

Sharon Iovanni

From: Rep. Jason Lewis [jlewis@cte.ccsend.com] on behalf of Rep. Jason Lewis [jason.lewis@state.ma.us]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 11:21 AM
To: sharon@stonehamchamber.org
Subject: November Newsletter: Veterans, PAYT, & Happy Thanksgiving

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In This Issue

Supporting Our Veterans

PAYT Saves Money and Helps
the Environment

Economic Development in
Winchester

Upcoming Events

Contact Info and Office Hours

Quick Links

Rep. Lewis Website

Flu Vaccine Update

RMV Renewal Reminder
Service

Dear Friends,

I want to wish you and your family a very happy Thanksgiving.

One thing we have to be thankful for is the good news that the [Stone and Franklin Park Zoos will be able to keep their gates open](#). Thanks to citizen advocacy and hard work at the State House, a restructuring plan was agreed upon by the Governor, Legislators, and Zoo New England. The plan will enable the zoos to invest for the future and become more self-sufficient. I will be filing legislation to help implement this plan.

On Beacon Hill, the ongoing fiscal crisis continues to be the biggest challenge facing us. Deep cuts to essential programs and services are being felt in our district and across the state. If you or somebody you know is in need of assistance, please [contact my office](#).

I also want to make you aware of a helpful new service from the RMV. Earlier this year, the RMV discontinued sending license renewal notices as a cost saving measure. In response to feedback from citizens and legislators, the RMV now enables you to [sign up online to receive reminders via email](#) so you never find yourself driving with an expired license.

Best Wishes,



Jason Lewis
State Representative

Supporting Our Veterans

On Nov 11 we celebrated Veterans Day. There are 441,000 veterans living in Massachusetts today, and since Sept 11, 2001 more than 25,000 Massachusetts residents have returned home from active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Massachusetts is a leader in terms of the support and benefits we provide to our veterans. Still, we fall short of what our veterans deserve. Recently, the [legislature passed an important bill](#) to provide our veterans with additional services and support when they return home from war. The bill establishes the Massachusetts Medal of Liberty to honor fallen service members, and provides increased housing and employment opportunities for veterans. You can make a difference locally by supporting the [Helping Our Troops \(H.O.T.\) program](#).



PAYT Saves Money and Helps the Environment

America Recycles Day, which took place on November 15, passed without much fanfare. It does, however, remind us that there is much more we can be doing to "reduce, reuse, and recycle." One particular program, known as [Pay-As-You-Throw \(PAYT\)](#), has shown great results across Massachusetts in reducing municipal waste, increasing recycling, saving money, and helping our environment. Implementing PAYT is straightforward and requires only minor changes to a town's existing trash disposal system. It deserves serious consideration in every community.



Economic Development in Winchester

One of Winchester's great assets is the Town Center. To help attract new restaurants and promote economic development, Town Meeting earlier this year approved a request from the Chamber of Commerce for additional liquor licenses. Along with Senator Jehlen, I introduced legislation to seek approval for these additional licenses under the state's liquor licensing quota system. I'm pleased to report that a [bill granting Winchester five additional liquor licenses](#) passed the legislature and was signed into law by Governor Patrick on November 6.



Upcoming Events

H1N1 Flu Vaccine Clinic for Stoneham Residents

[For residents who are at high risk for H1N1](#)

Sat, Dec 5, 10am-2pm

Stoneham Town Hall Auditorium

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, Dec 11, 10am-12pm, Winchester Public Library (Small Meeting Room)

Fri, Dec 18, 10am-12pm, Stoneham Senior Center (Library)

Anybody is welcome to stop by.



Lincoln 5th Grade Girl Scouts Recently Visited the State House

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