



"Undocumented farm worker somewhere near by. Always living in fear of discovery, but holding on to the American Dream of total acceptance and a better future. Photo taken in 2008." Ron Tesler



A conversation  
about local issues  
on WRFR,  
Wednesdays  
from 5 to 6 pm



Mike  
Mullins

Join the Metro Show this Wednesday at 5 pm. Our guest will be Michael Mullins, Republican candidate to represent Rockland and Owls Head in the Maine House of Representatives.

Mike has been the CEO of Mullins Management Company, Inc. since 2006. According to his LinkedIn page: "As president, operate affordable housing business with 901 apartments and annual revenues of \$11.4m. Responsible for development, joint venture negotiations, relationships with regulatory agencies, and asset management oversight of three management companies with a combined rental portfolio of 4,800 units. Development experience includes planning, permitting, public relations, and project management. Projects include two institutional quality apartment complexes (406 units), two 70+ acre town center mixed-use developments (439 units), and three smaller commercial projects from 30,000 to 150,000 square feet.

Mike is also founder and president of Citizens for Maine, which he describes as an "informal, not-for-profit political advocacy organization dedicated to preservation of the Maine way of life. We support preservation of the working agricultural landscape, preservation and support of our historic cities and towns, bottom-up economic development, and support both strong communities and direct government."

Our Metro conversation will cover all of these subjects, and of course Mike's political views in general, and his ideas for State government. Your phone calls are always welcome, so join the conversation next Wednesday at 5 pm on Knox County's only local radio: WRFR, 93.3 fm Rockland, 99.3 fm Camden, and online at wrfr.org.

### Down Main Street with Phil Groce

## A Way with Dough

Salvatore Bucchieri. I love saying that name. Beyond having a musical name, Sal had a notable feature relating to Rockland. Sal started the Dunkin' Donuts at the base of North Main. Born in South Boston of parents who immigrated from Sicily, he worked at a Stoneham DD after army service and a bakery job. A promising youth who learned fast, had a way with people, especially with his humor, he was hired, in the late 1960's, as one of the instructors at the Dunkin' Donuts University in Newton where prospective franchisees learned the business.

Sal and his wife, Marilyn, had two daughters, and when the youngest, Marilyn (named after her mother, though everyone calls her Lyn), was about to graduate from high school, the family decided to move to Rockland, even though none of them had even been there. Tired of city life. That was 1971. Sal had support of the company, and the company found the present location to build. Sal and a friend from Boston, Ed Bailey, who also worked at the University, were in partnership and hence responsible for land and construction costs. The company gave support on what to construct. Can't stray from company guidelines. After about a year, Sal bought out Ed's share.

As a franchisee Sal had to pay a monthly franchise fee, and he had to buy all supplies for the donuts and making donuts from DD. In turn, DD had an on-site team that helped new owners to learn the ropes, and that went on for months, if necessary. Brand consistency, service, and community involvement, were paramount.

Lyn, the daughter, now in her 60's, lives in Union. She is telling me all this. "The whole family came to Rockland in the winter of 1970. It scared the crap out of me. Here I was just finishing high school in the Boston area, and we come to a place where there are no people. The streets were deserted. What were we doing! We moved up in June, just after graduation and rented a small apartment over the Leather Bench in Camden."

Sal made the donuts out back. Lyn 'finished' the donuts, and carried them out front. Her sister, Mary, and Mother were at the counter. No drive-up then, and the counter had stools that extended across the store winding around to the back wall. Plenty of regulars sat at the counter every morning. According to Lyn's memory, the store was either open 24 hours or at least well into the night.

Lyn remembers the first day, and the family was talking in the presence of Loren Athearn and his father who were installing a cigarette machine (Loren's father owned the vending company). Loren's eyes drank in these two beautiful dark hair young ladies and wanted to know if they were married. He learned that Mary was engaged to a boy in Wilmington, but Lyn was free. Loren had just finished the installation and was leaving. With a Cupid's arrow deeply embedded in his heart, Loren looked at Lyn and said he would be back. That night he told his mother that he met the girl he was to marry.

