

NEWBURYPORT

Now calling for Artists' Submissions

Firehouse Center currently seeks new material for gallery exhibitions.

Newburyport MA, June 22, 2010. The Firehouse Center Art Gallery is now calling for submissions from artists for work to be exhibited in the gallery between March 15, 2011 and February 2012. Submissions are now being accepted and the deadline is August 16, 2010. The final selection of artists will be made by the Firehouse Visual Arts Committee by October 30, 2010. Artists may submit proposals for exhibition of two-dimensional work in any medium. Each exhibit will consist of 1 or 2 person(s), group or themed shows, and typically run for 6 weeks. Submissions should include: artist's statement and resume; 10 to 20 digital images of work indicative of the current style of the artist, a self-addressed stamped envelope for return of materials (SASE), \$20

submission fee (check made payable to Firehouse Center for the Arts), and a cover letter with name and contact information. Printed guidelines are available on the Firehouse website at www.firehouse.org. The first floor gallery accommodates 18 average size (18" X 24") art works. The Firehouse Visual Arts Committee reviews all submissions and selects artists for exhibition. The Firehouse Center Gallery has been displaying the work of New England artists since 1991. Submit all materials, including payment, by mail to the Firehouse or they may be hand-delivered to the box office addressed to: Judy Hallberg – Gallery Submissions, Firehouse Center for the Arts, Market Sq., Newburyport, MA 01950.

Senator Tisei offers statewide property tax relief proposal

Calls for casino money to be returned to homeowners, businesses

BOSTON – Senate Minority Leader Richard R. Tisei has called for the creation of a new Property Taxpayers Relief Fund that would use casino revenues to annually reduce property tax bills across the Commonwealth. Tisei filed the proposal as an amendment to the Senate's casino legislation, which is scheduled to be debated beginning on Wednesday. Under Tisei's proposal, the revenues generated through the licensing and taxing of casinos would be deposited in the new fund, and the state would use this money to issue an annual rebate check to homeowners and business owners to offset their local property tax bills. The amount of the rebate would vary from year to year, and would be determined based on the amount of revenues generated for the fund during the preceding fiscal year. "Four years ago, Governor Patrick campaigned on a promise to end the 'fiscal shell game' of high property taxes in Massachusetts," said Tisei. "But that promise was never kept, and property taxes continue to pose a major financial burden for residents. This is a chance for the Legislature to do what Governor Patrick has failed to do, which is to provide meaningful tax relief for the state's

homeowners and business owners." When Governor Patrick assumed office in 2007, the average property tax bill for a single family residence in Massachusetts was \$3,962. Last year, the average property tax bill jumped to \$4,250, representing a 7.1 percent increase. Statewide, property taxes accounted for \$10.489 billion in municipal revenues in 2007, but generated \$11.553 billion last year, according to figures compiled by the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation. That represents an increase of 9.2 percent since Patrick took office. "The state has put local communities into an impossible situation," said Tisei. "Governor Patrick has cut local aid every year he has been in office, and without a workable health care plan design option to control costs, cities and towns have been forced to rely more and more on property taxes to pay for basic municipal services and operating expenses. "Governor Patrick dropped the ball four years ago with his empty promises to the state's taxpayers," he added. "My proposal gives the Legislature the opportunity to provide the long-overdue relief Massachusetts residents have been waiting for since 2006

Georgetown, Obama, & Muslims

Lawrence "Lonnie" Brennan
VALLEY PATRIOT GEORGETOWN COLUMNIST

Georgetown tends to slow down and empty out a bit during July and August, but for those who stick around, there are many hidden gems and future events to add to your calendar, and local destinations within easy striking distance for the day traveler. But, before I get too far along, let's first stop and take note of how Mr. Barack Hussein Obama has 'boldly gone' where no president has gone before. Let me explain. As I write this column, Mr. Obama's new appointee, NASA Chief Charlie Bolden, has announced to the press both in writing and in video footage that he has been directed by the Muslim lineage bearing Obama to give NASA a new mission: go forth and seek out better relations with Muslims. Say what?

Google it. Watch the videos. Search your heart and think and pause for a minute: According to well-documented, clear video, repeated press articles, unabashed declarations with no retractions or alterations, the new mission of our United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration will shift from space exploration to, yup, gulp, pause, shake head, hold nose and shake head: Muslim diplomacy.

Can anyone remember John Fitzgerald Kennedy? Can anyone remember JFK's vision for NASA and for the American people?

Turning to Georgetown, if you're new around here, or if you've gotten yourself into a rut, you might not have visited or partaken in some of the local settings and events.

Let's start with our three ponds. Rock Pond has easy boat access near the former Rock Pond Restaurant, and parking is easy. If you want to cool off a bit, it will do. If you can find the American Legion Park (hint, seek out Georgetown Lumber Supply, the best and most helpful lumber shop around), you'll find a treasure land: swings, kiddy play lands, ball fields, basketball areas, bandstand, tennis courts, and of course, swimming, etc. Go across the pond and find easy boat access and nice fishing. The Summer Concert Series will

start soon making it a great place to spend a festive couple of hours for food and entertainment on Sunday early evenings.

Across town, you can find a cool respite in the shaded trails of Camp Denison off Nelson Street. Bring your canoe and a picnic lunch and have a great time.

Farmer's Market is starting up downtown, and before too much time goes by, we'll be having Georgetown Days in Sept. (24-26, mark the dates). Also, for those who remember that dates on the calendar are closer than they appear, be sure to stop down the Police Station and purchase a raffle ticket (only 100 are being sold, for \$20 each) to win a pair of the best seats at Fenway, and help support the Georgetown Police Department's Baseball Clinic.

Also, the Knights of Columbus is well along with sales for the Fall "Kadet Club" fundraising event. Scheduled this year for Oct. 16th, Police Chief James Mulligan will be the Master of Ceremonies. Only 200 tickets will be sold, and at press time, less than 30 are remaining at \$70 each for unlimited food, beverages, and a chance to win up to \$5,000.00. Contact any Knight or check out www.GeorgetownKofC.org for details.

Finally, a hat's off to the Georgetown Fish and Game Association for two great recent events: a magnificent Flag Day ceremony and the training and subsequent certification for awarding of merit badges to many of the local Boy Scouts!

2010 Georgetown Summer Concert Series, 5-7 pm at American Legion Park: July 11: Soul Alley; July 18: Porch Rockers; July 25: Under Atoms; August 1, Jeeny Dee & the Deelinquents; August 8: Girls Guns 7 Glory; August 15: Erin Harpe; and local blockbuster favorites, August 22: Don't Call Me Shirley! Check out www.gtownculture.org for more details on these events and bands, and other events in Georgetown, along with www.GeorgetownToday.com!




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.

Governor Patrick Accuses Baker of being responsible for The BIG DIG

"Today's Boston Globe story raises troubling questions about Charlie Baker's central role in the failed financing and oversight of the Big Dig. It is clear from the story that Baker has repeatedly misled the people of Massachusetts about his role in developing the finance plan that has now saddled taxpayers with over \$800 million in debt, and that he failed to reign in billions in cost overruns. Baker owes the people of Massachusetts a full and

honest accounting of his role in the Big Dig.

Charlie Baker's credibility is at stake here. His repeated claims that he played a limited role in developing the failed financing for the Big Dig have been proven false by public documents uncovered by the Boston Globe. Voters cannot take anything Baker says seriously until he comes clean about his role in the failed Big Dig financing scheme."



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