

# Representative Mark Falzone

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

## The Beacon: Issue 4, February 9, 2010

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you will enjoy reading this, the fourth edition of my email newsletter, *The Beacon*, and that you will find it informative. It will continue to run every other month, and I always welcome your feedback. This month I would like to share with you updates and news about three issues which I care about deeply.

With work on our State's Budget for Fiscal Year 2011 already begun, I hope that you will share with me your priorities for how our Commonwealth should spend its resources and continue to give me feedback about any other issues which concern you. This will be an important and difficult Budget, with the economic recession limiting our income and creating a desperate need for State Government services. It is through this feedback from my constituents that I am able to best represent the needs and interests of our community.

### Veterans Services:

Every day our men and women in uniform risk their lives to protect us. Their sacrifice on our behalf is without equal, and for that they deserve our unwavering support. With over 420,000 veterans in Massachusetts, and more still serving, it is essential that we make resources available to them on their return to civilian life. Happily, we in the Commonwealth are at the forefront of providing assistance and benefits to our veterans, and it is my hope that we can continue to support and develop these programs.

Massachusetts offers numerous services for its veterans. I encourage all veterans to take advantage of the resources offered, such as:

- Local Veterans Agent – Every community in Massachusetts has a Veterans Agent, who can provide access to federal assistance and to all the Chapter 115 state financial assistance programs for veterans. When necessary, they can also access money for basic needs, which are 75% reimbursed by the state. *To contact the Veteran's Agent for Lynn call (781) 586-6911, for Lynnfield call (781) 334-2252, and for Saugus and Wakefield call (781) 246-6377.*



### 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:

Office Phone:  
(617)-722-2020

Office Fax:  
(617)-722-2186

Email:  
Rep.MarkFalzone  
@state.ma.us

Mailing Address:  
Rep. Mark Falzone  
The State House  
Room 527A  
Boston, MA 02133

- V.A. Healthcare System – The federal government is responsible for the direct healthcare of veterans. To avoid losing healthcare benefits, every veteran should enroll right away by bringing their discharge papers to a local V.A. hospital or clinic. To find out more information and how to apply go to <http://www4.va.gov/healtheligibility/>, or call (877) 222-8387 to find out your eligibility. Massachusetts will also pay for health insurance if a veteran’s income is below a certain amount, provide mental health screenings and implement parts of the federal programs for veterans.
- Soldiers’ Homes – Massachusetts currently has two soldiers’ homes, in Chelsea and Holyoke, where veterans can receive long-term care and local veterans can utilize outpatient clinics. To contact the Chelsea Soldier’s Home call (617) 884-5660, and to contact the Holyoke Soldier’s Home call (413) 532-9475.

In addition to these services, there are also programs to assist with education, employment and housing for veterans. Such programs can be accessed by contacting your local Veteran’s Agent, or by going to the website [www.mass.gov/veterans](http://www.mass.gov/veterans) . As a long term member of the Legislature’s Committee on Veteran’s Affairs, I encourage us all to thank both our veterans and those still in uniform for their service, as well as recognize those who assist our veterans by staffing programs. Our veterans deserve no less as we welcome them home.

Among those providing support to our veterans is the Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans’ Services Tom Kelley, who was recently the guest on my Cable TV show *The Beacon*. Secretary Kelley is one of 91 living recipients of the Medal of Honor for his heroic service to the United States and also received the Purple Heart. You can watch episodes of my show online at <http://falzone.org/beacon.html>, or on your local cable access station.

- 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: Fridays at 7 PM and Sundays at 6:30 PM, Comcast Channel 16, Verizon Channel 42, and RCN Channel 13.

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!

### **Continuation of the Incinerator Moratorium:**

I am pleased to share with you a significant victory which came at the end of 2009. The Patrick-Murray Administration made a public commitment to continuing the moratorium on new incinerators and new incinerator capacity that has existed in Massachusetts since 1990. This moratorium is maintained in the Department of Environmental Protection's Solid Waste Master Plan, which is currently under revision. There was fear that the new draft would allow new variations in the burning of municipal waste, such as gasification or pyrolysis, to be built in Massachusetts. With a trash-to-energy facility right here in our area, this announcement is particularly good news for the 9<sup>th</sup> Essex District.

Massachusetts already incinerates 34% of its municipal solid waste, a significant percentage when compared to other states, damaging our environment, health, and even the value of our local produce. Preventing this from increasing was a huge priority for me this past year: I filed and advocated for legislation to codify this moratorium into the Massachusetts General Laws and worked with local, state, and national organizations to promote the issue. The continuation is not only a victory for public health and the environment but will greatly benefit our Massachusetts economy, since many more good local jobs are created when waste is processed by the reuse and repair industry. By the end of March we will see a draft of the Solid Waste Master Plan for public comment, and will see how strong the language on this issue is.

### **Formation of the Cultural Caucus:**

Here in Massachusetts we take great pride in the cultural diversity and great history that makes our state unique. Attraction to this exciting atmosphere extends beyond state borders: visitors seeking to experience this lively artistic, intellectual, and historical area of the country have made tourism the third largest industry in Massachusetts. The cultural sector contributes \$4 billion annually to the state's economy, making it an invaluable asset to both producing jobs and enhancing the quality of life here in Massachusetts.

As a member of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts, and Cultural Development, and Chairman of the Task Force on Performing Arts, I have a strong interest in the factors which affect the cultural sector of the Massachusetts economy. Governor Patrick proposed a state budget last week that would dedicate \$9.4 million for arts and culture through the Massachusetts Cultural Council. This figure is roughly \$300,000 less than the current fiscal year and less than half of cultural funding levels a decade ago. This money helps fund the arts in many different forms, including

music programs, theater productions, dance performances and many other unique cultural events. Knowing how important adequate backing and support is to the quality and even feasibility of these productions and the many jobs they support, I am prepared to work hard to secure proper funding for them.

As part of my continuing and ardent support of Massachusetts' cultural sector, I joined with more than a dozen Senators and Representatives from across the Commonwealth to create Massachusetts' first Cultural Caucus. This caucus, formed on January 28<sup>th</sup>, just one day after the Governor released his budget, will make every effort to harness the job-producing assets of Massachusetts' cultural sector and to protect the positions of those already employed in the arts, tourism, and all cultural industries. I look forward to advocating for the arts within Massachusetts', in conjunction with my fellow legislators within the Cultural Caucus, and in my own personal endeavors.

#### **Contact Me:**

Please also feel free 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 hours 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](mailto:Rep.MarkFalzone@state.ma.us)