziz with a thank-you for his dedication to Methuen's residents. Courtesy photo

benefit. No stranger to multi-tasking, Campaiola has owned a house cleaning business for the last 12 years and currently works as a certified debt and money specialist at The Debt Free Project.

Campaiola encourages community involvement, no matter how small the contribution: "Even if it is platter of cookies that your family loves, drop it off because they are so happy that we are trying to show we appreciate what they do."

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BUSINESS BRAVOS

Autistic man thrives on job, builds morale

Story courtesy of American Training in Andover.

Methuen's Matthew O'Beirne walks into work each day with a big smile on his face, not only because he loves his job at the North Reading Stop & Shop, but because he loves the independence it gives him.

O'Beirne, 24, has Pervasive Developmental Disorder, or PDD, a diagnosis that places him on the autism spectrum. He went to American Training last fall and was trained through the StarWorks program and placed at Stop & Shop in a job that allows him to move beyond that diagnosis, giving him freedom and responsibility that he might not otherwise experience.

"I like the independence," O'Beirne said of the job. "They trust me enough to let me do my job the way I need to do it to get it done on time. I like that they trust me that way."

He's been on the job, his first, for seven months. In that time he's seen an increase from 12 hours per week to 15 hours spread over three days each week, as well as a steady increase in responsibilities.

"I feel like they're trusting me with more responsibilities now," O'Beirne said.

Among those responsibilities are porter duties like taking out the trash, mopping up spills and cleaning counters, as well as bagging and cart-collection duties. He said as new things are added, he adjusts accordingly.

"It's kind of difficult when they throw me off my routine by adding something else," he said, "But after about a week,



Methuen's Matthew O'Beirne doesn't let autism hold him back from expanding his responsibilities at the North Reading Stop & Shop. Courtesy photo

I seem to get the hang of it again."

O'Beirne said the job has been a positive experience.

"It's been pretty good so far. I have a nice boss and get along well with a lot of my co-workers," he said.

Store manager Rick Capistran said O'Beirne brings great morale to the store.

"When I see Matt come in, he's always ready to work and happy to be here," he said, adding that his positive attitude is something for others to emulate.

"I just try to brighten up people's days by being very friendly to everybody," O'Beirne said, emphasizing that he tries to set a good example for the newer employees.

"He's a hard worker, always gives 110 percent, and is always willing to learn," Capistran said. "He's a great kid."

Carol Smith, the StarWorks career coach who partnered O'Beirne with Stop & Shop, said that she carefully assesses each guest and employer's abilities and needs to provide a strong and successful match.

"Matthew is conscientious about his job and is looking to grow from his experience. His employer has a great partnership with him and values him both as an employee and as a part of the Stop & Shop community. Matthew made a commitment to his job and embraces what he can and cannot do," said Smith.

While O'Beirne is finding success in his job at Stop & Shop, the avid animal lover keeps busy with his dog-sitting and walking business, on rover.com, and through volunteering at the Salem Animal Rescue League.

"Matthew looks beyond a job, and is an entrepreneur. He is extremely committed to animals and has set up his own web site, travels by train to metro Boston to fulfill obligations to pet sit ... always moving forward," said Smith.

StarWorks builds confidence and skills leading to employment for people of all levels of abilities and challenges. They assist more than 100 people each year in their job search by assessing current abilities, developing marketable skills, and providing vocational and personal counseling.

To find out more about American Training and StarWorks, visit AmericanTrainingInc.com.

Diana DiZoglio

State Representative



Diana with her uncle and grandparents in Methuen

"Over the past two years, I have worked to bring our amazing seniors together, here in Methuen and across the Merrimack Valley. I believe it is immensely important that we keep our older adults socially engaged, independent and active in the community.

I want to continue to take your input with me to the State House and ensure your voices are heard loud and clear on Beacon Hill." --Diana

Poet's Corner

"The Keeper's Sonnet"

By Matt Kraunelis

*The Keeper plays the flute to pass the time,
his weathered lighthouse echoes with refrain.
The house and he have lingered past their prime,
they've marked the tide and watched the summers wane.*

*A window box of roses comes to life
against the pallid paint and foggy glass.
"The sea is more a mistress than a wife,"
he snickers as he casts a line for bass.*

*Time's slippery ghost haunts every living thing,
but regret is not for those who tend to light.
He's played his flute and heard the sailors sing -
he's seen seals dance and watched the seagull's flight.*

*Though brightness fades and breakers take their toll,
this ocean life has saved his shipwrecked soul.*

Matt Kraunelis is the author of "Tackle Box," a collection of poetry which was nominated for the 2014 Massachusetts Book Award. He is a founding member of the Grey Court Poets and the Robert Frost Foundation. He lives in Methuen with his wife, Dawn and his children, Jack and Sarah.

Editor's note: Pieces appearing in the Poet's Corner are regularly selected by the Methuen-based Grey Court Poets. To have your work considered, contact them at mattkraunelis.com and find out about joining their group.

Santana Rae's closes; MethuenLife readers chime in on replacement

Santana Rae's, the Mexican restaurant that took over the former Bugaboo Creek site at the Loop, has closed its doors.

Generally described as upscale, Santana Rae's opened in October and closed July 13.

"This isn't the demographic for us," said owner Jon Tosi, who named the eatery after his daughter. "We still believe in the product and are looking for a new location, perhaps closer to Boston. It's the right product, wrong location."

After Bugaboo Creek closed, months of renovations transformed Santana Rae's into a clean, uncluttered restaurant with several flat-screen TVs above the bar known for its special crafted margaritas.

"I'm very sorry that it didn't work here, but unfortunately, that's what happened," said Tosi, who said the slower pace during the week countered the busy weekends.

The recently opened outdoor patio also wasn't enough to offset the lack of weekday diners.

Tosi echoed the message that was printed on a paper posted on the door.

"It's with great sadness that we had to announce this. We thank everyone for their patronage and our followers. We enjoyed being here," he said.

The Loop's general manager Gayle

WHO SHOULD MOVE IN?

MethuenLife posted the Santana Rae's closure on its Facebook page July 16, and asked our "friends" what they thought should take over that spot. More than 150 folks commented and suggestions included Buffalo Wild Wings, Panera Bread, Cheesecake Factory, Five Guys Burgers & Fries and PF Chang's. There were even a couple requests for Shadi's to return to Methuen. Other suggestions included a Trader Joe's grocery store or having the Registry of Motor Vehicles move into The Loop.

Nigro said that they would be lucky if a new tenant -- preferably another restaurant -- was in that space before the new year.

Said Nigro, "The lease status will be reviewed for new options. There is interest in the property but it will take time. We've had numerous calls. We're looking forward to having anew business in there. It's a fine place for a restaurant, since Santana's re-did it so wonderfully."

-- Steve Whipple



Santana Rae's opened at The Loop in October 2013 and closed last month.

Photo by Steve Whipple

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By Darrell Halen
MethuenLife Writer

MADE IN METHUEN

Work gets engraver's creativity flowing

When a stuntwoman working on the HBO vampire drama series, "True Blood," wanted to give farewell gifts to 15 fellow crew members at the show's break-up party, she reached out to an engraving company in Methuen.

The stuntwoman purchased 15 leather-covered flasks, each one customized with the recipient's name and show job title, as a special gift. The popular show wrapped up its final season.

The flasks are one type of the many products available from Merrimack Engraving & Marking Co., a Methuen-based firm started 42 years ago in the home basement of the company's founder and is today run by one of his sons, a city resident who began learning the trade at a young age.

The company, which offers a diversified set of products and services, has done work for musician Stevie Wonder, professional boxer Micky Ward and the American Celtic punk band, the Dropkick Murphys.



For John Ness, owner of Merrimack Engraving & Marking Co., a typical day at work can include anything from creating dog-tag necklaces for Stevie Wonder to monogrammed gifts for a local wedding party or Braille signs for the seeing-impaired.



"True Blood" flasks.



An engraved granite floor medallion.

See ENGRAVE, Page 27

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Travel Talk

By Jim Keogh
MethuenLife Writer

In 2014, Cosmopolitan Travel & Cruise Center celebrates our 50th year in business. To mark this very special occasion, we took about 100 VIP clients to New Brunswick, Canada, where we hosted an Anniversary Tour during a three-day stay at the historic, luxurious Algonquin Resort in the quaint coastal resort village of St. Andrews-by-the-Sea.

We chartered two luxury motor coach tour buses and departed from Methuen on a Friday morning in July. After a few rest breaks and a lunch stop in Bangor, Maine, we crossed the USA/Canada border from Calais, Maine, to St. Stephen, New Brunswick. Everyone was required to present his/her valid passport, and after routine formalities we were in Canada, on Atlantic Time (one hour ahead of Eastern Time). Our first stop in New Brunswick was at the Fundy Aquarium, which showcases marine life indigenous to the east coast of Canada by way of several viewing tanks. The Bay of Fundy plays a prominent role in New Brunswick's history. Following the aquarium visit, we continued to The Algonquin Resort, where we registered and settled in. There was time to freshen up and change for dinner, where dress was semi-formal for our 8:30 pm Anniversary Celebration Dinner in the elegant setting of the hotel's Grand Ballroom.

On the front lawn near the hotel's entrance, we assembled for a group photo. Then we went in for dinner. Uniformed members of the hotel staff stood at the entrance doorways of the Ballroom and handed a glass of champagne to each guest. A sales executive from the hotel welcomed our group and thanked us for choosing The Algonquin as the locale for our anniversary party. We extended a celebratory toast to our VIP clients who filled the room with glamor and sophistication.

Dinner was an extravagant event -- Caesar salad, seafood chowder, filet mignon, smoked salmon, bread pudding, chocolate cake. At the conclusion of this wonderful meal, it was time to retire for the evening and prepare for the next day's scheduled activities.

Saturday morning started with a buffet breakfast. Then we met our local guides who boarded our chartered buses and provided us with an interesting and informative two-hour tour of St. Andrews' major attractions. We visited Kingsbrae Gardens where we had lunch in their café. After lunch, many of our tour members boarded the Schooner we had chartered and enjoyed a three-hour cruise along the bay, toward the Gulf of Maine, where we had the opportunity to view whales frolicking in the sea. Some members of the group chose, instead, to relax at the hotel's swimming pools or

visit its world-class spa or hop on the hotel's shuttle to the downtown shopping district, or play a round of golf at the hotel's par-72 championship course.

For dinner, there were two seatings, Early or Late, at a waterfront restaurant. In July, the sun sets on St. Andrews after 9 pm.

On Sunday, we checked out from the Algonquin after breakfast and stopped at Garong Chocolate Shop in St. Stephen before crossing back into the USA. Again we made a meal stop and rest breaks in Maine before returning to Methuen in the late afternoon.

