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SCHOOL VACATION  
WEEKS FACING  
CHANGE

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OUR 126<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

# Andover Townsman

Issue No. 52

OCTOBER 30, 2014

75 CENTS

## Cupcake conundrum: Should cheerleaders bake for football players?

By TIM LIMA  
tlima@andovertownsman.com

It's a tradition some feel is outdated, unjust and inappropriate.

Others, however, see it as a harmless gesture meant to build school spirit and unity.

The high school cheerleaders have been making cupcakes and other baked goods for members of the football team for years, if not generations.

But recently, a controversy was stirred up - like batter in a mixing bowl - that has led to people in town, including some cheerleaders themselves - to challenge the tradition as sexist and chauvinistic.

Earlier this month, a letter appeared in the Andover Townsman from the older sister of two cheerleaders challenging the custom.

Maggie Kobelski, a senior at

*“There's nothing inherently inferior in the activity of baking in itself, nor is there anything inherently superior about sports. But, the association of these particular activities with gender expectations is problematic.”*

Kristi Artford, NECC professor

Phillips Academy, denounced the cupcake baking done by her sisters, who are both varsity cheerleaders.

“The reason for my annoyance is that the practice

See CUPCAKES, Page 2

## SPECIAL ELECTION COVERAGE



TUESDAY IS ELECTION DAY, and the Andover Townsman is teaming up with The Eagle-Tribune to bring you comprehensive coverage. Starting Tuesday night, check out [eagletribune.com](http://eagletribune.com) for live updates as results come in. On Wednesday, The Eagle-Tribune and [eagletribune.com](http://eagletribune.com) will be packed with stories, photos, videos, slide shows and updates on the elections. [Andovertownsman.com](http://Andovertownsman.com) will also have results and photos Wednesday.

The Eagle-Tribune

## Senate Showdown



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

State Senate candidate Barbara L'Italien talks to Dick Howe, a former town manager, at Saturday's Bancroft School ribbon-cutting.

### L'Italien hopes third time's the charm

By BILL KIRK

[bkirk@andovertownsman.com](mailto:bkirk@andovertownsman.com)

For Barbara L'Italien, a candidate for State Senate, family and politics are inextricably linked.

Growing up in the Merrimack Valley, her relatives' homes were always filled with one generation of family members taking care of another.

Her grandfather, who ran one of the Lawrence mills for textile magnate William Wood, had a stroke later in life. As was the custom back then, her unmarried aunts and uncles lived with him and cared for him.

After graduating in 1984 with a political science degree from Merrimack College, where she took “every sociology course she could,” she entered the field of senior care.

“I ended up working at Elder Services,” she said. “I loved being an advocate for people. Getting them

See L'ITALIEN, Page 6



MARY SCHWALM/Staff photo

State Senate candidate Alex Vispoli, left, chats with Ted Teichert, of Andover, while campaigning at a youth football game in town on Sunday.

### Vispoli wants to focus on business and taxes

By BILL KIRK

[bkirk@andovertownsman.com](mailto:bkirk@andovertownsman.com)

For Alex Vispoli, it's all about taxes.

He says he wants to lower taxes for everyone — residents and businesses alike. He wants to cut the state sales tax to 5 percent from its current 6.25 percent level.

He wants to make the annual sales tax holiday permanent.

He wants to establish a tax policy that would require hearings before any taxes are increased.

And he applauds the repeal of the tech tax, saying it “should have been a teachable moment for the Legislature on how bad tax policies hurt job growth.”

“The economic climate has got to change,” he said during a recent interview with The Andover Townsman. “We keep raising taxes.”

How would he pay for the billions of dollars in reduced revenue that would result from tax cuts?

See VISPOLI, Page 6

## Offensive mounts against pipeline

By BILL KIRK  
[bkirk@andovertownsman.com](mailto:bkirk@andovertownsman.com)

A series of local and regional forums has been scheduled to update residents on the Kinder Morgan pipeline, which as proposed would run through about 6 miles of Andover's conservation land and open space.

The pipeline, which would be built by Tennessee Gas to bring fracked natural gas from energy fields in Pennsylvania to New England, has met with heated opposition from a host of environmental and municipal groups

throughout the Merrimack Valley and beyond.

Andover has joined a coalition of cities and towns along the proposed route, which would run 127 miles across the northern part of the state from western Massachusetts, through more than 40 communities, and ending at a substation in Dracut.

From Dracut, the pipeline would split into smaller, feeder lines, including one heading southeast into Methuen, Andover and North Reading. The feeder

See PIPELINE, Page 3

## Beaver dam dispute rattles neighborhood

By BILL KIRK  
[bkirk@andovertownsman.com](mailto:bkirk@andovertownsman.com)

Roy Dobbelaar loves nature. He likes to watch the ducks and ducklings play and feed next to a beaver pond on the other side of a chain-link fence that marks the rear edge of his property at 8 Moreland Ave.

“Wood ducks, Canada geese, mallards, catfish, snapping turtles, deer,” he says excitedly as he opens the gate that leads from his manicured backyard and swimming pool to a town-owned grassy area

*“The wetland that's been created has been fantastic. The beavers have created something and I'd hate to lose it.”*

Roy Dobbelaar

near the pond. “None of them were ever here before.”

He even trimmed the grass along the pond's edge so that predators like fisher-cats and fox couldn't leap out from hiding places in the tall reeds and surprise the unsuspecting ducklings or their parents. He

and his wife, Jane Axelrod, feed the families of feathered fowl cracked corn all winter long.

But now, Dobbelaar says, a town board is threatening to take it all away.

The Conservation Commission earlier this month

ordered the removal of the mud-and-stick beaver dam, since the beaver that built it eight years ago no longer lives there. Dobbelaar says that would drain the pond and return the area to the muddy bog it used to be. “The beavers are gone,” Dobbelaar admitted. “But in the meantime, why tear it down? I would like to maintain it for the neighborhood and the neighbors. I would like to fix it, but they just want to tear

See BEAVER, Page 2



PAUL BILODEAU/Staff photo

Roy Dobbelaar reviews a map of the land behind his property where beavers have erected a dam. While the beavers have since left the area, Dobbelaar said the dam has created a haven for a variety of wildlife.

## One of these things is not like the others

Sisters Charlotte, left, and Audrey Scoll, both 4, channeling Princesses Anna and Elsa from “Frozen,” join Sloane Trachtenberg, 3, dressed as a rabbit in a pink tutu and fur-trimmed bunny boots in crossing the street hand-in-hand on their way to Sunday's Ballardvale community Halloween Party and Parade. For more photos, see page 13.

MARY SCHWALM/Staff photo



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## PIPELINE

Continued from Page 1

line as proposed would be a 20-inch pipe that the company has proposed building through mostly conservation land to avoid going too close to homes, schools and businesses.

But Andover residents, and those in other towns, are saying that the proposed gas line will ruin pristine conservation land, endanger residents, schools and businesses near the line, and potentially contaminate important watersheds that provide drinking water to thousands of people.

