

Joan Marie's
in Wilmot

Tanning Bed & Hair Styling

Specializing in Hair Color
Cut & Style Wigs
Unisex for All Ages

**The Only Tanning Bed
in Town!**

Reiki II

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

526-2109

M, W, Th, F: 7:30-12:30 & 3-8
Sat: 7:30-12:30

**Do You Have
EXTRA EGGS
From Your Hens?**

**Donate them to the
ANDOVER
FOOD PANTRY**

**Bring them in to the
basement of the
Town Hall anytime
the building is open.**

Empty egg cartons needed, too!

Mario Ratzki Shares First Impressions Of The NH House

Surprisingly, there's no "other side of the aisle"

By Larry Chase
Concord Monitor

From the January 8 Concord Monitor
Since winning a seat in the New Hampshire House of Representatives in November, 60-year-old Democrat Mario Ratzki of Andover has been spending 20 to 30 hours a week learning some of the ropes of state government.

The experience has been a new one for Ratzki, a former Boston-area business owner who has never before held public office. During a recent interview, he offered these observations:

- Once you're elected, incoming communications – e-mail, regular mail, phone calls – can quickly seem overwhelming. They come from state agencies, your political party, town and county government officials in your district, fellow legislators, lobbyists, individual constituents. Much of it is informational and orientational: what's going on in the State House and your role in that activity. Many other communications bring problems for you to acknowledge, respond to, and solve. (When you can.)

- You get two days of official "New Legislator Orientation." This includes introductions all around, office tours, mock sessions and committee hearings. One lesson learned: If you must pass directly between the speaker of the House and the seated representatives during a legislative session, you must apologize.

- The House Democratic Caucus has its own Policy Agenda Day and Organization Day, attendance strongly recommended.

- Main sources of House-related information: (1) the State of New Hampshire House of Representatives Web site, which tells you where you need to be, what you'll be dealing with, and with whom; and (2) The Black Book, issued to every member, which tells you how to behave once you get there.

- You also get a 44-page booklet about ethical behavior, and a financial disclosure form requiring you to identify certain "sources of income" and "disclosure of financial interests" in "certain businesses, professions, occupations, groups, or matters."

- The 16-page "New Legislator Orientation Manual" sets forth in very general terms how the legislative branch of New Hampshire state government operates.

- A weekly "House Calendar" comes in the mail and is also available on-line. In the most recent edition, Ratzki is identified as having been assigned Seat Number 2047.

- You automatically become a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

- Your choices of committee assignments are not always honored.

(But Ratzki's appointment to the Public Works and Highways committee is considered by at least one local select-person as an important plus.)

- While there's no formal mentoring or buddy system to help acclimate new members, most House veterans are readily approachable and available to discuss issues, answer questions and provide advice.

- On the other hand, there's the occasional long-term member who knows the issues like the back of his hand and doesn't feel a need to hear the opinions of a rookie. You learn this fairly quickly.

- So far at least, there's a high degree of civility. One surprise: Since members are assigned seats without regard to party affiliation, there will be no "other side of the aisle" to point fingers at.

- You get a plastic name tag to aid in introductions. The name tag does not identify party affiliation.

- You get \$100 a year for your time.

- There's a dress code. Gentlemen should wear a necktie and jacket. The rest is pretty much up to you.

- There's a competent and supportive legislative staff available to help you do research, craft proposed legislation, and find the rest rooms.

- Main perk: the special "House of Representatives" license plate. Up to two sets per member are offered. But if you want them, they're \$9 a set.

- Other major perk: free assigned parking.

- You get a half-hour briefing by local newspaper and TV reporters, the major point of which is that they are there to report on legislative activities, not to ambush legislators.

- Unless you're a diehard on either end of the political spectrum, there are no black-and-white issues. Applying common sense and considering all sides (which Ratzki promised to do during his campaign) can be a lot of work. And require a lot of listening. (He's trying hard.)

- Introducing a bill can be a complex process if you're trying to learn all the ins and outs of the issue being addressed, and the legislative process itself. (Ratzki's first effort: a bill to recoup \$4 million in payments owed to New Hampshire by Massachusetts as a result of flood-control agreements dating back to the 1950s, has so far, with staff help, gone smoothly.)

- Battling the entrenched bureaucracy in state agencies can be tough. Early lesson learned: Almost anyone can say no to a request, but only a select few can say yes. It pays sometimes to go straight to the top.

- The importance of maintaining constituent relations on a continuing basis is emphasized repeatedly. (In response, in a letter to the Andover Beacon, Ratzki has committed to "keep See Ratzki on page 31

18th Annual
ChocolateFest

Chocolate
Challenge

March 9, 2013 • 12-2pm

Colby-Sawyer College, Wheeler Hall,
Ware Campus Center, New London, NH

Attendees sample with sweet gusto all the chocolate
treats and then vote for their favorite.

Tickets: \$10 each kids 5 and under free



Lake Sunapee Region
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

For more information:
877.526.6575
chamberinfo@tds.net
www.lakesunapeenh.org

The
Village
Sweep



"Chimney Stuff"

- Cleaning/Inspections
- Repair/Construction
- Relining
- Waterproofing
- Caps
- Prefab Chimneys
- Wood, Pellet, and Gas Stove Installations

Rick Estes
603-735-5300

Serving Andover and the Surrounding Area Since 1977

**Dog Training &
Behavior Consultant**

Author of *Changing People, Changing Dogs*

WINTER CLASSES

Saturdays at SAVES, Lebanon

Saturdays at Woodlawn Kennels, Warner

COMING IN FEBRUARY

Saturdays at NLOC, New London

Sundays at No Monkey Business Dog Training, Bow

Also private consultations available at your house or
place of convenience.

Visit my Web site for more details: DeesDogs.com

Call for times & fees! • 603-735-5543



WWW.DEESDOGS.COM

Dee Ganley
CPDT-KSA, CBCC-KA, CCAP2
Private Consultations;
Aggression is My Specialty
Dee@DeesDogs.com
735-5543