One of the more terrifying characters at Canobie Lake Park’s “Screemfest” is the maniacal and deformed chainsaw-wielding scarecrow/man played by a 20-year-old Methuen resident for the second year. “It’s the most fun I could have fun for the most money, I get paid to scare people,” he said. “When I jump on the table, they just scream and run.”

Who is this guy? Find out on Page 2.

Photo by Steve Whipple
Taking the snack attack to a new level

My longtime friend Larry — the most interesting man in Methuen — chimed in recently via text.

Every few months, he enjoys initiating days of back-and-forth debate on serious topics. To date, we have scrutinized cereals and cookies, reverse-engineered song lyrics, tackled fun and fatal 1970s toys and television shows. With the exception of a few off-colored comments not suitable for print, the debate raged thusly, occasionally veering off-topic.

LARRY: It’s time for a new discussion and analysis. Crunchy snacks.

ME: I’m on deadline with Whip’s Wheels, but I’ll say this ... if you don’t savor the cone-shaped goodness of Bugles, you’re dead to me.

L: Bugles are fried, crunchy corn ambitrosa.

M: I love cramming my childish tongue into the craters.

L: We will have a round table when there is more time, my snacking comrade.

M: Yes. I will warn you, I shall bring down the wrath of the gods upon the mention of any pretzel product.

L: Bring it! Nobody bad-mouths Mr. Salti within earshot of me.

M: I shall sic the Cheetos cheetah on that fraud of a snack expert. It will be a mauling for the ages.

L: I got the Frito Bandito in my corner. Jiffy Pop.

M: Mmmm.

L: Pork rinds.

M: That’s where I draw the line. Rinds are two steps below the hated Slim Jims.

L: Slim Jims aren’t crunchy. They are dog treats. For homeless dogs. Just tell me you don’t like Cheez Its.

M: They’d gag a maggot. Meanwhile, Sun Chips have the addictive qualities of heroin without the messy track marks.

L: The garden salsa and onion Sun Chips are good.

M: Yes, they appeal to obese vegetarians. Do your kids eat those puffy sticks allegedly made of veggies?

L: No.

M: They should. How seriously do you take the monocular Mr. Peanut?

L: Very seriously.

M: Hmm. Because of the monocle or because of his peanut pioneering?

L: The monocle. I want one.

M: A monocle cries out for white gloves and a top hat also. It’s a package deal.

L: I would look regal.

M: The residue from Doritos ... cheese or paint?

L: Paint. Screaming Yellow Zonkers or Fiddle Faddle?

M: What’s the difference?

Wait. Zonkers are not contaminated with nuts. Fiddle Faddle is a dragnet of snack debris.

L: I still like Cracker Jacks best.

M: My secret de-coder ring foiled the Pentagon. Cracker Jacks are over-qualified as a snack. They are promoted to dessert status.

L: That is likely the epitome of dumbness.

M: No, dumbness is polluting good milk with Zarek, you freak. (As a kid he vandalized milk with orange Zarek.)

What’s your take on fried vs. baked potato chips?

L: The difference is so negligible. If you want chips, eat traditional! None of this baked crap.

M: Did you determine the all-time best snack, and if you say pretzels I’m not responsible for what happens to you and your family.

L: OK, pretzels are not a first choice for a go-to snack. They are rather dull. Best snacks are Cumberland Farm nuts that you prepare yourself in store.

M: What? Snacks should require no work. Never mind driving to a Cumberland Farms between football games. I find the Smart popcorn a divine dining experience.

L: No, it gets that cheddar *!@! on your fingers.

M: Not if you put them in a trough as I do.

L: Interesting ... trough o’ Corn Pops.

M: Corn Pops? Isn’t that a cereal?

L: Can be a snack as well. Just eat them not with milk.

M: You’re taking liberties with breakfast entrees not approved by Mr. Kellogg. Macadamia nuts. Probably too refined for our cavemen panutes but salted cashews are a step from the gods.

L: Give me honey-roasted peanuts over cashews every day.

M: Not a bad selection. But the plain salted buggers should sacrifice themselves to the Skippy brewers. There are 492 varieties of Pepperidge Farm fish. I have never eaten so much as a fin.

L: I like the pretzel fish.

M: Then you and I are going to tangle. (We probably won’t tangle. At least not until the dust settles over which real-life sea leader Captain Cmich was based.)

ON THE COVER

Families welcome! Methuen native Niko Crowley, new to the real estate world at Century 21 McLellan and Company located at 188 Broadway, is excited to head out and place a SOLD sign on his listing, “I’ve always felt my roots are here, and it’s a great community for families to establish roots for themselves.”

A ray of sunshine, with a heart of gold: Shannon Molloy has used proceeds from her scarf business to provide books and crafts to local children.

Here comes the pitch: We give the City Council candidates a chance to talk about what’s important to them.

They clean up nicely! Ready and waiting to strut their stuff are (from left) Police Lt. William Kannan, firefighter Jesse Kattar, Fire Chief Tim Sheehy, Police Chief Joseph Solomon, Lawrence Fire Chief Brain Moriarty and Methuen firefighter Zach Tulley.
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“Methuen has everything — except a nice downtown, and we’re doing our part to change that.”
~ Investor and real estate expert Johan Lopez

Downtown’s rebirth starts NOW!

Couple invests millions in 4 Square properties

By Steve Whipple
MethuenLife Writer

At 5-7 Hampshire St. in Methuen Square, a construction worker is heaving debris out a third-floor window of the fire- and water-damaged Odd Fellows Building into an orange Dumpster below.

A hundred yards or so south, a few motorists roll past the refurbished four-story former Page Building.

At the corner of Hampshire and Broadway — in the building that over the years hosted a drug store, sports shop and insurance business — a handful of licensed real estate agents at Home Shop Properties are connecting home sellers to home buyers.

And next door, Guitar Garage owner Jack Galvin has a new landlord.

All of these scenes have a common denominator. Actually, two: Johan Lopez and Walkiria Manzuetta — the young couple who has invested millions of dollars in four commercial properties in Methuen Square.

Lopez, 34, and Manzuetta, 37, own Home Shop Properties,

See DOWNTOWN, Page 5

Home Shop Properties owners Walkiria Manzuetta, 37, and Johan Lopez, 34, have purchased four commercial properties in Methuen Square, including the Odd Fellows Building (behind them), which they will have invested $2 million in by the time it has a new store on the first floor and upscale apartments above.

Photos by Steve Whipple

Hard work from young age pays off

Johan Lopez and his two sisters emigrated to the Merrimack Valley from the Dominican Republic when he was 9. His parents owned seven or eight Rincon bodegas — small neighborhood food stores — around Lawrence, just as Lopez’s grandparents had done in the Dominican.

Walkiria Manzuetta arrived here when she was 11. Her dad owned a fleet of buses, a hardware store and a motel. She graduated from Central Catholic High School, then earned a degree in business management from Boston College.

Lopez spent three years at Methuen High before graduating from Lawrence High. At 18, he was working in Century 21’s Lawrence office. His soulmate, Manzuetta, was working at C 21’s Methuen office on Broadway.

While still selling real estate, they purchased a Lawrence restaurant and renamed it the Iowa Lounge — a combination of their first names.

“We were doing both,” says Lopez, noting he was the youngest liquor license holder in Lawrence’s history at 21. “The (housing) market went to crap in 2008, so we got really busy with the restaurant.”

They sold Iowa six years ago and started Home Shop Properties where they were renting office space at 225 Broadway. But the vacant storefront at 300 Broadway was looking better and better, despite costing $1,150 a month more.

Home Shop Properties was relocated to the new location, which they then purchased in 2014 and renovated.

Manzuetta and Lopez then bought the Page Building across the street for $625,000 in June 2015. The building received some new wood, fresh paint and lighting. Renamed after their daughter, Marbella Park Place has nine apartments plus a chiropractor and property manager’s offices on the ground floor.

In late July, they purchased the Odd Fellows Building and will rename it Marbella Lofts. The Guitar Garage building will remain untouched for at least a few years, says Lopez.
the real estate agency at 300 Broadway that earned the Historic Preservation Award last year.

They purchased three of the Square properties from the Page family. Rick, Candace (Candi) and Randall inherited the stately brick, four-story Odd Fellows Building and the Page Building when their dad Richard Sr. passed away in 2013. In late August, they bought from attorney Arthur Broadhurst the one-story building adjacent to Home Shop that hosts the Guitar Garage and Sammy’s Tailor Shop.

“Methuen has everything — except a nice downtown, and we’re doing our part to change that,” says Lopez. “It’s been neglected a long time. We want to start a movement to invest in downtown.”

Two years ago, an electrical fire ravaged the Center for the Performing Arts dance studio on the fourth floor of the Odd Fellows Building, which was built in 1899. The same water that extinguished the two-alarm blaze poured down through lower floors damaging walls, floors and ceilings before accumulating 6 inches deep in the basement.

“We were communicating with Candi (about buying the building), then the fire happened,” says Lopez. “We thought it (the sale) is meant to be, it’s meant to be. The insurance claim took a lot longer than they expected, but then Candi reached me again.”

The couple purchased the property for $500,000 in late July and has secured an additional $1.5 million from Enterprise Bank to renovate the structure: Look for a dozen or so 1- and 2-bedroom loft apartments to be available by fall of 2018, with a recognized business on the first floor.

“We’re about taking risks,” admits Lopez. “We’re putting a lot of eggs in that building. This is exactly what the city wants. We’d like a big franchise for the first floor like a Starbucks or a Five Guys ... we’d want something that will add value.”

Manzueta says, “They will be upscale apartments; for us it makes sense to invest in the buildings around us. Curb appeal is important. It’s a nice, quaint area with a lot of history. This will create more foot traffic for existing businesses.”

Methuen Community Development Director Bill Buckley says, “This is Johan’s third project and in each case he has made a significant investment in the downtown; that’s what we’re looking for to bring back life. This third project has the potential to be the centerpiece. The fact that it’s mixed-use is on the path to bringing new businesses to downtown.”

A month later, the enterprising couple purchased the Guitar Garage/Sammy’s Tailor Shop building, though there are no immediate plans for it.

Guitar Garage owner Jack Galvin says, “My plan is to stay in the square long-term. This square has been in desperate need of someone like them to come in and breathe life into it.”

Galvin has been neighbors with the couple since they opened Home Shop Properties on 11/11/11.

“Apparently they have a vision and are going about it the right way,” says Galvin. “They have a sense of professionalism about them, and they have a proven track record of restoring buildings.”

Lopez and Manzueta have been together for 14 years and have a 5-year-old daughter, Marbella. They met while working at Century 21 McLennan and Company. The couple hopes their passion for the downtown has long-lasting effects.

“We want to improve the square and 30 years from now people will say, ‘What a nice place this is ... and Walciroa and Johan had something to do with it,’” said Lopez.

Buckley agrees.

“We want the downtown to be a place where people work, play and live,” he says.

In late August, the couple purchased the building adjacent to their Home Shop Properties. It hosts The Guitar Garage and Sammy’s Tailor Shop.
Artistic, determined & breaking barriers

What disability? Molloy’s scarf biz grows & profits help buy books, crafts for kids

By Darrell Halen
MethuenLife Writer

Shoppers coming across entrepreneur Shannon Molloy’s scarves for sale are known for being impressed with their colors, look and design. What also impresses them is that the young businesswoman designs the scarves herself – despite having cerebral palsy, which affects her movement and muscle control.

The 21-year-old owner of Shannon Mary Sunshine Original Scarf Designs has more than a dozen scarves available for purchase online and in several stores, and she’s using her profits for a good cause:

See MOLLOY, Page 7

Entrepreneur Shannon Molloy, who has cerebral palsy, uses her communication device to choose colors for her scarf designs. A head switch activates an auditory scan and when she hears the color she wants, she taps the switch with her head and makes a choice. Courtesy photo

James McCarty
Central District City Councilor


These are the elements to a bright future for Methuen, and this is what I will fight for every day as your mayor.

James Jajuga
Molloy, continued from page 6

purchasing books and providing fun craft activities for young children.

“The scarves are really lovely,” said Patricia Bruno who sells them in her Haverhill gift shop, Positive Images Gallery, and describes them as bright, happy and colorful. “I’m getting a good reaction from people.”

Shannon, a former longtime Methuen resident, creates her scarf designs with the use of assisted technology and modified tools in her Haverhill home. She selects the painting technique and colors she wants to use. Her abstract and colorful designs are created with the use of paint, a paint roller, tissue paper, marbling, shaving cream, food coloring, sponges and spray bottles.

“It’s a long process for her,” said Shannon’s mother Jeanne, who teaches kindergarten at Comprehensive Grammar School in Methuen. “She has a lot of stamina. She doesn’t give up.”

Shannon’s artwork is scanned and sent to Sano Design Services in New York City, which sends back five mirrored images.

See SCARVES, Page 9
FASHION MEETS PASSION
AS 1ST RESPONDERS STRUT THEIR STUFF!

First responders were this year’s “celebrity” models for the 5th annual Nevins Family of Services Passion for Fashion show that rocked the room at DiBurro’s in Bradford last month. Cheryl Fiandaca, WBZ-TV’s chief investigative reporter, was the emcee for the evening. Loud cheers erupted as fire chiefs, a police chief, police officers and firefighters — as well as Nevins’ volunteers, board members and staff members — strutted their way down the catwalk. Each walked with their own flare and finesse!

Nevins Family of Services, located on Broadway, specializes in many services for Alzheimer’s patients. This fashion show has been a big fund-raiser for the Alzheimer’s programs at the Nevins, ranging from long-term nursing home care to adult day care in specialized memory care settings.

Nevins sold 350 tickets for the show and hoped to raise $40,000.

“Between the sold-out event and the silent auction and many raffles, we hope that goal is met,” said Lisa Shea, director of community development. “This is just one of the different ways to bring funds into the Nevins, as 75 percent of the residents are patients with Alzheimer’s.”

A message came courtesy of President and CEO Joyce Shannon. “Because of your generous contributions, we have completed Phase 1 of our renovation project and are in the process of completing Phase 2. This will provide us with a new rehabilitation gym, enlarged dining/activity space on the second floor as well as enhanced air conditioning in residents’ rooms.”

Prior to the show; Police Chief Joseph Solomon, Nevins CEO and President Joyce Shannon, emcee Cheryl Fiandaca of WBZ-TV, Nevins board member Therese Leone and Fire Chief Tim Sheehy.

Lt. Bill Kannan was on point in a black tux with lavender vest and tie.

Right, Firefighter Jesse Kattar glided down the runway like a pro in a tan tuxedo.

Firefighter Zach Tulley escorted Methuen resident and Nevins volunteer Jo DiPaolo down the runway. Jo looked lovely in a double-breasted navy blazer with off-white slacks.

During the final runway walk, Methuen’s chiefs sported the “new police and fire spring/summer line of uniforms.” It was all in good fun and garnered a great round of laughs.

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Scarfes, continued from page 7

Shannon chooses one of them, a sample arrives about three weeks later, and she decides if she wants to order it.

“Shannon makes the decision completely herself,” Jeanne said.

To date, Shannon has designed and named 17 original poly chiffon infinity scarves, which retail for an average of $35 each. Choices include arctic blue, bubble blast, purple passion, cardinal, and pastel paradise.

“Shannon has a good eye for color,” said Bruno.

One woman who came into the store, Bruno recalled, fell in love with the scarves and bought approximately a half-dozen for herself, her family and friends. The woman thought they would be wonderful gifts and was impressed when she learned about Shannon’s background.

Shannon, known for her gentle, caring and kind demeanor, loves to interact with family and friends, and goes by the nickname Shannon Mary Sunshine.

According to her mother, Shannon, who is non-verbal and uses a wheelchair, loves watching movies, music, literature, school, socializing and shopping. She uses a Tobii communication device with auditory scanning to communicate with others. She clicks a switch with her head to choose what she wants to communicate. She can introduce herself, share her mission statement, and share information about the scarves, their prices, and how they can be ordered.

“She has such a joy about her,” said Bruno, who said she fell in love with the Molloys upon meeting them.

As a child, Shannon and her twin sister, Kerry (a Methuen High grad), spent a lot of time making crafts and painting using different mediums and tools, according to their mother.

Shannon also has a passion for books and recently she did several local read-aloud events with the use of communication technology, including at the Professional Center for Child Development in Andover. Prior to the events, Jeanne reads a book into a step-by-step communication device. At the read-alouds, Shannon taps a head switch to play each book’s page as Jeanne turns them while holding the book.