### 'A vast disturbance'

In an Oct. 20 letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, signed by all five members of the Board of Selectmen, the officials said their first concern is the impact of the pipeline on the town's water supply.

"The majority of the current proposed route for the natural gas pipeline (approximately 3.5 miles of the total 6 miles that pass through Andover) falls within the Fish Brook/Haggetts Pond Watershed Protection Overlay District," the letter said, referring to Kinder Morgan's preliminary plans filed with the commission.

"This district was created to preserve and protect surface and groundwater resources for the health, safety and welfare of its people."

The second concern dealt with "the negative impacts the pipeline would have on critically sensitive environmental and ecological areas such as our wetlands, streams and forested areas," said the letter, which was addressed to Kimberly Bose, secretary of FERC.

"The need to 'clear-cut' trees and shrubs during pipeline construction, the bedding materials used to line pipeline trenches and the use of herbicides and periodic cutting to maintain the pipeline corridor right-of-way will permanently alter the habitats of wildlife, protected state-listed species and endanger water quality."

Finally, according to the letter, "the town is concerned for the safety and protections

## KINDER MORGAN OPEN HOUSES

All meetings are from 6 to 8 p.m.

**Nov. 12:** North Reading High School, 191 Park St., North Reading

**Nov. 13:** Varnum Brook Elementary School, 10 Hollis St., Pepperell

**Nov. 17:** Richardson Middle School, 1570 Lakeview Ave., Dracut

**Nov. 18:** Hollis-Brookline High School, 24 Cavalier Court, Hollis, N.H.

**Nov. 19:** Marguerite Peaslee Elementary School, 31 Maple St., Northborough

**Nov. 20:** Oakmont Regional High School, 9 Oakmont Drive, Ashburnham

**Dec. 2:** Orange Innovation Center, 131 West Main St., Orange

**Dec. 3:** Greenfield Community College, One College Drive, Greenfield

**Dec. 4:** Green Meadow Elementary School, 234 Schuurman Road, Castleton On Hudson, N.Y.

**Dec. 9:** Berkshire Community College, 1350 West St., Pittsfield

**Dec. 10:** Mohawk Trail Regional High School, 24 Ashfield Road, Shelburne Falls

**Dec. 11:** Farmington High School, 10 Montith Drive, Farmington, Conn.

of our residents, businesses and municipal properties as the proposed pipeline route traverses several private properties and municipal lands, which include school property."

Kinder Morgan representatives met with town officials in September to discuss alternate routes. Selectmen said in the letter that the five alternate routes "follow existing rights-of-way for interstate highways, electric power transmission lines and existing pipelines. These alternate routes are on land that is already disturbed ... as opposed to having to develop a new pipeline route which would create a vast disturbance."

Other communities in the Northeast Municipal Gas Pipeline Coalition have also weighed in. The coalition is made up of 10 Massachusetts communities and one in New Hampshire. In an Oct. 16 press release, the group announced that it is

## FORUMS/ INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS

**Nov. 8, 10 a.m.:** Hike starting at Retelle Reservation off Brundrett Avenue in Andover. The hike will go through two reservations on the Merrimack River and near the town's water supply across land that would be impacted by the proposed pipeline.

**Nov. 9, 1 p.m.:** Hike in the Nat Smith Reservation, along proposed route of pipeline. Meet at the end of Berkeley Lane.

**Nov. 13, 7 p.m.:** Informational session, Wood Hill Middle School, Andover. Town and conservation officials and members of Andover Village Improvement Society will present a forum on the impact of the proposed pipeline on conservation land.

**Nov. 15, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.:** Stop the Pipeline Statewide Summit, Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School, 1050 Westminster St., Fitchburg.

**Date TBD:** Andover Conservation Commission, workshop with outside experts on natural gas, fracking, environmental impacts of pipeline construction, etc.

requesting that legislative leaders hold comprehensive hearings on the project.

"We don't believe we have sufficient, credible information to do our jobs of protecting our communities and the best interests of our citizens," Pepperell Selectman Steven Themelis, who heads up the coalition, said. The press release noted that a citizen petition drive has been circulated calling for the hearings.

### Forums scheduled

So far, a number of hearings and forums are scheduled by local communities affected by the pipeline's path. In addition, Kinder Morgan sent out a letter recently announcing a series of "open houses" that the company is required by law to hold to talk about the project.

The company is planning 12 sessions, the first one scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 12, at North Reading High School. (See related box for more details.)

Andover Town Manager Buzz Stapeczynski wrote a

letter to Kinder Morgan asking that the town be allowed to host one of the meetings, but that request has gone unfulfilled.

In Andover, a hike is planned for 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 8, starting at the Retelle Reservation off Brundrett Avenue. The hike is being led by Fred Snell of the Andover Village Improvement Society, or AVIS. The public event is meant to call attention to the fact that the current proposed path of the pipeline would take it through two reservations on the Merrimack River and near the town's water supply.

On Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. at Wood Hill Middle School, selectmen and members of AVIS and the Conservation Commission are leading a forum to review the impact of the proposed project on town and private land. State and Congressional leaders have been invited.

A meeting has also been scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 15 at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School in Fitchburg. This meeting is billed as a "Stop the Pipeline Statewide Summit."

According to a press release sent out by stopNED.org, "grassroots organizers from across the state have created the program to bring together residents, affected landowners, local leaders, elected officials, and environmental and conservation groups in an educational forum to learn the most recent information about the proposed Kinder Morgan Tennessee Gas Pipeline Northeast Energy Direct project and to advocate for a clean energy future for Massachusetts."

The educational sessions will include: The Natural Gas Crisis: Dispelling the Myths, How To Participate in the FERC Process: Developing a Collective Strategy, and Legislative and Municipal Energy Policy Roundtable. The event is free. Participants can register at <https://statewidesummit.eventbrite.com>. For additional information and updates, visit <http://StopNED.org>.

# No challengers for Retirement Board seat

By BILL KIRK  
bkirk@andovertownsmen.com

There won't be an election for the Retirement Board this year.

According to the board's administrative assistant Helen Armano, Chairman James Cuticchia was the only person to turn in nomination papers by the Friday, Oct. 17, filing deadline.

Cuticchia's three-year term expires at the end of this year, so he was up for re-election to the five-person board.

Armano said that since nobody else turned in papers, Cuticchia is automatically reinstated as a member and as the board's chairman.

Questions have been raised about how the board granted Cuticchia, a retired Andover fire lieutenant, a disability pension earlier this year. Cuticchia sat in on discussions of his pension, but did not vote. In fact, because another member of the board was absent the day his \$62,000-a-year pension was approved, only two people voted to OK it.

Due to concerns over the potential for conflict of interest and other issues, the state

*Armano said that since nobody else turned in papers, Cuticchia is automatically reinstated as a member and as the board's chairman.*

agency overseeing retirement systems said it was reviewing its policies and would be issuing new guidelines to make sure that a similar situation wouldn't be repeated — either in Andover or anywhere else in the state.

