

Merrimack Valley Happenings...

News of current economic developments and cultural events
from the Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council.

January 4, 2012

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BUSINESS AND ECONOMY NEWS

The Merrimack Valley cities of Amesbury, Haverhill, Methuen, Lowell and Newburyport have newly-inaugurated mayors:



Amesbury - Mayor Thatcher W. Kezer, III

- ❖ *The Daily News of Newburyport:* [Meeting the challenges - Kezer aims to invest in infrastructure, rebrand town as city; Mayor Kezer's inaugural address](#)



Haverhill – Mayor James J. Fiorentini

- ❖ *The Eagle-Tribune:* [Fiorentini begins record fifth term](#)



Lowell: Patrick O. Murphy

- ❖ *The Lowell Sun:* [Murphy sworn in as youngest mayor](#)



Methuen: Stephen N. Zanni

- ❖ *The Eagle-Tribune:* [Zanni sworn in as mayor](#)



Newburyport – Mayor Donna D. Holaday

- ❖ *The Daily News of Newburyport:* [Mayor Holaday's inaugural address](#)



Lawrence Mayor William Lantigua is beginning the third year of a four-year term



Northern Essex Community College is moving forward with construction of a \$27.4 million Health & Technology Center in downtown Lawrence.

- ❖ *The Eagle-Tribune:* [InTown Mall demolition begins today, making way for college health technologies building](#)

Raytheon

Raytheon's Integrated Defense Systems (IDS) unit landed a \$582.5 million contract to provide radar gear as part of a missile-defense system for the United Arab Emirates. Raytheon employs about 6,000 people at IDS facilities in Tewksbury and Andover.

- ❖ *The Lowell Sun:* [Raytheon lands \\$582.5M as part of UAE contract](#)



Barrow Development Group has purchased the 23-acre Haverhill Paperboard Co. site along the Merrimack River in Bradford. Future use of the property – to be called “Pentucket Park” - could include residential, commercial and recreational development.

- ❖ *The Eagle-Tribune:* [Developer buys former Haverhill Paperboard site](#)



Nancy Colbert Puff, former planning director in Newburyport, will be chief of staff for Methuen's new mayor, **Stephen Zanni**.

- ❖ *The Eagle-Tribune:* [Zanni firming up his City Hall leadership team](#)



Lawrence Municipal Airport in North Andover has 220 workers, an \$8 million payroll, and an annual output of goods and services totaling \$23 million.

- ❖ *The Eagle-Tribune:* [Airport important economic engine for Merrimack Valley](#)



New or growing companies in the Merrimack Valley are invited to enter the [2012 North of Boston Business Plan Competition](#) - 1st Prize - \$5,000, 2nd Prize - \$3,000, 3rd Prize - \$2,000; entry deadline Friday, January 27, 2012; [entry forms/information](#)



The Massachusetts Economic Assistance Coordinating Council (EACC) has approved 14 projects for participation in the state's [Economic Development Incentive Program \(EDIP\)](#), including several Merrimack Valley companies:

- ❖ [Red Hat, Inc.](#) (Westford) - Founded in 1993, Red Hat is the leader in enterprise Linux, serving global enterprises with technology and services. In 2002 the Westford location became their Global Engineering Headquarters. Red Hat will invest over \$50 million, create 181 new jobs and retain 233 current jobs.
- ❖ [Kronos, Inc.](#) (Chelmsford) – Kronos develops and services of human resource management systems for organizations. Kronos will invest \$2.5 million, retaining 1,048 employees.
- ❖ [HB Software Solutions](#) (North Andover/Lowell) - web and mobile service provider for government programs. The company will invest \$2.6 million to purchase and renovate an abandoned building in Lowell, retain 15 existing employees and hire 10 new employees.
- ❖ [Comfort Home Care LLC](#) (Methuen) - home health and nursing agency will invest \$6 million to renovate a dilapidated at a gateway into the City of Methuen, retain 98 employees and hire 100 new employees.
 - *The Lowell Sun:* [State signs off on Red Hat tax proposal](#)
- ❖ The EACC also approved the application by the [Town of Georgetown](#) to be a designated Economic Target Area (ETA). The designation will enable Georgetown to offer companies EDIP tax incentives to locate and expand in the community



The [Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership](#) is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

- ❖ *The Lowell Sun*: [25 Years Helping to Open Doors](#)



[Merrimack Valley Planning Commission](#):

- ❖ MVPC newsletter – [“Region Matters” – Winter 2011/12](#)
- ❖ [Citizen Planner Training Workshops](#) –Certification Program; four sessions, begin Jan. 2012



[Northern Middlesex Council of Governments](#) [Northern Middlesex Council of Governments](#):

- ❖ [Greater Lowell Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2009-2013 Narrative](#)



[City of Lowell - Office of Economic Development](#):