He was back. In fact, he came in many times late in the evenings after his work, hoping to see Lyn, not knowing that she worked earlier in the day. One day he came in to stock cigarettes, and there was Lyn carrying out a tray. He asked her for a date. Eleven months later they were married.

I asked Lyn if her father minded that Loren was so interested in her, that he resisted, maybe being a bit 'old school.' "Loren was the same age as Dad when he got married, and I was 18, which was when my mother got married. Dad liked Loren."

I asked her what it was like working there. "Long hours. My father worked hard. He would let you know if something was out of line. He kept a close eye on the donut inventory, and he could adjust his production to what was needed. If any of the donuts weren't timely sold, he threw them in a bucket for a farmer with pigs. I don't think DD's make their donuts on-site anymore.

"He thought their Victor brand of coffee was the best anywhere. Had to be made exactly to DD's requirements. All the cups were made of glass, and there was 'bottomless cup' with the coffee—free refills. No food, but pastries, orange juice and milk. Simple. Against the rules, Dad made birthday cakes to order at home, but he decorated them at the store. He made the double wedding cake for the double wedding of Mary and I. After marriage, Loren and I lived for 2 years in what we all called the Hippie High Rise apartments in Union.

"Dad kept his Pall Malls on a little shelf next to his work bench. You could smoke most anywhere in those days. Didn't bother me, but no one could get him to stop [including me, since I was his doctor]. It was part of him. He developed celiac disease, and he had to stop eating pasta and bread—agonizing to a Sicilian. Not donuts, because he hated them anyway.

"Worse of all, was my mother dying in 1976. Nothing was the same. He sold the business 5 years later. He worked at Four Corner Variety, which Loren and I started in Union. He had a way with dough, and he made great pizzas."

I remember my wife calling in for a pizza, and she doesn't like black olives. In true Sicilian fashion, Sal told her that pizza wasn't pizza without olives. Lyn said that if someone called in to order a small Italian, Sal would always say, "Well, I'm a small Italian."

In March 1998 Sal began to lose weight and energy. Eleven months later he died of lung cancer. He was 71 years young. The mid-coast lost a not so small Italian . . . American.



Marilyn and Sal Bucchieri

COVID-19 RANDOM NOTES WHILE SHELTERING IN PLACE

by Phyllis Merriam

My crows love peanuts-in-the-shell and somehow manage to wedge three or four into their beaks before they fly off to shell them. "Broken Wing" has brought two offspring along with her. They try to get her to feed them; she just role models.

Discovered what looked like a big brown rat burrowing under my re-cycled plastic mulch bin. It scurried away under the deck of a neighbor. Arrrgh! I don't put any meat or dairy in the mulch bin. Rats are opportunistic diners. It looks much bigger than the brown rat I trapped in the attic last winter. This has grossed me out.

Speaking of dining - I've discovered really, really wonderful Thai pizza at Spice Pizzeria (spicepizzeria.com) on Route 90 in Rockport: and other genuine Thai delights for online ordering with curbside delivery. Gluten free items are available.

Its reassuring that staff follow CDC guidelines gloved, masked with face shields.

I'm becoming obsessed and anxious about all the people I see without masks.