Armano said the 1,079 members of the town's retirement system — both current and former town and school employees — were given notice of the pending election. Anyone interested in running was required to submit nomination papers by the deadline.

"Everybody was sent that letter," she said. "The only person who pulled papers was Jimmy Cuticchia. He had over 21 signatures, all verified. Nobody else turned in papers."

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# Voters face many choices on Election Day

By BILL KIRK

bkirk@andovertownsmen.com

Voters will be offered lots of choices at the polls on Tuesday, from U.S. senator to governor to an expanded bottle bill.

Beyond the all-Andover state Senate contest to replace Sen. Barry Finegold, D-Andover, local races of interest include the battle in the 6th Congressional district to succeed outgoing U.S. Rep. John Tierney in a district that includes a portion of Andover.

Democrat Seth Moulton, a Phillips Academy Andover graduate, and Republican Richard Tisei, a former state senator, are both waging a

hard-fought campaign for the seat in a race that is drawing statewide attention.

The other part of Andover represented by the 3rd Congressional district will decide between incumbent U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas, a Democrat from Lowell, or Roseann Wofford, a Republican from Haverhill.

For U.S. Senate, voters can choose either incumbent Democrat Edward Markey from Malden or Republican challenger Brian Herr from Hopkinton.

Voters choose a ticket for governor and lieutenant governor. The choices are: Republicans Charlie Baker

and Karyn Polito, Democrats Martha Coakley and Steve Kerrigan, United Independent Party candidates Evan Falchuk and Angus Jennings, Independent Party candidates Scott Lively and Shelly Saunders, and Independent Party candidates Jeff McCormick and Tracy Post.

For attorney general, the choice is between Democrat Maura Healey of Boston and John Miller of Winthrop.

The secretary of state race has three candidates: Democratic incumbent William Galvin of Boston, Republican David D'Arangelo of Malden and Green-Rainbow Party candidate Daniel Ever of Acton.

The state treasurer's race also has three candidates: Deborah Goldberg, a Democrat from Brookline; Michael Heffernan, a Republican from Wellesley; and Ian Jackson, a Green Rainbow party candidate from Arlington.

For state auditor, there are also three candidates: incumbent Suzanne Bump, a Democrat from Great Barrington; Patricia Aubin, a Republican from Norfolk; and MK Merelice, a Green-Rainbow candidate from Brookline.

For Governor's Council, the committee that approves/disapproves judicial appointments by the governor, the choices are incumbent

Democrat Eileen Duff of Gloucester or Republican challenger Maura Ryan-Ciardello of Haverhill.

The Register of Probate race is the only one with a challenger. Incumbent Democrat Pamela Casey O'Brien of Saugus is facing Republican Michael Morales of Andover. Local Reps. James Lyons Jr., R-Andover, and Frank Moran, D-Lawrence, are both running unopposed. Each represent a portion of Andover.

Essex County District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett is also unopposed.

There are also four questions on the ballot: Question 1 would eliminate

a state provision requiring the gas tax to go up automatically every year by the same percentage as the Consumer Price Index.

Question 2 would expand the state's beverage container deposit law, also known as the Bottle Bill, to require deposits on containers for all non-alcoholic, noncarbonated drinks, except those primarily derived from dairy products, infant formula and FDA-approved medicines.

Question 3 would make all casino gambling in the state illegal.

Question 4 would require small companies to offer sick time as a benefit.

## Vispoli a big supporter of local schools

Editor, Townsman:

I am a four-term Andover School Committee member (registered Independent), and have worked closely with both candidates running for state Senate. On the topic of education, Alex Vispoli is a big supporter of our schools. He initiated and led the creation of our town-wide technology department and accompanying multi-million-dollar investments. Thanks to Alex, our classrooms have state-of-the-art technology and networking capabilities, enabling our staff to advance student learning.

In prior years, Alex was instrumental in providing vital, additional funding to help our schools address funding shortfalls. With Alex's support, we were able to avoid teacher layoffs.

Alex is a community leader, consensus builder and creative thinker, and he will effectively represent our community in the state Senate.

DAVID BIRNBACH  
86 Osgood St.

## Vispoli has earned bipartisan respect

Editor, Townsman:

In my opinion, the high-water mark for bipartisan teamwork on Beacon Hill over the past 30 years was during

the 1990s tenure of Gov. Bill Weld. The achievements during that period were numerous and positive for Massachusetts.

I had an inside view of Beacon Hill during that period as a state representative and as a member of the legislative leadership. I experienced firsthand what worked and what did not. I learned the characteristics of effective leadership in that context.

I strongly support Alex Vispoli because I have observed his approach to leadership in my home community of Andover, and his impact throughout our region. He has earned respect by those from all political stripes for his serious, thorough problem-solving, his willingness to initiate creative approaches, and his demonstrated ability to collaborate in order to get results. These were precisely the successful characteristics I observed during the Weld years. I would love to see what Alex Vispoli can do for all of us in these times.

GARY M. COON  
Former state representative,  
24 Summer St.

## Vispoli will be pragmatic senator

Editor, Townsman:

As a lifelong resident of the 2nd Essex and Middlesex District, I am very happy to have the opportunity to vote for Alex Vispoli for state

Senate. At a time when voters everywhere are becoming more disenchanted with government, Alex is campaigning on a much-needed platform of accountability and transparency.

As a member of the Andover Board of Selectmen, Alex has proven himself to be accessible and responsible, demonstrating the kind of leadership we need in the Statehouse. Bringing a fresh perspective and new ideas, he will be going to the state Senate as a thoughtful and pragmatic representative of the people, ever attentive to our concerns and ever conscious of his role as a public servant. That is why I encourage the voters of Andover, Dracut, Lawrence and Tewksbury to join me in supporting Alex Vispoli for state Senate on Nov. 4.

JACK WILSON  
3 Bayberry Lane

## Vispoli will support local economies

Editor, Townsman:

Alex Vispoli gets my vote for state senator. Recently, I stopped by the Old Town Hall, on a Saturday, where seniors were able to try tasty sweets from local vendors and residents. I was told that Alex Vispoli started that years ago.

One reason that America is great is because of small businesses that built and continue to build my great country

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

and community. At the recent debate, Alex continued his strong pro-business and pro-resident stand. He helped make downtown Andover very family-friendly and user-friendly.

The communities of Andover, Dracut, Lawrence and Tewksbury need business-friendly advocates. Alex proves that he is exactly that. As state senator, Alex Vispoli will be in an even better position to support local businesses and be a voice to grow our local economies.

DODY MCCANN  
31 Chestnut Court

## L'Italian knows issues facing seniors firsthand

Editor, Townsman:

I have an elderly sister who I take care of and it's important to me — along with so many other people caring for the elderly — that she has access to the services and programs she needs. I've always believed that we should give as much care and love to our elders as they have given to us. So having known Barbara L'Italian for many years and the work she's done to care for our seniors, I am very impressed.

