

## GEORGETOWN

## Georgetown Today!

Lonnie Brennan  
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

**Democrats Bring Turmoil**

While our Boston-centric legislators (obviously they pay more attention to state-wide spending than our community needs) have increased "Public Assistance" by almost \$2 billion since 2006, they have barely registered an increase in Chapter 70 funding for public schools. Elsewhere, while State pork and spending continues (well documented in the daily papers) there's little left for local services (school, police, and fire).

So, faced with their Boston-centric desire to fuel state-wide spending, the Democrats popped a 25% increase in the sales tax and meals tax, and imposed a new 6.25% sales tax on Bud, Miller, etc. The result: "Tax-Free Shopping in New Hampshire, 365 days/year" are the signs on the horizon. What's worse, we have Barry "Clyde-Feel-Good-Print-Shop" Fiengold, Harriet "Had-to-do-it" Stanley, and Barbara "Taxes" L'Italien amongst other Democrats to thank for adding more taxes, injury and turmoil to our local communities.

**Passing of a 'Hero in our midst'**

The flags flew at half-mast across Town for Electric Light Commissioner Arthur Rauseo. Mr. Rauseo has served on nearly every board in Town and dedicated 55 years to the Georgetown Fire Department. His passing will be noted by many. Please see page 36.

**Begging Developers for Town Planner Salary?**

Town Planner Nick Cracknell was slated to receive an increase in salary/hours based on a promise of matching funds from the State. But, the State suspended its 43D program and the Town is now short more than \$11K for this fiscal year. In an interesting move, the Town's Eco-

nomics Development Committee (EDC) met and decided to try to fill the gap by putting the pinch on potential developers and their bankers! Really, we don't make this stuff up! Isn't this like taking up a collection from the outlaws to fund the sheriff's salary?

EDC member Jim Lacey held out the tin cup to a local banker, Mr. Cracknell was slotted to contact real estate man Dave Massey, and EDC member Tillie Evangelista was slated to contact noted landowner Barry Enos. Does it seem a little off that the committee is seeking "contributions" from developers to fund the salary of the guy who is supposed to work for the Town? Can anyone say 'conflict of interest'? What next, a glass jar for "contributions" at Planning Board meetings?

**Best (John Bell) and Worse (Ed Kiley) Awards**

A big hats off to Conservation Commissioner John Bell who once again showed class and tact explaining the importance of protecting the Town's resources. Selectman Phil Trapani (EDC liaison) expressed displeasure that the ConCom should not stand in the way of allowing the EDC to meet their goals. It was an ugly thing to watch, even on replay as some members pressed on John Bell and ConCom chairman Carl Shreder.

And the Worse of Worse Awards nominee now rests with Housing Authority Board member Ed Kiley. The poor guy, (a Governor Patrick appointee) is going to need counseling or a straight jacket if he continues to knock himself out at board meetings, frustrated by being unable to fire the housing director. Mr. Kiley needs to either get his ducks in a row, once and for all, or take a permanent vacation off

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## BOXFORD

## Summertime blues

John McCormack  
VALLEY PATRIOT BOXFORD COLUMNIST

The Haynes Land Housing Project RFP stumbles on. The Housing Partnership Committee held a public forum on June 30, 2009 which resolved the buyer income question I raised in this column last month but leaves many questions unanswered.

Eligible "low" and "moderate" incomes were reported to be \$80,000 per year and \$108,000 per year. The HPC stated at the forum that the amounts should be about \$64,000 and \$84,800 per year. The confusion reportedly arose from the HPC's use of Boxford's median income in presentations to other town boards rather than the HUD Lawrence Metro FMR numbers. If so, this raises the question of how the HPC can be so ill informed about its presumed area of expertise. Last year when I attempted to revoke the Community Preservation Act in Boxford the Chairman of the CPA Committee opined that matching funds would not be available for future CPA taxes to retire debt already incurred if the Town revoked the Act. This was not so and I had the DOR opinion to back it up but it was another troubling and misleading statement.

The Executive Summary of the Haynes RFP states "Market rate units are also eligible only if the respondent can demonstrate that they are required to insure project feasibility." Stuart Saginor of the Community Preservation Coalition pointed out that property purchased with CPA funds can only be used for CPA purposes, in this case "community housing" (low and moderate income restricted) and not for market rate units.

This is troubling for two reasons. First, this project would be approved under Chapter 40B and if a developer feels that uneconomic conditions have been imposed he may appeal to the DHCD Housing Appeals Committee which may modify or order the issuance of a comprehensive permit if the original decision is inconsistent with "local needs." Second, CPA regulation has developed the concept of "proportionate spending," which allows CPA funds to be spent in proportion to the percentage of CPA eligible housing units in the development. This seems a recipe for a phalanx of taxpayer paid lawyers to convert this project to market rate units after the fact.