Everything about St. Andrews-by-the-Sea is special, including its status as a Canadian National Historic District, one

of the oldest and prettiest in the Maritimes. St. Andrews is a treasure trove of beautiful mansions, magnificent scenery and rich maritime life. It is a thriving modern resort destination, yet it remains steeped in turn-of-the-century charm.

Jim Keogh is the president of Cosmopolitan Travel & Cruise Center of Methuen.



This group of 82 travelers poses for a photo at the Algonquin Hotel in St. Andrews-by-the-Sea, New Brunswick, Canada.

Blossom, continued from page 20

(hemerocallis.)

"It's been something spectacular," he said, at a loss to explain his bounty.

He bought the bulbs two years ago. The first two years, he had five or six blooms on each stem.

This year, even though he gave the plants the usual fertilizer and water, he suddenly found 26 to 30 big blooms on each lily.

Although not usual, some bulbs are just more productive, according to several lily websites.

Cool weather often inhibits large numbers of plants.

MethuenLife was curious about Mr. Sciacca's unusual first name.

"My name was supposed to be Salvatore, but my father didn't like the name."

He was baptized Torry.

"In the service, I ran around with my birth certificate to prove that is my real name. You're not allowed to use nicknames in the military," he said.

Chris Young is a writer who likes to garden. Write to her at Chriswords@verizon.net.

Turning fifty is nifty!

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| Thu. 11/13 | Musical Salute to our Veterans | \$ 119 |

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Engrave, continued from page 24

"I always found it interesting," said John Ness, who began working for his father, Bill, when he was just 9 years old. "I just liked it, the variety of work we do here, the creativity."

Bill Ness, the father of four sons, started the company in his Bruce Street home with a single engraving machine in 1972 after he was laid off from his job as a purchasing agent. He began working for clients in the high-tech field and one of John's first tasks was to paint letters engraved on keyboards.

"He stayed with it and it started growing," said Ness, whose family business expanded to military and government work, plaques and other recognition items, panels for equipment, trucks, and jobs for banks and schools.

The company has kept pace with changes in engraving technology over the years, and around 2010, John and his wife, Tara, launched a giftware side to the business.

"We started off strictly (in) high-tech, the computer industry," Ness recalled. "Then, one thing leads to another thing. As you get more and more equipment, you can do other things ... You have to keep changing. ... If the sign part of it goes down, hopefully the military (side) is up (and also) the giftware section. You try to balance it out."

According to the company, it has extensive in-house design and fabrication capabilities and can apply wording, symbols and logos to flat, convex, concave, textured, and irregular surfaces on plastics, metals, stone, leather and glass.

The firm's many services and products include Braille embossing, engraving door nameplates, vinyl lettering, creating art, museum and exhibition labels, vehicle lettering, engraved stone, wide format digital printing, reproducing photos in metal and leather, engraved Christmas ornaments, and pad transfer printing - the process of imprinting irregular-shaped objects.

The giftware side of the business - hand-made and monogrammed gifts in metal, stone and leather - is known as Killorglin Creations, named after the town in County Kerry, Ireland, where Tara is from.

Products, including bottle openers and taps, cigar humidors, beer mugs, etched mirrors, wallets and money clips, are available from an online store linked to the company's website, www.memco.net.

"Around 2010, we decided - when the economy starting dipping - to try a new avenue and do this," Ness recalled. "The military was starting to back up on their orders. They started to really slow down. So, we started doing weekend fairs, mostly Irish festivals. It went really well so we started doing more and more of them. ... Now, we'll do anything. (Customers) will order different engraved items."

Bill Ness passed away three years ago. John - whose work for the business is the only job he's ever had - co-owns the compa-



Braille sign at the MassAudubon Sensory Trail at Stony Brook in Norfolk

ny with his mother, Cynthia. The company, which moved to Lawrence around 1975 and later to several other locations, has been operating its 2,000-square-foot shop on Chase Street since 2002. The company engraves approximately 50,000 items a year, and it has shipped products all over the world, including Australia, France and Qatar.

A lot of the company's sales come from customer searches for items online, word of mouth and repeat business. During the holidays, the company typically ships out three dozen packages a day. The wedding season also brings in a lot of business.

"Our busy time is right now and then Christmas," said Ness. "From April right through til September. October is a catch-up month. Then (from the) second week of November - it's out straight through til Christmas. January, after the holidays, no one is buying anything. And then it picks up for Valentine's Day. On the other side of the world, (people) are getting married while we're in winter."

Locally, the company has made Braille signs for schools in North Andover and Danvers, and reproduced old photos in aluminum for The Liberty Hotel in Boston, the site of the old Charles Street Jail.

For a radio station owned by Stevie Wonder, the company made promotional dog tag necklaces. Ward has purchased flasks for groomsmen and framed photo name plates for charity golf tournaments. Dropkick Murphys has also purchased photo name plates for charity events, and a private art collector ordered gallery labels for paintings made by singer Tony Bennett.

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By Joseph G. Bella

REMEMBER WHEN...

At Mary's, food & friendliness were outstanding

There is one place that I can honestly say put the "Pleasant" in Pleasant Valley, and that place was Mary's Lunch, later known as Mamma Mary's breakfast/lunch restaurant.

After my family moved from Lawrence to Pleasant Valley in the early 1960s, I discovered Mary's Lunch and really enjoyed their home-style breakfasts and extensive lunch menu. Mary's Lunch was opened in December 1949 by Tom and Mary Iannalfo, in an earlier building on Merrimack Street. Then in 1967, their daughter Elaine and her husband Charlie Bonanno took over for the aging Iannalfos.

In 1986, a new, much larger Mamma Mary's opened - 2 feet in front of the old building, which was then razed. They operated the restaurant seven days a week for the next 17 years.

I remember seeing Charlie behind the counter "always" wearing his cooking

apron, and I also remember seeing Elaine's large black Cadillac parked in her reserved space in front of the restaurant daily, with the license plate marked "LUNCH."

Helping Elaine and Charlie were daughters Gina-Marie and Bonnie, son Chuck and his wife Diane, and even some of the grandkids.

When it came to hospitality, Elaine made you feel like family at every visit. Sadly, Elaine passed away July 19, 2004, which was a shock to family and friends. After 37 years, Charlie sold the restaurant in 2004 to the Caruso family, and it became Mamma Caruso's restaurant. They kept the business for only about a year or so, then sold to Don Smeriglio who opened Borelli's Italian Deli. Now whenever I visit Borelli's, I always recall my Mamma Mary's restaurant memories and the wonderful food they served in Pleasant Valley.



The former Mary's Lunch, later known as Mamma Mary's, was on Merrimack Street where Borelli's Italian Deli is now located. Courtesy photos

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Charlie Bonanno and his daughter Bonnie were always busy in the kitchen and at the counter.



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From the Hill to the Valley



By Methuen Rep. Linda Dean Campbell

Good news for city in state budget, bond bills

While it's the season to fire up the barbecue and take advantage of long-awaited summer sun, July is also one of the busiest months in the Massachusetts Legislature because the formal legislative session ends July 31. Any outstanding legislative priorities are acted upon, and the House and State Senate - which have passed the state budget - will soon be responding to any vetoed items and giving final approval on a number of bond bills, which allow for investing in specific types of state priorities.

I'm happy to report the Methuen legislative delegation was successful in securing funding for a number of key Methuen priorities through the fiscal year 2015 state budget and three state bond bills. I will highlight additional items in several follow-up articles, as there are many policy initiatives associated with the budget too.

First, as member of the House Committee on Ways and Means (budget), I am pleased to report that amendments to the budget filed by myself and Sen. Kathleen O'Connor Ives were included in the final budget.

These amendments include \$300,000 for the Methuen High School Stadium project and \$200,000 for upgrades to the Methuen Rail Trail. Completion of a Methuen Rail Trail is an exciting prospect, where a biking, walking and jogging path would be available for families and outdoor enthusiasts to take advantage of the local scenery with traffic-free travel, and be connected to other bike paths in the region, adding to an extensive network of rail trails. The \$300,000 for renovations to the athletic facilities at Nicholson Stadium is in addition to a \$500,000 Gateway Cities state grant awarded to Methuen to help construct a new clubhouse and \$100,000 secured by the Methuen legislative delegation for the design phase of the main athletic field. This additional funding can be applied toward portions of the project not covered by grants or fund-raising.

The priorities included in the bond bills obtained by our delegation (myself, Sen. O'Connor Ives and Reps. Diana DiZoglio and Frank Moran) included improvements

for the Tyler Street area and Route 110 West, downtown Methuen, and Merrimack Street resurfacing. Additional bond appropriations were also included for the high school stadium project. It's important to note that bond bills are bills that do not come before the Legislature on a regular basis, so it's critical to include priority projects on the bond list when the opportunity arises. Also, these bond monies are released at the discretion of the governor, so our delegation will continue to advocate and work closely with Mayor Steve Zanni and Director of Community Development Bill Buckley so this funding is finalized.

Lastly, the Methuen legislative delegation has been working for many months on a legislative fix to relieve Methuen of penalties by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education related to net school spending. I, with the help of Reps. DiZoglio and Moran, pushed for language to be included in the House budget and Sen. O'Connor Ives advocated for language on the Senate side of the budget. The language was included on both sides, which guaranteed its inclusion in the final budget, resulting in a \$1.6 million penalty being waived, avoiding any deduction from state-awarded Chapter 70 monies for the schools. Now Methuen is able to focus on funding education and closing the gap in net school spending to meet minimum spending on education required by law, instead of spending money on fines.

I look forward to updating you next month on a number of important pieces of legislation we will be taking up as the session comes to a close that will surely generate passionate debate from many different perspectives. As always, please continue to provide me with your perspectives, which provide me with critical input on policies that impact the residents of Methuen.

Rep. Campbell is vice chair for the Committee on Election Law. She also serves on House Ways and Means and the Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security. She can be reached at (617) 722-2305 or Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov.

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Money Matters



By Sal Petralia

Put down that summer romance & read up on some tax stats ...

"If you go looking for friends, you're going to find they are very scarce. If you go out to be a friend, you'll find them everywhere."

- Zig Ziglar, author and motivational speaker (1926-2016)

I thought some of the following tax statistics from The Tax Foundation would be interesting to view: The first is the percentage of the total federal income taxes paid by taxpayers at various income brackets. (data: 2009)

Income Bracket	% Income Taxes Paid	Income bracket	% of Income Taxes Paid
Top 1% Income	35.1%	Top 5% Income	56.5%
Top 10% Income	68.3%	Top 25% Income	85.6%
Top 50% Income	97.1%	Bottom 50% Income	2.9%

The second set of data, also from The Tax Foundation, is a slice of tax brackets going back 160 years. I selected the tax bracket for a single person making \$50,000. Though there are many tax brackets and filing statuses, the \$50,000 level is representative of the history of the rates. Also, I just selected every 10 years, which is also representative.