Barbara is a mom and a former social worker for the elderly who practices what she preaches: she cares for her own elderly mother in her home. You see so many people running for office who are

lawyers, CEOs of companies and the like, so it's truly rare to see someone running for office with direct experience on the front lines and who knows exactly what she's talking about when it comes to senior issues.

While working as a state representative, Barbara worked with Democrats and Republicans alike to provide service for our seniors. Not only that, she did so while keeping in mind how costly it can be to care for an elderly person. Barbara strives to give each senior in our state access to quality care and services at an affordable cost.

Barbara doesn't just talk, she takes action. She spent time in the community, personally helping seniors sign up for fuel assistance, tax relief benefits and less expensive medications. She made sure that our seniors have support systems in place, so that they have the choice to age in place at home if they so choose. She uses her experience as a social worker, mother of four, and daughter who cares for her own elderly mother to understand that our seniors want to live as independently as possible and we need to help them do so with compassion.

Thanks to Barbara, my sister can be taken care of at a cost that won't have her choosing between prescription medications or buying groceries for the week.

Barbara's getting my vote on Election Day and my sister's, too.

MARGARET O'CONNOR  
Andover Council on Aging

## Vispoli has been 'friend to education'

Editor, Townsman:

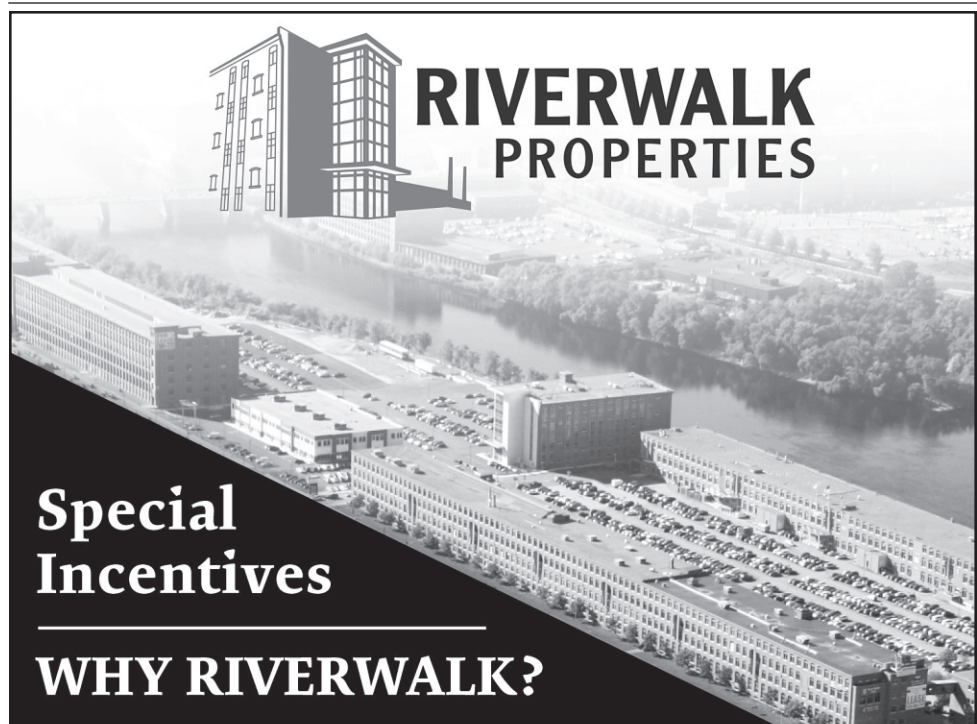
I had the privilege to serve as a School Committee member in Andover for six years, one of which I was chairperson. During that time, I had the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with Alex Vispoli. I knew I could always count on Alex to listen to issues and ultimately to voice his opinion in a fair and consistent manner. I found him to be a supporter of our educational programs.

He understood when I discussed the need to replace the Bancroft School; he understood when I discussed the advantages to students and the district in bringing costly special educational programs in-house, ultimately resulting in a better educational experience for the student along with significant cost savings to our town.

Alex understands the complexities of education from many viewpoints, as a parent of students and as parent of a school teacher.

Connie and I will be voting for Alex Vispoli, a true friend of education. Please join us.

ARTHUR BARBER, EDD  
3 Sparta Way



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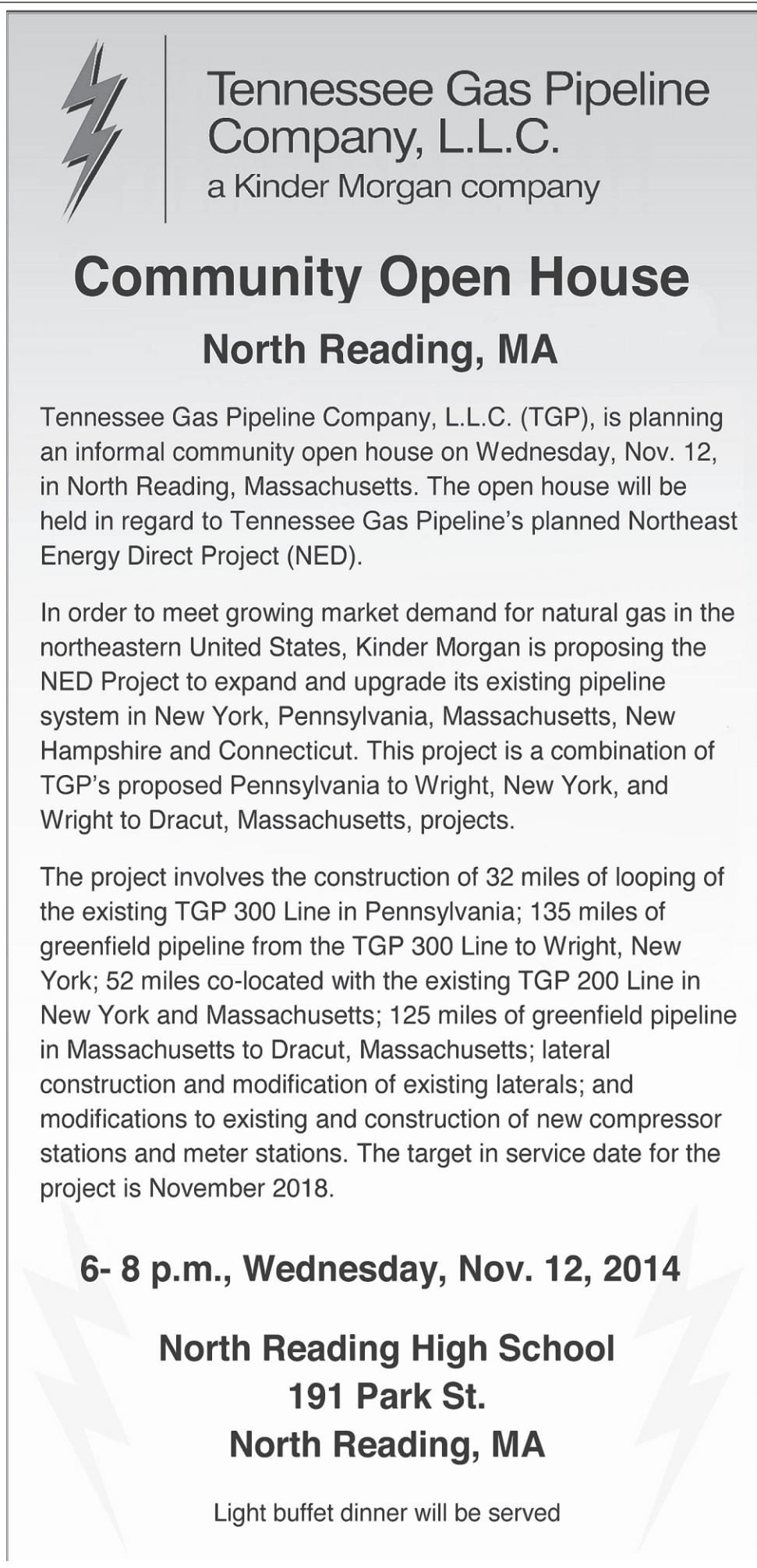
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**North Reading, MA**

Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. (TGP), is planning an informal community open house on Wednesday, Nov. 12, in North Reading, Massachusetts. The open house will be held in regard to Tennessee Gas Pipeline's planned Northeast Energy Direct Project (NED).

In order to meet growing market demand for natural gas in the northeastern United States, Kinder Morgan is proposing the NED Project to expand and upgrade its existing pipeline system in New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Connecticut. This project is a combination of TGP's proposed Pennsylvania to Wright, New York, and Wright to Dracut, Massachusetts, projects.

The project involves the construction of 32 miles of looping of the existing TGP 300 Line in Pennsylvania; 135 miles of greenfield pipeline from the TGP 300 Line to Wright, New York; 52 miles co-located with the existing TGP 200 Line in New York and Massachusetts; 125 miles of greenfield pipeline in Massachusetts to Dracut, Massachusetts; lateral construction and modification of existing laterals; and modifications to existing and construction of new compressor stations and meter stations. The target in service date for the project is November 2018.

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# Education

## Proposal places school vacations on chopping block

By TIM LIMA  
tlima@andovertownsmen.com

### February, April vacations would be replaced with March break

Andover students and teachers might be enjoying one less vacation week in two years if a new proposal makes its way onto the school calendar.

A subcommittee formed to review the calendar is proposing to eliminate the current February and April vacation weeks in favor of a one-week break in March only.

The School Committee will hold a first reading of the drafted revisions at its meeting next Thursday, Nov. 6. The calendar is expected to be put to a vote on Dec. 4. Some of the

recommended changes will be subject to bargaining with the Andover Education Association, which represents teachers and other staff.

According to a letter sent home to parents, teachers and students last week, a recent survey that asked parents and educators their preference for vacations found that while responses were split, a majority favored one March vacation as opposed to the current two weeks off.

Superintendent Marinel McGrath said the survey generated 1,195 responses and 48 pages of comments, including more than 800 individual comments.

The letter said having one week instead of the current two weeks off "is consistent with the practice in most other states, although not presently in Massachusetts." It would also allow the school year to begin after Labor Day and end earlier in June,

McGrath wrote.

"By way of example, if these recommendations were in effect for the current school year, school would have started for students on Tuesday, Sept. 2, the day after Labor Day, rather than Wednesday, Aug. 27, and would end on Friday, June 12, rather than Monday, June 15," she wrote. "Thus, a later start and an earlier end to the school year."

If the one-week school

break advances, Presidents Day in February and Patriots Day in April, federal and state holidays respectively, would continue to be observed as non-school days, creating three-day weekends in both months.

To minimize conflicts for families with long-range vacation plans, the subcommittee is recommending that the changes, if approved, not be implemented until the 2016-17 school year, rather than next year.

The subcommittee also looked at whether Andover schools should continue to be closed for certain religious holidays. The group is

recommending that Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Christmas Eve and Good Friday remain as non-school days due to low-absentee rates those days.

The School Committee calendar subcommittee, which included members David Birnbach, Joel Blumstein and Barbara L'Italien, was formed about one year ago following a school year that extended until the last day of June due to snow days and other events.

Following next week's first reading, the School Committee will accept public comment on the proposed calendar changes through Dec. 1.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photo

Students join local and state officials Saturday in the ceremonial ribbon-cutting outside the new Bancroft School.

## Official Bancroft 'Welcome'

### Ceremonial ribbon cutting caps off school project

By TIM LIMA  
tlima@andovertownsmen.com

Students and parents joined together with school and town leaders and state officials this past Saturday to formally open the new Bancroft School.

Jack McCarthy, executive director of the Massachusetts School Building Authority, made the trip to Andover to celebrate the completion of the project, which has benefited by a maximum grant of up to \$16,575,965 from the MSBA toward the project, according to a release.

"The MSBA is thrilled to have taken part in this project," McCarthy told the gathering. "This partnership between the district and the MSBA has provided an up-to-date, 21st-century facility for the children of Andover."

State Treasurer and MSBA Chairman Steve Grossman expressed delight over the project, saying, "The MSBA's fiscally responsible blueprint for school construction is helping communities like Andover provide a strong educational



Second-grader Abby Wallace, left, and fifth-grader Madeline Hickey join their classmates in the Pledge of Allegiance to open Bancroft School ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Third-grader Luke Henderson gives his grandparents, Lloyd and Lynn Willey of Campton, N.H., a tour of the Bancroft School's library/media center/learning commons. Lynn Willey worked as a librarian for the Andover school system and Lloyd Willey is a former member of the School Committee.

foundation for students in an efficient, sustainable and affordable way."

The 160,000-square-foot, three-story school greeted its first class of kindergartners through fifth-graders in September, but the building wasn't formally dedicated until

Saturday. Students were involved in the ceremony, with some leading the Pledge of Allegiance and the Bancroft "Welcome Song." Others eagerly showed off the building to family members, including their grandparents. There were student

performances, art displays, as well as a variety of demonstrations and presentations, too.

Youngsters also helped Superintendent Marinel McGrath and Bancroft Principal Malcolm Forsman, together with other local and state officials, cut the ceremonial ribbon for grand opening.

## 35 AHS seniors named Commended Students

The 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program has named 35 Andover High School seniors to this year's list of Commended Students.

They join 34,00 students across the nation in being honored for their academic promise.

The students all placed among

the top 5 percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2015 competition by taking the 2013 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, according to a release.