Some engineering documents accompanied the RFP. A "Soil Evaluator Form" was accompanied by a portion of a septic design. The design shows a really enormous leaching field in the access area from Middleton Road and adjacent to the project's nearest neighbor. That neighbor's land includes a vernal pool and, depending on your interpretation of Title

V and Boxford's sewerage and wetland protection regulation, the leaching field may encroach on the vernal pool.

Curiously, I don't see the well field anywhere. This will take up about four acres for the volume needed. I suspect it will be somewhere away from the leaching field. This matters because it contributes to the project's land area of 13 acres. The HPC wants to give away the land to the developer and is proportionately valuing it at \$578,000 because 13 acres is 17% of the total area which cost \$3.3 million. Wrong. The housing land is the best part and the appraisal, even the one postulating eminent domain, valued the housing parcel as two reduced frontage approval not required (ANR) lots at \$595,000 each, say \$1.2 million.

Why does this matter? First, the taxpayers may appreciate less giving away \$1.2 million than \$578,000. Second, the bondholders may object. Third, the give away amount plus interest should be assessed against the "community housing" CPA reserve. The smaller this assessment, the sooner the "affordable housing" lobby can accumulate a war chest for future activity.

Subsidized housing always raises the tax question since the taxpayer funds much of the construction and the resulting projects are taxed as little as one third of the normal amount. I don't have all the answers but the prosperous Town of Bedford which sports an 18% subsidized housing inventory (SHI) interested me. Fiscal year 2008 is the latest year with all the numbers available. Bedford's residential tax rate was \$11.38, only a little higher than Boxford's \$10.95. Bedford has a lot of industry; its population of about 12,000 doubles during the workday to 24,000 and 23% of its property valuation is commercial, industrial, or personal property (CIP). Bedford's CIP tax rate was \$25.80 since they shift taxes onto industry. Without the shift the residential tax rate would have been \$14.75. But industry doesn't send kids to school, certainly the major budget item in Boxford. If Bedford had no industry, its tax rate could be as high as \$19.25. Boxford can't afford to be like Bedford without industry.

John Belskis of Arlington will file an initiative petition this month to repeal Chapter 40B sections 20-23 effective in 2011. If you have read this far and would like to collect signatures this fall, visit repeal40B.com or contact me.



John is a Boxford resident and was vice president of Lattice Trading and Batterymarch Financial Management. You can email him at [jmacprime@yahoo.com](mailto:jmacprime@yahoo.com)



## Exchange Club of Haverhill names John Chemaly Book of Golden Deeds recipient

The Exchange Club of Haverhill recently presented John Chemaly of Trinity E.M.S. with its annual Book of Golden Deeds award. The award is presented to an individual that has made a significant impact in the Haverhill community.

Chemaly has a long history of giving back to the community and supporting the Exchange Club. His company, Trinity E.M.S., provides many communities, including Haverhill, with ambulance services. Chemaly is known for supporting many of the local non-profit groups and is the largest corporate supporter of the Exchange Club of Haverhill.

Each year Chemaly sponsors the Junior Police Program and the Haverhill Exchange Club's St. Patrick's Day Breakfast. These two programs are among the club's largest events and help to promote child

abuse prevention programs throughout the city.

Chemaly was presented with the award at a luncheon at Olivia's Restaurant in Haverhill.

The Exchange Club of Haverhill is a member club of the National Exchange Club organization, and focuses its efforts on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The club is comprised of more than 50 volunteers from the community, and is truly a 'hands on' organization. They have been recognized for achievement in their Junior Police, Fire Prevention, Sing Out Against Child Abuse and the Trees for Tots programs. They also provide two generous scholarships to youth in the community, Youth of the Year, and the ACE Award, an award designed to recognize the efforts of a student who has overcome adversity during their high school career. The club meets on Thursdays at noon at Olivia's in Haverhill. For more information visit them on the web at [www.haverhillexchangeclub.com](http://www.haverhillexchangeclub.com).

## Trinity signs 911 contract with Boxford

Trinity EMS, has recently signed a contract with the Town of Boxford, MA to service the West side of town for their 911 Emergency work. Since January 1, 2009, Trinity has signed seven (7) 911 Emergency service contracts with various communities. The Boxford contract started July 1, 2009 and will run thru June 30, 2012.

Fire Department Chief Kerry Stickney stated, "We are very pleased to have Trinity EMS a part of our Town. We are well aware of the great service they provide to our neighboring Towns and look forward to a long relationship with them." Boxford is a town of 8,600 people and the West side of town had been serviced by AMR. Trinity will share the Town's 911 work with Lyons Ambulance who has been servicing the

East side of Town for sixteen (16) years.

Trinity EMS was started in 1991 by John Chemaly, President, and Gary Sepe, Vice President, with over 55 years of health care service between them. Chemaly said "We are very excited to add Boxford to our Trinity family. It is a great fit as we continue to grow throughout the Greater Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire areas."

