

# Representative Mark Falzone

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

## The Beacon: Issue 5, April 9, 2010

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you will enjoy reading this, the fifth edition of my email newsletter, *The Beacon*, and that you will find it informative. This month I would like to share with you information about several important programs and services, and provide you with updates on a few issues which are important to me. Read below for information on a new appliance rebate program, expanded funding for workforce training, help finding affordable housing, and funding for our public libraries.

In the next few months your state legislature will be discussing some very difficult and important topics on Beacon Hill. We will continue work on the State's Budget for Fiscal Year 2011, seeking a balance between our income limited by the recession and the desperate need for government services, and will also be looking at the introduction of casino gambling to the commonwealth. I urge you to share with me your thoughts and priorities on these issues so that I can best represent the needs and interest of my district.

Also, I know that many in our area were hit hard by the recent rain and flooding. Through my visits to impacted homes and conversations around our community, I have seen firsthand the devastation that this has caused. Fortunately, following President Obama's announcement last week, Individual Assistance is available through FEMA for impacted households and businesses. If you or your business has been impacted, you can initiate an application by calling 1-800-621-FEMA, or online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

### Act Now to Save Money in Appliance Rebate Program:

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 the state of Massachusetts will launch the Mass Save Great Appliance Exchange, an energy efficient appliance rebate program funded by the federal stimulus. This exchange was created to help residents to cut costs and save money while also promoting energy efficiency in the commonwealth. Massachusetts was allocated \$6.2 million from the fund created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to for this program.



#### 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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(617)-722-2020

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(617)-722-2186

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Rep.MarkFalzone  
@state.ma.us

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

Under the Mass Save Great Appliance Exchange, Massachusetts residents will receive considerable rebates on qualified Energy Star models for major household appliances. Participants will be required to turn in their older, inefficient appliances when they purchase their energy efficient appliances, and the old appliances will be picked up and taken to a recycling facility when the new appliances are delivered. The rebates will provide \$250 for a dishwasher, \$200 for a refrigerator, \$175 for a clothes washer, and \$50 for a freezer. Residents are permitted to purchase one appliance in each category, offering a possible total savings of \$675.

The Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Department of Energy Resources estimates that over 27,000 inefficient appliances will be taken out of service as a result of this initiative. This is expected to eliminate 4.3 million pounds of carbon dioxide from the air annually and save enough energy to power 340 households for a year. It will also provide household savings on utility bills and reduce the number of kilowatt hours of electricity used annually.

Appliances must be purchased and rebates must be reserved over the phone or by internet **between April 22 and May 5, 2010**. Since all rebates are on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is used, if you are interested in the program **I urge you to take advantage of it in the first day it is available**. To be prepared to make your rebate reservation on April 22, consumers should research appliances ahead of time. You can find details on participating retailers, eligible appliance models, and steps for securing rebate reservations by visiting [www.masssave.com/residential](http://www.masssave.com/residential).

You can learn more about this program by viewing my cable TV show, *The Beacon*, where I interview a new guest each month on a topic important for our district. This month's episode will feature Frank Gorke, Division Director of Energy Efficiency at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs discussing this timely program. You can view this episode starting next week on your local access cable network, or online by visiting my [website](#).

### **The Workforce Training Fund:**

During these difficult economic times, creating jobs and providing individuals with job training is my highest priority. I am pleased that my colleagues are making employment their priority as well by passing legislation to provide \$9.5 million to the Workforce Training Fund. This fund will be used to provide employers with grants to educate and train existing members of the workforce, as well as new hires. It will improve access for individuals to obtain well-paying jobs and achieve long-term

#### 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!

career success. These grants will help companies be able to hire more workers and will assist in putting Massachusetts back on the road to economic success.

The Workforce Training Fund is designed to help a broad range of residents, including older workers, the unemployed, the disabled, low-wage workers, and youth, gain access to employment and training. Since the beginning of this year, more than \$175 million in grants have been awarded for the purpose of training almost a quarter-million workers through the fund. It is essential that we give our businesses and employees the tools they need to succeed in Massachusetts, and the funds provided in this legislation are an important part of that pursuit. Given the importance of employment for our economy, the full funding of the workforce training grants will go far in keeping sustainable jobs in our Commonwealth.

### **Affordable Housing:**

The Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership (MBHP) helps individuals and families find affordable housing. It is the state's largest regional provider of rental voucher assistance and serves the homeless, elderly, disabled, and low and moderate-income residents of Boston and many of its surrounding communities, including Lynn and Wakefield. The MBHP recently announced a major upgrade to its online apartment listing service, which can be found online at <http://www.mbhp.org> under "Apartment Listings." It provides a free search for affordable housing in the Greater Boston region, and helps property owners find tenants for vacant apartments. In this difficult economic time, this much-needed service will make a difference in the lives of so many families.

The MBHP also provides many other housing stability resources to assist families in time of need. Their office is located at 125 Lincoln Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA. You can contact the MBHP by calling (617) 859-0400.

### **Our Public Libraries:**

I was recently honored to receive the Library Advocacy Award from the Massachusetts Library Association at their annual lobby day on Beacon Hill. Libraries cannot be more important for communities. They provide educational resources for our students, help finding employment and editing a resume, entertainment for families, necessary resources for small businesses, and internet access for those who do not have it at home. A [recent national study](#) on library use found that 69% of the population used their public library in the last year, and that nearly half of these visitors used their library to access the internet. During times of economic

downturn, more and more people turn to their local libraries for resources that they can no longer get elsewhere. As Chairman of the Legislative Library Caucus, I will fight for these services in the coming State Budget.

**Contact Me:**

Please also feel free contact my office with any questions or concerns. I can be reached by calling 617-722-2020, emailing [Rep.MarkFalzone@state.ma.us](mailto:Rep.MarkFalzone@state.ma.us), or by sending a letter to:

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

Additionally, every Friday morning I hold office hours in the district where anyone can come, without an appointment, to meet with me, 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)

