

## Is there a comic in the house?

# Around

"I don't know why people feel compelled to tell us about their lives at 80 mph," muses 15-year Windham resident Steve Guilmette of bumper stickers. The Buddy Hackett-esque fellow would prefer truth-on-bumper-stickers. "My eight children all have different fathers," he suggests to the amused crowd before him.

Another suggestion: Loan officers and gas stations join forces. The sign out in front of the Sunoco would read, "Gasoline: \$2.38 a gallon. Financing available."

Steve, 46, is paid for his observations. Just a few weeks ago, the wise-cracking father of two boys retired from the lending business to do stand-up comedy full-time. Last fall he completed a six-week course in the rudiments of comedy. Professional comedian David Rattigan taught the Northern Essex Community College class.

Since then he has been performing at the Broad Street Grille in Merrimac, Mass.; the Chateau in Manchester; the Comedy Connections in Boston and Portland, Maine and the Grog in Newburyport to name a few. He will be hosting and performing at a fundraiser at the Roma restaurant in Haverhill on June 24.

"It's observational humor -- everyday stuff we all do like going to the doctor or skiing...but with a twist," he explains. His favorite comedian is the czar of such comedy, Jerry Seinfeld.

"He touches upon things that we touch every day, but we don't see the silliness. That's what I aspire to be -- a comedian for everyone."

By his own admission, Steve even



**Comedian Steve Guilmette keeps 'em laughing at a Merrimac restaurant/comedy club.**

looks funny. He has an animated face and rolling eyes that prompt a grin even before he digs into a bit.

One of Steve's observations is the anxiety people feel when noticing a state trooper in the rear view mirror: "Was I speeding? Do I have a taillight out? Did I kill those people?"

Then there's the \$200 worth of undies from Victoria's Secret: "You could fit all of it in a Ziplock sandwich bag."

And finally on the golf course: "What's with 'Fore!' ? I'll tell ya what fore is: the number of seconds you have to run if you hit me with a golf ball."

Steve is performing at the Comedy Connection in Boston on July 19. He, his wife Kathy and sons Michael and Tommy live on Red Fox Lane.