

**Sharon Iovanni**

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**From:** Rep. Jason Lewis [jlewis@cte.ccsend.com] on behalf of Rep. Jason Lewis [jason.lewis@state.ma.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2009 10:08 AM  
**To:** sharon@stonehamchamber.org  
**Subject:** Oct Newsletter: Budget and Flu Vaccine Updates

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**In This Issue**

Flu Vaccine Update

Human Rights Abuses in China

Next Phase of Healthcare Reform

Upcoming Events

Contact Info and Office Hours

**Quick Links**

Rep. Lewis Website

Flu Vaccine Update

Healthcare Reform

Dear Friends,

We are starting to see some early signs of an economic recovery in Massachusetts and across the country. But, unfortunately, this is not yet translating into job growth or a halt to falling state tax revenues.

Even though expectations for Fiscal Year 2010 tax revenues were lowered significantly before the beginning of the fiscal year, receipts for the first quarter (July-Sept) still came in more than \$200 million below budget. As a result, Governor Patrick is required by law to reassess the state budget for FY10 and to [propose a plan](#) to maintain a balanced budget.

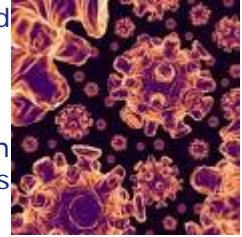
With billions of dollars in spending cuts already implemented over the past 12 months, there are no easy choices facing the Governor and the Legislature. I will continue to advocate to minimize the impact on our schools, municipal services, and the safety net for our most vulnerable citizens -- children, seniors, and the disabled.

Best Wishes,

Jason Lewis  
State Representative

## Flu Vaccine Update

Local, state, and federal public health authorities have been working hard to prepare for the resurgence of the H1N1 (swine) flu virus this fall as well as the annual seasonal flu. Demand for both types of vaccines at the same time has complicated production and caused some delays. Here is an [update on flu vaccine availability](#) from the state's Public Health Commissioner. Helpful information and advice from public health experts to keep you and your family healthy [can be found here](#).



## Human Rights Abuses in China

I have worked with members of our community to bring a powerful and moving art exhibit to the Massachusetts State House. This exhibit calls attention to human rights abuses in China. The Chinese government will not end its persecution of peaceful Falun Gong practitioners and other innocent people unless the world speaks out. I encourage you to visit the State House to see this exhibit which will be on display in Doric Hall until 1pm on Friday, Oct 30.



## Next Phase of Healthcare Reform

The ongoing debate in Washington over national healthcare reform has dominated public discussion over the last several months. But, the [next phase of healthcare reform in Massachusetts](#) may be just as important in determining the future of healthcare in the Commonwealth and eventually across the country. A blue ribbon panel recently [released its report](#) with recommendations for overhauling our healthcare system to rein in costs and improve quality. The state legislature's Healthcare Financing Committee, of which I'm a member, recently held a public hearing to begin the process of pursuing this next phase of healthcare reform.



## Upcoming Events

### **Including Samuel: A Documentary Film by Photojournalist Dan Habib**

Presented by the Winchester Multicultural Network

Tues, Oct 27, 6:30pm

McCall Middle School

### **Winchester Town Meeting**

Mon, Nov 2, 7:30pm

Winchester High School

## Contact Info and Office Hours

I welcome your input, ideas, and questions. Also, if you are in need of assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office. We will do our best to help you.

I can be reached at (617) 722-2060 or [by email](#).

## Upcoming Office Hours

Fri, Nov 13, 10am-12pm, Winchester Public Library (Small Meeting Room)

Fri, Nov 20, 10am-12pm, Stoneham Senior Center (Library)

Anybody is welcome to stop by.

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