[City of Lawrence](#):

- ❖ [“Moving Lawrence Forward”](#) newsletter

HIGHER EDUCATION NEWS



University of
Massachusetts
UMASS Lowell

[UMass Lowell news & events](#):

- ❖ [Merrimack Valley Housing Report](#)



Northern Essex
Community College

[NECC news & events](#):

- ❖ Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 24 – May 9, 10:45 a.m. to noon, - .Richard Padova will teach “Quest for the Presidency” - three-credit course, open to the public; Haverhill campus; Info/register: 978-556-3700.
- ❖ [iHealth@NECC](#) offers an Associate Degree in General Studies: Health Studies and Certificates in Phlebotomy, Emergency Management, Health Care Technician, and Medical Billing. Certification courses will be offered in advanced cardiac life support and pediatric advanced life support.
- ❖ [Register for Non-credit Courses](#) and programs
- ❖ [Workforce Development Services](#) offers customized training and consulting services
- ❖ [White Fund Enlightenment Series](#)



Community College

[Middlesex Community College news and events](#):

- ❖ MCC [CompTia certificate](#) exam prep courses begin Jan. 10
- ❖ MCC’s [Writing Technical Information Certificate](#) -120 hour program begins Feb 16, 2012.
- ❖ *Valley Dispatch*: [MCC offers nurse-assistant program](#)
- ❖ Actor and Parkinson’s disease activist **Michael J. Fox** will headline MCC’s Celebrity Forum on June 15 at Lowell Memorial Auditorium. Tickets are \$35 and \$25, available at the LMA box office and [online](#).
 - ❖ *The Lowell Sun*: [MCC's next production? A blockbuster starring Michael J. Fox](#)
- ❖ MCC [Business and Industry Programs](#) assist employers with writing work-force training grants and offers credit and non-credit courses
 - ❖ [Online Career Training Certificates - Virtual Information Session](#).



[Suffolk University MBA -North Campus](#), Riverwalk, 360 Merrimack St., Lawrence:

- ❖ 2012 Info Sessions: Tues., Feb. 7, 6:00 p.m., Room 323; Wed., March 7, 6:00 p.m., Room 418; Thurs., April 12, 6:00 p.m., Room 418; Wed., June 13, 6:00 p.m., Room 323



Boston University's Metropolitan College offers a Master of Science in Computer Science and a variety of IT courses at its [North Campus in Chelmsford](#).



[Enterprise Center at Salem State University news and events:](#)

- ❖ New or growing companies in the Merrimack Valley are invited to enter the [2012 North of Boston Business Plan Competition](#) - 1st Prize - \$5,000, 2nd Prize - \$3,000, 3rd Prize - \$2,000; entry deadline Friday, January 27, 2012; [entry forms/information](#)

BUSINESS GROUPS



[Merrimack Valley Venture Forum:](#)



[Merrimack Valley Sandbox: VIDEO](#) - Student Entrepreneurs in the Sandbox Ecosystem

[Greater Lawrence Young Professionals Network \(GLYPN\):](#)



[North of Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau:](#)

- ❖ [NBCVB Newsletter – Jan. 4, 2012](#)
- ❖ Fri., Feb. 3, 8:00 a.m.-1:45 p.m.: 6th Annual Tourism Summit; Marriott Peabody; [register online](#)



Greater Merrimack Valley
Convention & Visitors Bureau
adventures await

[Greater Merrimack Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau:](#)



[Valley Works Career Center:](#)

[Business Services:](#) Funding, Hiring Incentives, Job Posting, Labor Market Information, On-The-Job Training

[Events:](#) Hiring Events, Speakers, Networking for Professionals



[Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board](#)



[Greater Lowell Workforce Investment Board:](#)



[Career Center of Lowell:](#)

- ❖ Friday, Jan. 20, 10:00 a.m.: Workshop - "Successful Interviewing Skills & Professional Presence" – guest speaker Lisa Dowling, District Human Resource Manager of Home Depot; free, open to the public, but registration required – (978) 805-4735



[Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce :](#)

- ❖ [Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce news and events](#)
- ❖ Wednesday, Jan. 11, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.: W.I.S.E. (Women Inspiring Success and Empowerment quarterly meeting - Topic: New Year's Resolutions; Keynote Speaker: Molly Salans, LICSW; free, open to all women in business; Enterprise Bank, 222 Merrimack Street – Lowell
- ❖ Tues., Jan.17, 5:00 -7:00 p.m.: Networking After Hours - Fairhaven Healthcare Center, Lowell)



[Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce:](#)



[Amesbury Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Foundation:](#)

- ❖ Weds., Jan. 18, 7:30 a.m.: Chamber Breakfast Series - Serving the Community; Amesbury Sports Park - 12 South Hunt Road; members \$15 - non-members \$20 - Reserve by Jan. 13