In July, Shannon read “The Wide-Mouthed Frog” to more than 20 children at Nevins Memorial Library. It was followed by fun craft activities, including making paper frog puppets, and each child received a copy of the book. Shannon returned to the library in August for a similar event with a reading of “If You Give a Mouse a Cookie.” Money from Shannon’s scarf business funded the craft materials and the books.

“It was a wonderful opportunity for Shannon to come and share her love of reading,” said Kathy Moran-Wallace, head of children’s services. “It was nice for the kids to meet her.”

Shannon will also be reading to students at her school, the Children’s Center for Communication at Beverly School for the Deaf, this year.

People who know Shannon best describe her as inspirational and a role model to others, and have seen her confidence increase with the success of her scarf designs.

“I would say she’s incredibly optimistic, always making the best of every situation,” said Monica Fowler, her teacher. “Learning challenges – she’s always up for them.”

“She’s very vibrant,” Fowler added. “She draws people to her.”

Like Fowler, Jeanne has seen a positive change in her daughter as her scarf business has grown.

“Shannon has gained a lot of confidence, so that has made me really proud of her,” she said. “She’s made a lot of confidence in her decision making and she loves going (and) socializing with people. I feel that she’s become a role model for a lot of people, not just people with disabilities but without disabilities.”

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Library, NECC team up for science series

We are surrounded by science! Northern Essex Community College and Nevins Library have partnered on a speaker series exploring science-related topics. The programs are free and run from 7 to 8pm. On Oct. 23, Lizzie Casanave, professor of philosophy at NECC, will speak on “The Science of Happiness and How to Be Happier.” As Casanave explains, many people think they will feel happier as a result of something, such as finding a new job, finishing a project or losing 10 pounds. She says that psychologists and neurologists are now realizing that happiness can be more readily achieved through changing the way we think. During her presentation, she will explain this concept and provide practical tools for achieving a new happier mindset. Casanave has a bachelor’s in philosophy/religion and world perspectives and a master’s in critical and creative thinking, and she has been teaching philosophy for more than 10 years.

On Nov. 13, NECC chemistry professor Mike Cross will discuss “Radioactivity in Your Life.” Each of us faces radioactivity in our lives from common things such as smoke detectors, cigarettes and even table salt. Cross will discuss the many ways we encounter radiation and share what should be of concern.

This series is funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, designed to promote public libraries as a science resource center, and supported by the Northern Essex Community College Speakers Bureau.

Presentations will be held in the library’s Garden Room. Go to nevinslibrary.org to register. For more information, contact Sarah Sullivan, ssullivan@nevinslibrary.org (978) 686-4080, ext. 20.

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Walk for Hope is Oct. 21

Please join the Samaritans of Merrimack Valley, a program of Family Services of the Merrimack Valley, as they host their first Walk for Hope to promote suicide awareness and show support for those impacted by suicide and mental health challenges. The event is Oct. 21 at the Willows Professional Park, 811 Turnpike St., North Andover. Registration begins at 8:30am and the 1.5-mile walk begins at 9:30am. Music will be provided by Irish singer Mossie Coughlan and we welcome guest speaker Senator Barbara L’Italien to kick off the walk! Register at www.samaritanswalkforhope.racewire.com. Cost is $30 with commemorative T-shirt or $10 without the tee. For more information about the Samaritans Walk for Hope, contact Anna Pelcott at apeicott@FSMV.org or (978) 327-8672.

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Paid for by the Committee to Elect Lynn C. Vidler
Ryan DiZoglio
Age: 26
Profession: real estate
City involvement: Methuen Democratic Committee member, ran for East District councilor last election

The reason I am running for City Council is because I think I have a lot to offer to Methuen, I already have policy experience from when I attended the University of Massachusetts Amherst. I spoke on behalf of the student body regarding student debt and drug policies. I also want to bring representation back into government. I believe there is a disconnect between the Council and the people they represent. I want to change that, I want the people to be able to trust someone who is making decisions on their behalf. I want them to be able to, depend on me to make decisions that will benefit the interests of the community. This is why I am running for City Council. I plan on finding ways to trim unnecessary spending in order to keep our taxes low and maintain our city’s fiscal health. I want to partner with school administrators and members of the School Committee to ensure that teachers have the resources they need to educate our students. I also want to provide our senior citizens tax relief and other resources in retirement, and listen to the needs of our business community. This will help ensure that Methuen is the most business and job-friendly community in the Merrimack Valley.

Jessica Finocchiaro
Age: 30
Profession: real estate agent, Century 21 McLennan & Company.
City involvement: Gr. Lawrence Technical School Committee vice chair (second term); on board of directors for YWCA of Northeastern MA, Merrimack Valley Prevention and Substance Abuse Project and the Psychological Center, leader of The Friends of the Methuen Firefighters group that promotes random acts of kindness.

Methuen needs new leadership, vision, and long term strategic planning, and I know that I can be an effective representative for residents through the many decisions that will be made in the next two years. I’m a lifelong Methuen resident and have served two terms on the Gr. Lawrence Technical School representing Methuen. I have 15 years of work experience, 2 masters degrees in government, have experience in both the private and public sectors, and currently manage a combined budget of $40 million dollars for the school district and nonprofits I serve.

I’ve proposed a new “311” system which would connect you directly to City Hall to ask questions or file a request for service, where it would be logged with a work order number, and how quickly it was resolved is reported to the council. This way we could ensure that resident’s requests are completed timely and efficiently, and we can use the data to make more informed budget decisions. I have been a very active member on the GLTS school committee, and have successfully proposed measures that brought more transparency, budget solutions, and academic results. I’m running to bring my energetic vision and strong voice, and budget experience to the city to stand up for Methuen residents. I respectfully ask for one of your 3 votes for Methuen City Councilor At Large on November 7th. Methuen residents deserve TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND RESULTS. Please feel free to reach me anytime directly at 978-566-1786 or JessicaForMethuen@gmail.com.

Steve Gillis
Age: 19
Profession: Full time student at University of Massachusetts, Lowell - political science major; worked as a project manager for Lighthouse Painting
City involvement: Member of the MAIC

I am a born, raised and proud Methuen resident. I am a single parent with three children. My youngest is a student at Methuen High School. I am YOUR CANDIDATE for COUNCILOR AT LARGE.

This is my first attempt at public office. I have worked in the democratic process for many years as a member of Teamsters Local 1505, serving as a Union Stewart fighting for issues important to my fellow workers. I am the founder of the FACEBOOK Group METHUEN SOUND OFF. I hope to meet you as I go door to door, working to earn your vote.

I stood alongside my stepfather Carmen Mele, who died of a heart attack while trying to voice his concerns about city land taking. He knew that because of the political appointees on the board that the information he was trying to present would not be given proper attention, but he never the less stood up and spoke out for what he believed in. He inspired me to stand up and fight for the good people of Methuen.

Taking privately owned land, public safety issues, affordable housing units at the Loop, purple trash bags or the pay as you go trash program, I have worked hard to make sure your voice was heard.

We need a stronger voice and input into how our city operates. You can count on me to fight to preserve and protect Quality of Life. I respectfully ask for your vote. God Bless!

Ryan Hamilton
Age: 52
Profession: Realtor
City involvement: Councilor at Large (2008-2013), (2016-present); City Council chair (2012); City Council vice chair (2009); secretary on Forest Lake Association (2008-2012); chair of the City Council Policy and Procedure Committee (2016-present)

I support many of our youth, school and neighborhood programs. I also enjoy hosting and taking part in events at The Methuen Senior Center.

When I was re-elected in 2015, I promised the residents that I would always advocate on their behalf, and I started that promise at my first meeting in January 2016 when I called for an immediate public hearing on a proposed change to our trash and recycling services. To me it was loud and clear that the residents of our City did not want this change. I was their voice, and the proposal was defeated and never brought back.

The Council needs leadership and experience more than ever. There are tough decisions that need to be made each year, tough questions that need to be asked and a strong voice that needs to be asking them. I have the leadership qualities, I have the experience in local government, and I have the strong voice that speaks for the people.

My goals are:
• To ensure that Methuen is thriving with opportunities for financial growth and development.
• To ensure that our children have the necessary resources available to provide them with a quality education.
• To ensure the preservation within our historical district by supporting the efforts of those working on displaying our city treasures for all to see.
• To ensure the taxpayer’s dollars are spent in the most efficient and effective way.
• To ensure a safe and secure community for all of our residents.

Jennifer Kannan
Incumbent

GET OUT & VOTE NOV. 7

This year’s municipal election is Nov. 7. Mayor Stephen Zanni is stepping down due to term limits and only At-Large City Councilor Jim Jajuga has stepped up to take over the Mayor’s Office.

The School Committee, too, is seeing departures due to term limits. But with six contenders filling six slots, this is another uncontested race.

As the City Council candidates are the only ones vying to win spots (except in the West District where the two incumbents are running unopposed), we asked them to write a brief statement on their plans for improving Methuen. Their responses are on these next few pages.

Other races are:
Greater Lawrence Technical School Committee (pick 2): Russell P. Bourassa, Barbara Pierog Grondine (incumbent) and Lyle J. Nichols.
Methuen Housing Authority (pick 2): Michelle A. Bibeau, Frank P. Gallo (incumbent) and Richard M. True.
Nevins Library Trustee (pick 2): Dennis DiZoglio (incumbent), Karen Woekel Jerz and Peter J. McQuillan.
### 2017 METHUEN ELECTION

#### EAST DISTRICT (pick 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>City Involvement</th>
<th>City Involvement Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adam E. Chiocca</strong></td>
<td>41</td>
<td>Public school teacher, 14 years in ELL classroom</td>
<td>Methuen Dad</td>
<td>Smart and comprehensive Master Development Plan; active in community and senior populations; Methuen Youth Basketball Association; founder and president of Methuen Athletic Improvement Committee; active in the community on various issues including over-control growth, taxes, drug addiction and improving life for our youth and senior populations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daniel Grayton</strong></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Communications director</td>
<td>City of Amesbury</td>
<td>Former Methuen councilor at-large; I am running for East District Councillor to be an advocate for the taxpayers of Methuen. Using my background in municipal government I will work from day one to ensure taxpayers come first. I will work to curb the rise in property taxes for the residents of the East District by identifying and eliminating waste in the city budget. As a Councillor I will advocate for strategic commercial growth across Methuen to help grow the tax base and shift the tax burden off residents. Finally, people deserve a government that is open and transparent. As City Councillor I will ensure that residents are listened to and feel heard when bringing their concerns to City Hall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>George Kazanjian</strong></td>
<td>69</td>
<td>Retired Medicare accountant</td>
<td>Current city councilor, Conservation Commission, Methuen Middle School Building Committee</td>
<td>My plans for improving Methuen are already under way. Economic development is about long-term investment. Adding a strong commercial base lifts the tax burden off the backs of the people, and ultimately all citizens win. I am a retired accountant for the Department of Health and Human Services and prior to that I was an accountant with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. My financial background is an asset to the Methuen City Council. Methuen faces many challenges, but none are more serious than our ability to balance the City’s budget over the long term. We provide public safety and security, continue high-quality senior services, make good planning and economic development choices and create a positive environment for our youth. I believe the residents of Methuen must receive the maximum value for their tax dollars. George Kazanjian is a proven common-sense leader and a voice of reason in the City who understands the problems we face, how municipal government works, and a person who leads by example to inspire action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eunice D. Zeigler</strong></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Compliance specialist</td>
<td>City of Lowell Housing Authority</td>
<td>A lifelong Methuen resident and homeowner who understands the challenges of working families and wants to lead Methuen towards a bright future. I hold my Bachelor’s in Political Science and Masters in Economic and Social Development of Regions from UMass Lowell.Currently, I serve as a Compliance Specialist/Grant Writer for the City of Lowell Housing Authority and prior to that, a Financial Compliance Manager for the City of Haverhill. As your Methuen City Councillor, I will lend my education and public finance management experience towards the economic sustainability of the city. I will push for long term strategic planning for the city and look for ways to expand opportunities for residents. One proposal I will work towards is the creation of a business forum beginning along the Merrimack Street Corridor that will span outward. The purpose of which is to build partnerships among our business communities. For example, by supporting a partnership between restaurants and our farms here in Methuen we can strengthen our local economy and promote cash flow in the city. This forum can have the potential to expand resources for our schools and public services. The City needs more experienced and transparent leadership that will contribute to financially sound decision making and seek to bring resources to the city. These qualities would be reflected in my leadership as an Methuen East District City Councillor. On November 7th, there will be a general election. My name is Eunice Zeigler and I ask for your support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lynn C. Vidler</strong></td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Elder care regional training manager</td>
<td>Methuen Youth Wrestling</td>
<td>I am running for re-election as West District City Councillor because I believe the residents of Methuen are an important component to the City’s successful functioning. Representing residents’ concerns have been a priority of mine. I have concentrated on three principles: hard work, accountability, and being professional. I still hold true to these principles and will continue to provide residents with an avenue to have their voice heard. Over the last 2 years, I have encouraged the sharing and access of City information. We now have email distribution of City Boards, Commissions and Council meeting information through email alert sign-up. Additionally, SMART 911, provides residents an opportunity to share important household information crucial for first responders. I will continue to advocate for more interactive methods for communicating with the City. One example is a resident’s ability to electronically notify the City of sign damage, pot holes, etc. I have been working with the City on this implementation. My efforts will continue to bring this new service for the benefit of our residents and City departments. Listening to resident concerns, my plans involve continuing to advocate for roadway and infrastructure improvements throughout the entire City. Residents are concerned with public safety, maintaining and improving City parks and buildings, and the development of thoughtful residential and commercial growth that complement, not burden our City services. If re-elected, my plan is to continue to advocate for these concerns while encouraging the long term development of systemic planning for housing, business, and capital improvements.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Hello neighbor! Adam Chiocca here. It would be my honor to represent you, as your next East District City Councillor. I am a regular Methuen Dad who loves this town and wants to see a strong, vibrant Methuen. I am ready to be a dependable steward, someone you can trust, who will work to protect and preserve the things we love about Methuen. I’m ready to serve, to look out for our best interests. You need someone responsible, smart and mature; you need Adam Chiocca on that City Council. I think we need to be careful about all the construction, non-stop building and growth. The schools are already at capacity, and traffic is already a problem, at certain times of day. Let’s keep Methuen on a good path. You can trust in me, that I will represent all residents and taxpayers, in a thoughtful approach to leading our city forward. When you cast your vote, I hope you will think about my life experience (age 41, a father, a husband, married 14 years, raising our kids here), and my slogan, “I’m running on common sense!” I am proud of my long, successful career as a school teacher, and my 10+ years of volunteering and working with Methuen youth organizations. Thank you for putting your trust in me, and thank you for your vote, on Tuesday, Nov. 7th.**
JESSICA FINOCCHIARO
Councilor AT LARGE

Transparency • Accountability • Results

✓ EXPERIENCE
Gr. Lawrence Technical School Committee
2014-Present, Vice Chair 2015-Present
Friends of Methuen Firefighters
Community Organizer
Serves on the Board of Directors:
YWCA of Northeastern MA, Merrimack Valley Prevention and
Substance Abuse Project (MVPASAP), The Psychological Center

✓ EDUCATION
Master Public Administration (MPA)
Master of Science in Government
Suffolk University, 2012, 2013

✓ STRONG VOICE FOR METHUEN
At GLTS I spearheaded the following successful votes: recorded meetings, reorganized transportation for safety
concerns, remodel our lunch program to provide quality food to
students & increase funds, and posting our budget online for the first
time. We kept a careful budget every year with months of line by line
debate, focused on data-driven results, and are now a Level One
school. We’re one of the first schools in Massachusetts to save millions
by supplying ourselves with over 100% of our electricity needs with
solar power, & opened a new STEM program to stay ahead of the
curve. I’m a do-er, and I will work hard for the City
of Methuen by listening to residents and actively
bringing proposals to my fellow councillors.

A fresh perspective who will put Methuen first. A strong voice who will stand
up for Methuen’s working families, seniors, veterans, and our future.

CONTACT TEAM FINOCCHIARO
(978) 566-1786 • JessicaFinocchiaro@gmail.com • JessicaForMethuen.com
Facebook & Twitter: @JessFinocchiaro • P.O. BOX 882 Methuen, MA 01844
Joyce C. Campagnone

Age: 65
Profession: Retired
City involvement: Methuen Youth Commission, past city councilor, presently on Methuen School Committee

I am running for Central District Council because I want to be involved in keeping our city moving forward in a positive and safe way. Citizens need to know that their well-being and safety is important to us. Being accountable and truthful to the residents should be a priority. Tax dollars being spent wisely to benefit the whole community.