Andover's Commended Students are: Julian Amirault, Noah Appleby, Mohib Azam,

Jeremy Brownholtz, Elizabeth Carmichael, Colleen Caveney, Vishnuteja Chavva, Beatrice Choo, Alexandra Crowley, Jacob Dorskocil, James Drew, Caroline Drooff, Jason Grosz, Irene Gu, Tia Helmbrecht-Lommel, Amanda Hornick, Daniel Lee, Ian MacGregor, Huzefa Mandviwala,

James Michaels, Gwyneth Miner, Laura Morissette, Caroline Murtagh, Julia A. Perry, Nicholas Renton, Andrew Riemer, Janak Shah, Tarushi Sharma, Sebastian Silveira, Jaime Street, Lynn Wang, Michael Weber, Karena Yan, Katharine Yu, and Daniel Zhang.

### EDUCATION NOTEBOOK

#### Strike up the Marching Band Competition

Andover High School and the Andover Band Association are playing host to the New England Scholastic Band Association Marching Band Competition on Saturday, Nov. 1, at 6 p.m. at Eugene Lovely Memorial Field, 80 Shawsheen Road, Andover.

Ten bands and their color guards will present their shows and demonstrate their performance skills. The Golden Warriors Marching Band will perform at approximately 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$8 for students and seniors; children under 5 are free. The concession stand will be open and there will be a 50/50 raffle.

Next weekend, the AHS Golden Warriors Marching Band will hold its fall redeemable bottle and can drive on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine, at West Middle School, 70 Shawsheen Road, Andover.

Only redeemable bottles and cans will be accepted. All proceeds will support the marching band.

#### Trivia Night for youth center, AHS Choral

Andover Youth Foundation, together with Andover Youth Services, is partnering with the Andover Vocal Music Association to present Teamwork, an adult trivia night fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 1, to benefit local youth and music programs.

Proceeds will support the Cormier Youth Center and the Andover High School Choral Groups such as its award-winning Show Choir.

The fun takes place at Old Town Hall at 20 Main St. in downtown Andover. Teams of eight to 10 adults will compete for the first prize of \$500. A 50/50 drawing, raffles and more are also planned. Schneider Electric has stepped forward as the sponsor, and donated \$1,000 to the event.

Doors open at 6 p.m. for supper and dessert. Play begins at 7. The entry fee is \$25 per person. A cash bar will be available. Reservations are preferred. For tickets, email dcostag@hotmail.com or go to www.andoveryouthfoundation.org to buy tickets through PayPal.

#### NECC holding open house Saturday

Northern Essex Community College will hold an open house geared to high school juniors and seniors and their families on Saturday, Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Hartleb Technology Center, 100 Elliott St., on the Haverhill campus.

Visitors can take a tour, learn about financial aid and discover the academic programs offered at Northern Essex. Transfer options upon graduation, support services, and an overview of the clubs, sports and other opportunities at NECC will be discussed.

Adults who are considering returning to school are also encouraged to attend. For more information, contact NECC enrollment services at 978-556-3700 or admissions@necc.mass.edu.

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by Nicholas T. Papapetros, DMD, FAGD

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Firefighter-in-training Jacob Huffer, 2, of Andover, is all smiles as he tries on the honorary chief's hat for size.



John DiZogio, a 31-year veteran of the Andover Fire Department, shows a group of children how the ladder is raised on Fire/Rescue Ladder I during Saturday's open house.



Daniel Shneer, 5, of Andover, sits behind the wheel of Andover Fire Department's Ladder I during Saturday's open house.

## A day for junior firefighters

Local tots got a glimpse of the lives of some real-life firefighters on Saturday during the Andover Fire Department's annual open house at its headquarters downtown.

The event aimed to promote fire safety, while also offering an engine full of fun.

Children got to take a seat in the fire trucks, don some honorary fire gear and even enjoy a slice of pizza.

Firefighter Garrett Ferris, who has spent 20 years with the department, and Kelly O'Brien, 4, dressed in her fire gear, give the event four thumbs up.



Firefighter Garrett Ferris, who has spent 20 years with the department, and Kelly O'Brien, 4, dressed in her fire gear, give the event four thumbs up.

The Andover Police Department and Department of Public Health offered their own demonstrations and screenings, too.

## The trick to Halloween treats

**Nicholas Papapetros, DMD**



We admit, even dentists love candy. But while allowing your kids to enjoy caramel apples and chocolates on All Hallows Eve is OK, it's important to monitor snacking to promote strong and healthy teeth.

Here are some quick tips after you've circled the neighborhood and come home with buckets of treats:

**The right time for sweets:** Try to schedule a time for your kids to dig into their trick-or-treat bag immediately after meals. During this time, their mouths contain more saliva, which helps to decrease acid and naturally rinses away some food particles and bacteria that could linger.

**Beware of sugar elsewhere:** Due to the increase of sugar intake from Halloween candy, it's important to eliminate other sugars that may otherwise be a "treat" for your children. For example, try trading sodas and sports drinks for a big glass of water. This can also help prevent tooth decay.

**Steer clear of hard candy:** Although many of these end up in their holiday stash, it's important to limit hard candy. Not only can it be a choking hazard, but keeping sugary goods in the mouth for an extended period of time can increase tooth decay.

Aside from the spooky and the strange, many kids fear visiting the dentist as well. As your little ones begin to not be so little anymore, it is important to continue scheduling regular checkups. Here are a few tricks (not treats) for erasing the fear and frights of the dentist:

**Talk about the good:** The more regularly you discuss the importance of oral hygiene and visiting the dentist, the more comfortable they will be. Make regular brushing and flossing a daily habit.

**Sidestep the bad:** The less you discuss what goes on at the dentist and mention things like fillings and drillings, the better chance of preventing any unnecessary anxiety.

**Keep consistent:** By sticking to regular six-month checkups allows children to develop routines. The more time that passes, the more they anticipate the visit.

Halloween should be a fun and safe time for kids and this includes enjoying some sugary candy. Going to the dentist shouldn't be spooky if your kids understand the importance of dental health and you limit their treats.

Wishing you a happy and healthy Halloween.

Nicholas Papapetros, DMD, is with Dentistry By Design in Andover. Visit [www.smileandover.com](http://www.smileandover.com) for information.

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# TownsBeat



Dylan MacLean, 9, dressed as a werewolf, left, and Colin MacLean, 6, dressed as Peter Pan, right, are joined by a masked Cole LaChapell, 9, at Sunday's pre-Halloween Party and Parade. The MacLeans' mother, Donna, helped rejuvenate the event last year as a fun way for the Ballardvale community to come together.

MARY SCHWALM/Staff photos



Costumed children trick or treat at the house of Ellen Brennan, a long-standing tradition during the Ballardvale community Halloween Party and Parade.



Harry Potter – aka 7-year-old Angelo Scenna – prepares to fly down the slide at the Ballardvale playground during Sunday's party.



Angelo Caterino, 3, dressed as Olaf, enjoys some time on the swing during the Ballardvale Halloween Party and Parade.