Year	Tax Bracket	Year	Tax Bracket	Year	Tax bracket
2013	25%	2003	25%	1993	28%
1983	45%	1973	62%	1963	75%
1953	77%	1943	72%	1933	31%
1923	31%	1913	3%	1893	-0-
1883	-0-	1873	-0-	1863	5% (fund Civil War)

The last piece, from The Tax Policy Center, is an illustration of property taxes paid in dollars and by percentage of home value (2007-2011) by state. Both figures are the "mean," that is the average from the high to the low. I selected most of the states I have clients in. I also included the state income tax rate for a single person making \$50,000 per year as an illustrative example.

State	Property Tax \$ Paid	% of Home Val.	Sing-\$50K Inc. Tax Rate	State	Property Tax \$ Paid	% of Home Val.	Sing-\$50K Inc. Tax Rate
CA	3,079	.71	9.30%	CT	4,958	1.62	5.5%
FL	1,997	1.01	-0-	GA	1,493	.90	6.0%
IL	3,698	1.79	5.00%	ME	2,047	1.14	7.95%
MD	2,836	.92	4.75%	MA	3,586	1.06	5.20%
NV	1,770	.78	-0-	NH	4,585	1.87	-0-
NJ	6,883	1.97	5.52%	NY	4,521	1.56	6.45%
SC	801	.56	7.00%	TX	2,531	1.93	-0-
VT	3,473	1.66	6.88%	AZ	1,385	.70	4.24%

In addition, The Tax Foundation reports that state and average local sales taxes generally fall in a range of 5.5% to 9%. Four states have none. Only New Hampshire on this list has none. The others are Oregon, Delaware and Arkansas. Tennessee has the highest combined sales taxes at 9.44%.

Former Methuen resident Sal Petralia is a Certified Financial Planner™, practitioner and a registered principal with LPL Financial, 5621 Strand Blvd Suite 102, Naples, FL 34110 Tel: (239) 596-7822 E-mail: sal.petralia@lpl.com.

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The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.

SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARS HONORED BY FIREFIGHTERS



Firefighter Memorial Sunday was held at Methuen's Central Fire Station on June 8. The event honored Methuen's firefighters who have passed, noted the 42 firefighter deaths nationwide in 2014 and recognized Methuen college or college-bound students who earned scholarships from the Methuen Fire Department. The Fire Department then served up breakfast after the ceremonies. Pictured are (from left) Deputy Chief Mike Hamel, Brian Cole, Nicole Carroll, Liam Atkinson, Kelly Lennon, Brandi Bonneau, firefighter Scott Bonneau (accepting scholarship on behalf of Sean Bonneau), union president Tim Sheehy, Luke Aziz, Douglas Whiteside, Cody Donahue and Jessica DiZoglio. Photo by Steve Whipple

KARMELOWICZ EARNS ELKS SCHOLARSHIP



Brandon Karmelowicz, a 2014 Methuen High School graduate, received the Raymond F. Simpson Life Member Memorial Scholarship from the Wakefield Lodge of Elks No. 1276. He received the award through the lodge's program for children and grandchildren of members. Brandon's father Tony has been a member of the Wakefield lodge for many years, having served as exalted ruler. Shown are (from left) Tony Karmelowicz, Brandon Karmelowicz, Ray Simpson's daughter Kathy Simpson and Ray's son-in-law John Duggan. Brandon will attend the University of Massachusetts Lowell in the fall. Courtesy photo

SAY 'CHEESE!'

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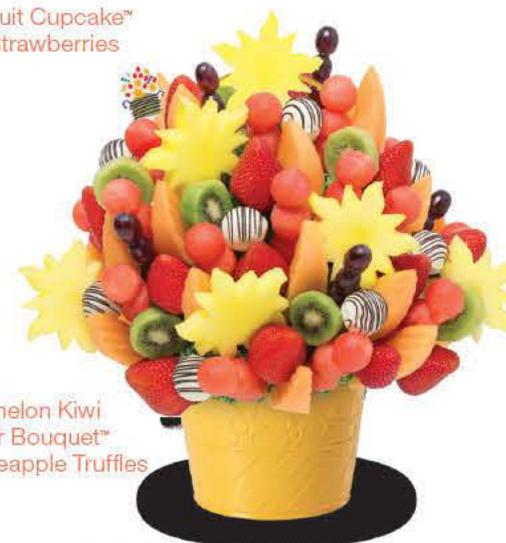
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RE-ELECT
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YOUR STATE SENATOR

Bringing people together to get things done for Methuen!

Senator O'Connor Ives has a proven track record of listening to residents, solving problems, and getting results.



Tackling the urgent substance abuse crisis in our community

As opiate abuse numbers skyrocketed in New England, Senator O'Connor Ives took the crisis head on. She worked closely with Merrimack Valley advocates to bring the State Senate's special committee on substance abuse to Methuen City Hall where they heard testimony from community members, first responders, clinicians, and public officials. Their voice was clear: we cannot arrest our way out of this epidemic. We need more prevention and more access to long-term treatment. And the Senate listened. In May, the Senate unanimously passed a bill expanding access to long-treatment options and additional funding for substance abuse prevention and long-term treatment facilities was included in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. Senator O'Connor Ives is committed to continuing to fight for these necessary reforms to ensure the Commonwealth is treating addiction in a responsible, accessible, and comprehensive way.



Advancing the Nicholson Stadium and Methuen High School Field House projects

When Senator O'Connor Ives took office she asked community leaders and residents to tell her their infrastructure priorities. Parents, student athletes, community members, municipal and school leaders made their voices clear. Nicholson Stadium and the high school's field house needed critical improvements. Senator O'Connor Ives went to work. She teamed up with Methuen's representatives to secure a \$100,000 for designs to make the stadium's renovation shovel-ready, paving the way for more grants. Then she allocated \$300,000 in the 2015 budget for renovating the athletic fields. She worked to include \$1,000,000 for the Field House in the state's Capital Bond Bill and, just last month, she included an additional \$600,000 in the state's Environmental Bond Bill for synthetic turf. She's determined to continue to partner with the community to see this project through so our athletes and band members have the facilities they deserve.



Moving forward on critical transportation and recreation improvements

This session the State Senate took up a Transportation Bond Bill, giving our cities and towns an opportunity to move on critical road upgrades. State Senator O'Connor Ives talked to Methuen's municipal leaders and listened to residents about their top priorities for transportation improvements in the city. And then she got to work making them happen. The final bill included \$1,500,000 for repaving Merrimack Street, \$1,000,000 for design and public safety improvements at the intersection of Burnham Road and Routes 110 and 113. She focused on safety by including \$100,000 for the planning and upgrade of traffic signals at the intersection of route 113 and Tyler Street. She also advocated for \$500,000 for survey, design, and improvements to the Methuen rail trail and secured \$150,000 to improve water quality at Forest Lake. When key funding opportunities arise, Senator O'Connor Ives makes the most of them to deliver the resources we need to improve our community.



Focused on our schools

When a bureaucratic glitch in our state school funding system threatened to penalize Methuen Public Schools with a \$1,600,000 penalty, Senator O'Connor Ives worked with Methuen's entire legislative delegation and the city government to create a state level solution before it cost our system a dime. This ensures Methuen can invest in our children without losing money on penalties.



Dedicated to our seniors

Thanks to the efforts of Senator O'Connor Ives and her colleagues, funding for councils on aging was increased in the Fiscal Year 2014, helping senior centers continue to provide quality programs. She also advocated for a provision in this year's budget that protects seniors in nursing homes from being prescribed potentially harmful psychotropic drugs without the informed, written consent of their families.

Let's re-elect Senator O'Connor Ives so she can keep up the good work!

Democratic Primary - Tuesday, September 9
 General Election - Tuesday, November 4

www.VoteForIves.com

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Paid for by the O'Connor Ives Committee



By Sue Foster
MethuenLife Writer



Groovy summer night was a team effort!

As a city-sponsored event, tickets are \$8 for Methuen seniors and must be purchased no later than Aug. 7. Tickets will be available to the general public, subject to availability, at \$15. Please note: Parking is not permitted on Barker Street.

Coupon time

Farmers' Market Coupons distribution day is Aug. 6 from 8:30 am to 3 pm. First-come, first-served basis until they are gone. Bring proof of where you live, a license or other photo ID with your address and a utility bill such as your telephone bill. You will also need to sign a statement that you are 60 years or older, live in the Merrimack Valley and your income is not higher than:

- 1-person household: \$ 21,590/year or \$1,800 per month.
- 2-person household: \$29,101/year or \$2,426 per month.
- 3 person household: \$ 36, 612/year or \$3,051 per month.
- 4 person household: \$44,123/year or \$3,667 per month.
- 5 person household : \$51, 634/year or \$4,303 per month.
- 6 person household: \$59,145 per year or \$4,929 per month.

Homeowners Series

Our Homeowners Series continues Tuesday, Aug. 12 at 10:30 am: Register of Deeds Paul Iannuccillo will be on hand to discuss the function of his office and speak on what is available to seniors. **The Registry of Deeds** is a recording office of all land transactions in Northern Essex County including Andover, Lawrence, Methuen and North Andover. It is also a research library for recorded land transactions with records dating back to 1869. Items like deeds, easements, liens, mortgages, special permits, orders of condition and plot plans all get recorded. Michelle Mastrangelo, Methuen's city assessor, will also present information about services available through her office.

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 1 pm: Kimberly Flowers

of Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley will speak on "Downsizing: Beginning the Process." Are you considering moving to a smaller residence and wondering what to do with a lifetime of "stuff"? Are you thinking about downsizing, but have no idea where to start? Then this talk may be just the thing for you!

We hope to see you at these informational talks designed especially for you!

Manage the pain

A free six-week workshop on Chronic Pain Self Management meets Wednesday, 1 to 3 pm from Sept. 10 to Oct. 15. This program is for anyone who is diagnosed with whiplash injuries, post-surgical pain, post-stroke pain, muscular pain, Crohn's disease, persistent headaches, chronic neck and shoulder just to name a few.

Join the workshop and learn to control your pain, deal with frustration, fatigue, isolation and poor sleep, eat well, start an exercise program, deal with depression and increase your energy level. To register, call (978) 983-8825.

Need a ride?

We do not have our own transportation services here at the Methuen Senior Activity Center, however, the City of Methuen contracts with the Merrimack Valley Transit Authority (MVRTA) for public transportation. Financial assistance is available to purchase ticket books at half-price for the EZ Services through a Community Development Block Grant. MVRTA mini-buses will provide curb-to-curb service after you have called to make a reservation. If you are 60 years and over or are disabled, consider applying for this program. A one-page application can be completed in less than 5 minutes to save you hundreds of dollars toward the coupon books. Call us at (978) 983-8825 for more details.

New classes

3 B Senior Fitness: Tuesdays at 8 am focused on Balance, Bones and Brain. This comprehensive program will include balance training, strengthening exercises and age-appropriate trivia questions. You'll enjoy this great workout, laugh and challenge your body as well as your brain. And, you'll have great music to do this all to!