Water and sewer rates along with taxes need to be kept affordable for all our citizens. We are a blue-collar working community and we need to structure our spending accordingly. Public Safety is also a priority. The people need to know that their city is safe. Making decisions according to the impact it might have on our city. I would like to get the people's input on topics that may affect our city. I also feel that issues should be taken up and dealt with on an individual bases.

Supporting our school dept. so our young citizens can get the education they need, and deserve. Lets remember they are our FUTURE!

MY PLEDGE — REPRESENT EVERYONE EQUALLY & HONESTLY!
I am asking the citizens of the Central District to please vote for me Joyce Campagnone to be your next Central District councilor. THANK YOU.

Derrick Tony Jones

Age: 25
Profession: Grassroots organizer
City affiliation:

Derrick Tony Jones has been engaged in community and political activism beginning at age fourteen in Georgetown, Guyana (former British colony). His foray into the public sphere and a recognition of social responsibility started when he was selected cricket captain of Houston Methodist School. The list of personal accomplishments in the intervening years is indicative of who he is as a leader and indubitably someone with a high degree of integrity.

Since taking up residence in North America, Tony Jones has dedicated most of his adult life advancing several issues in furtherance of empowering the disadvantaged and dispossessed. As an author and educator he has successfully illuminated the socio-cultural and political challenges of people generally but visible ethnic minorities in particular. He is Executive Director of the Centre for Social Justice and Development Inc. and chairman of the National Unity Commission tasked to investigate impediments to racial unity in Guyana. He initiated the 2016 Cultural Diversity Convet at Nevin Library and presented a proposal to City Council for Methuen Harmony Week. Tony has amassed experiences rooted in confidence and personal motivation.

He is the author of several books including No Unity No Progress: Why advancement for Blacks remains an elusive goal? In a Wonderful Land of Mist, Skol is Redeemptive, Placing Guyana before Party politics, Paralysis of Guyana’s Regional System and Subprime Lending Threatens Minority Homeownership: Foreclosure Dilemma in Boston Black and Latino Neighborhoods.

He and wife Daleanne have daughters Angelica, a Regis College freshman, and Anastasia, a Methuen High junior. For more info please visit derricktonyjones.com

JAMES MCCARTY

Age: 25
Profession: Grassroots organizer
City involvement: Local advocacy

Born in Methuen, James McCarty has campaigned at local, state, and presidential levels while completing his education at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Prior to receiving a Bachelor’s in Philosophy & Public Policy, McCarty served as Essex County Field Organizer for Save Our Public Schools and served with Protect MA Jobs, both of which focused on creating and protecting hundreds of jobs for differing trades. McCarty is a member of the Democratic City Committee and a delegate for the Massachusetts Democratic Party. McCarty now hopes to reach The Arlington Neighborhood. Recognizing the constant challenges its local police and fire officials face, he hopes to provide them with necessary resources to ensure a protected community.

The McCarty platform is built further each time a voter is reached personally or over the phone. This is the best way to feel the pulse of the community. Constituents are receptive and provide honest feedback of their individual needs through the use of these methods. Most comments pertain to the condition of the neighborhood sidewalks, street signage and lighting. There are also requests to adjust the hours of the transfer station for greater accessibility. The primary goal as councilor is to handle each issue with delicacy and efficiency. A community achieves its fullest potential when it pursues smaller endeavors to accomplish a greater effort. Methuen residents are excited about the new blood entering our municipal government, and it would be an honor to be a part of the transition to continue moving our city forward.

CENTRAL DISTRICT (pick 2)

2017 METHUEN ELECTION

Lace up sneakers for Ranger 5K!

On Sunday, Oct. 8, Methuen Public Schools is hosting its 2nd annual Ranger 5K. The run/walk takes place on the campus of Methuen High School and participants will run/walk the cross-country course. Everyone is welcome! The cost is $10 for any student and $20 for adults. The first 150 registered participants will receive a T-shirt. Sign up at lightboxreg.com. Race-day registrations begin at 8:30 am in the Klimas Memorial Field House. Schedule is 9:30am for the 5K Run, 9:45am for the 5K Walk and 10am for the Kids Fun Run.

Police, fire stations welcome public

The police and fire department open houses will be Oct. 14 from 10am to 2pm. And there’s an extra downtown treat going on that day! At the Quinn Public Safety Building, police staff members will offer station tours and display equipment including the Breast Cancer Cruiser, the Command Unit, a cruiser, motorcycles, ATVs and a marine unit. There will be tables manned by

Smart911 now available

911 dispatchers and first responders will have crucial info about you at their fingertips during an emergency, courtesy of a free new program supported by Mayor Stephen N. Zanni and Police Chief Joseph Solomon. Smart911 provides a “safety profile” where 911 call takers will have access to info such as pre-existing medical conditions and allergies as well as home and work addresses, phone numbers and emergency contacts. This will allow for faster and more informed responses, officials say.

“This new system will be able to provide our dispatchers and first responders with lifesaving information that they may not have otherwise had during an emergency situation,” Zanni said. “This is yet another example of how the Methuen Police Department continues to be at the forefront of technological resources to keep our community as safe as possible.”

“Smart911 will be a crucial resource for first responders and we are encouraging everyone in the community to take advantage of it and register their information,” Solomon said. When a citizen dials 911, their safety profile is automatically displayed to the 911 call taker, allowing them to send the appropriate responders to the right location with accurate information. Residents can create and manage their own profiles through the secure site — other users will not be able to view your information.

Smart911 is private and secure, is only used for emergency responses and is only made available to the 911 system in the event of an emergency call, officials say. Sign up at smart911.com.

MethuenLife Advertising works! For rates, call Sarah Lane, (603) 401-5490

MethuenLife
Diane Martin honored as state’s top pharmacist

Methuen’s Diane (Cormier) Martin, who has spent a dozen years making sure the neediest in our community have access to medicine, was recognized last month with the state’s top pharmacist award.

The Massachusetts Pharmacists Association presented Martin with the President’s Award during a ceremony at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Connecticut. The annual award recognizes a pharmacist who has consistently demonstrated professional excel-

GLFHC co-workers turned out in force to celebrate Methuen’s Diane Martin receiving MPH’s President’s Award. Shown are (from left) Dr. Christine Rooney, a family practice doctor; award winner Martin; Alicia Mam daCunha, director of clinical pharmacy; and clinical pharmacist Ashley Rogers. Courtesy photo

RE-ELECT

Jennifer (Aziz) KANNAN
COUNCILOR AT LARGE

Jennifer Kannan Is A Voice For You, She Cares About Methuen And She Cares About You!

~ Experience: Current Councilor 2008-2013, 2016- Present
~ Leadership: Council Chairwoman 2012, Vice Chair 2009
~ Commitment: 100% Constituent Service

PLEASE VOTE JENNIFER KANNAN
PAID FOR BY THE FRIENDS OF JENNIFER KANNAN
Martin, continued from page 14

ience, exemplary service and dedication to advancing the profession of pharmacy. Martin works as vice president of pharmacy operations for Greater Lawrence Family Health Care, where she oversees GLFHC’s five pharmacies and a staff of 75. A recent major project of hers was overseeing the opening of the GLFHC’s newest pharmacy at Methuen Family Health Center on Pelham Street, which is available to the general public and fills over 600,000 scripts a year.

“Diane Martin is a visionary, dedicated professional who has built the GLFHC Pharmacy system into one of the best in the state,” according to GLFHC President and CEO John M. Silva. “She is held in great respect and esteem by her colleagues, our staff and Board and we congratulate her on this fantastic honor.”

Martin tells MethuenLife that the most rewarding part of her job is “the ability to work in an integrated team serving the underserved.”

Last year, MPhA presented Martin with The Bowl of Hygeia award for outstanding civic leadership in her community. Martin, a graduate of Presentation of Mary Academy and Mass. College of Pharmacy, is married to Brian Martin. She is proud mom to Gabby Salerno.

Purge for a purpose!

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Methuen is partnering with the Epilepsy Foundation New England and collecting donations of clothing, linens, towels, shoes, handbags, etc. Your donations will be collected by Epilepsy Foundation and used to help fund their programs which provide education, support services and camp programs for individuals and families. Your donations should be dropped off in the back of St. Andrew’s Church, 90 Broadway, on Oct. 21 between 9am and noon. Fall is a great time to clean out those closets! Drop off your bags of clothing and feel good about yourself when you leave knowing you helped someone else in a small way. Contact Patti Eldred at (978) 686-1472 if you have any questions.

Visit www.MethuenLife.com
Fall Happenings

Kid-created Fairy Walk is new addition to city’s Fall Festival

Expect a bit of whimsy and lot of creativity at this month’s City of Methuen Fall Festival. For the first time, a Fairy Walk has been added to the day’s lineup!

Fairy houses are small creations made mostly of natural items – sticks, pinecones, moss, rocks, bark, flora, fauna, etc. Grammar school students are invited to build houses, which will line the half-mile path that runs from Grey Court Park to the Tenney School for all festival-goers to enjoy.

“The kids create the houses. That’s what makes this so great!” said Recreation Department Director Bill Pare. “I think this will really take the event to the next level.”

The Fall Festival is set for Oct. 28 from noon to 5pm at Grey Court Park. As always, there will be a costume contest, popcorn provided by the Rotary, hot dogs from Exchange Club, and apple crisp.

Methuen mom Judy Mullins, who works as a program assistant at the Tenney, is organizing this aspect of the free Youth Commission festival and came up with the idea after she and friend Mary Marie built a fairy house for a fund-raiser.

“It was so much fun and we were so inspired!” said Mullins, a self-described “arts-and-crafts mom” who has since led workshops on building fairy houses. “People really enjoy being a kid again. There’s a joy and creativity in it. When is last time you got to play in woods? The (Grey Court) path is absolutely perfect for this of thing.”

Mullins is encouraging individual students as well as classrooms and families to get involved. To find out more or to register, visit thumbelinafairycraft.wixsite.com/methuenfairywalk. Only 115 spots are available for houses, so register early! For more info, contact Mullins at thumbelinafairycraft@gmail.com.

Here’s a list of other fun fall events happening locally:

- Mann Orchards’ Riverside Farm: 7-acre corn maze, hay rides, petting zoo, all kinds of family fun plus delicious refreshments like kettle corn, cider donuts, candy apples and Mam’s homemade apple crisp. From Oct. 6 to 29, Mann’s Maze will be open every day except Monday (but they will be open Columbus Day). Admission is $10 for weekdays and $14 on weekends. Children under 2 are free. 445 Merrimack St., Methuen.

- Dracut Scholarship Foundation annual Craft Fair: Oct. 21, 9am-3pm at Richardson Middle School, 1540 Lakeview Ave. An array of vendors. Refreshments will be sold.

- Reggies Autumn Crafts and Vendors Fair: Oct. 21, 10am-5pm at Greater Lawrence Technical School, 57 River Road, Andover. Uniquely crafted items and fun activities for all.

- St. Lucy Parish Fall Craft Fair: Oct. 21, 9am-3pm at St. Lucy’s, 254 Merrimack St. Food, raffles, bake sale, book sale and over 30 crafters. Sponsored by the Blessed Virgin Mary sodality.

- 7th Annual Boutique Showcase: Nov. 3 at Double Tree Hotel, Andover. Product demonstrations, cash bar, raffles, etc. Vendor space available, so contact MVPsinc@hotmail.com. Free admission. Sponsored by the non-profit Merrimack Valley Partners in Service.

- Craft Fair: Nov. 4, 9am to 4pm at First Congregational Church, 15 Lawrence Road, Salem, N.H.

- 6th Annual Harvest Craft Fair: Methuen Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary, 10am to 3pm. E-mail EdBreen@aol.com fortableinfo. Have a fall event to add to MethuenLife’s November Fall Happenings calendar? E-mail Melissa@MethuenLife.com by Oct. 18.
A Bounty of Fall Savings
OUR OWN GROWN MUMS!

5 for $25
While supplies last

Hanging Mums
2 for $35
Large 10” pot
Laschi’s Famous Extra Large Mums
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Giant Patio Pot Mums
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In 12” terra cotta colored pot. Perfect for patio or decks.

YOUR FALL DECORATION HEADQUARTERS

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EVERYDAY GROCERIES & GOODIES TOO!
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METHUEN MUSEUM EDUCATES HUNDREDS ON OPENING WEEKEND

The Searles, Nevins and Tenney families were once again the talk of the town! Their lives and impact here took the spotlight at the Methuen Museum of History’s debut last month.

Between 200 and 300 guests toured the recently renovated Tenney Gatehouse, which was renovated to honor each family in their own room – complete with artifacts, story boards, photographs and more. The millionaire trio’s contributions – financially, architecturally, historically, etc. – are still evident today and the exhibits tell their tales. The grand opening included a cocktail party, ribbon cutting and free guided tours.

“It was a fabulous weekend and we are absolutely thrilled with the turnout,” noted Methuen Historical Society President Denis Webster Greene. “This has been 20 years in the making and it’s a dream come true for many of us.”

He joked that, “All four mayors – minus Mayor Rushton – were even here!” which drew laughs from history-savvy residents, who knew full well that Methuen’s first mayor Samuel Rushton served from 1918 to 1921.

But the four who have shared the Mayor’s Office – Dennis Dizoglio (1994 to 2000), Sharon Pollard (2000-2006), William Manzi III (2006 to 2012) and Stephen Zanni (2012 to present) – all attended the museum ribbon-cutting.

Webster-Greene thanked the MHS board for their support and recognized the Sisters of Presentation of Mary Academy, who received a plaque of gratitude for loaning the museum various items from Pine Lodge, as well as David D’Apice of the Simon Group whose creative juices were instrumental in designing the exhibits.

The renovation, which cost about $40,000, was paid for by the Methuen Historical Society and a grant from the Edwin Castle Fund. The Methuen Festival of Trees has also contributed. There are no city funds involved.

Webster-Greene now seeks docents to lead tours and man the Visitors Center. If interested, call (978) 683-2252 or visit methuenhistoricalsociety.org and message them through the Contact page.

The museum is open Sundays, noon to 4pm. There is no charge to visit.

– Melissa Fili

The Searles family exhibit even includes authentic clothing worn by Mary and Edward.

MethuenLife photos by Sue Whipple
The Nevins family story board includes family history as well as their ties to Nevins Memorial Library and the MSPCA at Nevins Farm – both treasured places in Methuen.

After touring the magnificent renovated Gate House, Mark Kane headed to the fruit and cheese table for a few tasty treats to whet his appetite for dinner which was catered by The Party Connection.

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Santa parades thru city Nov. 18
Ho, ho, ho! The Methuen Santa Parade is Nov. 18 at 1pm. It begins at the Park 'n Ride on Pelham Street, left on Lowell, right on Hampshire, cross over Broadway to Charles St., to Pleasant St., right on Pleasant View ending at Nicholson Stadium. Have a group interested in marching? Contact Jill Stakelin at (978) 983-8578 or jkstackelin@ci.methuen.ma.us.

Coffee & chocolate: Mmmmm ...
Coffee and chocolate are a perfect pair, just like Quota International of Lawrence and good deeds across Greater Lawrence! Quota is celebrating their 83 years of service to those in need, specifically women, children, the deaf, hard of hearing and speech impaired. The public is invited to a Coffee and Chocolate Pairing on Nov. 4, 1 to 3pm at Nevins Memorial Library. The event will be led by chocolatier Antoinette Whitney of Ovedia Artisan Chocolates of Amesbury. Tickets cost $20 and are available by calling Kathy Berman at (978) 807-8856 or Phyllis Simmonds at (978) 688-6367.

Farmers Market continues to roll
The Methuen Farmers Market is still going strong! It continues to be held each Friday from 10am to 3pm at 254 Broadway, in a large lot next to the Methuen Federal Credit Union and will run through Oct. 27. It is co-hosted by Groundwork Lawrence and Holy Family Hospital. If you’d like to become a vendor (food or crafts), contact Rose Gonzalez at (978) 974-0770 ext. 7001.

Senior luncheons
On the third Wednesday of each month at noon, Nevins Family of Services presents a topic of interest to seniors in the community. The luncheon is held at the historic Nevins Manor (110 Broadway). The presentation and luncheon are complimentary but reservations are required as space is limited. Contact Bonnie Herrick at (978) 682-7611 to reserve your spot. Here’s the lineup for 2017: Oct. 18: Defining Memory Issues; Nov. 15: Nutrition; Dec. 20: The Benefits of Voluntarism.
SHARE YOUR STORY: Are you a student from Methuen who’d like to share your
AMAZING ADVENTURE on our pages? E-mail Melissa@MethuenLife.com!