## Treat-filled trail to Ballardvale

A mash-up of costumed monsters, princesses, "Frozen" characters and other creatures enjoyed a test run of tricks and treats on Sunday night at the Ballardvale community's annual Halloween Party and Parade.

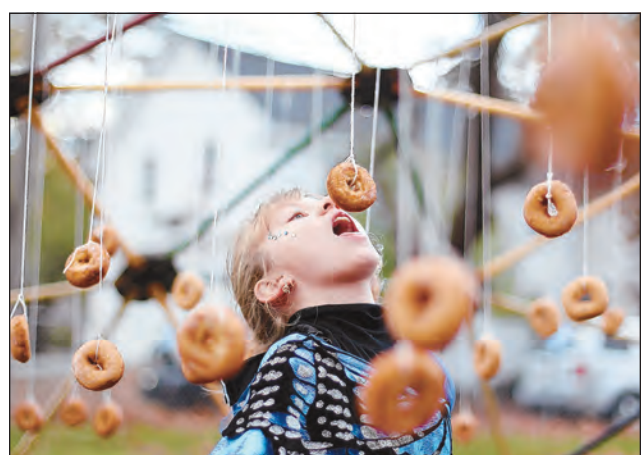
The popular Ballardvale tradition, which was resurrected from near demise last year, brought out a bevy of youngsters eager to celebrate the season.

The event included games, activities and lots of just playing around at the Ballardvale playground, where the kids raced to eat doughnuts hanging from strings in between taking trips down the slide.

Andover officially celebrates Halloween on Friday, Oct. 31, with trick or treat hours from 5 to 7 p.m.



Colin MacLean, dressed as Peter Pan, uses his magical powers to will a rainbow to appear following a passing shower.



Piper Gorsuch, 7, dressed as a monarch butterfly, bobs for a doughnut, one of several highlights at the community party.

## Masquerading spirit at Old Town Hall

Youngsters aren't the only ones who know how to get their spook on.

A group of Halloween-loving adults got into the act themselves Sunday night as Old Town Hall was transformed into the Crystal Ballroom for the annual Masquerade Ball hosted by the Friends of The Center at Punchard in Andover.

Many of the guests donned costumes and masks for the occasion, and danced the night away to the big band sound of D.B.'s Orchestra.



MARY SCHWALM/Staff photo

ABOVE: Andover residents, from left, Daryl and Brenda Afshin, dressed as a scarecrow and crow, join Audrey and George Nason, as a witch and pilot, in getting into the spirit of the season at the annual Masquerade Ball at Old Town Hall. AT LEFT: Antoinette and Marty Fischer, of Andover, don feather masks as they take to the dance floor

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# Townspeople

## Rotary Club welcoming guest speakers

The Rotary Club of Andover is welcoming two special guest speakers in the next two weeks.

This Friday, Oct. 31, Gem Munro, co-executive director of the Amarak Society which empowers mothers

through education, will highlight his work on peace-building, human rights, education and international development. Munro has devoted his life to improving educational opportunities for disadvantaged people.

His program teaches impoverished women in Bangladesh how to read and write with the intention that they then teach their neighbors.

On Friday, Nov. 7, Dawna Levenson, director of admissions for the MIT Sloan

School of Management, will discuss his career. After graduating from Sloan with both Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in management science in 1984, Levenson spent almost 18 years with the

consulting firm Accenture before leaving as a partner in 2002. She has since gone on to become associate director for Sloan's Master of Finance program and now its director of MBA admissions, overseeing the highly

competitive program. The Rotary Club of Andover, a civic organization of men and women, meets Friday mornings at 7:30 at the Lanam Club, 260 North Main St., Andover.

# 100 reasons to celebrate

## St. Augustine School marks centennial

It was a night of looking back — and ahead — last week as St. Augustine School celebrated its 100th birthday with a gala at Andover Country Club.

The event was built around the theme "Celebrate our Past, Delight in our Present and Build for our Future." Guests included alumni, former and current teachers, parents, Augustinian friars, Sisters of Notre Dame and St. Augustine Church parishioners.

The evening included enjoy cocktails, dinner and dancing courtesy of the Beantown Band.

The school will continue its centennial commemoration in December when Cardinal Sean O'Malley will visit St. Augustine to celebrate Mass with students and bless the cornerstone of its new Centennial Gymnasium. Construction on the \$2.9 million program began earlier this year, with fundraising continuing. The school hopes to have the gym completed early next year.

For more information, visit [www.sas100.org](http://www.sas100.org) for more information.



CARL RUSSO/Staff photos

Friday night's Centennial Gala brought back numerous graduates of St. Augustine School to celebrate the occasion. They include Gala Kathleen Quill, left, a member of the class of 1937, and her sister, Barbara Quill, class of 1942, as well as Thomas Garvey, a 1944 graduate of the Catholic school.



St. Augustine Church parishioners John and Karen Marshall look at the historical display marking the Catholic school's 100 years at the Centennial Gala. "Celebrate our Past, Delight in our Present and Build for our Future" was the theme of the event.



The Rev. Peter Gori, OSA, pastor of St. Augustine Parish in Andover, looks at the 100th birthday cake for St. Augustine School with its principal, Paula O'Dea, at last Friday night's Centennial Gala at Andover Country Club.

## Martial arts academy takes on breast cancer

Cervizzi's Martial Arts Academy, which has a studio on Chestnut Street in downtown Andover, has worked since 2010 to raise money for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.

Cofounders Deborah Frizzi and Cindy Carrigan started the initiative. This year, Cervizzi's and its team, dubbed Team Cervizzi Kicks In, expanded its mission by bringing the realities of breast cancer to the academy's students and families.

"We have raised awareness and come together as a team for a great cause," Chris Crocker, first assistant director of the martial arts academy, said in a statement.

"This is what being a martial artist is all about; helping and leading the way, giving to a notable cause, and working with the surrounding communities to better the lives of those around us and it's exactly what the leadership team and students and instructors embody at Cervizzi's Martial Arts Academy."

For the month of October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, students and instructors at all Cervizzi's locations have been wearing their pink belts, pink shirts and pink uniforms during classes to show their support.

Earlier this month, Team Cervizzi Kicks In donned pink to participate in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Boston. Visit [www.cervizzismartialarts.com](http://www.cervizzismartialarts.com) to learn more about the academy's efforts.

## A chance to give thanks

### Trauma Intervention Program honors volunteers

The Trauma Intervention Program of Merrimack Valley recognized its dedicated team of supporters as well as some special honorees, last week at its annual Volunteer Appreciation Event at Andover Wyndham.

The Andover-based program presented several Volunteer Choice Awards honoring emergency first responders from the local area who have offered citizens and TIP volunteers outstanding support in the line of duty.

In its 22 years, TIP has provided more than 23,000 crisis interventions to child and adult victims of emotional trauma in the Merrimack Valley. A number of citizens aided by TIP over the last couple years were among the event's speakers.