Do you like to dance? Need some exercise? Try the new **Intro to Line Dance** Wednesdays, 10:15 to 11 am. Val will teach you some great steps to the sounds of great music!

Did you know we have a **workout room** located on the premises? It's easy to start a healthy way of life! Come down to the center and get the information packet and health form to sign and return. Meet with our fitness instructor, Brian, to learn the machines and you'll soon be on the road to a healthy new you!

Senior Suppers

Holy Family Hospital, a Steward Hospital, is once again offering \$5 senior suppers. Dates are Aug. 20, Oct. 22 and Dec. 11.

Register for each supper by calling the DoctorFinder at 1-800-488-5959. Make sure to tell them of any food allergies.

Events are held in the hospital auditorium from 3:30 to 5 pm.

Happy Hearts show

The Happy Hearts' BIG Show Celebrating 30 Years will be held Thursday, Sept. 25 at 1 pm and Sunday, Sept. 28 at 2 pm. The show will highlight music that has been presented over the years. Join us for an afternoon of great fun!

Coming up

Aug. 6: Pizza & A Movie, "Captain Phillips" will be shown after an 11:30 am lunch. Sponsored by Shaun Toohey, candidate for state rep. Advance sign-up in office required to get your complimentary ticket. Deadline: Aug. 4.

Aug. 9: Saturday Night Ballroom Dance. Band: Pete Saran New Life. 7 pm. \$9.

Aug. 12: Coffee Time with Jessica Finocchiaro, candidate for State Senate, 9:30 to 11 am.

Aug. 12: Informational Talk: Registry of Deeds and Assessors Office. 10:30 am.

Aug. 13: 45's Tournament, 1 pm. \$2 per person.

Aug. 13: Free Legal Clinic with attorney Karol Bisbee, 9 am. Appointment required (15 minutes maximum).

Aug. 14: Birthday lunch, 11:30 am.

Aug. 15: Movie Matinee, 10 am. Showing "Fever Pitch."

Aug. 19: Movie Matinee, 1 pm. Showing "The Invention of Lying."

Aug. 20: Methuen Veterans Director Tom Hargreaves' monthly office hours, 10 to 11:30 am.

Aug. 20: Footcare Clinic, by appointment only. \$25.

Aug. 23: Saturday Night Ballroom Dance with the Bob Drinkwater Band, 7 pm. \$9.

Aug. 26: Spaghetti Supper sponsored by Sen. Kathleen O'Connor Ives, 4 to 6 pm.

Aug. 27: Informational Talk: Home Safety, 10:30 am. Presented by NorthEast Rehab.

Aug. 28: Day trip to Foxwoods Casino, 7 am. \$25.

Aug. 29: Movie Matinee, 10 am. Showing: "August Rush."

Methuen Senior Center is located at 77 Lowell Street. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 4 pm and Friday, 8 am to 12:30 pm. Staff includes Executive Director Corinne LaCharite, Linda, Lynne and Sue. To view our entire newsletter go to www.cityofmethuen.net and click Senior Center. For more information on activities, trips or functions, call (978) 983-8825.

How about those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer? I hope everyone is enjoying the season! We would like to thank all who spent a summer night here dancing the night away with the 60's Invasion band! It was a great night and it would not have been such a great time without all of you in attendance, Tony Carelli who volunteered to pick up all the great desserts from Piro's Bakery, serve them at the break and volunteered in the kitchen during the event, Marilyn Freeman who managed the 50/50, Linda Sheehan for making all the posters, Al D'Agata for going virtually everywhere to place posters in windows and storefronts, and Lynne and David Moss for volunteering their time to make sure the event went smoothly. We would like to thank the entire office staff, Elena, Cheryl, Linda, Lynne, Sue, Fran for selling the event tickets, Executive Director Corinne LaCharite for all she does daily, Piro's Bakery for the fantastic brownie desserts and of course the one and only 60's Invasion Band for the groovy and fun night!

Like jazz?

The Activity Center "Friends" are celebrating their 30th anniversary with a special presentation by the Volare Jazz Band, a 16-piece jazz band comprised of musicians from Southern New Hampshire and Massachusetts from the Timberlane Band. Come and enjoy a fun afternoon of music, refreshments and friendship on Aug. 10 at 2 pm.

This event is free and all are welcome.

Senior Picnic

The 30th annual Senior Picnic will be Thursday, Aug. 21, 12:30 to 3:30 pm. Don't miss this great day of fun, food and friendship! There'll be a complete fried chicken dinner by The Chicken Connection plus music provided by D.J. Dick Arsenault.



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Tea & Treats



By Brenda Ghorashi

As long as I can remember, I have always been fond of good food and taken an interest in cooking. However, I believe it turned to passion when I was a young bride and living with my new husband Ali, born and raised in the Middle East.

Before coming to the United States to go to college, Ali's mother taught him to cook. He is an amazing cook and he patiently shared with me all he had learned from his mother. I was blessed to have had my mother-in-law come and stay with us one summer when our boys were very young. We got to know and love Mama Ghorashi, who was an extraordinary woman. She spoke no English and we struggled with Farsi, her native language. Yet, she was warm and witty and we laughed a lot in spite of the language barrier. Looking into her deep-set black eyes, one could see the kindness, generosity and hospitality for which the Persians have always been famous. My husband translated as she shared stories of how back home they loved company and entertained at any hour of the day. Their house was always full of family and friends. Ali was one of

Mama Ghorashi's cooking: simple yet exotic

eight children and it wasn't unusual to have guests for lunch, tea and dinner.

During that summer visit, she shared with me treasured family recipes and how to properly use special herbs and spices. Still today, I like to make her summer beverages and refreshing treats that delight even our American friends. The recipes are surprisingly simple yet exotic. Thank you, Mama. We miss you and cherish the memories of that summer together in what became our Persian kitchen.

Cold Yogurt Soup

The basis for this soup is the yogurt. The combination of ingredients may sound off and it is perhaps hard for you to imagine that this soup could taste good. But every summer I have served this soup many times and have yet to see one person who hasn't liked it or who hasn't asked for seconds AND then the recipe.

- 1 boiled egg, chopped
- ½ cup raisins
- 3 cups plain yogurt
- ½ cup light cream
- 6 ice cubes
- 1 cucumber, chopped
- ¼ cup green onions, chopped
- 2 teaspoons salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup cold water
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley
- 1 tablespoon fresh dill, chopped

Soak the raisins in cold water for 5 minutes. Put yogurt in a big mixing bowl; add cream, egg, ice cubes, cucumber, green onions, salt and pepper. Pour off the water from the raisins and discard before adding raisins to the yogurt mixture. Add 1 cup of

cold water and mix well. Let this soup stand in the refrigerator for 2 to 3 hours. When serving, garnish with parsley and dill.

Sweet & Sour Cucumber Drink

- 2 cups water
- 6 cups sugar
- 1 ½ cups vinegar
- Couple stalks fresh mint
- One or two large seedless cucumbers, peeled and shredded or grated.

Put the water in a pan; add sugar and let the mixture boil on a medium flame until the sugar is dissolved. Add vinegar and boil for 15 or 20 minutes more. Remove from the flame; add mint and allow it to cool. The consistency should be like syrup. Store the syrup in a bottle with a tight cover in the refrigerator. To make the cucumber drink, you will only need 4 or 5 tablespoons of the syrup in a tall glass. Add 3 or 4 teaspoons of shredded cucumber, then fill the tall glass with crushed ice and serve with a sprig of fresh mint and a long iced tea spoon.

Persian Peach and Melon Delight

A Persian iced dessert served with sliced, grated or crushed fresh fruit, topped with crushed ice, and flavored with rose water and fruit syrup such as cantaloupe or peaches, and topped with crushed ice. It is

very quick and easy to prepare. I remember the first time I tasted it on a scorching hot day, it immediately gave me relief and became my favorite summer treat. Try to serve this when you have guests and surprise them with this refreshing, simple and yet exotic dessert.

- 1 medium ripe cantaloupe
- 2 ripe peaches, peeled and sliced
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons rose water
- Crushed ice

Cut the melon in half and scoop out as many melon balls as you can. Put them in a large bowl. Save the melon juice and add it to the melon balls. It is important that you use all the melon juice. Add the peeled and sliced peaches to the melon balls. Add sugar, lemon juice and salt. Let stand in the refrigerator for a few hours. About a half-hour before serving, add rose water and put it back into the refrigerator. Just before serving, put the melon mixture in individual serving dishes and top it with very finely crushed ice.

Brenda Ghorashi is former owner of the Tea Parlour in Salem, N.H.

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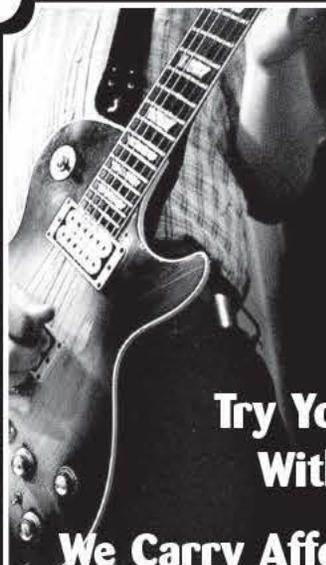


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Grateful aunt leads way in March for Babies



Team Shelby, which includes Methuen's Susan Perusse, is shown at this year's March for Babies in Lowell. Shelby is in front, behind the little boy. Courtesy photo

Methuen's Susan Perusse turned a personal family struggle into a fund-raising bonanza that helps babies who are born with challenges.

Her great-niece, Shelby Forrest, was born weighing just 1 pound, 10

ounces and battled through many health issues as an infant. Four years ago, Team Shelby was created as a family team in the March for Babies, which benefits the March of Dimes.

Since then, Team Shelby has raised \$46,389 for the cause. This year, Perusse was the top fund-raiser at the Lowell walk at LeLacheur Park, with \$2,165. Team Shelby was the No. 1 team family, raising \$4,430. Perusse has been on the board of directors for the March of Dimes for the past five years and is very committed to their cause.

"I am happy to say Shelby has just turned 9 years old and she is a happy, healthy little girl. She and her family made the trip from North Carolina and were able to walk with us this year," Perusse said.

A consistent walker over the past few years has been the family matriarch, Eunice Cunningham, Shelby's 97-year-old great-grandmother.

"The March of Dimes is really a wonderful organization," according to Perusse. "They have helped so many - from polio in the 1930s to prematurity, advocacy, nutrition and research. They are truly the 'Champion for Babies' and I am proud to be part of the March of Dimes."

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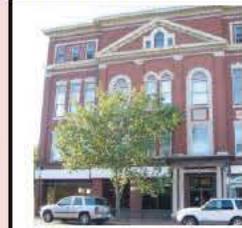
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Library, continued from page 14

in school. Discover our history at the Nevins Library! Materials and a reading list will be provided at the Reference Desk.