MY AMAZING ADVENTURE!

Ultimate physical challenge
was driven by the heart
Kilimanjaro climb raised $ for Kenyan school

By Lake Murphy
Boston University sophomore

In late June, fellow BU student Irena and I had been in contact with the Boston-based nonprofit Flying Kites that leads expeditions up Mount Kilimanjaro. Although they take people on exciting expeditions, their main focus is building a school in Njabini, Kenya, for nearby destitute children. Therefore, as part of this team, we committed to raising $6,000, all of which would go directly to the construction of the school. I am proud to say that we exceeded this goal, due to the generosity and goodness of family and friends.

On July 8, we arrived in Njabini for a 3-night stay at the Flying Kites house. Here we got to know some of the children our efforts would directly help. We spent time playing games with them, viewing the construction of the

See MURPHY, Page 27

Dutch treat: BFFs share their homes & cultures -- 3,500 miles apart!

MHS junior’s trip to Amsterdam completes exchange experience

By Megan Forbes
Methuen High junior

On July 13 at 4:55pm, I boarded my flight to Amsterdam after a sleepless night and a long day of impatiently waiting. I couldn’t believe I was going to be 3,500 miles away from home. It didn’t register until I stepped off the plane the following morning and reunited with my best friend after a long 8 months. Demi stayed with my family and I last October for only a short 7 days as part of the Dutch exchange program run by Methuen High School. But we bonded quickly and I knew without a doubt that I would be going to visit her.

Demi’s mother, Nicole, and father, Richard, welcomed me into their home and treated me as one of their own from the minute I walked through the door. I was given a tour of the house and of course my favorite snack, stroopwafels (caramel cookie waffles with richly filled chewy centers). Demi had bought me and her tickets to the “We are the Future” festival where I developed a new-found

See FORBES, Page 27

HAM & BEAN DINNER
at First Church Congregational
26 Pleasant Street, Methuen
on Saturday, October 14th from 4:30 to 6:30 PM
Buffet Style Menu: Ham, Two Baked Beans, Hot Dogs, Macaroni & Cheese, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, rolls and butter. Dessert – Vanilla Ice Cream with Strawberries and/or chocolate sauce, also a sugar free option
Beverages – Coffee, Tea, Lemonade

Tickets available Sundays, following (10:00 AM) worship,
and at the Church Office (978-687-1240) during the week.

Adults: $10 (Advance Purchase) or $12 (At Door)
Children 6-12: $8 Under 6: Free

Thank you for your support!

Thank you for your support!
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This is a First Church Congregational fundraiser sponsored by the Prayer Shawl Ministry

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209 LAWRENCE STREET, METHUEN, MA 01844
Hannah McKenna and Lauren Barry have a lot in common. They are both seniors at Methuen High School, and both excel for the MHS swim team coached by Jason Smith and lacrosse team led by Briana Gross. They share one other key trait—they have developed into leaders with exemplary dedication and attitude.

“It takes a huge amount of effort to excel in swimming and lacrosse,” says Barry, 18, a swim team captain, member of the MHS Marching Band, MIAA essay contest finalist and one of the top students in her class. “Learning to coach, taking criticism and then using that is so important to improve.”

While lacrosse and swimming are extremely different sports, they share a common thread. Says Barry, “They are both similar in basic conditioning with core workouts and especially with running. ... Even in swim, we run a mile every practice. Lacrosse is a sport where communication with teammates is crucial, whereas with swimming, you have to individually push yourself in the pool to get better.”

McKenna, 17, a state-qualifying diver, captains both the swim and lacrosse teams, and also is an MIAA essay finalist. Her take on the duality of her sports falls on the cerebral side: “Both sports are mental. ... Everything you do has to be thought of in advance and executed at the right time. “Preparing for games and meets are completely different. For diving, it’s just repetition, doing my dives over and over again to get them perfect. For lacrosse, it’s more making sure your whole team is on the same page so everything you do flows together.”

Great student-athletes are not built alone. Both of these competitors have special support systems. Says Barry, “My coaches, Jason Smith and Briana Gross (lacrosse), have really been amazing. Coach Smith was my teacher freshman year and works in the building, so every time I have a problem or need advice with school or college I go straight to him.”

McKenna also praises Coach Smith as well as his assistants, all MHS alumni, saying, “Megan Kijanka is my coach specifically for diving. She’s always gone above and beyond for me. My sophomore year, I had qualified for sectionals but in order to go, I had to learn my reverse dive. “After trying everything, Megan offered to take me up to her alma mater, Springfield College, to work on it. Because of Megan’s help, I went to Sectionals that year. For Coach Smith, the feeling of admiration is mutual: “Hannah, Lauren, and our other captain Haley Hamilton are all extremely hard workers who are constantly trying to improve each day. They are always looking for input from the coaching staff on things that they can adjust in order to get better. They are usually the first ones in and the last ones out of the water.”

So, which of their endeavors do these two-sport stars prefer? McKenna explains, “If I had to choose, I would pick diving. It’s different from what I was used to and I learned to love it in just four years.” Barry, who competes in the 200 freestyle, 500 freestyle, and 200 IM, tends to agree stating, “I prefer swimming most because I genuinely just love it. I love being able to see the progress I’ve made. I love the intensity everyone has for it. If I’ve had a bad day or didn’t do well on a test, it’s therapeutic to swim.”

Last year, Barry competed at both Sectionals and States on the Rangers’ qualifying relay teams. McKenna qualified for both Sectionals and States in diving, placing 14th and 24th respectively. The duo takes differing views on the student-athlete challenge, but their futures are equally bright. In addition to her swimming and studies, Barry writes for the MHS newspaper Blue & White, is vice president of Best Buddies, plays baritone for marching band and tenor saxophone for concert band. “I have three rehearsals a week, each three hours, right after swim practice, so it can be stressful to fit when I have a lot of homework. It really is something I enjoy because of the friends I’ve made and my instructors.”

“ Lauren works really hard to ensure that she balances her school, band, job, and sports schedule very well,” relates MHS Marching Band Director Brian Mclnnage. “She always has a smile a positive attitude, and a great sense of humor. She is an exemplary model of MHS pride.”

She hopes to study nursing in the bilingual nursing program at UMass Amherst. Adds McKenna, “I don’t believe it’s tough to balance all three because it is something I’ve always had to do. I don’t know anything other than that. You have to be extremely organized. “I’m going to college to double major in criminal justice and psychology hopefully with a minor in Russian or Arabic. I have not decided on a school, but I do know that wherever I go, I will be playing lacrosse.”

Dandy Dan

Dan Labelle is the new president of Methuen Youth Basketball and he is tickled at the opportunity to lead this flourishing program, succeeding Steve Saba.
Sports continued from 24

“I am lucky to have been elected president of such a great organization. The MYBA team has an outstanding system. My biggest goal is to grow our organization, especially on the girls’ side,” he said.

Labelle is working with new MHS girls’ hoops coach Dave Giribaldi on this objective: “Dave ran an open gym at MHS this summer. He is also running a fall clinic for the girls at MHS. We need to get more girls into the program so we can expand our travel program.”

Labelle and wife Maryluz have two sons: Jason, a 7th-grader, and Jonathan, a 3rd-grader at the Timony School, who both play in the program as well as in Methuen Youth Soccer and Lacrosse.

A manager at Raytheon, Labelle brings a wealth of hoops experience alongside some hardcourt luminaries. He was an assistant under Mike McVeigh at North Andover High School, worked basketball camps with Bert Hammell and Don Doucette at Merrimack College and UMass Lowell, and coached with Andy Corey at Austin Prep and Salem (NH) High School.

He comes in with a clear leadership style: “I believe in transparency. There were a lot of questions about our travel program when I took over the boys’ side last year. We hired some independent evaluators, (Travel Director) Rick Gorman and I also rated every boy that tried out. We also asked our coaches to rate their players. “Rick and I then rolled up the three sets of data and selected our teams. At the end of the process, I cut both my sons. My wife was not happy, but they both played for the In-House program. I coached both of their teams again and we had a blast.”

While the girls’ side of the program is a work in progress, the boys’ side is thriving, says Labelle. “We had more In-House boys’ teams last year than the previous year. I would love for all the girls who signed up to try out for the travel program.”

“We have one team for grades 5-8. A city the size of Methuen should have double that. On the boys’ side, we have one team in grades 4 and 5, and two teams in grades 6-8. We will have over 500 children enrolled overall once registration ends.”

As for improvements, Labelle looks to the human side saying the need for coaches and parent volunteers and board members is constant: “We have board members who started with MYBA 30 years ago. Our coaches are passionate about basketball. They do it for the love of the game and the love of their children. We have former MHS Rangers coaching in all our leagues. We get people who coached their kids and now are coaching their grandchildren. Coaches are the lifeline of our program.”

According to Labelle, MYBA will once again host the 17th annual Ken Widdie Tournament in November and the Blood Memorial Tourney in March.

John Molori is an author, columnist, and a 2011 inductee into the Methuen Athletic Hall of Fame. Facebook: John Molori, Twitter @MoloriMedia. Email molorimedia@gmail.com.
1860s home goes from ‘a mess’ to amazing!

By Melissa Fili
MethuenLife Writer

Working in real estate for 30 years, lifelong Methuenite Shirley Sirigos had a knack for recognizing potential. So when she had the chance to buy the deserted, run-down property at 38 Pleasant St., across from City Hall, she jumped at the chance.

“The house had been abandoned – pipes were broken, the ceiling was falling, floors were warped. It was a mess! I fixed it up one room at a time,” the do-it-yourselfer says of the 1860s French Second Empire-style house that’s been a labor of love since 1992.

Her hard work was rewarded last month, when the Methuen Historical Society honored Sirigos with their 2017 Preservation Award.

“The house is so spectacular, especially this year with the gardens in full bloom,” noted MHS Preservation Committee Chair Katherine Robinson, an architect. “There’s the original Mansard slate roof – multi-colored and with lovely detail. There are the brackets, the dental pattern, the original panel design at the original bay window and that lovely widow’s wall, plus the (outdoor) spiral staircase. And that color is just beautiful!”

Yes, that “mustard yellow,” as Sirigos calls it, cannot be missed by drivers heading up the hill from Lawrence Street and directly facing the home, which overlooks the Tenney Gate House where the award was presented. It’s the home’s unique color, an orange-yellow enhanced by thick white trim.

“I’ve lived in Methuen all my life, but I had never set eyes on this house before day I bought it. The day it came into the Multiple Listing Service, I said, ‘I’m going there!’

2017 Preservation Award winner Shirley Sirigos (center) is congratulated by Methuen Historical Society members (from left) Preservation Committee member Rick Coco, MHS President Denis Webster-Greene and Preservation Committee Chair Katherine Robinson. Sirigos earned the award for her meticulously kept historic home at 38 Pleasant St. (in background). MethuenLife photo by Melissa Fili

Sirigos recalls of the bank-owned home, which was a six-family at the time. “I needed the income. Right away when I saw it – I had no doubts. I don’t know why!”

Sirigos, in her 60s at the time of purchase, says renovations were “a family affair” with her son-in-law doing most of the major repairs and help from her son and daughter. Shirley was hands-on, doing all the painting, wallpapering, gardening, etc.

“It just came naturally – I had no experience at all,” she said. “But I wasn’t able to move in for about five years!”

Now a five-family accented by an original fireplace and moldings, Sirigos enjoys being the landlord and a resident.

“It’s fun. Renters usually stay 2 or 3 years then go. Hey, whatever,” she chuckled.

Sirigos is quietly proud to be recognized by the Historical Society, but says the best feeling is knowing you’ve found the place where you belong.

“I used to live across from the library on Broadway when I was younger, then at Forest Lake and now here,” she says. “I feel like I’m home!”

The historic home, now divided into five apartments, has an original fireplace and moldings. Courtesy of Tom Grassi, Image-Tec

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I don't even feel my headache, and not in a good manner; I just needed to keep putting one foot in front of the other and that was it.

We reached Sella Point as the sky was beginning to turn red from the beautifully warm sun. All of my group members hugged and celebrated here as if it were the summit; we were just so happy to get to that slope and have the cold night behind us. As we reached this point I felt as though I was in a different place. The sun was rising, the land was relatively flat and everything seemed right. Looking back I almost feel as though that crater didn’t exist before the moment I stepped foot on it, as if the top of the mountain itself was somehow ephemeral. From what I remember I pretty much walked sideways up to that summit, stumbling over my own feet and praying the summit would be right around the corner.

Eventually we made it there, took some pictures and got the hell down. This hike was certainly a struggle at times, but left me with a feeling of utmost pride and accomplishment.

Methuen's Lake Murphy, a 2016 graduate of Central Catholic High School and an experienced hiker studies biochemistry and molecular biology at BU.

Forbes, continued from 22

love for Dutch rap music, such as Lil' Kleine and Boef. The following day I woke up and ate my traditional Dutch breakfast, hagelslag on buttered crackers, and we rode our bikes to the center of her city, Hoorn. Riding their type of bikes everywhere we went was definitely a struggle at first, but by the end of my 12 days, I was still pretty bad at it and they weren’t afraid to make sure I knew it.

Her family took me to watch the dog-sledding world championship, learn about all of the different types of wind mills, the city of Volendam (where Delmi and I were yelled at for trying on the wooden clogs in a tourist shop) and Amsterdam a few times where I saw the Netherlands' famous art at the Rijksmuseum, stopped and ate a lot of junk food! All though I did all these great “touristy” things while I was there, I think my favorite times were when I hung out with her and my other Dutch friends old and new. They taught me how to speak and rap in Dutch, they made me traditional Dutch snacks at 5pm, laughed at me for falling off my bike, and they made me a part of their group. I will never forget all of the beautiful sights I saw, new food that I tried, but most of all I won’t forget the people who made my trip so unbelievable.

Meg and her family plan to host more Dutch students this school year and, when the time comes for college, she will look into studying abroad in the Netherlands.

Did a bit of shopping in Volendam, a very traditional Dutch town, and even tried on wooden clogs!
There’s nothing like the smell, texture, color and scrumptious taste of farm-fresh foods. And when Executive Chef Fonzi works his magic, those just-ripe ingredients are a true treat for the taste buds!

Such was the case at last month’s Farm-to-Fork Dinner at Pleasant Valley Gardens, where about 55 hungry guests were ready and willing to indulge. A greenhouse transformed into a classy country dining area, complete with white tablecloths and fresh flowers.

The meal began with passed appetizers of Beef Sliders and Jalapeno Poppers, followed by a first course consisting of a Fall Garden Salad with Watermelon Vinaigrette. Cream of Butternut Squash and Leeks Soup with Crème Fraîche comprised the second course, followed by Eggplant Lasagna with Ala Vodka Sauce, Roasted Corn on the Cob with Asiago & Crème Fraîche, Chicken a la King and Pork Belly with Apple Rhubarb Chutney & Strawberry Balsamic Glaze. The seventh and final course was Apple Crisp with Vanilla Ice Cream.

Participating farms included Pleasant Valley Gardens, Mann Orchards, Springdell Farm, Blood Farm, Foxboro Cheese and Shaw Farm.

Chef Fonzi and his staff prepared a spectacular seven-course dinner using the vegetables from area farms. Staff included (from left) Laura Matteo, Maria Tena, Antonio Tena, Fonzi and Amarilla Bencomo. Not shown but also on staff is Fonzi’s wife Julie.

At the head of the table set for 60 guests are these ladies and gents, soaking up the atmosphere while waiting for their seven-course dinner to commence. MethuenLife photos by Sue Whipple

The Bonanno team of LuAnne, Angelo and Heather worked diligently to put together this delicious event.

’Tis a lovely warm evening, the wine is superb and these four friends from Lawrence and Windham, N.H., are looking forward to the Farm to Fork Dinner. Shown are (from left) Eric and Jane Parthum and Marie and Norm Potts.

“Someone who heals.”

Rosalie Allain-Morris
Master’s Candidate, School of Psychology and Counseling

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The Valley, ‘Officer Al’ get nod from new community affairs officer

Editor’s Note: This information was originally published in the September issue of SalemLife, a sister publication of MethuenLife.

Methuen native Mike McCarthy says growing up in a tight-knit community and having a model school resource officer led him to his new position of community affairs officer with the Salem (N.H.) Police Department. “I had my time chasing the bad guys and I still enjoy it but … I’ll leave that to the younger ones,” he said. “For me, it was time to do something different and this was a great opportunity for me.” His new role, which he started Aug. 1, has him serving as “a bridge between the community and the Police Department.” He ran Salem’s large National Night Out event, will eventually take over The Assistant Cop Program and plans to jump-start a formal Neighborhood Watch program as well as being a friendly, familiar face around town — something he learned while in grammar school here.