Officer David Carriere of the Andover Police Department received one of this year's Gift of Caring/Hospital Awards. He was joined in being recognized by officer Michael Blanchette of the Methuen Police Department; Sherie Weber, RN, BSN, Lawrence General Hospital; Shawn Nardone, RN, Holy Family Hospital at Merrimack Valley; and Rich Durkee, RN, Holy Family Hospital in Methuen.

Diane Lovallo, RN, received the Outstanding Supporter of TIP Award and Donna Martin was singled out with the Volunteer Services Award for her 10 years of service to TIP.

The evening also succeeded in raising a little more than \$5,000 for TIP through a silent auction and raffle.



MARY SCHWALM/Staff photos

Dr. Jayan Landry, Trauma Intervention Program co-founder and CEO, right, joins this year's honorees for a group photo. They are, from left, Rich Durkee, RN, Holy Family Hospital; Shawn Nardone, RN, Holy Family Hospital at Merrimack Valley; Sherie Weber, RN, BSN, Lawrence General Hospital; Methuen police officer Michael Blanchette; Andover police officer David Carriere; Diane Lovallo, Outstanding TIP Supporter; and Donna Martin, Volunteer Service Award.



Andover Police Department Commander Charles Heseltine, left, Methuen Police Chief Joseph Solomon and Andover Lt. Edward Guy pose for a photo at the Volunteer Appreciation event.



Elizabeth Conlin, of Andover, takes a group photo of this year's Trauma Intervention Program honorees at last week's appreciation evening at the Wyndham Andover.

Co-founded in 1993 by Dr. who provide emotional and practical support to victims and their families in the first few hours following a crisis. The program

regularly offers training for new volunteers. For more information on TIP, call 978-474-1941 or visit [www.traumaintervention.com](http://www.traumaintervention.com)

## Northeast Document Conservation wins state grant

The Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover has received a \$24,600 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The grant through the state council's Cultural Investment Portfolio Partners Program will help support Northeast Document Conservation's mission to serve museums, archives, libraries, historical societies, town clerks' offices and other organizations, as well as private and family collectors in Massachusetts.

The center offers book and paper conservation treatment, digital imaging, audio preservation, assessments and consultations. It also presents educational programs on the care and preservation of paper-based collections for institutions as well as individuals. Free information on preserving valued cultural heritage collections is also available on its website.

The Cultural Investment Portfolio is designed to strengthen the cultural sector as a whole, with the understanding that state investment in nonprofit arts, humanities and science organizations yields returns in economic impact and increasing public access, officials said in a release.

For more information on Northeast Document Conservation Center, visit [www.nedcc.org](http://www.nedcc.org).



## Flu clinic dates announced

The Andover Health Division has announced its flu clinic dates for residents to receive their annual flu vaccination.

The first clinic, for residents ages 18 years and up, will be held on Thursday, Nov. 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. at West Middle School on Shawshen Road.

The second clinic, for ages 2 and up, takes place Monday, Nov. 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Center at Punchard (Senior Center), 30 Whittier Court.

There is no out-of-pocket charge regardless of one's health care coverage, although providing insurance information will allow the town to be reimbursed for the costs incurred.

The quadrivalent formulation will be administered by

injection. Flumist quadrivalent nasal spray will also be available for anyone ages 2 to 49 who are medically eligible. High-dose vaccine for ages 65 and over will be available while supplies last.

Visit the Health Division website at <http://andoverma.gov/health/> to download forms and vaccine-specific information. Flu clinic updates will be posted to the division's flu hotline at 978-623-8347.

All forms are also available at Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St.; Old Town Hall, 20 Main St.; Town Offices in Bartlet Street, the Health Department and senior center.

For more information, call the Health Department at 978-623-8295.

## Recalling 'Last of the Doughboys'

In observance of the 100th anniversary of World War I, the Friends of Memorial Hall Library and Town of Andover's Veterans' Services Department are hosting a visit by "The Last of the Doughboys" author Richard Rubin on Sunday, Nov. 2, at 7 p.m. at Memorial Hall Library, 2 North Main St., Andover.

Rubin located, interviewed and collected the stories of dozens of American World War I veterans ages 101 to 113. His decade-long odyssey to recover the story of a forgotten generation, and their Great War, led Rubin across the U.S. and France, through archives, private collections, battlefields, literature, propaganda and even music.

At the center of it all were the last of the last, the final survivors of the millions who made up the American Expeditionary Forces. Rubin offers a glimpse into the men



Richard Rubin

and women — self-reliant, humble and stoic individuals who for the most part kept their stories to themselves for a life-

time, then shared them at the last possible moment, so that they, and the World War they won might at last be remembered.

Rubin has been writing a series of articles for The New York Times about World War I memorials in France. He lives in Brunswick, Maine.

Copies of "The Last of the Doughboys" will be available for purchase on Sunday at the library. Nonperishable food items will be collected to benefit local veterans. To register, visit [www.mhl.org/eventcalendar](http://www.mhl.org/eventcalendar) or call 978-623-8401, ext. 31.

## Veterans Appreciation Luncheon set for Friday

The town's annual Veterans Appreciation Luncheon takes place Friday, Oct. 31, at noon at Old Town Hall, 20 Main St. The luncheon is supported by the Veterans Services Department.

American Legion Post 8 in Andover is introducing a new tradition at this year's event. The post will award a cane to the oldest veteran in attendance. The cane will feature the insignia of the military branch in which the veteran served.

The idea for the special honor grew out of the Boston Post Cane tradition dating to the early 1900s that saw a cane being presented to the oldest resident of a community.

Michael Burke, director of veterans services for the town, started the appreciation luncheon to allow veterans to gather in an informal setting prior to Veterans Day, share memories and be recognized for their service to the community and the nation. All of Andover's

veterans are invited. Admission is free for the town's veterans, but tickets are required and space is limited. To reserve a ticket, stop by the veterans services office in the Town Offices Building at 36 Bartlet St.

Andover will observe Veterans Day on Tuesday, Nov. 11, with three brief ceremonies at the local cemeteries followed by a luncheon. The ceremonies are planned for 10 a.m. at West Parish Cemetery, 11 a.m. at Spring Grove Cemetery and noon at Ballardvale Green. The luncheon will follow at 1 p.m. at the Masonic Temple at 7 High St.

The Veterans Day program will be held even in inclement weather. However, in the event of moderate to heavy rain, a brief ceremony will be held at Elm Green at noon, followed by services indoors at the Masonic Temple.

For more information about either event, call the town's veterans services office at 978-623-8218.

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<b>High: 57°</b> <b>Low: 37°</b>	<b>High: 52°</b> <b>Low: 39°</b>	<b>High: 49°</b> <b>Low: 33°</b>	<b>High: 43°</b> <b>Low: 30°</b>	<b>High: 49°</b> <b>Low: 35°</b>	<b>High: 57°</b> <b>Low: 44°</b>	<b>High: 61°</b> <b>Low: 41°</b>

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