

Representative Mark Falzone

Representing the People of Lynn, Lynnfield, Saugus, and Wakefield

The Beacon: Issue 1, July 28, 2009

Dear Neighbor,

This is the first issue of my email newsletter, *The Beacon*, which will run every second month. In this newsletter I hope to speak with you, and provide you with an avenue to speak with me, about topics which affect all of us in the 9th Essex District. While this first issue offers information about the federal stimulus funds and a few social service programs which will be especially useful in these difficult economic times, it is my hope that we can also discuss relevant areas of policy and concerns of our community in future issues.

Federal Stimulus Funds:

This month I hosted Jeffrey Simon, Director of Infrastructure Investment, on my local access cable show *The Beacon*. We discussed the federal stimulus funds being made available to Massachusetts through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) passed last year in the United States Congress. Massachusetts is estimated to receive approximately \$9 billion of the \$787 billion dollar package, and possibly more through competitive grants. The first of these funds started flowing in February, and will be used for various significant improvements throughout the Commonwealth in the areas of education, housing, public safety and security, transportation, labor and workforce development, research and technology, and clean energy and the environment.

The stimulus plan has ambitious goals. Within Massachusetts, the money will be used to replace or rehabilitate over 200 bridges and make targeted investments designed to lower the cost of healthcare. Additionally, cities and towns are able to apply for funds for specific projects that meet certain criteria, including wastewater plants, public safety facilities, city/town buildings and transportation projects. Since projects will need to be underway within the next two years if they are to stimulate the economy, only "shovel ready" projects, or those ready to begin construction immediately, are eligible for funding. It is projected that the plan will generate over 80,000 new jobs in the state, helping to improve the situations of working families and our overall economy.



The Beacon:

The Beacon is a bi-monthly newsletter written by Representative Mark Falzone. It will focus on current events and issues relevant to the 9th Essex District.

If you would like to suggest a topic for a future newsletter, please reply to this email with the word SUGGEST in the title.

Contact Me:

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The State House
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For the federal stimulus to maximize results and perform most efficiently, it is essential that accountability and transparency are our top priorities. Especially considering the size of the stimulus, citizens who trust government with their tax dollars deserve to see that this money is being spent in the best possible manner. We in the legislature established the Joint Committee on Federal Stimulus Oversight to keep state and local government accountable, and we will continue to track every stimulus dollar, on every project, from start to finish. In an effort to keep the recovery process transparent, the identities of all projects and bidders, including the winning bidder, are being made publicly available. All projects are open for bidding statewide, as well. Mass.gov/recovery provides all of this information to the public, keeping the recovery process as open and transparent as possible.

If you are interested in learning more about the federal stimulus funds and how they are being used in Massachusetts, I encourage you to watch my show on your local access cable network.

- Lynn: Thursdays at 5:30 PM, Comcast Channels 3 and 16 and Verizon Channels 36 and 38
- Lynnfield: Thursdays at 7 PM, Verizon Channel 29 and Comcast Channel 8
- Saugus: Thursdays at 11 AM, Channel 8
- Wakefield: Thursdays at 5:30 PM, Comcast Channels 3 and 16 and Verizon Channels 36 and 38.

Social Service Programs:

On another note, I would also like to take this opportunity to let you know about certain local, state, and federal programs which offer assistance in these difficult economic times:

- **Project Bread** - Project Bread is the state's leading anti-hunger organization. They operate the FoodSource Hotline, which can connect those who are struggling to feed their family with immediate resources as well as access to federal nutrition dollars. The hotline operates Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 7 PM and on Saturdays from 10 AM to 2 PM and can be reached by calling 1-800-645-8333. For more information, visit www.projectbread.org.

In District Office Hours:

Saugus Senior Center
66 Central Street
Fridays
8:30am-10am

Wakefield Senior Center
30 Converse Street
Fridays
10:15am-11:15am

Lynnfield Senior Center
525 Salem Street
Fridays
11:30am-12:30pm

Just drop in: No
appointment needed!

- DTA - The Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance offers a wide variety of programs for those who are struggling. For instance, Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children offers assistance to families who find themselves without assets or income. Those living in Lynn, Lynnfield, or Saugus can visit their local DTA office by visiting 35 Congress Street in Salem, or by calling (978) 825-7300. Those living in Wakefield can visit their local DTA office by visiting 200 Pleasant Street in Malden, or by calling (781)-388-7300.
- North Shore Career Center - The North Shore Career Center has a wide variety of programs to assist job seekers, all offered at no cost. Resources include assistance in writing resumes and interview techniques, access to training, and job specialists to match seekers with appropriate openings. The Lynn Center is located at 181 Union Street and can be reached by calling (781)-593-0585. For more information, visit <http://nscareers.org//index.html>.

In these difficult economic times it is the responsibility of all of us to pull together and assist those in need. These programs are the result of cooperation and collaboration between Federal and State governments and local nonprofits, creating a safety net for all who might be struggling. In this vein, I urge you all to take advantage of these programs when you can, and to let your friends and neighbors know of any which might be useful to them.

Contact Me:

Please also feel free to contact my office with any questions or concerns. I can be reached by calling 617-722-2020, or by sending a letter to:

Representative Mark Falzone
The State House, Room 527A
Boston, MA 02133

Additionally, every Friday morning I hold weekly office hours in the district where anyone can come, without an appointment, to meet with either myself, my Chief of Staff Bob Smith, or another of my aides. These are:

8:30 - 10 AM: Saugus Senior Center at 466 Central Street
10:15 - 11:15 AM: Wakefield Senior Center at 30 Converse Street

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Lynnfield Senior Center at 525 Salem Street

If you would like to discuss any issue, or if you are having a problem that you would like assistance with, I encourage you to stop by.

Sincerely,

Mark Falzone
State Representative
Representing the people of Lynn, Lynnfield, Saugus, and Wakefield.

If you would like to be removed from this list, please reply to this email with the word REMOVE in the title. If you would like to suggest a future topic for the newsletter, or ask a specific question, please reply to this email with the word SUGGEST in the title.

The Beacon | Representative Mark Falzone | (617)-722-2020 | Rep.MarkFalzone@state.ma.us