“Growing up in Methuen, there was a school resource officer by the name of Al Torrisi. Everybody knew Officer Al,” McCarthy said. “I remember as a kid always having a positive interaction with him. It really did humanize the badge to some extent and that had a lasting effect on me.” Growing up in Methuen, he believes, is an asset in his new role. “I’m from a tight family and I’m from The Valley. I have a lot of connection to the community and the communities around us. Also growing up, I was heavily involved in the YMCA. I went to camp there (the Andover/North Andover Y) and I was a counselor all through high school and into college, so I’ve worked with kids and I know how to work with kids,” he said. “A lot of officers haven’t had that experience.”

McCarthy, a Central Catholic High School grad, lives in Salem with his wife Dawn Marie and two children ages 7 and 5. He hopes his new position helps break barriers. “Most of the time when people see us, we are in a patrol car. We don’t usually meet people in the best of circumstances,” he said. “People forget that we have friends and family and that we’re just regular people who put a badge on.”

For years, Officer Al Torrisi worked in Methuen as a school resource officer. MethuenLife file photo

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High schools welcome families to open houses

Fall means back to school, but also looking ahead as students (and their families) get educated about their high school options. Here is the schedule for some local open houses:

**Methuen High School**: Oct. 7, 1 to 3pm for fifth-through eighth-graders and their families. MHS offers school-issued iPads for each student, 15 AP courses, 40-plus clubs and activities, 21st-century learning spaces, state-of-the-art learning spaces. 1 Ranger Road, Methuen.

**Lowell Catholic**: Oct. 19, 6 to 8:30pm and Oct. 22, noon to 2:30pm. This co-ed Catholic school serves over 30 communities and offers Honors, Advanced Placement and Virtual High School courses while participation in student life educates the whole person. 530 Stevens St., Lowell.

**Central Catholic High School**: Oct. 29, 12:30 to 4pm, a college-prep high school offering 26 AP courses, an Honors Program and University Classes; signature arts, athletics, activities and service options; as well as a student body that hails from 60 communities including overseas. 300 Hampshire St., Lawrence.

**Presentation of Mary Academy**: Oct. 29, 10am to 1pm at the co-ed Catholic school located on the grounds of the Seabrook Estate. Tour the campus; speak with students, faculty and coaches; register for the High School Placement Test and schedule a Shadow Day. Open to 6th-, 7th- and 8th-graders welcome as well as transfer students. 209 Lawrence St., Methuen. www.pnamethuen.org.

**Greater Lawrence Technical School**: Nov. 5, noon to 4pm. Regional school offering a Career Vocational and Technical Education at a state-of-the-art facility. 57 River Road, Andover.

**Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School**: Nov. 5, 1 to 4 pm. Prospective students and their parents are invited to tour the school, meet the teachers, learn all about the 21 vocational-technical programs and college prep classes and how to apply. 115 Amesbury Line Road, Haverhill.

**SE PAC plans busy year!**

The Methuen Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SE PAC) has announced its school-year workshop schedule. All meetings will be held at the Family Resource Center located in the lower level of the Central Administration Building at 10 Ditson Place and child care will be provided. Workshops run from 6:30 to 8:30pm. Oct. 12: Basic Rights Workshop. Presenter: Tracey Morgan from FCSPN.

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Discover downtown landmarks on Magical History Tour!

By Krista I. McLeod
Nevis Library Director

On Oct. 14, come to Nevis Library and start your self-guided “Magical History Tour” finding some of the wonderful historical monuments and sites in the downtown area. Using an app for your phone, you can take a walk around the city and find out what things were like over 100 years ago at the sites on the tour. Don’t have a phone? No problem! We’ll start you off with a tried-and-true paper map and brochure. Follow the footsteps as they lead throughout the downtown while reading about the years gone by. As an added bonus the Police and Fire Departments will be having their open houses that day, so be sure and stop in to check them out as well.

We’ll get you started anytime from 10am on, then finish here at the library by 2pm with some snacks and some prizes for participants. Along the way, stop by some of our local businesses and say hello and they’ll help you win prizes for your participation and maybe there will be some specials along the way too.

This is a fun way to learn about our local lore while getting some exercise.

This program is open to teams of all ages, families are welcome as well anyone wishing to participate. The route should take about an hour to walk and begins and ends at the library. While a smart phone (iPhone/Android) is recommended, it is not required.

Registration is recommended, so go to nevinslibrary.org and click on the “Calendar of Events” or call the reference desk for more information at (978) 686-4080 ext. 12.

Friends Notes

On Oct. 25, Friends of the Nevis Library will hold a dining fund-raiser at the Chateau restaurant of Andover from 11:30am to closing. Enjoy lunch, dinner and even take-out from the Chateau and have 20 percent of your total bill go to the Friends of the Nevis Library. Simply present the appropriate ticket to your waitperson and it will be attached to your check. The tickets may be obtained at either the Main Floor circulation desk of the library or online at www.nevinslibrary.org.

Remember, the proceeds of this event support library activities and offerings, including museum passes, summer reading programs for children, teens and adults, the maintenance of the Children’s Department fish tank and various other programs.

Friday Food
Backpack program

The school year has begun, and we are once again collecting food for Methuen Public Schools’ Friday Food Backpack Program. This program directly and discreetly assists Methuen students and their families. These students rely on the school breakfast and lunch, and need a little assistance over the weekend or during school vacations and holidays. Our patrons have donated generously over the past couple of years, and we thank you for your help. If you would like to donate, we have a basket set up near the Main Desk. The suggested donations include canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, beans, rice, soup, tuna fish, cereal, nuts, peanut butter and granola bars. Please, no glass containers.

Happiness is ...

Join us Oct. 23 at 7pm to discover The Science of Happiness and How to be Happier. Do you ever find yourself wishing you could feel happier? Many of us do and we think we will feel happier as a result of something - such as finding a new job, finishing a project, losing 10 pounds, etc. However, psychologists and neurologists are now realizing that happiness can be more readily achieved through changing the way we think. Lizzie Linn Casanave, professor of philosophy at Northern Essex Community College, will explain this revolutionary concept and provide you with practical tools for achieving this new mindset. This program is brought to you in conjunction with the NECC Speakers Bureau.

Storytelling, music
@ Music Hall

The Children’s Department is happy to be part of a community collaboration at the Methuen Memorial Music Hall on Oct. 7 at 10am. This family-friendly event has free admission and is geared toward elementary school-age children to introduce them to the pipe organ, a cultural treasure of the Merrimack Valley. This year’s event collaboration is between radio station 98.1 FM in Lawrence, the Methuen Memorial Music Hall and Nevis Library. The program will feature two stories: “Crow and Little Bird,” a tale about a greedy bird who invites a guest to dinner, and “The Fox and the Hen with Mozart and Bach,” a story about a chicken who aspires to be a professional ballerina in spite of the fact that the show’s manager is a fox.

Each story will be set to music accompanied by organist Joyce Painter Rice and read in English by Kathy Moran-Wallace from Nevis Library and in Spanish by George Richardson from radio station 98.1 FM. Spanish translations for the event were done by Gladys Linares-Medina and George Richardson. Check out the library’s calendar of events for more great programming for kids of all ages during the month of October.

Stories for an eerie evening

With the popularity of the new movie version of Stephen King’s “It,” coupled with the upcoming Halloween holiday, our thoughts are turning to horror, ghost stories and other spooky tales for adult readers. Here is a small sampling of some of the titles on Nevis Library’s shelves or available for download to your e-reader via the library’s website, that might give you some spine-tingling excitement this month.

“The Grownpup” by Gillian Flynn: A phony psychic, a terrified woman and an overly imaginative teen come together in a scary Victorian house. The three are soon locked in a chilling battle to discover where the evil truly lurks and what, if anything, can be done to escape it. The author is best known for her bestselling thriller “Gone Girl.”

“Trigger Warning: short fictions and disturbances” by Neil Gaiman: Here is a rich cornucopia of horror and ghost stories, science fiction and fairy tales, fabulism and poetry that explore the realm of experience and emotion. This third anthology of Gaiman’s work makes a great reading experience.

“The Ghost of the Mary Celeste” by Valerie Martin: An intricately plotted novel based on the real-life maritime mystery of a ghost ship found floating off the coast of Spain. A mystery, a literary adventure and a tragic love story all in one.

“Help for the Haunted” by John Searles: Struggling with the loss of her parents, who helped haunted souls find peace, Sylvie Mason pursues the mystery of their death, moving closer to the truth of what happened that night as she comes to terms with her family’s past.

“Lost Among the Living” by Simone St. James: By one of our newest favorite authors. In 1921 England, three years after her husband disappeared after being shot down over Germany, Jo Manders works as a paid companion to his wealthy, consoling aunt at Wych Elm House where she discovers the family’s darkest secrets.

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

We’re online. Visit www.MethuenLife.com
Savor the flavors of Maine

Marcy Donohue

While vacationing in Maine this summer, we enjoyed some great seafood. There are so many bountiful flavors of fish and lobster in Vacationland! This crustacean concoction known as a lobster roll headlines menus all over Maine. It’s the state’s culinary “crown jewel,” served with French fries and coleslaw. Of course, we did more than just eat. Our trip to Kennebunkport was perfect for a whale-watching tour. The world’s largest living creatures are found in Maine’s ocean waters. Finback whales can be 86 feet in size! We were fortunate to have spotted quite a few approaching the side of the boat.

We always stop in Portsmouth, N.H., to visit our dear friend who owns Astrezzis, a downtown store. She introduced me to some great cooking spices. If you are a culinary expert, you can sample gourmet food and wines here and view her large array of cooking utensils and unique gift items.

Our last stop on the way home was in York, Maine, to see Nubble Light as I am fond of lighthouses. I enjoy the beaches and the fine restaurants that we have discovered here over the years. Dining on the coast of Maine makes it very special, but you can enjoy these Vacationland treats right at home!

Lobster Rolls
1 pound of lobster meat, left in chunks
1 cup mayonnaise
1 teaspoon lemon juice
dash of fresh parsley
dash of paprika
salt and pepper to taste
Mix all ingredients and chill. Serve on toasted hot dog rolls. This recipe makes 4 sandwiches.

Seafood Chowder
1 Tablespoon butter
1-pound fish fillet, such as haddock or other white fish
2 ribs of celery, diced
1 small onion, diced
1 can condensed shrimp soup
1/2 to 1/2 cup milk to dilute the soup

Seafood Chowder
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar, then add eggs. In a small bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the creamed butter and sugar, then add milk and vanilla. Add blueberries and stir gently by hand. Spray muffin tin. Spoon out mix evenly into tin and top with cinnamon sugar, if desired. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes.

Marcy’s Maine Blueberry Muffins
1/2 cup butter, softened
1 cup sugar
2 large eggs
2 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups fresh blueberries

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar, then add eggs. In a small bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the creamed butter and sugar, then add milk and vanilla. Add blueberries and stir gently by hand. Spray muffin tin. Spoon out mix evenly into tin and top with cinnamon sugar, if desired. Bake for 25 to 30

Lifelong Methuen resident Marcy Donohue was a “foodie” long before it became popular! For 10 years, she hosted the “Cooking with Marcy Donohue” show on WCCM radio and she also published two cookbooks. Have a great recipe you’d like Marcy to consider including in an upcoming column? E-mail it to Melissa@MethuenLife.com.

$10K grant helps Y feed kids

The Merrimack Valley YMCA was awarded a $10,000 grant from the Joy in Childhood Foundation to help feed hungry kids. Formerly the Dunkin’ Donuts & Baskin-Robbins Community Foundation, Joy in Children supports nonprofit organizations committed to serving sick and hungry youngsters. The grant will be used to provide healthy food for Merrimack Valley children, teens and families in need, including those in Methuen. “By offering healthy meals to children in the community, the Merrimack Valley YMCA Food Program is an important part of the YMCA’s overall mission of nurturing the potential of every child and teen,” said Merrimack Valley YMCA President and CEO Gary Morelli. “The Joy in Childhood Foundation is a great partner and we are thankful for their support.” Shown are (from left) Joy in Childhood Foundation Senior Manager April McGonnigal, Morelli, Dunkin’ Donuts franchisee and Joy in Childhood Foundation Northeast Chapter Co-chair Victor Carvalho and Dunkin’ Donuts Field Marketing Manager Christine Paddock. Courtesy photo.
Briefs, continued from 31

Dec. 7: IEP Review with Advocates including Christine Clark, Melanie Nazarian, Melissa Sessions and Renee Gold.

March 8: Transition Planning 101 with Andrea Morris from ARC of Greater Haverhill and Newburyport

May 17: Financial Planning with Certified Financial Planner Caleb Harty. C.H.A.T. Support Groups will be held Nov. 13, Jan. 23 and April 10, so come, Hangout And Talk! Contact SEPAC for time and location. The SEPAC Association’s Holiday Craft Fair is Nov. 25 in the Great Hall at Nevins Memorial Library, Methuen. The Methuen SEPAC Association’s Recreation & Resource Fair will be April 29, 3 to 6 pm at Comprehensive Grammar School. This is a fun family afternoon with great vendors offering valuable services and info for families, plus entertainment, food and raffles. For more info, e-mail methuensepac@gmail.com

NECC’s summer Dean’s List

Here are the names of the Methuen students from Northern Essex Community College who achieved Dean’s List honors for the summer 2017 term: Wilfred Acosta, Ghita Anuarani-Hanchi, Stephanie Antunes, Randy Batista, Andrea Birch, Mollica Bonn, Lizbeth Cabral, Clairette Cadet, Karina Calderon, Karen Capellan, Dylan Carlo, Thomas Ciras, Gregory Cooke, Mariah Coppola, Sebastian Diaz, Hattie Ekinci, Meaghan Ewing, Yonalis Fabian, John Farinkoff, Cinthia Gonzalez, Cristina Gonzalez, Rosmary Hernandez, Sharbel Korbani, Maureen LaPlume, Melissa Laffeyre, Jennifer Ley, Katelyn Martinez, Hasnua Merghad, Paige Morrow, Ashleigh Murray, Lidice Oleaga, Nicole Pacula, Ashlyn Pichardo, Kevin Pimentel, Michael Press, Adriana Ramos, Catherine Ripalda-Vasquez, Jesse Rodenhiser, Candra Rodriguez, Freddy Santiago, Melina Santiago, Andrew Stewart, Alannah Tapia, Ricardo Tejeda, Francis Thompson, Mi Tran, Christopher Troy, John Zebrowski, Emily Zinsmeister.

Special-needs friends invited to Launch

Launch Trampoline Park on Milk Street is setting aside Sunday nights for a sensory-friendly two-hour jump. From 6 to 8 pm, people with special needs and their families are invited to experience Launch, where the lights will be on and the noise will be low. Cost is $12 per child with one adult included. Info: LaunchMethuen.com

Visit www.MethuenLife.com
It’s 1974. A 9-year-old boy is anxiously awaiting the premiere of a new action-adventure series on ABC called, “The Six Million Dollar Man.” Having been teased by three television pilot movies in 1973, I was chomping at the bit. “The Six Million Dollar Man” was a science-fiction and action television series about a former astronaut, Colonel Steve Austin, portrayed by American actor Lee Majors. Austin has superhuman strength due to bionic implants provided courtesy of a fictional U.S. government office titled OSI (Office of Scientific Intelligence). The series was based on the Martin Caidin novel “Cyborg,” which was the working title of the series during pre-production. The series ran from 1974 to 1978.

When NASA astronaut Steve Austin is severely injured in the crash of an experimental aircraft, he is “rebuilt” in an operation that costs $6 million. His right arm, both legs and left eye are replaced with bionic implants that enhance his strength, speed and vision far above human norms: He can run at speeds up to 60 mph and his eye has a 20:1 zoom lens and infrared capabilities, while his bionic limbs all have the equivalent power of a bulldozer. The word “bionic” was coined by Jack E. Steele in 1958, possibly originating from the term bion, from the Ancient Greek word “bion” meaning “unit of life” and the suffix -ic, meaning “like” or “in the manner of,” hence “like life.” Dr. Steele was a medical doctor with a background in engineering who served with the United States Air Force and was a pioneer in the field of bionics. Colonel Austin uses his enhanced abilities to work for the OSI as a secret agent. The show was very popular during its run and introduced several pop-culture elements of the 1970s, such as the show’s opening catchphrase “We can rebuild him; we have the technology,” the slow-motion action sequences and the accompanying “electronic” sound effects.