Session One. Monday, Sept. 8, 6:30 to 8 pm. The War Begins.

Session Two. Monday, Sept. 22, 6:30 to 8 pm. The Peace to End All Peace.

Please feel free to bring WWI artifacts to our second meeting. The program will be held in the library's Garden Room. Contact Beth Safford at (978) 686-4080, ext. 12 or esafford@mvlc.org with questions or to register for this program. Materials and a reading list will be provided at the Reference Desk.

Celebrate creativity this year!

After last year's seemingly endless winter, are you dreading the approach of another?

Forget about the weather and discover your creative muse instead! This fall and spring, the Nevins will host a series of programs on finding and nurturing your creativity.

Starting in October, join us for our first Local Author Fair, find out about self-publishing and listen to local author Jay Atkinson describe the life of a writer. By November, you'll be so inspired that you'll be ready to write your own book. The Nevins is here to help as we host our first-ever NaNoWriMo (National Write a Novel in a Month) activities, featuring a caffeine-fueled Friday night lock-in. In the spring, we will turn to art, hosting programs by local artists and photographers. Check our web site for further developments!

Teen Corner

We are a little sad to be thinking about August already, as it means the end of the summer reading programs. But before we say goodbye to summer, there are still a couple programs available for teens going into 7th grade and up:

The Aug. 5 **Henna Class** still has a couple seats available if you sign up soon! The class is at 2 pm.

Also, there are seats available for anyone who'd like to participate in our **Board Game Bonanza** on Aug. 11 at 3:30 pm.

Our summer **Finale Party** will be Aug. 14 at 6 pm, where we will be celebrating with ice cream sundaes and giving out the prizes earned throughout the summer. Remember: In order to be eligible to win the grand prize for most points earned or the runner-up prize, you **MUST** be signed up for an online reading log with at least 2 books logged. You may sign up for this reading log at <http://readsinna.org>. The grand prize is \$40 in gift cards and the runner-up gets a \$20 gift card. Additional points can be earned by logging additional books or attending YA library programs.

Teen Theatre Club show

The Independent Teen Theatre Club has been working hard all summer to put together a production of "Just Another High School Play." This comedy is about a group of actors who have apparently been abandoned by their drama teacher and have to fend for themselves opening night in front of a live audience. The student assistant director and the stage manager step in, find a box of scripts which they pass out to the cast, and try to throw something together. What follows is a rollicking show full of physical comedy, gags and satirical re-writings of many plays from Shakespeare to Albee. Performances will be Aug. 15 and 16 at 7 pm. Tickets are only \$5.

Calling all local authors!

The Nevins is looking for local authors. Anyone with a published book (self-published is fine) is invited to attend our first Local Authors Fair on Oct. 4 at 1 pm in the Great Hall. This is your opportunity to stand out from the crowd by briefly touting your book at this event, which is free and open to the public. You will also have the opportunity to sell copies and chat with other authors.

We ask that each author register in advance by calling the reference desk at (978) 686-4080, ext. 12, or by signing up through our event calendar. Also, we ask each author to commit to bringing at least five other people in order to ensure a good crowd for this event.

Meet A Database: Ancestry.com

The Nevins Library has a large number of databases available on our website. You can find reliable, current information 24 hours a day from your home computer, or come into the library when we are open and use our computers. Over the next several months we will profile our databases in this column, so you will be aware of many of the resources that the library has available for you online. This month we take a look at Ancestry.com

Genealogy, or the study of one's family history, has become an intriguing and often challenging hobby for many people. In order to facilitate this research, the Nevins Library has contracted with Ancestry.com to allow patrons to access their family records from many different sources. Through Ancestry, you can search back through time to see the records for births, deaths and even naturalizations of immigrants to U.S. citizens. It's a great way to piece together the threads of information to inform a new generation about the lives and times of their

descendants. This database is only available at the library on our public computers.

News from the Children's Department

D.W. the Play: On Aug. 6 at 10 am, Nevins Memorial Library will host a special program for all children in Methuen who are entering kindergarten in September. "D.W. Counts Down to Kindergarten!" is a traveling play based on the popular TV show "Arthur." In the play, Arthur (the big brother) helps his sister D.W. learn some helpful things about going to kindergarten. There will be times when the audience can be a part of the play too. Other characters include Baby Kate, the Tibble Twins and Grandma Thora. Following the program, families are invited to go to the park on the library grounds for a special presentation of interactive tales by storyteller Nicolette Nordin Heavey. Families can register online at the library's website (www.nevinslibrary.org), then select the link for calendar of events) or call the Children's Department at (978) 686-4080 ext. 26. This program is a collaborative project with the Michael B. Christensen Community and Family Support Center; lead agency Greater Lawrence Community Action Council Inc., the Methuen Public Schools and Nevins Memorial Library.

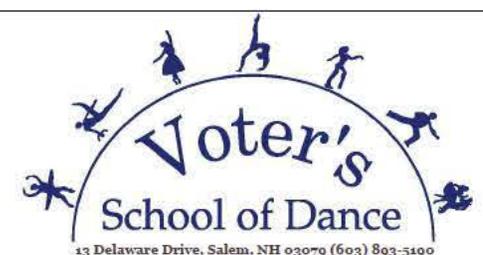
Help Take a Bite Out of Hunger! Our community giving project in the Children's Department this summer is collecting non-perishable food items for the Merrimack Valley Food Bank. Please consider bringing in an item when you come to any program or during a regular trip to the library. Any level of participation is welcome. Each food tag will have a commonly found

nonperishable food item that can be used as a reminder when you do your food shopping. Nonperishable items in high demand include canned chicken or tuna, any type of dry pasta and rice, canned fruit, canned pasta, canned soup or stew, canned vegetables, shelf stable milk, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter and jelly, and dry potato mixes. Please fill out the back of your food tag when you bring in your food donations. We will enter you in a special Thank You drawing that will take place Aug. 25. The last day for food donations is Aug. 22.

Fizz, Boom, Read! The summer months are a great time to read for fun! Let your child explore areas of fiction and nonfiction that are sparked by their personal interest. The library also has material to support the summer reading lists of the Methuen Public Schools. There will be programs for chil-

dren of all ages, pre-K to grade 6. This year we are introducing an expanded program of events for preschool-age children. Don't forget to visit the Children's Department and pick up your free summer reading activity packet. Many of the contests require you to use an online reading log to be eligible. Each age group has a goal for the number of books to read to qualify for items from the Topsfield Fair, Chipotle Grill, the Boston Bruins and more! If you are interested in the Topsfield Fair Reading Incentive, please drop off a self-addressed stamped business-size envelope for each child at the Children's Desk. We will mail you the tickets when they arrive. To qualify for this incentive, all books that you have read must be recorded in your online reading log by Aug. 8 (Reading logs are found at www.readsinma.org). We are sure that you can reach and exceed the minimum reading goals listed for each age group. Please contact the Children's Department at (978) 686-4080 ext. 26 for more details and deadlines of the contests. Fizz, Boom, Read™ is sponsored by Nevins Memorial Library, the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Performers were funded by The Methuen Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council; a state agency, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant, and the Friends of the Nevins Memorial Library.

For an extensive list of Nevins Memorial Library happenings, check out www.nevinslibrary.org.



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Computer teacher now oversees school's technology

Longtime computer science teacher MaryLou Francis of Methuen has accepted the position of technology integration specialist at The Academy of Notre Dame in Tyngsboro, her alma mater. She will be responsible for promoting and integrating technologies from pre-K classrooms through grade 12.

"I am very excited about being able to focus on integrating

technologies that will support quality teaching and learning here at the Academy," said Francis.

In addition to interactive white boards that are currently used in classrooms, the high school and the elementary school each have their own computer lab that is accessible to all students. High school students are also encouraged to

bring in their laptop, notebook or tablet devices for classroom use.

One of Francis' initiatives is to provide faculty members the training and instruction they need in order to make the most use of these and other technologies. Individual, small group and large group professional development workshops will be conducted to ensure the faculty is confident and comfortable working with the latest technological programs and tools.

"Training faculty in new technologies will enable teachers to enhance their curriculum, and provide students with a more engaging and interactive learning experience," Francis added. "In this age of ubiquitous technology we want to encourage computational thinking and collaboration at an early age."

Francis has been the high school technology teacher for more than 10 years, has provided valuable feedback and

See FRANCIS, Page 37

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Methuen's MaryLou Francis has been named technology integration specialist at the Academy of Notre Dame, Tyngsboro. Courtesy photo

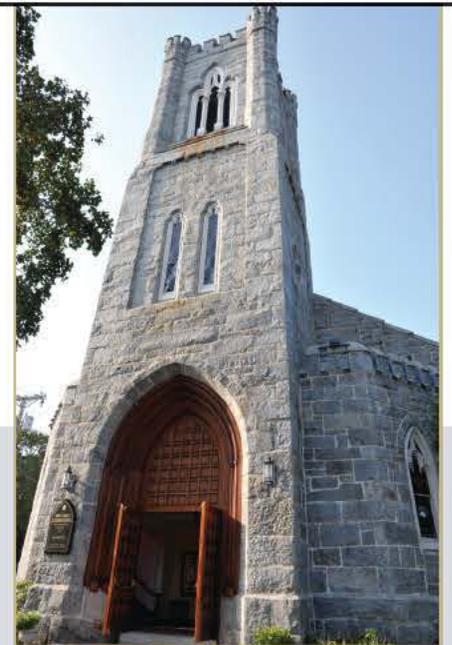
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Seniors tour Statehouse

State Rep. Diana DiZoglio, D-Methuen, recently hosted the Methuen, North Andover and Lawrence Senior Centers for a visit at the Massachusetts Statehouse in Boston. Nearly 100 Merrimack Valley seniors participated in the visit, as they toured the Statehouse and joined DiZoglio and fellow local legislators for a meet-and-greet over coffee and pastries.

DiZoglio brought the seniors into the House Chamber to provide a hands-on civics lesson on the legislative process in the Commonwealth. The seniors sat in the seats of lawmakers as DiZoglio explained how an idea becomes a law and strongly encouraged them to be actively involved in the process.

"During my first term, I have strived to host events like these that bring our amazing seniors from the Merrimack Valley together," said DiZoglio, who represents portions of North Andover, Methuen, Lawrence and Haverhill. "I believe it is so important that we keep our older adults socially engaged, independent and active and I plan on hosting many more gatherings over the months and years to come."

Joining DiZoglio to welcome the seniors were state Sens. Kathleen O'Connor Ives, D-Newburyport, and Bruce Tarr, R-Gloucester, as well as state Reps. Marcos Devers, D-Lawrence, and Frank Moran, D-Lawrence.