Currently, Trinity services numerous 911 contracts including the Cities of Lowell and Haverhill as well as the Towns of Chelmsford, Groveland, MA, Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow, Sandown, Newtown and Hampstead, NH. The company maintains several bases throughout the 495 corridor from Nashoba Valley to Cape Anne.

the board for his own health.

### Hats Off To Georgetown's Finest

The Georgetown Police Department once again showed their tremendous connection to the community at large, this time by bringing a day of happiness to a six year old cancer patient. As widely reported, the department rallied around officer Derek Jone's efforts to create a tremendous day for Connor Jones (no relation) and his family. Officer Jones met Connor through the Pan-Mass Challenge fundraising bike event (fundraiser for cancer patients). The officers provided the young Connor with an incredibly realistic mini-police uniform, a tour of the police station, and a ride in a cruiser amongst other activities.

Modern Defense Martial Arts Center (www.Modern-Defense.com) will be moving into the Theo's Restaurant building (but has no affiliation with the former karate school previously located there). Larry Ruisi will bring to the area more than 27 years teaching experience, a 4th degree black belt in small circle Jujitsu to town. Modern-Defense is currently enrolling students of all ages and levels,

and will offer Brazillian Jiu-Jitsu, Thai Kick Boxing and mixed martial arts and self-defense. Call 978-352-2291.

### Just 200 Tickets to win \$5,000.00

Your chance to win a grand prize of up to \$5000.00 at the Kadet Club, the charity fundraiser event sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

For \$70.00 you can enjoy a tremendous dinner, beverages, entertainment and a numbered ticket with a unique opportunity to win, through a reverse raffle, up to \$5000.00!

Open to all, the event will be held this year on Friday, September 18th at St. Mary's Church Hall in Rowley. Got to www.georgetownkofc.org, www.GeorgetownToday.com, or contact Jim Connolly (978) 352-8836 jimc@northeastnursery.com or Lonnie Brennan (978) 352 5449



*Lawrence "Lonnie" Brennan is a former Georgetown Selectman and is currently Vice-Chair of the Georgetown Republican Town Committee. He can be reached at [Lonnie.Brennan@verizon.net](mailto:Lonnie.Brennan@verizon.net).*

## Common Island



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### Chris Papoulias

VALLEY PATRIOT LOCAL SPORTS COLUMNIST

As the clock struck 4 p.m. on Friday July 31, 2009, Roy Halladay was still a member of the Toronto Blue Jays. J.P. Ricciardi's blockbuster deal was never brought to the table. Although there was plenty of interest to acquire the All Star rightly, he was never moved.

If ever there was a time to move a player of his caliber with only a season and a half left to go on his contract, the time was now. After this season the level of interest in a player with a year left in his contract will drop dramatically. Teams will not offer more talent for a player who can play out the year and leave for the big contract right afterwards.

Why would teams want to trade multiple upper tier prospects for a one year wonder?

The Red Sox were close to acquiring Halladay, but the Sox weren't ready to part ways with young power pitcher Daniel Bard.

However, Red Sox Nation was not to be disappointed with the acquisition of C/1B Victor Martinez for pitchers Justin Masterson, Nick Hagadone, and Bryan Price.

The Red Sox solved a big hole in their line up with this move. The struggles include Jason Bay hitting about .163 in the month of July, Kevin Youkilis' post All-Star break funk, and David Ortiz having one of the worst years of his career mixed with steroid scandals.

This move is a big lift for the Sox. Vic-

tor is coming in with 15 HR's, 67 RBI's, and a .287 average so far this season. This move should help the team make a push into the postseason. Theo Epstein also traded 1B Adam LaRoche to the braves for 1B Casey Kotchman.

Although LaRoche has a slight lead in HR's and RBI's, Kotchman has a .040 lead over LaRoche in batting average. Kotchman gives the Sox a good contact hitter coming off the bench.

Other big names on the move included Cliff Lee to the Phillies, Jake Peavey to the White Sox (again), Jarrod Washburn and his 2.87 ERA went to the Tigers. Add Orioles closer George Sherrill to the Dodgers, Nationals 1B Nick Johnson to the Marlins, Orlando Cabrera to the Twins on the list. Finally, half of the Pirates team including Freddy Sanchez, Nate McLouth, Jack Wilson, Adam LaRoche and Ian Snell were also traded this season.

The one constant with all the teams these players went to is they are all in the playoff hunt. As is every season, some teams got better, some teams got worse, and some teams stayed the same. With one of the more active deadline days, it should make for a very interesting rest of the year.



*\*Chris Papoulias is a Dracut resident, avid New England sports fan and former co-host of Front Row, a sports talk show on Dracut and Lowell Cable*

*Access with George Papoulias.*