Steve Austin became a pop-culture icon of the 1970s, so it was not surprising when Kenner put out a line of “Six Million Dollar Man” toys. So popular was this line that, according to Kenner, it was their greatest first-year success ever.

The character’s power was demonstrated by the action figure’s ability to lift an engine with his bionic arm. This was achieved by pushing a button on its back that activated a retracting mechanism in the arm. Pretty advanced for the time. You could also utilize the bionic eye by looking through an opening in the back of its head. The eye was merely a small wide-angle lens, but we all thought it was very cool. Of course there were bionic implants in the leg and arm that could be removed.

This month I am pleased to present a fine example of this toy along with the popular Bionic Transport and Repair Station from my own collection. With this set, I could not only transport Colonel Austin to his missions but also repair him if he were to be injured or any of his bionic implants were damaged. Perhaps this was the inspiration for wanting to help heal people later in life — though I feel Dr. McCoy of “Star Trek” had a bigger influence on me, but that’s a story for another column.

This set is in almost-new condition and could be — to the right buyer — worth up to $100 with the original box. This one is not for sale, but many fine examples are available on Internet auction sites.

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

Astronaut Steve Austin, ready for takeoff!
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Astronaut Steve Austin, ready for takeoff!

In the 1970s, kids around the country got their Col. Steve Austin action figure back in tip-top shape, thanks to the Bionic Transport and Repair Station. MethuenLife photos by Dante Santone

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What makes Methuen great? Real estate pros know!

Chances are if you’re holding a copy of MethuenLife in your hands, you are already well aware of many of the fantastic aspects of living in Methuen and all the city has to offer. With a noticeable increase in “For Sale” signs slapped with “SOLD!” stickers across them, we thought we’d let some of Methuen’s real estate experts chime in on just what makes Methuen such a desirable place to call home.

A 40-year real estate pro, Virginia Broadhurst of Century 20 McEwan and Company is set show a beautifully rehabbed listing on Myrtle Street in Methuen. Virginia, a former president of the Greater Lawrence Board of Realtors, loves showing Methuen homes to prospective families because, as she says, “Methuen is a city that walks and talks like a small town.”

Jen Hamilton of Keller Williams Realty secures a For Sale sign in front a West Methuen listing. “What’s great about Methuen is the value of services you get with your property taxes. Compared to surrounding communities, everything is included here in Methuen, from trash pickup to school buses.”

Located at 119 Pleasant St., Connie Doto Realty Group’s Assunta Perez is a double threat! An attorney for 26 years, she has now thrown her hat into the real estate ring. “What I love about selling properties in Methuen is that it’s convenient to everything! We’re minutes from New Hampshire, Boston, the beaches, you name it. It’s a great place to be.”

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Trevor Gearin, a Century 21 McLellan and Co. agent, is also the president of the Tenney Grammar School PTO. When asked what draws families to the city, he proudly cites, “The school system is great! It offers an amazing education and futures for our children.”

Gail Waits, an agent with Coco and Early & Associates’ 251 Broadway location, feels that, “The homes in our city are varied and affordable, and after summer, which tends to be quiet, the inventory has really increased and the market has something to offer everyone.”

Home Shop Properties, at 300 Broadway, sits in the heart of downtown. Johan Lopez is excited for all the city has to offer his clients: “It’s a little bit of everything—quality homes at affordable prices, shops and restaurants and a downtown that is undergoing a revitalization. It’s a great time to own a property in Methuen.”

Jose Martinez of Re/Max Insight, located at 238A Pleasant St., gets to work sorting offers and listings. “A 15-year Methuen resident himself, Martinez says, “People are drawn to our community because of the value of the homes compared to some neighboring towns. The improvements to the high school and the new ball field are a big draw as well, and of course the schools themselves. There is a feeling of safety with a lower crime rate than other parts of the state and a great police force, too.”

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DID YOU HEAR?

A monthly roundup of interesting tidbits ...

Founder of Methuen’s oldest pizza shop dies

Peter J. Laudani, 92, founder of PJ Pizza—Methuen’s oldest pizza shop, died Sept. 12 at Holy Family Hospital. According to the obituary posted by Cattandella Funeral Home, “He helped his parents at an early age start PJ’s Spaghetti House in Lawrence and later PJ’s Snack Bar in Salisbury Beach. In 1948 PJ’s Pizza settled in Methuen where it is still today, 69 years later.” 

PJ’s is a three-generation institution and still going strong at 33 Broadway, across from Polartec. From the swinging screen door to the original food signs displaying decades-old prices (pizza, 10 cents; meat pie, 40 cents; meatball sandwich with sauce, 45 cents), this tiny-but-oh-so-awesome shop is as authentic as it gets. MethuenLife featured PJ’s back in 2006 when the city pushed to shut down the place, citing needed improvements such as a new ceiling and tile floor. But son Peter Jr. met with Health Inspector John Catania and “worked it out.” We’ll be staying open,” he told MethuenLife’s Steve Whipple at the time, noting the work would be completed gradually.

Thank goodness! PJ’s not only serves up phenomenal food but has been a good neighbor in the Arlington District, regularly supporting community causes and hiring local kids to work behind the counter.

So whether you love their pizza (both square and round), their “famous” meat pie or ... um, hello! ... their REAL VEAL that so many customers rave about, be sure to stop into PJ’s and share your condolences with sons Peter Jr. and Joe. In addition to making great food, Mr. Laudani was a member of the Sons of Italy and the Methuen Rod & Gun Club who enjoyed gardening, cars and spending time with family.

Thank you, Mr. Laudani, for feeding us so well through the decades!

Baby girl #3 for DeCollego

It’s pink, pink and more pink for Phil DeCollego, Mayor Steve Zanni’s chief of staff, whose third daughter was born last month. DeCollego and his wife Sara welcomed Lydia Kalthuy on Labor Day weekend (perfect timing!). Helping with snuggling the new bundle of joy are 6-year-old Sophia and 3-year-old Elaina. DeCollego was already a busy guy serving as chairman of the North Andover Board of Selectmen and overseeing the new and very popular weekly farmers market in that community. Sleep is overrated anyways ...

Five Guys is headed to area

Burger lovers, listen up! There’s a new Five Guys restaurant under construction on Route 125 in Haverhill. The new restaurant which is located on Route 125 in Haverhill at 89 Plainview Road is expected to cost around $5 million and should be completed and open for business by the end of the year. Five Guys is a popular burger chain that has a number of locations throughout New England and is known for its burgers and freshly cut fries which are cooked in peanut oil. Have a hankerin’ for something else? Grill 110 recently opened on Route 125, across from Friendly’s. The focus is “Modern American Cuisine In A Trendy Casual Atmosphere” – mouth-watering food ranging from Tater Tot Poutine and Pulled Pork Mac and Cheese to Thai Sesame Pork Tenderloin and bourbon-marinated steak tips finished with a whiskey glaze.

Kobe Japanese Steakhouse is also coming to Route 125 in Haverhill.

Money Matters

Feeling down & out? Sounds like the perfect time to invest!

“Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road of life is paved with flat squirrels who couldn’t make a decision.”

Author unknown

The above graph was compliments of Stocktwits.com. It’s nothing new, but it has the best graphics of any I’ve seen. A first reaction might be, “How do they know that we are at that point in the graph?” I’m always looking for data for verification. There are plenty of data around, like those data coming from reading stock chart formations—“technical analysis.” And, then there is “fundamental analysis,” i.e. “The stock market’s price-to-earnings multiple is too high.” But you can see on the chart that there are several quotes attributed to simulated investors. So this is anecdotal evidence as opposed to fundamental and technical analysis, and investors’ behavior is the key ingredient in the formation of this graph.

As the theory goes, retail investors are the last to get into the markets. Those can be any markets: precious metals, stocks, bonds and real estate, to name a few. Supposedly, smart money got in early and is now selling to the retail investor. It’s a cycle that always repeats itself. In March 1637 in Holland, tulip bulbs sold for 10 times the annual income of a skilled crafts worker. Buyers were trading them for houses. If you thought that nothing good could come from that market frenzy, you would be right. It just keeps happening.

Now, I mentioned technical analysis (chart formations) and fundamental analysis, which is based mostly on sound information. The trouble with both of these metrics, even if they are right, is that they don’t tell us exactly when something will happen. A red light doesn’t go on at the stock exchanges to tell us to get out, nor does a green light go on to tell us to get back in. Neither does people’s behavior, but it does send signals.

When I found out that a friend sold a lot of rental property at the top of the market I complimented him on his good timing. He gave me all the credit for him doing this. Surprised, I asked what he meant. Then he said it was the story I told that explains the significance of the above graph, and how and why it works. This is how I explained it:

You may be at a celebration at a club. The music is blaring, drinks are flowing, people are dancing on the bar spraying champagne. Everybody is in the thrill/ euphoria zone. This is a metaphor for your cab driver telling you he made 400 percent in his stock portfolio. Does anybody want to leave either the club or the market party then? No. Then there’s the after-party. The janitor is sweeping up broken glass, the club owner is angry and the police are there trying to find out what happened. The customers, if any are around, are in the despondency/depression phase. Does anybody want to go to the after-party? Almost no one wants to.

I’ll close with a few stock market figures. The stock market, as measured by the S&P 500 index, was up over 200 percent from 1995 to 2000. This same index was up over 256 percent from 2008 (crash low) to mid-2017. But, if you back it up to before the crash of 2008, it was only up about 57 percent from 2007 to mid-2017. However, interest rates are much lower now than they were in those previous periods. Good fertilizer for stocks. This may stretch the timeframe of the graph, but it will never kill it.

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. Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.
City of Methuen School District
National School Lunch/Breakfast Program
School Year 2017-18

Methuen Public School District plays a vital role in children's health by providing free and reduced-price meals to students in need. The following U.S. Department of Agriculture Programs are offered: National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. Local school officials have adopted the following family size income criteria for determining eligibility for free and reduced-price meals and will offer meals to students that qualify according to the standards below:

Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

Application forms, with a letter to households, are being distributed to all homes. To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households must fill out the application and return it to the school. Only one application per household is needed. Additional copies are available at the office in each school. The information provided on the application will be used to determine eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials.

For school officials to determine eligibility, households must provide the following information listed on the application: the names of everyone in the household, the amount of income each household member currently receives, where it came from, and how often income is received; the signature of an adult household member and the last four digits of that adult’s social security number. If the adult signing the application does not have a social security number, check the “I do not have a social security number” box. For a child who is a member of a Basic Food household or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) assistance unit, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), the household need provide only the child’s name, the Basic Food, TANF, or FDPIR case number, and printed name and signature of an adult member on the application. An adult in the household with a case number may also qualify students also living in the household.

Public School Districts receive student data matched with the Department of Social and Health Services data and automatically qualify children receiving Basic Food and TANF assistance. No application is required. All children living in the household and attending the school are eligible for free meals. If a child was not listed on the eligibility notice, contact the school or district office.

Children certified as homeless by the school McKinney-Vento homeless liaison, designated as migrant by the school migrant coordinator as well as children in Head Start classrooms may be eligible for free meals. Contact the school or district office if more information is needed.

Households that do not want their child(ren) to participate in the free meal program should notify the child(ren)’s school. Foster children, under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals. An application may be submitted. The foster child may be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits for other children in the family. If you have questions about applying for foster children, contact the school or district office.

The following U.S. Department of Agriculture programs are available for students:

- National School Lunch Program
- National School Breakfast Program
- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Summer Food Service Program
- Child Care Food Program
- National School Lunch/Breakfast Program for Students in Institutions

Meals and snacks served under these programs are reimbursable, and households are charged for these meals at a reduced price. Meal benefits from the previous year apply for the first 30 school days of the new school year or until a new application is submitted. After this time, children must pay full price for meals.

You may apply for meal benefits if you become unemployed or your economic situation changes at any time during the school year.

If you have questions about this program or any of the programs above, contact the school or district office if assistance is needed with application materials in different languages.

Nondiscrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights laws and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by the USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint filling cust. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
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July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

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Travel Talk
By Jim Keogh
MethuenLife Writer

In August, 30 clients joined me for a three-day bus trip to Long Island, N.Y. We boarded our luxury motor coach in Methuen and traveled to New London, Conn., where we boarded a ferry. While our bus was getting situated on the lower deck of the ferry, we walked on board. The choice was ours: outdoor seating on the top deck or air-conditioned indoor seating on the middle deck. The ferry crossing took a little over one hour. We docked on Long Island at Orient Point, where we met our local guide who would be with us for the next three days. The first item on our agenda was lunch at a waterfront restaurant in the neighboring town of Greenport.

After lunch, we visited the award-winning Palmer Vineyard for a wine-tasting. We took our place outdoors at picnic tables under the shade of umbrellas and sampled the vineyard’s offerings of chardonnay, Riesling, rosé and merlot. From the vineyard, we traveled to the village of Riverhead, where we checked in at the Indigo, a charming boutique hotel, our “home away from home” for both nights of our Long Island getaway. We had a delightful dinner in a private dining room before getting to bed in preparation for our next day’s busy itinerary.

Following breakfast, we embarked on a fun-filled Long Island adventure. Our guide provided us with informative and entertaining commentary as we traversed the North Fork and South Fork regions of the island. We drove past beautiful sunflower fields, lush vineyards (garden the pun), beaches with sugary soft sand, spectacular gardens and windmill-studded landscapes on our way to The Hamptons, playground of the Rich and Famous. Our guide pointed out the mansion homes of celebrities like Martha Stewart, Jon Bon Jovi, Billy Joel, Jerry Seinfeld, Steven Spielberg, Jennifer Lopez, Sarah Jessica Parker … the list goes on and on. We stopped for lunch at Gosman’s Dock at the entrance of Montauk Harbor, with breathtaking water views. In the afternoon, we visited the whaling museum and whalers’ church in the picturesque village of Sag Harbor. We toured the Montauk Lighthouse, a National Historic Landmark completed in 1796. We posed for a group photo here with the lighthouse in the background. After this action-packed day of sightseeing, we returned to Riverhead and had dinner in a popular local waterfront restaurant.

The next morning we checked out from the Indigo Hotel and spent time exploring a roadside farm stand. Many of us stopped for fresh produce and baked goods to bring back home. Next we visited a vineyard that also houses several rescue horses. We enjoyed a wine-tasting along with a salad and sandwich lunch. Afterward, we made a stop at a goat farm. We tasted various types of goat cheese, and everyone was treated to a souvenir gift of goat milk soap.

Now it was time to board the ferry from Orient Point, N.Y., to New London, Conn. Shortly after leaving New London, we made a rest stop before the last leg of the trip back to Methuen. During our time on Long Island, we covered a lot of ground and experienced many wonderful sights and attractions. It’s hard to believe that such a thriving agricultural center is just a two-hour drive from bustling New York City. No wonder those celebrities have a summer home in The Hamptons. It’s an entirely different world than Manhattan! The average selling price for a home in The Hamptons is $1.6 million. Those with waterfront locations start at $3 million.

Needless to say, none of us on this trip put down a deposit on a home in The Hamptons. Maybe next time!

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

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For rates, call Sarah Lane, (603) 401-5490

Deluxe Day Trips from Methuen

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>German Oktoberfest</td>
<td>October 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newport Playhouse</td>
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<td>Yuletide Mystery</td>
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<td>Boston Pops Holiday</td>
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<td>Shoji Tabuchi Concert</td>
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Overnight Trips from Methuen

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<td>Penn Dutch Country plus Hershey</td>
<td>November 9 - 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>White Mts at Christmas</td>
<td>December 10 - 11</td>
<td>Wait-List</td>
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You are encouraged to wait-list yourself on any Sold Out trip. We will gladly accommodate you if space becomes available.

Cosmopolitan Travel & Cruise Center
262 Pleasant Street, Methuen
Tel (978) 686-2371
Oriental food goes modern at Lots of Eats Thai Kitchen

We decided to try Lots of Eats on a rainy Wednesday night in September. Who wants to cook on a rainy night?! The restaurant is located at 1211 Osgood St., North Andover, and has been in business for a little over two years. Upon entering, we were immediately greeted by a very welcoming host with a big smile as well as a nice lounge area with table and bar seating. As you round the corner, the restaurant opens to a larger space which holds approximately 15 tables in the main dining room. For a Wednesday night the restaurant was pretty full and, within 30 minutes of our arrival, the restaurant was almost fully occupied. We looked at one another and said, “Not sure why it took us two years to come here!”