State Rep. Diana DiZoglio (center) leads local seniors on a tour of the Statehouse and explains the legislative process. Courtesy photo

Francis, from page 36

recommendations for the Academy's website and student information systems, and was instrumental in the Academy's NEASC re-accreditation. Prior to joining the faculty, she taught computer science at both the University of Massachusetts Lowell and Northern Essex Community College.

The Academy of Notre Dame is a private, Catholic college-preparatory high school for young women and a co-educational pre-K-through grade 8 elementary and middle school sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Students hail from both Massachusetts and New Hampshire.



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Boom for two

By Steve Whipple
Whip's Wheels Writer

You take one part retro and add one part high profile marketing and one part kickin' audio, then right before your eyes -- and ears -- you've got the Patmobile, a Slingshot Yellow 2004 Chevy SSR.

Pat Costa is the majority owner of Costa-Eagle Broadcasting of Methuen, with The Eagle-Tribune being minority owner. His two-story building on Merrimack Street is home to AM stations WCCM 110; WCEC 1490, WMVX 1570 and WNNW 800 AM/102.9FM.

As Pat was building radio stations, Chevy was building two-seat Super Sport Roadsters (SSR) from 2003 to 2006. Inspired by the 1949 GMC pickups, the SSR's featured a retractable hardtop, fat fenders and 5.3L engines in 2003-2004, then later the LS2 plant found in the Generation 6 Corvettes.

If a SSR could pace the field of the 2003 Indianapolis 500, why one could certainly come to work for Mr. Costa.

"The style of the car always appealed to me," said Pat, who lives on the New Hampshire Seacoast. "Every time I saw one on the street it caught my eye. I thought it would be a great promotional vehicle to brand all our stations."

So a few months ago Pat ramped up his search for an SSR, of which only 24,150 were built.

In February he located one at a small dealer in Manchester, NH. But it would need flash...but not excessive flash, as the body's shape and hue already had heads a'turning.

"I wanted graphics that would be outstanding and fit in at car shows but wouldn't scream at people," said Pat. A Wakefield business applied the swoopy orange and yellow graphics and decals of the radio stations on the hard tonneau cover.

But Pat wanted not only a vehicle that announced his stations, he wanted a rig that



Pat Costa of Costa-Eagle Broadcasting with his 2003 Chevy SSR that has room for 2 and enough BOOM! for 200 thanks to a high-tech audio system in the rear.
Photos by Steve Whipple

could bring music to the masses. And that's when we turn our attention to the business end of the rig.

Raise the tonneau, drop the tailgate and you have before you a high-powered DJ headquarters.

"I wanted something with the sound system, but fit in with the car and also had the ability to go online and play any music I'd want," explained Pat.

Pro Sound of Salem, N.H. installed a pair of thunderous sub-woofers along the back wall of the SSR's bed and a pair of main speakers along each side wall. In the center, just past the computer screen and keyboard, one 750-watt amplifier powers the speakers, the other 750-watt amp juices the sub-woofers.

A USB port adjacent to the tailgate holds a thumb drive containing more than 2,000 songs. Also, whatever video is playing on the screen can also play simultaneously on the dashboard screen.

"It's loud, but it's clean -- no distortion," remarked Pat as a classic rock tuned burst from the speakers. "If there is already a DJ at an event we can turn it down, or we can really let the music play. The Patmobile

is available for events, car shows and cruise nights.

The SSR has been a hit at several car shows where Pat has displayed it.

"People are shocked when I put the top down," said Pat of the roof that folds into a

compartment behind the cab to create a convertible. "I'm into cars and I always wanted a sound system that delivers...and this really delivers. I got this for the business, but I really got it for me," he grinned.



Outdoor main speakers, amps, sub-woofers, a computer screen, keyboard and USB port fill up the business end of the rig.

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By John Molari
MethuenLife Writer

SPORTS BLITZ

Familiar faces in new places on coaching scene

Jillian Middlemiss is no stranger to Methuen High School girls basketball. She was an all-star player for Mimi Hyde and delivered one of the most memorable and improbable shots in Ranger sports lore: a .3-seconds-left-on-the-clock buzzer beater to give Methuen a win over Somerville in the 2000 North Finals.

After a stellar career at Stonehill College, Middlemiss returned to the Merrimack Valley and Ranger Road.

"When I graduated, I coached freshman and JV with Karen McLaughlin for five years, then I went to Dracut and coached with (fellow Ranger standout) Lisa Golobski as an assistant. For the past two years, I've worked as a basketball referee," she said.

Middlemiss brings this impressive resume to her new role, succeeding McLaughlin as head girls hoops coach at MHS. Clearly, she was not comfortable in her brief stint as an official

Says Middlemiss, "I always thought it would be awesome to try officiating. I was doing high school games in my first year, and the more experienced referees said I had a lot of potential. I just realized that I did not belong on that side of the ball."

Indeed, Middlemiss is more at home instructing and coaching student-athletes,



Jillian Middlemiss, MHS girls basketball.

something she does every day in her work as a physical education teacher at MHS.

"That really helps," says the 32-year-old Middlemiss.

"I've gotten to know a lot of the kids just by being at the school. I've spoken to all the



Brian Martin, PMA girls basketball.

girls who were on the varsity team last year. I also have a lot of soccer players and two-sport athletes as well."

Middlemiss spent six seasons (2006-11) coaching the freshman softball team at MHS under varsity head coach Jason Smith. The



Kristen Belair Swales, MHS field hockey.

highly successful Smith is an unabashed fan of Middlemiss: "Watching Jillian teach physical education at the Grade 9 campus for the past three years really gave me a

See SPORTS, Page 40

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Sports, continued from page 39

chance to see her in action. I was impressed with the way she ran her classes and got everyone to participate."

Middlemiss takes over for McLaughlin, who retired in March. McLaughlin was affiliated with the MHS girls hoops program for 26 years, first as an assistant to Hyde, then as head coach for the past nine years. She was also the head field hockey coach for 14 years.

"I know I have huge shoes to fill," says Middlemiss of McLaughlin. "When I was playing for Mimi and Karen, we were at the top along with Haverhill and Andover. I take a lot of pride in this program."

Middlemiss' mission is based on empowerment and pride. She relates, "I'm a motivator. I believe in these kids. I think it is the job of a coach to build confidence. That is a huge aspect of what I do. When teams go on runs, it's because they are confident in themselves."

"In order to prove yourself, you have to start by believing in yourself. I'm big on communication and attention to detail."

Smith, who also coaches swimming at MHS, believes that Middlemiss is the right person for the job. He states, "I think it fits her very well. I remember watching her play and I know how intense she was. Jillian will bring that same intensity and competitiveness as a coach. Basketball is her first love and that will also translate to coaching."

With an apprenticeship under Smith and some other pretty fine coaches, Middlemiss is a mélange of many mentors: "I think I take a little bit from a lot of coaches. Every player responds to criticism differently. I have a lot of kids for whom basketball is not the number one sport."

"I want the 12th player on the team to know that she plays a huge role on the team. Everyone on that bench is very important. I am extremely passionate about what I do. I am also extremely competitive."

As Middlemiss takes control of the program, Methuen High School is beginning a new era with the renovated facility. Middlemiss sees this as a plus, stating, "I think it's a great way to start us on the road back to being a championship contender."

"I'd like to create a city championship tournament where our grammar schools play against each other. It really all starts with the youth programs as our feeder system. They are going to definitely see me and my staff at those games. We want to be there."

Middlemiss is still asked questions about her high school hoops prowess and does not shy away from the program's two state titles and glorious history.

"We competed every year for a state championship," says Middlemiss. "I want to bring more Methuen girls basketball alumni back to the games. I am so grateful and beyond excited about this opportunity. I have so many ideas. I think once I get through this first year, I will be able to settle down and really look at the future. One thing is for sure, we want to win."

Swell Swales

As Jillian Middlemiss prepares to take the helm in girls basketball, another Ranger sports legend is doing the same thing in another sport. Kristen Belair Swales, the school's field hockey scoring record holder, is succeeding McLaughlin as MHS field hockey coach.

Swales was also a standout softball and basketball player who graduated from MHS in 2003 and played both field hockey and softball at Merrimack College. It was at Merrimack that Swales' coaching fire was lit.

"I was an assistant field hockey coach at Merrimack for a season," relates Swales, who, like Middlemiss, is a physical education teacher. "With my job at the Tenney School, I feel like I am coaching every day."

"This new opportunity is very exciting. I was able to meet with some of the players and the captains. The first thing I told them is that I was excited to be coaching them and I am looking forward to a great season."

Swales former coach and predecessor is 100 percent behind her.

"Kristin was and is a phenomenal athlete," says Karen McLaughlin. "When I heard she got the job, I contacted her and told her that if she needed anything, all she had to do was let me know."

"She had three brothers and I think she learned her toughness from them. When she was younger, she was on my softball team and I told the league that they had to move her up to the Senior Division. She was going to knock someone's teeth out. Whether it was basketball, softball or field hockey, she was always at her best."

In addition to a great coach in McLaughlin, the Methuen field hockey program lost several key seniors, but Swales is ready to take on the challenge. She relates, "To be honest, I don't know a lot about last year's team other than we lost a few seniors. I am really looking forward to using pre-season to get to know the players and learn what our strengths and weaknesses are."

Swales' coaching style can be defined as personal and painstaking: "As a coach I really want to be able to break down each individual player's strengths and weaknesses. We can use that information to help develop their skill set as well as see how they can best contribute to the team."

"I think it is important to learn what motivates a particular athlete and work from there. I also want my players to understand why we are practicing specific skills or doing certain drills and how they relate to the game."

While Swales' intensity as a player was unmatched, she recognizes the importance of enjoying the journey to success: "It is important to find a balance between working hard and being serious, and also being able to let loose and have some fun. Team-building activities, team challenges, and games are a few of the ways I will help keep things fun."

Job one for Swales is to immerse herself in her roster and depth chart. She explains,

YOUNG BUT POWERFUL!



Methuen White 9-year-old team lost in tournament play, but became the youngest Methuen team ever to make it to the state tournament. They are (front, from left) Zachary Channen, Riley Burke, Brendan Ferris, Owen Sullivan, Liam Doherty, Cameron Janakowski; (back, from left) coach Pat Finn, coach Garret Ferris, Matthew Sullivan, Jackson Petisce, Anesti Touma, Carter Bransfield, Drew Prindle, Ryan Finn, head coach Rob Prindle.

"I really didn't follow the team last year, so I will be learning each player's ability during pre-season. As far as leadership goes, three captains - Alyssa Drouin, Meghan Bruneau and Annie Sears - were selected last season and after meeting with them, I am confident that they will be great leaders on our team."

McLaughlin knows that Swales, herself, is a great leader: "Kristen was always good with her teammates and I really enjoyed coaching her. I think she's going to do a really nice job, but she has to be patient. She would probably be the best player on the field right now."

Indeed, Swales continues to play field hockey herself year-round in various leagues. The experience translates nicely to her coaching.