[Greater Newburyport Chamber of Commerce and Industry:](#)



[Salisbury Chamber of Commerce:](#)



[Billerica Community Alliance:](#)



Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce:

- ❖ Friday, Jan. 13, 7:30 - 9:15 a.m.: [Mayors & Managers Breakfast Forum](#); Andover Country Club; \$25 members, \$50 non-members



Young Professionals of Greater Lowell:



Lowell Small Business Assistance Center

- ❖ [LSBAC December Newsletter](#)



Newburyport Cleantech Center:



Merrimack Valley Transportation Management Association (TMA) - employers and property owners working to address employee transportation issues in I-93 and I-495 corridors of the Merrimack Valley

ARTS, CULTURE, NATURE, RECREATION



Merrimack Valley radio 980WCAP – Thursdays, 9:10 a.m.: MVEDC’s **Dave**

Tibbetts offers highlights of this week’s “Merrimack Valley happenings”; [Listen online](#).



Merrimack Valley Magazine’s January /February 2012 issue- Bridal Guide

Restaurants
in the Merrimack Valley



[Click here for](#) dozens of fine restaurants in the Merrimack Valley.

- ❖ **Babylon** and **Abu Nawas** are two of Lowell’s newest restaurants; *Boston Globe*: [Two Iraqi families open restaurants in Lowell](#)



Blue Ocean Music Hall on the ocean at Salisbury Beach:

- ❖ Thurs Jan 5, 7:30 p.m.: WOKQ Country Night - The Tom Dixon Band
- ❖ Fri, Jan. 6, 8:00 p.m.: Edwin McCain
- ❖ Sat, Feb. 4, 8:00 p.m.: Paul D'Angelo
- ❖ Sat., Feb. 11, 8:00 p.m.: 3rd Annual NE Winter Blues Festival



Creative Haverhill:



Haverhill Historical Society/Buttonwoods Museum:

Sat., Jan. 14, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.: book release party - “Legendary Locals of Haverhill,” by Christopher and Nancy Obert; highlights Haverhill citizens who “have shown courage and determination to make it a better place to live,” including Hannah Dustin, Rowland Macy, Carlos Pena, Andre Dubus, Tom Bergeron; free.



John Greenleaf [Whittier Birthplace](#), 305 Whittier Road, Haverhill:

- ❖ Sat. & Sun., Feb. 11 & 12: "Snowbound" Weekend at Whittier's Birthplace; free.



[Pear Tree Publishing](#), Haverhill:

- ❖ Friday, Jan. 20, 6:00- 9:00 p.m.: Authors' Night at the Vineyard; Zorvino Vineyards, 226 Main Street, Sandown, NH; more than 70 authors will attend, including WMUR-TV Meteorologist Josh Judge and actor Mark Goddard, who played Major Don West on TV's Lost in Space.
- ❖ Pear Tree has published Two new books by local authors:
 - "Dangerous Shoals" - third in the Jack Beale Mystery series by K.D. Mason
 - "Poems and Praises" - poetry Jeanette C. Parker. illustrated by Bernadette M. Prophet
- ❖ [Arcadia Publishing](#) announces the first in a new "Legendary Locals" series of books: "Legendary Locals of Haverhill, Massachusetts" by Nancy and Christopher Obert, owners of Pear Tree Publishing of Bradford.



Alive. Unique. Inspiring. [Lowell events](#) website



Thursday – Saturday, Feb. 9 - 11: Lowell's [WinterFest 2012](#) - food, music & fun



The [Cultural Organization of Lowell \(COOL\)](#)



[Lowell Memorial Auditorium](#), 50 East Merrimack St., Lowell:

- ❖ Tues., Jan 17, 7:30 p.m.: Golden Gloves Boxing Tournament begins
- ❖ Thurs., Jan. 19 - Sunday, Jan. 22: Sesame Street Live! 1-2-3 Imagine! With Elmo and Friends
- ❖ Sun., Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m.: Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles
- ❖ Sat Feb 11, 8:00 p.m.: Blast!
- ❖ Tue Feb 14, 8:00 p.m.: Big Hearts Comedy Show featuring Paul D'Angelo, Jimmy Dunn & Tony V



[American Textile History Museum](#), 491 Dutton Street, Lowell:



[UMass Lowell Art Galleries:](#)

[University Gallery](#), McGauvran Student Center, UML South, 71 Wilder St., Lowell

[Dugan Gallery](#), UML South, 883 Broadway St., Lowell



[Western Avenue Studios](#), 122 Western Avenue, Lowell: Two buildings, six floors and 143 studios filled with artists working in all disciplines, media and styles, near the heart of downtown Lowell:

- ❖ [The Loading Dock Gallery](#) at Western Avenue Studios:



[Arts League of Lowell \(ALL\) Gallery](#), 24 Shattuck Street, Lowell:



[Ayer Lofts Gallery](#), 172 Middle Street, Lowell:



[Lowell National Historical Park](#), 246 Market Street, Lowell:



[The Brush Art Gallery & Studios](#), 256 Market Street, Lowell:

- ❖ Through Jan. 21: Annual Brush Members' Art Exhibition with the New England Sculptors Association



[Revolving Museum](#), 290 Jackson Street, Lowell:



[Merrimack Repertory Theatre](#), 50 E. Merrimack Street, Lowell:

- ❖ January 5-January 29: "The Voice of the Turtle" by John Van Druten
- ❖ February 9-March 4: Daddy Long Legs (adapted from the Jean Webster novel)
- ❖ March 15-April 8: "Mrs. Whitney" by John Kolvenbach
- ❖ April 19-May 13: "Ghost-Writer" by Michael Hollinger



[Whistler House Museum of Art](#), 243 Worthen Street, Lowell:



[Pollard Memorial Library](#), 401 Merrimack St., Lowell:

- ❖ Thursday, Jan. 12, 6:30 p.m.: Independent Film - "Karen Cries on the Bus"



[Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell](#):

- ❖ Fri. – Sun., Jan. 6 – 8: 28th Annual [Colonial Classic Synchronized Skating Competition](#)



[PCA Westford's Parish Center for the Arts](#):

- ❖ Sat., Jan. 14, 8:00 p.m.: Jazz - Vanessa Collier Quartet; [buy tickets online – MVArts.INFO](#)



The [LiveLawrence](#) - online calendar for community events in Lawrence



[Lawrence History Center](#), 6 Essex St., Lawrence:

- ❖ Thursday, January 12, 10:00 a.m.: Ribbon cutting & Commemoration – **Bread & Roses Centennial Exhibit** "Short pay! All out!" The Great Lawrence Strike of 1912; Everett Mill, 6th Floor, 15 Union Street, Lawrence; free and open to the public; at 9:00 a.m., a re-enactment of the events of January 12, 1912 will begin at the Everett Mill and proceed down Essex Street to City Hall.



[Lawrence Heritage State Park](#), One Jackson Street, Lawrence:



[Essex Art Center](#), 56 Island Street, Lawrence:

Chester F. Sidell & Elizabeth A. Beland Galleries:

❖ [Register now open for winter classes](#)



[Addison Gallery of American Art](#), Phillips Academy, Andover: Free, open to the public



[Rogers Center for the Arts, Merrimack College](#), North Andover:

Discover Amesbury!

[Discover Amesbury](#) - online guide to downtown Amesbury



[Whittier Home Museum](#), 86 Friend Street, Amesbury:



[Amesbury Sports Park](#), 12 South Hunt Road, Amesbury - Snow Tubing; guests who bring a non-perishable food or toiletry item receive \$2 off a 3 hour tubing pass.



Find out about "all things Newburyport"- [Stay in The Loop – Holiday Edition](#)



Sat., Jan 14, - 3:00 - 9:00 p.m.: [Newbury Fire Rescue Bonfire](#); Tendercrop Growing field, 71 High Rd (Rte. 1A), Newbury; free; (\$5 parking)

❖ *The Daily News of Newburyport:* [Old Newbury Bonfire a roaring end to the holidays](#)



[YWCA Greater Newburyport](#):

❖ Monday, Jan. 16, 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.: 19th Annual [Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast](#); Newburyport City Hall; keynote - Aimée Sands, poet and independent documentary filmmaker; \$25



[Firehouse Center for the Arts](#), Newburyport:

- ❖ Dec. 28 – Jan. 29: Gallery - "Beyond Our Vision;" Jeremy Barnard photography; reception Sat., Jan. 7, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
- ❖ Sat., Jan. 7, 3:00 & 7:00 p.m.: Warren Miller extreme-ski film "Like There's No Tomorrow;" \$11; \$9 students, seniors, members
- ❖ Friday and Saturday, Jan. 20 - 21 and Jan. 27 – 28, 8:00 p.m.: New Works Festival; \$13, festival passes (all four nights) \$38.



[Newburyport Art Association](#), 65 Water Street, Newburyport:



[Custom House Maritime Museum](#), 25 Water Street Newburyport:



[Bridge Gallery](#), 1R Water Street, Newburyport:

❖ January and February: Winter Trunk Show and Sale



[Joppa Flats Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary](#), Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport

- ❖ Jan. 8 – Feb. 26: "Observations." paintings of landscapes and wildlife by Lully Schwartz, Joan Merrill, and Carol Reynolds; reception Sun., Jan. 8, 2:30-4:00 pm.
- ❖ [Sat., Feb. 11: 7th Annual Merrimack River Eagle Festival](#)



[Essex National Heritage Area](#):

*The Merrimack Valley
Economic Development Council
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9/30/11