We are all about service when it comes to restaurants. At Lots of Eats we could tell right away they would meet our expectations in that department. The wait staff is super attentive and ready to feed you! Lots of Eats offered several specials that night, a few appetizer specials and many entrees. Although specials are always tempting, for our first visit we wanted to focus on the traditional menu items.

We each picked an appetizer. JB’s choice was the Khao Je (35), Thai-grilled sticky rice with egg. The appetizer consisted of two patties served with a soy-infused sauce—a bit sweet, very good. Maria chose the Steamed Butterfly (small plate—$7), six pieces of steamed Thai-style dumplings filled with sweet turnips, minced chicken and chopped peanuts, garnished with crispy garlic. Both were excellent, but the dumplings stole the show! The appetizers and snacks (known as Kain Lien) range from $5 to $10 and include chicken satay, Maine crab Rangoon and Gyoza, as well as Thai BBQ Beef skewers. At this point, we are eager to order our entrees as the presentation and speed of the appetizers were spot on! Dinner is tough because Lots of Eats

See DINING OUT, Page 43

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Dining Out, continued from page 42

offers noodle and fried rice dishes (Jaan Deaw), curry dishes (Jaan Kang) and also signature dishes. JB decided to order off the signature menu and tried the Honey Crispy Duck ($23), pan-seared half-duck with honey sauce, served with broccoli, buttercup squash, snap peas and carrot, served with jasmine rice. JB asked to substitute his jasmine rice with egg fried rice and his wish was granted! Additional signature dishes range from $18 to $24 and include items such as Crying Tiger, which is grilled marinated sirloin steak served with sticky rice, chili tamarind sauce and romaine lettuce, and Seafood Pad Pong Kasee, which consists of shrimp, scallops, squid and mussels stir-fried with curry powder, sweet chili sauce, egg, Chinese celery, baby carrots, onions and scallions served with jasmine rice. Maria was pleased! Lots of Eats offered several curry dishes and chose the Green Curry Bronzini Fillet ($24), pan-seared Mediterranean sea bass topped with crispy garlic sauce on a bed of sauteed bok choy and broccoli, served with jasmine rice. The curry sauce was among one of the best she’s have ever had, just the right amount of heat. Maria enjoyed the jasmine rice and did not offer Jonathan a sample. Let’s just say there was not much conversation during the entries as neither of us came up for air.

So whether you’re looking to pick up a quick lunch to go or have a nice quiet dinner with your loved one or family – when outstanding flavor and service are both essential – this should be your next stop. Please visit the restaurant’s website for more information: www.lotsofeats.com.

Methuen residents Maria and Jonathan Bonanno share a passion for food and wine, and they dine throughout the region several times a month. They welcome feedback and restaurant suggestions at bonanno225@yahoo.com.

The right amount of sizzle atop the sea bass perfected the Green Curry Bronzini Fillet.

The Steamed Butterfly appetizer - filled with sweet turnips, minced chicken and chopped peanuts - was insanely tasty!

The Khao Jee app - Thai-grilled sticky rice with egg topped with a soy-infused sauce - was a sweet treat.

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115 Merrimack St, Methuen
(Route 110 – Former Wall’s Lincoln-Mercury)
For more than 30 years, the incredible voice of Methuen native Lori-Ann Charette McLaughlin has brought comfort to those attending funerals. She is the music director at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish and a longtime parishioner of St. Theresa Church.

MethuenLife photo by Yadira Betances

McLaughlin listens to religious songs almost all the time, and likes to relax with classical music. But she enjoys a plethora of genres from Frank Sinatra to Led Zeppelin.

McLaughlin and her husband Bill have two sons and two grandchildren.

When not singing, McLaughlin is a waitress in Nashua, N.H., and is on-call as a funeral assistant for Cauadella Funeral Home in Methuen. You can hear her sing at www.luvtasing.com.

For more than 30 years, the incredible voice of Methuen native Lori-Ann Charette McLaughlin feels God called her to sing at funerals

By Yadira Betances Muldoon
MethuenLife Writer

For Lori-Ann Charette McLaughlin, leading a church in song is a way to lift the spirit of the congregants -- even when celebrating a funeral Mass.

McLaughlin has been singing at local funerals for over 30 years. She leads a funeral ministry at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, which offers services at St. Theresa Church in Methuen and St. Augustine Chapel in Lawrence.

"It isn’t always the easiest, but it is something I feel God has called me to do," she told MethuenLife. "It’s always an honor."

To prepare for the funeral Mass, she meets with the family to find more information about the deceased including their devotions to a particular saint or a favorite hymn which, in turn, helps her select the music for the funeral Mass, she said.

"My focus is to honor and respect the deceased because it’s their farewell," McLaughlin said. "I’ve always approached my music as prayer, coming from my heart and conveying it to the people hoping that they take some comfort."

She admits choosing songs for people who have been away from the church is sometimes difficult, but not impossible.

"You take the situation and remember you’re there to pay tribute and pray through the songs for this soul," she said.

It is also challenging singing at the funeral of someone she knows.

‘You learn to control your feelings and I’m lucky to have such a core group of people who are there to support one another.‘

McLaughlin, music director at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, has been singing in churches and other venues for 35 years.

One of the best parts of this job is when you touch someone’s heart through music,” said McLaughlin, who graduated from Methuen High (Class of 1980) and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Born in Lawrence and raised in a close-knit Italian and French family in Methuen where music was ever-present, McLaughlin recalls her grandfather sitting in his rocking chair belting out arias from operas with her aunts and uncles also singing. She said Christmas was extra special as the family gathered in the living room where they would play the piano, guitar and accordion all night long.

"Those were inspirational moments that made me appreciate music," she said.

president of New Hampshire Right to Life, will be guest speaker at 9:30am. Ten percent of your total purchase on that day will be donated to NH Right to Life.

First Church Congregational, 26 Pleasant St.: The Prayer Shawl Ministry is sponsoring a ham and bean dinner Oct. 14, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Cost is $10 adults in advance and $12 at the door, $8 for children. Proceeds will benefit the Prayer Shawl Ministry which meets the second and fourth Wednesday 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Forest Street Union Church, 15 Forest St.: Penny social is Oct. 21. Doors open at 4 pm. Raffles begin at 6 pm. Food and beverages will be available for sale.

Marsh Corner Community Church, 317 Pelham St.: Christian Recovery Ministry for those dealing with hurt and habits that keeps them from knowing God meets the first and third Friday of the month at 7 pm. Knitting and crocheting for Christ meets Oct. 27 at 6:30 pm.


St. Monica, 212 Lawrence St.: The novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe continues Mondays at 7 pm through Nov. 6. The program includes exposition to the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the Rosary, litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, meditation, novena prayer and benediction. ‘Forgiveness’ a course on the Sacrament of Reconciliation begins Oct. 12 at 6 pm and continues every Thursday for six weeks. Participants will watch a video followed by discussion. Methuen Police hosts a night for Unity and Peace, Oct. 12 at 7 pm A reception follows.

If you have a story idea for Methuen Faith columnist Yadira Betances Muldoon, please contact her at yadira63@aol.com.

NOTICE
Snow Plowing
City of Methuen Department of Public Works

The Methuen DPW is now accepting applications from persons interested in snow plowing. Applications are available at the DPW Office located in the Searles Building at 41 pleasant Street, Suite 205 and the Highway yard at 33 Lindberg Avenue. Deadline for applications is Friday, November 10, 2017.

Patrick L. Bower
Director of Public Works
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Great items up for auction!
The Senior Center’s Silent Auction continues until Oct. 16 at Nevins Library. This fund-raiser supports programs and activities at the Methuen Activity Center. Be sure to stop in to bid on a selection of beautiful, handmade items including knitted and crocheted items, paintings, photography and ceramics.

Calling all veterans
Columbia Gas Co. will be hosting A Salute to Veterans Breakfast on Oct. 14, 8 to 10:30am at the center. Mayor Steve Zanni, Methuen Veterans Department and the Methuen Senior Activity Center cordially invite you to this complimentary event.

Help with Medicare
Medicare annual open enrollment period is Oct. 15 to Dec. 7. Your health insurance needs are as unique as you! Because Medicare plans change every year, this is the time to review your Medicare plan to ensure it will be the most cost-effective plan for you in 2018. SHINE counselors will be available at the Methuen Activity Center by appointment on Oct. 15, 8am to 2pm. If you are still working and in the process of looking at retirement and not sure which medical plan suits your needs, we will also be offering “Introduction to Medicare” on Oct. 26 at 6pm. Registration is required for both, call the center.

Coming up
Oct. 3: TRIAD, 10am. Collaborative effort with the Methuen Police and Fire departments, Essex County Sheriff’s Department and the Activity Center working together for a safe community. All are invited.
Oct. 5: Travel Informational. A representative from Collette Vacations will be at the center at 10:15am to present “Travel to the World with Collette and the Activity Center!” See what 2018 will bring.
Oct. 5: Line Dancing with Shar, Thursdays, 10:30 to 11:30am. See office for more information.
Oct. 10: 45s Tournament, 1pm. Methuen Police Department vs. Methuen Activity Center in Us Vs. Them. Join us as we play 45s while opening the doors of communication between the seniors and the police. During an emergency, it is always nice to see a familiar face in your time of need. Free and open to the public.
Oct. 11: Methuen Arts Lottery presents storyteller Davis Bates, 1pm with “Halloween Harvest: Ghosts, Goblins & More,” a perfect way to celebrate the fall season, with traditional and true-life ghost stories, supernatural tales and songs about the harvest and turning of the earth. Free and open to the public.
Oct. 11: AAA invitation. You are cordially invited to an exclusive evening with AAA Travel and Guests. This is a free presentation on solo travel and a special offer for their next amazing adventure. RSVP to: Alison Demokritou at (978) 681-9200.
Oct. 17: CarFit program brought to you by: Methuen TRIAD, Essex County Sheriff’s Department. Helping mature drivers find the perfect fit! Join us as the Sheriff’s Department helps you adjust your car features to fit you! Appointment needed by calling the Activity Center.
Oct. 19: Attorney Mark Skander presents an Advanced Estate Planning Seminar on Trusts, Medicaid and Long Term Planning, 10 to 11:30am. Free and open to the public.
Oct. 20: Fuel Assistance appointments available by calling the Activity Center.
Oct. 24: Meet councillor at large candidate Ryan Hamilton, 10am for coffee time.
Oct. 25: Informational table presented by Element Care, 9 to 11am.
Oct. 25: Methuen Fire Department-sponsored Senior Supper, 4 to 6pm.

For the caregivers
Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a 6-week educational program designed to help care for you while you are caring for a relative, friend or loved one. You will benefit from this class whether you are helping a parent, spouse, friend, someone who lives at home, in a nursing home, or across the country.
The program is provided at no cost by Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley and Methuen Senior Activity Center. Respite care may be available during class times. It must be requested in advance! For more information or to register for classes, contact Ashley English, (978) 946-1220 or AEnglish@esmv.org.

Current events
All are invited to participate in “The Talk!” a new twice-monthly program focused on general conversation and discussion of current events with moderator Sheila Radulski-Lynch. Dates are Sept. 14 and 28, Oct. 12 and 26, Nov. 9 and 30, and Dec. 7 and 21 from 10:30 to 11:30am.

Intro to Stained Glass
This new class is limited to four students per class to give each student hands-on instruction. Everything you need to finish one project is included in this course for the fee of $69. Our instructor has 30 years of experience. Must reserve your place by calling (978) 983-8825.

Women’s Health Night at Holy Family Hospital-Methuen in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Join radiologist and genetic specialist Beth Herrick, as well as radiologist and Director of Women’s Imaging Ellen Johnson to learn the latest information about cancer genetics and breast cancer imaging. Oct. 3, 6 -7:30pm in the floor-2 auditorium at Holy Family Hospital-Methuen, 70 East St., Methuen. Register: msapca.org.

Winter Cat-Feeding Station Workshop: Oct. 8, 10am to noon at the MSPCA at Nevins Farm, 400 Broadway, Methuen. Winter is coming! Make it a better one for the community cats in your neighborhood by building a winter feeding station! $20. Register: msapca.org.

Grab Your Passport!
Russia: Oct. 12 at 10am, Methuen Village hosts a fantastic Russian Folk Dance and Music Performance with the Barynya Ensemble. Public is welcome. RSVP to Anne Lafontaine, the assisting-living center’s EnrichedLIFE director, at (978) 683-2201.

Ham and Bean Supper: Oct. 14, 4:30 to 6:30pm at First Church Congregational, Methuen. Ham, beans, hot dogs, mac and cheese, cole slaw, ice cream. In advance, $10 for adults, $8 for children ages 6 to 12, under 6 admitted free, at the door $12 for adults. Tickets: (978) 887-1240.

Cigarette Smoke Vaccination Clinic: Oct. 15, 7-10am at the MSPCA at Nevins Farm. Open to the public, no advance appointments required. Bring your dog on a leash or your cat in a carrier, along with any previous vaccination records if available. Rabies and distemper vaccinations $15 each, microchips for $25, nail trims for $8. All proceeds benefit MSPCA programs.

Psychic Fair: On Oct. 29 from 11am to 4pm, the American Legion Auxiliary will hold this event at the post home, 200 Broadway, Methuen. $20 per reading. Tables available for vendors ($20). Hot dogs, soda, coffee for sale. The event is a benefit for sending a local school girl to Girls State.

Greater Lawrence Regional Vocational Technical High School Class of 1977 40th Reunion: Nov. 25, 8:30pm to 12:30am at Angelica’s in Middleton. $60 per person includes buffet dinner, raffle, DJ, photo booth, Contact Christine (Beaulieu) Lord at (781) 491-3173 or e-mail voke1977reunion@yahoo.com. Tickets will also be available for purchase in person Sept. 16, noon to 3pm at Jocelyn’s Restaurant, 355 S. Broadway, Salem NH. Facebook page is Voke Class of 1977 Reunion in 2017.
While battling breast cancer, artist shoots to help others

Breast cancer patient Priscilla Westaway was looking for a way to use her newfound interest in photography to raise funds for other cancer patients and their families. Her good intention has quickly become a multi-faceted project that culminates with a fund-raiser Oct. 20 and 21.

The Northern Essex Community College photography student titled her project “Photo for a Cause.” She has aggregated hundreds of black-and-white and color photographs to display and sell at an inaugural fund-raiser at NECC’s Hartleb Technology Center, on the Haverhill campus, 100 Elliott St., Haverhill.

Over the past few months a series of photographs has been displayed at various locations throughout the Merrimack Valley including local town and city halls, libraries, cafes, and The Lehey Clinic in Peabody, where Westaway is treated.

Westaway, a pharmacy technician who has received treatment for breast cancer for the past 19 months, took digital photography courses at Northern Essex during the fall and spring semesters and was immediately captured by the medium. With the fallout from what a cancer diagnosis can do to a family’s budget still fresh in her mind, the Methuen resident thought there might be a way to meld her new hobby with raising money for other cancer patients and their families to offset the hidden costs of cancer treatments.

With little to no fund-raising experience, the 50-year-old relied on the organizational and technical skills of her daughter Kristen and the photography donations of other NECC students, faculty, staff, as well as some seasoned photographers.

All proceeds from the event will benefit cancer patients and their families who are in need of financial assistance.

In addition to the exhibit and sale, there will be a silent auction of five select photographs taken by professional photographers from around the world and raffle prizes from major sponsors like Southwest Airlines, Hannaford Bros. Co. and The Professional Stylist Forum.

The photographs that are available for sale will be featured on the photoforacause.org website. If you are unable to attend the fund-raiser, but would like to make a donation, donations can be made through the website. For additional information on the exhibit or the auction, contact Westaway at (978) 836-8946.

No phones, heat or electricity: Teens test leadership skills in Y Adventure Camp

What happens when kids who don’t know each other, and come from different backgrounds, leave their cellphones behind and head into the woods together for five days of hiking and camping? Eight teens from the YMCA recently found the answer to that question on a Bold & Gold Outdoor Leadership Development Adventure trip to the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The Merrimack YMCA partnered with the Salem YMCA on the trip, which emphasized team-building and multi-cultural leadership skills, along with camping, hiking, basic orienteering skills, and leave no trace principles. “Bold & Gold Adventure Trips offer kids a chance to really discover what they can do,” said Claudia Soo Hoo, director of Camping Services for the Merrimack Valley YMCA. “When they are pushed out of their comfort zone and faced with challenges, they learn resilience and gain confidence.”