"I consider myself a student of the game and am continually learning the more I play. I think experiencing the rule changes firsthand as a player will help me to coach these changes to my players," she said.

McLaughlin sees good things for the program's future under Swales. She states, "I am glad that our summer field hockey program will keep going. That's the feeder system. Kristen will have a lot of kids who have never played the game before. I wish her a lot of luck, and she does have some good players who will be juniors and seniors this year."

Like Middlemiss in basketball, Swales is eager to return to Ranger Road: "I am very excited for this opportunity to coach at Methuen High and give back to my school. Coaching this field hockey team is something that I have always wanted and I feel like this opportunity came at the perfect time."

For Swales, it is clear that Methuen field hockey goes beyond mere game plans and strategies. She relates, "Field hockey is my passion and I am excited to share that with my players. I didn't play field hockey until I

was a freshman in high school and I always wished that I had started sooner."

"It is my goal to develop a youth program so that Methuen students have the opportunity to play field hockey throughout middle school."

Brian's Ball

New Methuen High School girls basketball coach Jillian Middlemiss was a basketball referee for two years before realizing she truly belonged on the sidelines. It took Brian Martin a bit longer to make that trip.

One of the pre-eminent high school and college hoops officials in the region is the new head girls basketball coach at Methuen's Presentation of Mary Academy (PMA). While Martin will be a new face on the bench, he is no stranger to PMA having coached cross-country and track at the school for nearly two decades, a role he plans to continue.

Our region's sports everyman is also a respected softball coach, distance runner and golf instructor. So, what attracted him to the PMA hoops job?

"I love coaching," explains the 55-year-old Martin. "And I wanted the challenge of trying something a little different."

"PMA is a very small school, and I know most of the student-athletes there. We graduated five seniors from the basketball program and lost a lot of height from last year's team. We do, however, have a few promising freshmen joining the program."

Martin looks for an up-tempo and hustling style. He explains, "I plan on playing intense defense and hitting the boards hard. I have a knack for getting the most out of a student-athlete. I feel all athletes need to be pushed and coached differently. Some need tough love and some need to be encouraged a bit. My job, as their coach, is to find out



By Dante Santone

TREASURES & TRINKETS

Hummel candy dish's sweetness endures



As a boy, the owner of our subject this month would frequently visit his grandmother in Methuen. His first stop was this Hummel candy dish that sat on the "ledge" of the hutch in the dining room. The dish always contained candy, mints, Tootsie Rolls or jellybeans. The dish was purchased in the early to mid-1960s from a local Hummel dealer in Methuen. The current owner states she paid between \$1 and \$4 for it. He inherited it about 20 years ago when his grandmother passed away.

Hummel figurines are based on the drawings of Sister M.I. Hummel (Berta Hummel). Hummel's "art cards" became popular throughout Germany, catching the eye of Franz Goebel, porcelain maker and head of W. Goebel Porzellanfabrik. Goebel acquired rights to turn Hummel's drawing into figurines, producing the first line in 1935. Goebel

was one of many mid-size porcelain firms competing in the U.S. market and Franz Goebel's knack for novelty marketing caused the figurines to become popular in the U.S. during the 1930s. The base for the popularity was among German immigrants on the East Coast.

After the end of World War II, the popularity of Hummel figurines grew as American soldiers stationed in West Germany began sending the figurines home as gifts. Popularity increased even more when the figurines were sold by the Army PX system. A vibrant speculator market in Hummel figurines developed and in the 1970s Hummel figurines skyrocketed in price, though today most sell for less than \$50. With the advent of online auction sites such as eBay, collectors began to realize that their "rare" items were not so rare. The demise of Goebel as the producer of

the figurines in 2006 also contributed to the drop in value.

This candy dish is in excellent condition. There are no chips and absolutely no crazing which commonly occurs in porcelain items that were handled frequently. The production period is verified by the "Stylized Bee" symbol on the bottom. This symbol was used from 1964 to 1972. Currently there are a few examples of this model and similar items for sale at online auction sites. Based on recent sales of similar items and the excellent condition of our example, I would value it between \$100 and \$150.

A collector of film-related collectibles, Dante Santone of Methuen looks forward to researching your items of interest. Forward inquiries to MethuenLife@msn.com.

Sports, continued from page 40

what makes them tick."

PMA Head of School Rose Maria Redman saw Martin as a perfect choice. She relates, "Brian is an excellent role model for our student athletes. He has had a tremendous influence on so many young women and men in our cross-country and track programs.

"He has also done a lot with us as a long-time referee in basketball. I felt that he was a natural fit to take on this role. He knows our students and knows our expectations. We have had a lot of change here over the past few years, and Brian provides great continuity."

Martin's sports odyssey is impressive. He has been a head coach for Northeast Hurricanes softball for a decade and coached the North Andover varsity softball team for seven years. Martin is also a physical education teacher and athletic director at St. Joseph School in Haverhill.

So, what is the Martin coaching credo?

"Open communication and getting the athletes to believe in themselves," he relates. "It's extremely powerful when kids start believing in themselves.

"As far as fun, I don't take myself too seriously, but they'll learn not to confuse my being nice with being weak. I also show my players the passion I have for coaching. That usually gets the student athlete to give 100 percent."

Redman admires the perspective that Martin brings to sports: "I think his best quality is that he is very even-tempered and extremely fair. He knows how to motivate students, to get them to dig down and see what they can do. He gets things out of his players that normally would never be seen."

As for his current players, Martin points

to returning seniors Hannah Walworth and Amanda Morin as leaders. He also says that Amari King is coming back to the team after taking the season off last year.

"I'm extremely excited, and a bit nervous," admits Martin. "But I will say one thing, I can't wait to get started. There is a caring atmosphere here at PMA. It's family all the way. I really enjoy how the upperclassmen assist the underclassmen in school and life choices, and how the cycle continues with each graduating class."

Baseball Boys

It has been a summer of exciting baseball for several Methuen teams. Methuen baseball guru Chris Cyr, who happens to serve as Methuen Youth Baseball president, checked in with some updates as we went to press.

The **Methuen 12U** team made Methuen Youth Baseball history by finishing third in the New England Regionals, the farthest a Methuen team (Little League or Cal Ripken) has gone. After going 4-0 in Eastern Massachusetts state tourney play in Duxbury, Methuen moved on to compete in Dover, N.H. They crushed hometown team Dover 20-0 in Game 1, then lost to defending champ Danbury, Conn., 5-4 in extra innings. Methuen fought back, beating Newtown, Conn., and Dover, but got bumped in the semifinals by Cranston, R.I., in a 4-3 loss. Danbury went on to win it all.

Methuen was paced by solid pitching and a knack for the home-run ball. The team (which played 14 games in 17 days) threw 25 strikeouts and blasted eight home runs in their five Regional games.

The **Methuen Junior Legion** had a nice run before being eliminated in the playoffs.



The Methuen 12U team made Methuen Youth Baseball history by finishing third in the New England Regionals. Methuen Youth Baseball President Chris Cyr (back, far left) poses with members of the 12U team during regional competition in Dover, N.H. They are (back row) Noah Jankowski, Orlando Payne, assistant coach Jerry Melia, James Keegan, manager Bill Fili, David Gill, Devin Melia, assistant coach Derek Hutchings, Carlos Pena; (front row) Cody Pereira, Shayne Fili, Josh Nadeau, Cam Hutchings and Derek Hoh. Missing from photo: Justin Sheehan.

After scoring 16 runs vs. Haverhill, the Methuen hitters went a bit dry and were held scoreless in their next two games, losing 4-0 to Lynn and 2-0 to Peabody.

The **Methuen 9-year-old team** is the youngest Methuen team ever to make it to the state tournament. They swept the District 2 championship with a 5-0 record and won the championship game by the 10-run mercy rule. They were led by stellar pitching performances by Jackson Petisce, Brendon Ferris and Carter Bransfield. The team had a

.444 batting average for the District Tournament. They played solid baseball in the state tourney, but the bats came up a little short.

Congratulations to all of our teams for making Methuen proud this summer.

John Molori is the co-author of "The Cracker Jack Collection: Baseball's Prized Players." Follow on Facebook at John Molori, Twitter @MoloriMedia. E-mail molorimedia@aol.com.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Tenney math tutor feels the love

By Melissa Fili
MethuenLife Writer

A Tenney School math tutor, who helps struggling students by making real-life connections to numbers, was recently feted by kids, staff members and administrators.

Methuen resident Mike Poulin was presented with official commendations, piles of student-made thank-you cards and wild youthful cheers during the Final Assembly at the school, where he has worked with fifth- through eighth-graders for three years.

"I truly enjoy working with the kids," Poulin, 62, told MethuenLife. "Those kids are just as good for me as I am for them."

You'll find him at the Tenney five days a week, for up to 5½ hours a day. He's in the classroom clarifying concepts, working on practice problems and - his strength - helping kids visualize math.

One group struggled with finding the simplest form of fractions, so Poulin brought in nuts, bolts and wrenches. He showed them how to calculate measurements using a calibrator and instructed them to find the wrench that matched each piece. If a nut measured 32/64, the kids soon realized there wasn't a wrench to match that exact figure.

"Finally they came to the conclusion



Tenney math tutor Mike Poulin, who is beloved by the kids and the staff for his dedication, receives thank-you cards from students and commendations for his work.

Photo by Melissa Fili

that something's wrong. What's common with all these sizes? They're all in simplified form," he says. "This is real life. They loved doing it and all wanted a turn."

For working with integers, he created a giant black and red sliding ruler that shows the relationship between positive and neg-

ative numbers. He talks a lot about his love of pizza to help students understand fractions.

"I try to get kids to like math," he said. "In their mind, math is hard and they don't want to do it. It's all about mind manipulation," he jokes.

Several years ago, Poulin ended his career as an environmental health and safety engineer at Raytheon - a role that included providing a lot of training. He truly enjoyed that aspect of the job ("I'm a bit of a ham when I get in front of a class") and got certified to teach math and science, first working as a volunteer tutor.

He currently works with Tenney kids 12 hours a week paid and volunteers another six hours.

"When the tutoring funds ran out, he still came in for his regularly scheduled hours," notes Tenney math coach Kelley Gravell. "He's truly dedicated to making a difference in the lives of the kids and the classes he works with."

"As long as I'm helping, that's my pay," says Poulin.

Each year he re-applies for his tutoring spot. The pay and the program are not guaranteed.

"Even if they don't have tutoring system, I'll show up!" he says. "I just enjoy the kids. They're so lively."