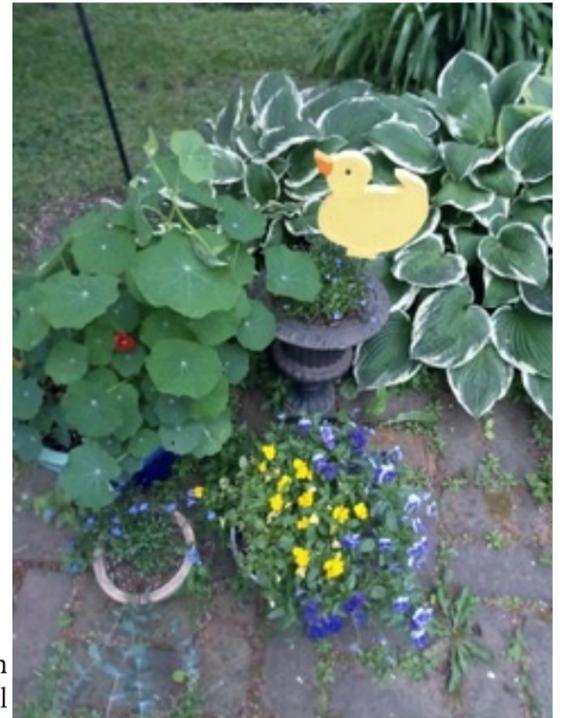
With all the huge resurgences of COVID-19 in many other states, Maineiacs must be cautious and keep to CDC recommendations. A friend, who regularly walks around Rockland, reported seeing pretty good compliance among pedestrians on Main Street - except among groups of people. It can become challenging to pass others and keep the 6' distance on our city's sidewalks. Cases have increased after Memorial Day crowds. July 4th will likely be a repeat. A friend drove north during the July 4th weekend and was astonished at the long, long lines of out-of-state cars coming into Maine. I hope the tourists spend like there's no tomorrow and don't bring any unwanted gifts of covid with them.

Listening to a Maine Public Radio call-in program about covid unemployment issues, I can only conclude that being the commissioner of the Maine Dept. of Labor must be the most thankless job in the state. And far, far worse are the thousands of Maine's covid-unemployed who must navigate an overwhelmed complex, and outdated computer-based application system all the while waiting weeks, months for their benefits as their cars are re-possessed, they lose their apartments, have to use food banks, borrow from family, friends, lose sleep, try to stay sane. While the commissioner sounded empathetic, sympathy doesn't feed a family. I thought my head might explode listening to the process jibber jabber noise. Maine and our country's covid unemployed should be valued First Responders, too.

The city council has mandated masks in downtown Rockland and indoor public spaces through out the city. This is symbolic and totally unenforceable. Only an order from the governor is enforceable. Will tourists, who've been arriving since Memorial Day, going to comply? Will there be city signage? Will the mask-less male customers I see in the hardware store comply? Those who declare it's a matter of their freedom to go mask-less are denying others the freedom to be Covid-free. Bumper sticker: "Real Men Wear Masks."

Venus, the brightest star named after the goddess of beauty and love, glitters in a schooner's rigging. We can all use beauty and love during these strange times.

Looked out my kitchen window to see a cheerful sight from an anonymous gift-giver: A large, bright yellow carved wooden baby chick sitting in a patio flowerpot. There has been much controversy in Rockland about whether people should be able to raise poultry in our city's neighborhoods. Well, my yellow chick will not violate any ordinances and give me much low maintenance pleasure. Thank you!



Pizza Frenzie



The Buzz happened to be walking past Rotary Pizza on Saturday night and witnessed an unusual event. A live band, with a bunch of fans dancing around eating pizza and drinking beer.

The band was great, not a copy of anything, a creative expression with fluid skill at a level worthy of wonder. The pizza and beer were good too.

Sadly, it was the penultimate night for Rotary, closed again.

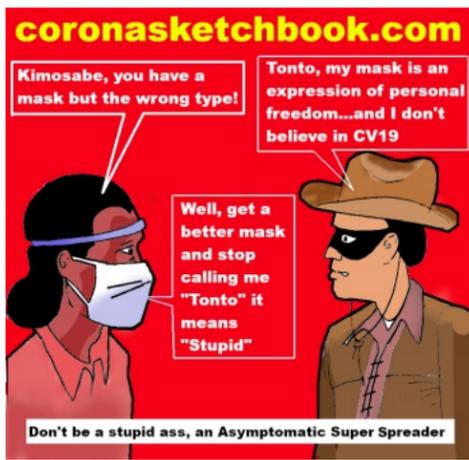
The band is Frenzie. Check out frenzie.bandcamp.com



Masked Mass

To the millions billions sewn and stamped hanging on strings signifying fear caution kindness and membership in superior thinkers. "Unmask the unmasked deplorable dirty danger." Perhaps (however) kindness could extend to respectful appeal to equal millions billions.

Joe Steinberger



Glen Birbeck

Join the Buzz team: 596-0731

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