Three teens joined the trip from the Methuen YMCA: Davian Yagual, Andrea Wall-Sanchez and Janiah Diaz. The other five teens came from the Salem YMCA. Each Y also sent a leader on the trip. The group stayed at the Sugarloaf Campground and spent one night at the Lonesome Lake Huts, which are “off the grid.” They have no heat or electricity and are maintained by the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC). They hiked North Sugarloaf and Bald Mountain, as well as to Lonesome Lake – hiking 3 to 6 miles per day. The YMCA provided the kids with all necessary camping and hiking equipment. The teens learned practical skills, such as cooking their own food and tying bear bags, but they also gained valuable experience in developing social skills, working together and solving problems. It was a chance to explore what leadership means while creating new friendships and lifelong memories.

“The confidence they developed and the friendships they made will help them meet future challenges, on the trail, in the classroom or back home in their community,” said Merrimack Valley YMCA Group Leader Joe Prieto. “I was proud of all the kids. It was a great trip.”
City solemnly unites for 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

September 11, 2001 will forever be etched in our minds and hearts.

Sixteen years later, the Methuen Fire Department continues to host its annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Central Fire Station, paying respects to the first responders and civilians who died due to the terrorist attacks.

Of the 2,996 souls lost that day, six people with Methuen ties perished:
Douglas C. Gowell, age 52.
Peter P. Hashem, 40.
Mildred R. Naiman, 81.
Marie Pappalardo, 53.
Patrick J. Quigley IV, 40.
Keneth E. Waldie, 46.

Along with Mayor Stephen Zanni, who spoke briefly about the tragic event, several city councilors, state Rep. Linda Dean Campbell and many members of the public were in attendance.

The ceremony opened with Fire Chief Tim Sheehy thanking all who attended and talking about the importance of remembering this day in history. Prior to the bell being rung, he explaining the meaning of the “Striking of the Four Fives”: “Each different type of alarm or announcement would have its own number and series of bell strikes. When a firefighter died in the line of duty or when some important official or personage died, headquarters would transmit five bell strikes, repeated in four series, with a slight pause between each series, followed by the announcement. This was done as long ago as 1865 in the New York City Fire Department to inform the rank and file of the death of Abraham Lincoln.”

The custom of rendering final honors to a departed comrade has continued to the present day. Last month, the honor of striking the bells was done by firefighter Michael McManus, a Marine who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Cadence was done by firefighter Eric Moreau, an Army veteran who served in Saudi Arabia. Flag honors were done by firefighter Don St. Laurent, an Army veteran who served in Afghanistan.

Deputy Chief Bill Barry read A Firefighter’s Prayer and retired Deputy Chief Chuck Ripley led the moment of silence.

Members of the Methuen Fire and Police Departments stood as Honor Guards, while members of each department surrounded the Firefighters Memorial.

~ Nancy Reardon

See page 50 for more photos.

Plaque graces our Twin Towers beam

The Central Fire Station’s 106-pound, 5-foot-long steel beam from the Twin Towers is now accented by a plaque courtesy of Firefighters Local 1691.

The beam is located outside, beneath the Central Fire Station’s stained-glass window. It was acquired through the determination of Methuen resident Scott Flagg, who spent three years on this effort working with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and Mayor Stephen Zanni’s Office. It was unveiled to the public during the city’s 2015 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony.

The plaque reads as follows:
THIS sacred, historic section of the World Trade Center Towers that were Felled by terrorists attacks September 11, 2011, was salvaged by rubble of the fallen structures. We hereby dedicate this relic of that horrific event as a memorial to our 343 fallen brothers of the FDNY who sacrificed their lives in dutiful service to others on that fateful day. Their Courageous, selfless actions embodied all the noble virtuous of our Nation and those First Responders who vigilantly serve. WE SHALL NEVER FORGET, NOR DISHONOR THEIR MEMORIES.
LOCAL 1691
Methuen Firefighters
Past, Present and Future
Special Appreciation to Methuen Citizen Scott Flagg
For his efforts in obtaining this Hallowed 9-11 artifact

See page 50 for more photos.
Generosity abounds at Giving Second Life donation drive

On a clear, bright and glorious Sept. 10, the warmth of the sun rivaled the warmth of our generous community.

The Giving Second Life donation drive (August MethuenLife) made its debut, where a steady stream of survivors filled a box truck with clothing and home goods of deceased loved ones and those items were given, in turn, to Lazarus House Ministries to help local people in dire need. Kenneth H. Pollard Funeral Home and Lazarus House teamed for this first-of-its-kind community project, which will continue indefinitely.

“After losing a spouse, a sibling, a parent or a child, their personal belongings can be a source of comfort in the grief process,” said Pollard’s Aftercare Facilitator Denis Webster-Greene. “At a point that is determined by the survivors, the belongings, or that closet full of clothing, is no longer required for strength or support, but becomes a fond memory which can often evolve into a useful resource and serve a meaningful purpose in our community.”

The outreach at this debut event was extensive.

“Before we knew it, the Firefighters Local 1691 offered to supply hot dogs, soft drinks and muscle for loading the truck,” he continued. “Chief Joseph Solomon offered support and police officers, along with the Hot Pink’ Breast Cancer Awareness cruiser. Police officers handed out badges and temporary tattoos ...the kids loved it!”

First Church Congregational volunteer Ken Peck informed his fellow parishioners of the event and a group from the church pitched in.

“We discovered that this was a service to our families that had, until now, been overlooked,” said Webster-Greene, who worked closely with funeral home owner Michael Pollard on the project.

Pollard Funeral Home, 233 Lawrence St., will receive donations throughout the year. As there is no collection container on the premises, donors should call (978) 397-1591 or (978) 687-7300 to arrange for drop-off.

The outreach at this debut event was extensive.

Give the gift of life

Here are some upcoming blood drives, sponsored by the American Red Cross.

Oct. 2, 2 to 7 pm, Knights of Columbus, 462 Broadway.
Oct. 14, 8 am to 1 pm at Holy Family Hospital, 70 East St.
Oct. 18, 2 to 7 pm, Knights of Columbus, 462 Broadway.
Oct. 24, 2 to 7 pm, Knights of Columbus, 462 Broadway.
Oct. 25, 2 to 7 pm, Knights of Columbus, 462 Broadway.
Nov. 6, 2 to 7 pm, Knights of Columbus, 462 Broadway.

Visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Old meds, needles can go to station

You can dispose of your prescription medication and needles at the Methuen Police Department anytime of the day or night. There are two drop boxes located in the police station lobby that the public can access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The MedReturn Drug Collection Unit allows citizens to drop off expired or unwanted prescription medications (no loose pills, please). The Sharps Container Disposal Unit lets you dispose of used needles in a safe manner. Simply bring your sharps in a safe container for disposal or there are containers located next to the box.

New life for your old glasses

The Methuen Lions Club has partnered with Nevins Library to help those in need of eye glasses.

A drop-off center for used prescription and reading glasses has been set up at the library, near the main desk. For nearly 100 years, Lions members have worked on projects designed to prevent blindness, restore eyesight and improve eye health and eye care for hundreds of millions of people worldwide.
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As taps played, flags were lowered and firefighters and
police officers stood at attention during Methuen’s Sept.
11 Remembrance Ceremony. MethuenLife photos by Nancy
Reardon

Fire Chief Tim Sheehy explains the meaning of the “Striking
of the Four Fives,” a bell-ringing tradition honoring the
dead that dates as far back as 1865.

Methuen’s Premiere Development is Underway
Graceland Park off Howe Street Will Have
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Pleasant Valley Gardens

CSA means Community Supported Agriculture

2018 CSA SHAREHOLDERS will receive a portion of the farm’s harvest weekly from mid June through mid October. Members receive fresh locally grown vegetables, harvested at their peak of nutritional value available at near wholesale cost.

EACH GROWING SEASON brings unique challenges. Occasionally a crop may fail due to conditions beyond our control. Our goal is to provide you with abundance throughout the growing season by growing a variety of produce.

SEASONALITY affects the size of your share. We grow a great diversity of vegetables.

Mid JUNE/JULY: leaf lettuce, romaine hearts, rhubarb, kale, beets, parsley, summer squash, and zucchini.

SOME CUT FLOWERS are included each week as the season progresses.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER: besides the June/July listing we add peppers (sweet and hot), eggplant, tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet corn, melons, carrots.

to Mid OCTOBER: Depending on the crops we may substitute with mums, corn stalks and pumpkins. As time and the weather permits, we will try to add to this mix.

Full Share Membership—$600
Our full share is about a bushel (15-20+ lb) of produce each week for 20 weeks. This is enough for a typical family of four or for two vegetarian adults.

Half Share Membership—$400 2 adults
One Quarter Membership $200 1 adult

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Beal joins Cheers’ executive team

Longtime Methuen resident Glenn Beal has joined Cheers Gaming and Casino’s executive management staff.

“Mr. Beal is a well-known person in the poker rooms throughout New England as a dealer, tournament manager, and strong poker player. He comes to Cheers with a diverse background as the owner of several businesses including G.T.B Investment Inc., Casino Tours, Bally’s Atlantic City Casino Inlet Representative as well as serving as senior management in various industries and businesses,” according to a Cheers’ Facebook post. “We look forward to Mr. Beal bringing his great personality and skill to Cheers Poker Room and Casino.”

Cheers is located at 286 N. Broadway in Salem, N.H., and was scheduled to open mid-October.

Align hospital site gets new manager

Align Credit Union announced that Kelly Tahan has been promoted to branch manager for their Haverhill location at 20 Cushing Ave., and Holy Family Hospital location at 70 East St., Methuen. She will oversee daily operations, business development, and member service. She has been in the financial industry for over 25 years. She joined Align in 2012 and was assistant branch manager for Align’s Haverhill branch since 2015. Prior to joining Align, she was an assistant manager at TD Bank where she received several awards. “Kelly is focused and driven to make sure that our members get expert guidance and exceptional service each and every day,” said Align President Ken Del Rossi. “She’s been a great asset to the Align team for years and we know she’ll continue to do great things as branch manager.”

Job opps for GLTS alums

Greater Lawrence Technical School has a new networking space where alumni can potentially connect with a great job. Visit the web site gltsalumniassociation.weebly.com and click on the “More” tab, then “Job Opportunities.” According to the school, “Most companies that are reaching out are owned by our very own Alumni or companies that know what our Alumni can do. This is a great way to reconnect, network and share your Reggied Pride in the work place!”

To inquire about a posted job or to post a job for your business, e-mail alumni@glts.net.

Cedar View raising

$ for hurricane victims

Staff, residents, family and friends of Cedar View Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center in Methuen are rallying to donate money funds in support of American Red Cross disaster relief efforts in Texas, Florida and other locations affected by hurricanes Harvey and Irma. The total amount raised will be matched by Marquis Health Services, Cedar’s management corporation.

“Like all Americans, we were astonished by the sheer scale of the destruction caused by the two hurricanes that hit our nation and by the immense recovery effort that is required to help the affected communities get back on their collective feet,” said Norman Rokesch, CEO of Marquis Health Services. “As an organization focused on improving health and wellness, we felt compelled to join the national response by contributing to the tremendous relief work of the American Red Cross. We encourage our entire community to donate alongside our organization.”

To donate, visit www.redcross.org/donate/cms/marquishealthservices-emp.
around Methuen around Methuen around Methuen

ART SHOW AT LIBRARY

“A Sense of Place” takes center stage as the theme of this month’s Arts Institute Group of the Merrimack Valley exhibit. The free show and fund-raising sale run Oct. 19 to 29 at Nervins Library’s Great Hall. Original paintings, photography, prints, cards and fine crafts will be on display for all to enjoy and various pieces will be raffled off to lucky winners. Artists Reception is Oct. 19, 6:30 to 8pm. Exhibit hours are Oct. 20, 2 to 5pm; Oct. 21, 10am to 5pm; Oct. 23 to 17, 2 to 8pm and Oct. 26, 10am to noon. Shown is “Tribute to the Old Man,” a quilt by Janice Jones. Courtesy image

Lil gobblins to come knockin’!

Methuen kids will be trick-or-treating on Halloween (Tuesday, Oct. 31) from 5 to 7pm. Please drive carefully and watch out for little ghosts and goblins crossing the street!

Time to toss the toxins!

Oil-based paints, swimming-pool chemicals, lighter fluid, car batteries and weed killer must be disposed of safely, and here’s your chance! On Oct. 28 from 8am to noon, the city is sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste event at the Methuen Transfer Station on Huntington Avenue. The event is open to Methuen residents; no commercial/contractor waste will be accepted, proof of residency is required and residents do not need to have a Transfer Station annual sticker to participate. To help ensure public safety at the HHW event, no construction and demolition debris or household trash will be accepted at the Transfer Station that day. All other regular services, such as composting (grass and leaves), brush and single-stream recycling, will be available to residents. The improper disposal of HHW can lead to water and air pollution, can cause health and safety problems for personnel such as firefighters and can add unnecessary municipal costs. Additional information about what items are accepted, along with the allowable limit, at the HHW event will be available at www.cityofmethuen.net or by calling the Department of Public Works at (978) 983-8545.

Salute to Vets Breakfast

A complimentary Salute to Veterans Breakfast is being held Oct. 14, 8 to 10:30am at the Methuen Senior Activity Center, 77 Lowell St. The event is sponsored by Columbia Gas of Massachusetts. Mayor Steve Zanni, the Veterans Department and the Senior Center ask that veterans RSVP to the Veterans Department by Oct. 6 by calling (978) 983-8585 or e-mail lilajuga@ci.methuen.ma.us.

In Pink Brunch & Fashion Show

- Check out the latest styles and enjoy a fab meal during the In Pink Brunch and Fashion Show to benefit the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center. The 8th annual event is set for Oct. 14, 11am to 2pm at Andover Country Club. Radio personality Candy O’Terry is hosting and, in addition to the fashion show, there will be live and silent auctions as well as a raffle. Tickets cost $50 and are available at (978)722-2886 or mary.lyman@gilfc.org.
SUN PROTECTION FOR CITY

Bright yellow sunscreen dispensers have been placed around the city, courtesy of former Methuen athletic director and coach Jim Weymouth and his family (for full story, see September MethuenLife). Son Tyler died in 2014 at age 25 following a battle with metastatic melanoma and the Weymouths are bringing awareness and protection to our city. Sunscreen was donated by IMPACT Melanoma and Methuen DPW workers received training on dispenser maintenance. Shown with one of the dispensers are (from left) Mayor Steve Zanni, Laurie Seavey of IMPACT Melanoma, and Joan, Andrew and Jim Weymouth. There are three dispensers at Nicholson Stadium, one at the DPW Yard and a fifth to be placed at Forest Lake in the spring, according to Mayor Zanni.

MethuenMemorials photo by Melissa Fili
BRAVO! ‘Pinafore’ showcases young talent

The “H.M.S Pinafore” sailed into the Methuen Memorial Music Hall last month with four performances of outstanding talent.

Thirty-eight young people, from throughout the Merrimack Valley and ranging from fourth- to twelfth-graders, belted out operatic songs from the Gilbert & Sullivan musical. The stage was turned into a ship’s main deck, complete with a crow’s nest and masts.

The Music Hall was the perfect venue for the voices of the Methuen Young People’s Theatre as the songs echoed beautifully throughout the room. Even the costumes were spot on for the musical, set in the 1800s.

The operetta takes place aboard the ship H.M.S. Pinafore. Captain Corcoran’s daughter, Josephine, is in love with a lower-class sailor named Ralph Rackstraw. But because of the difference in class, the captain forbids the relationship. The 1st Lord of the Admiralty, Sir Joseph Porter, seeks her hand in marriage but she does not want to marry him. Buttercup, a seller of goods to the sailors and ship’s officers, hides her love for the captain. After all the complications, difficulties, wonderful comedy and Gilbert and Sullivan music, all ends happily in the end.

The MYPT is a program of the Methuen Memorial Music Hall and is overseen by the Music Hall’s Board of Trustees, through its youth and scholarship committee. This year’s musical was directed by Joe Gori and Ben Hellman. On piano was Scott White. Janet Jaber, Trustee of the Music Hall, and Robert Jay White, VP of the Music Hall Trustees, were also part of the volunteers who oversaw the musical.

– Nancy Reardon

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Buttercup (Methuen High senior Sarah Scogull) belts out a tune as she sells goods to the sailors, who sing along. MethuenLife photos by Nancy Reardon

Sir Joseph Porter (Liam Houlihan) wishes to marry Josephine (played by Chloe Webster), but she only has eyes for Ralph.

Sailor Ralph (Will Ellis) professes his love for Josephine.
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