The students also like having Poulin around, with one group of eighth-graders asking to work with him every day. He did, and he says their math MCAS scores

See SCHOOL, Page 45

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HONORED FOR THEIR ESSAYS



Kristin Cole, Nate Vachon and Lynette Urena are winners of the Israel Arbeiter Essay Contest, sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Boston. The contest was created in honor of Holocaust survivor and educator Mr. Arbeiter, who has worked with students in Methuen Public Schools. Kristin, who received second place, and Lynette, who received honorable mention, are eighth-graders at the Tenney. Nate, a sixth-grader at the Timony, also received second-place honors. The students were recognized at the Day of Remembrance Ceremonies in Boston. They will visit the National Memorial Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., later this year. Courtesy photo

Methuen volunteer, vet saluted by Scouts

The Yankee Clipper Council's Northern Light District honored three men with the District Award of Merit, which is the highest honor a district can bestow on an adult volunteer. Charles Bruderer of Methuen was one of those recognized.

The award honors noteworthy service to youth both within Scouting and in the community.

Bruderer began his Scouting experience in Utah in Cub and Boy Scouts and then, as an adult, became a troop committee member and a den leader. After moving to Massachusetts, he served as the Scoutmaster for Troop 96, Methuen Ward LDS Church, then became troop committee chairman where he still serves as a committee member. He has also served as a unit commissioner and is now assistant district commissioner for Methuen. A district member-at-large, he serves primarily as support for training and for activities. He is a registered merit badge counselor for seven merit badges. He worked on the Wah-Tut-Ca Scout Reservation staff with the provisional troop the past three years and is an Ordeal member of the Order of the Arrow. Bruderer

See SCOUTS, Page 45



The Boy Scouts of America presented three District Awards of Merit in recognition of noteworthy service to youth in Scouting and in the community. Methuen recipient Charles Bruderer is shown at left with his wife Marilyn. The other recipients are Andrew Pinard with his wife Katherine and David O'Brien with his wife Leah. Courtesy photo



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1st Church's past not without controversy

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to Denis Webster-Greene's article "First Church reflects prosperity, fortitude of townsfolk" (May MethuenLife). The first edifice was originally partially erected on Powder House Hill between what are now Prospect and Jackson streets. Shortly after construction was begun, it was decided to change the location to the adjacent hill, which then became known as "Meeting House Hill."

When the second meeting house was moved to what is now known as Pleasant Street, the former "Meeting House Hill" became known as "Daddy Fryes Hill," as "Daddy Frye" kept a tavern on the hill.

The present church edifice is very atypical, as most New England Congregational churches are very plainly adorned: 1) so as not to distract one's attention from the prayers and sermons; and 2) to reflect the Separatist attitudes of the Pilgrim forefathers that this is not a Catholic or Anglican Church, but a truly separated American church. One must remember that the Con-

gregational Church is "the Pilgrim Church"; the Methodist Church is the "Puritan (reformed Episcopal/Anglican) Church"; and the Anglican Church of the American Colonies became the Episcopal Church after the United States separated from England.

The Nevins apse was extremely controversial at the time of its proposal and construction. Many members left the church because they believed it was highly inappropriate. Although the "Resurrection Window" is very beautiful, I find the marble to be very cold and unattractive. I was appalled several years ago to see that the nave walls had been painted a hideous pink in an attempt to mimic the marble of the apse.

The Searles organ in the rear of nave formerly stood in the music room of Searles' "Kellogg Terrace" (aka: "Barrington House") in Great Barrington, which he had built for his wife, the former Mrs. Mark Hopkins. Herter Brothers had the commission for producing the organ case, just as they had with the old Boston Music Hall organ which now stands in the Methuen

Memorial Music Hall, formerly known as Serlo Hall. The Herter Brothers were Searles' former employers. It is known for certain that Searles drew the designs for the organ, as he was an organist and interior designer. However, the actual "working plans" from which Herter Brothers executed the casework may have been drawn by either: 1) Stanford White, the original architect of the Great Barrington castle; 2) William Treat, the organ builder; or 3) Henry Vaughan, who replaced Stanford White and designed all of the subsequent residences and buildings erected by Searles from 1885 to 1917. It is also significant to note that Vaughan drew the original designs for the National Cathedral in Washington, in which he was interred following his death in 1917.

When Searles reached the age at which traveling great distances became inconvenient, he built additions to Pine Lodge in Methuen, Stillwater Manor in Salem, N.H., and Stanton-Harcourt Castle in Windham, N.H., to house organs, pianos, harpsichords and art objects which he removed from his

castles and mansions in Great Barrington; Block Island, R.I., and his townhouse at 60 Fifth Avenue in New York City. The organ removed from Barrington House was brought to Methuen and stored in the barn next to Serlo Hall until plans could be made to build a room for it at Pine Lodge. Searles died in 1920 and the organ remained in the barn. In 1923-24 the organ was installed in the First Church, Congregational. The towers were too tall to fit in the church, so the carved figures were removed and placed on the cornices above the rebuilt Ferris & Stuart organ in Pine Lodge.

Searles' parents had been married in the former 1796 meeting house, which had been replaced with the current 1855 edifice. (Although raised a Congregationalist, Searles preferred the pomp and ceremony of the Episcopal Church.) It is quite fitting that the Nevins apse should be at one end of the church and the Searles organ at the other, as Mr. Searles was at odds with Mrs. Nevins:

See LETTERS, Page 45

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Letters, continued from page 44

Searles was a very private man, while Mrs. Nevins liked to "hobnob" and gossip. While building the castle in Windham, Searles gave his men strict orders: "If Mrs. Nevins comes here, you're to turn her car around and send her back to Methuen."

Stephen E. Barbin
Methuen

DeCologero has earned my vote

To the Editor:

I'm writing to express my support for Phil DeCologero as our next state representative.

I met Phil when he worked in the Massachusetts State House. A professional and gentleman, I watched as Phil would work with residents at our Senior Center to ad-

dress concerns, answer questions and tackle problems.

When Phil joined Mayor Zanni's administration, I was happy to see him lead the mayor's efforts to engage Methuen residents. Phil's work included organizing forums for our seniors and educating residents about cost-saving programs. From the Senior Circuit Breaker tax credit to fuel assistance programs for low-income residents, Phil always strived to connect our residents with important resources.

Whenever anyone approached me with a problem, I would direct them to Phil and he always got back to them with an answer. I've seen the responsiveness, commitment and integrity that Phil brings to service. And I know Phil will continue to serve with the same integrity when we elect him as our state representative. I encourage you to give Phil your vote.

Maureen Donovan
Methuen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MethuenLife welcomes letters. Submit Letters to the Editor to Steve Whipple at Steve@MethuenLife.com or PO Box 485, Windham, NH 03087. Please include your name and phone number for verification. MethuenLife reserves the right to edit letters based on space, clarity, civility and accuracy.

School, continued from page 42

improved.

"The kids see me as the authority on math. One kid was arguing with a teacher and she was saying, 'It's this way.' He turned to me and asked, 'Who's right?'" Poulin says, adding, "I have yet to have a teacher do (a math problem) wrong! The teachers at Tenney are excellent."

"He's such an amazing volunteer, and so dedicated to our students," said Upper School Principal Mary Beth Donovan Grasi.

si. "He sees all the positives in our school."

Austin Prep Honor Roll

The following Methuen students made the fourth-quarter honor roll at Austin Preparatory School in Reading: Zachary Beeley, Adriana Farias, Catherine Flagg and Maria Luccisano all earned Honors.

Scouts, continued from page 43

is Wood Badge trained.

Outside of Scouting, Bruderer was a Sunday school teacher and a member of the Methuen High School Band Parents.

Bruderer's military service record includes 33 years in the Navy and in the Army National Guard, serving in both Vietnam and Iraq. He was wounded and received the Purple Heart in Vietnam. In Iraq, he earned the Army Commendation Medal and upon retirement received the Distinguished

Service Medal. Since retirement from the Defense Contract Management Agency in 2010, Bruderer has devoted even more hours to Scouting.

In addition to the District Award of Merit presentations, Paul Hale was honored with a 55-year Veteran Award which recognizes his 55 years of service to Scouting. Hale is an active volunteer with Troop 51 in Methuen. He was featured in the January 2013 issue of MethuenLife.

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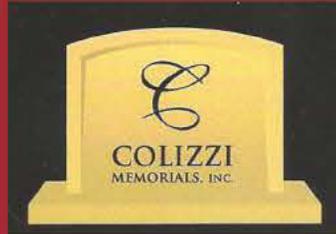
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The Festival of Trees awarded two scholarships to a pair of college-bound volunteers who both recently graduated from Methuen High. Caroline Crowe has been a Festival of Trees volunteer since second grade. She participated in track and lacrosse and was the senior team captain and an All-Conference participant in field hockey. She'll attend Merrimack College in the fall. Adam Marchand has been volunteering at the festival since the age of 7. He also donates his time to Reach Out to Read and an anti-bullying campaign, and was captain of his Relay for Life team. He will be a sociology major at Salem State this fall. Caroline and Adam are shown with Gina Lannan and Patricia George of the FOT's Scholarship Committee. Courtesy photos



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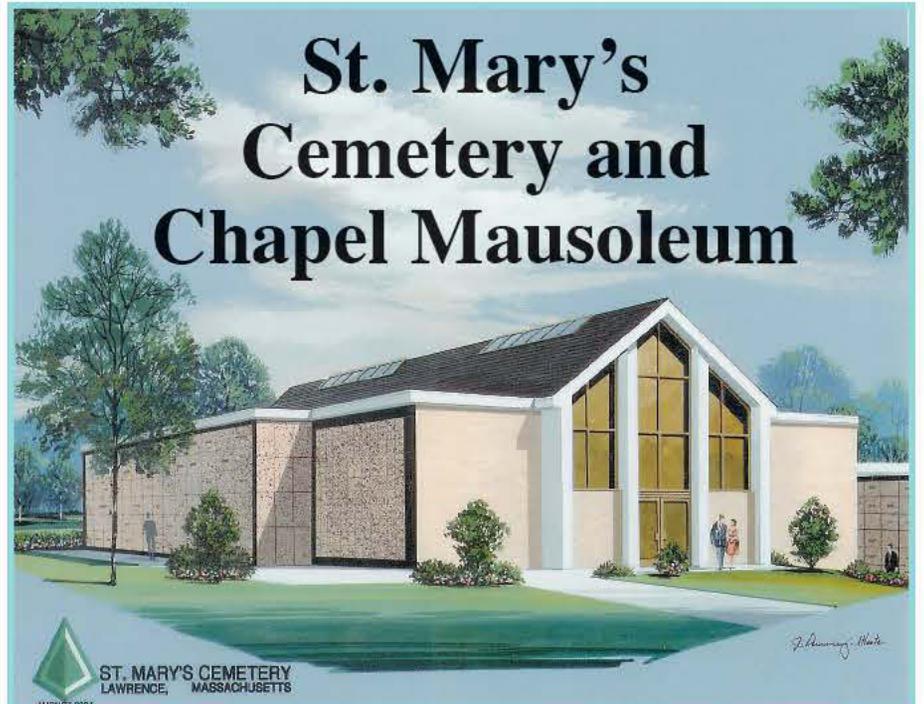
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