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Upcoming Events

- November 4 - Election Day
Polls open from 7am-8pm
- November 6 - Seventh Annual Veterans' Round Table
6-8pm, Gardner Museum
- November 8 - Second Annual Veterans Day Breakfast
8-10am, Gardner American Legion
Call 978-632-9601 for reservations
- November 8 - Greater Gardner Youth Hockey Turkey Raffle
7pm, West End Beagle Club
- November 8 - Free Flu Vaccinations
10am-1pm, Gardner Community Health Center
- Ongoing - Festival of Trees
1-4pm, Gardner Museum
- November 14 - Fifth Annual Gardner CAC Turkey Raffle
6:30pm, Knights of Columbus Hall
- November 19 - Holiday Social
10am-12pm, Gardner Museum
- November 27 - Thanksgiving Day Dinner
12pm, Elks Club
Call 978-630-4067 for reservations
- November 30 - Memorial Lights Celebration
4:30pm, Monument Park

From the desk of Mayor Hawke

Election Day

Tomorrow is the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November and that means it is Election Day. If you are unsure of where to vote, follow this link www.WhereDoIVoteMA.com and enter your address.

On the ballot this year we have six pairs vying to be President and Vice President. The two most well known pairs are John McCain and Sarah Palin and Barack Obama and Joe Biden. The others are all third party candidates (Baldwin & Castle, Constitution party; Barr & Root, Libertarian party; McKinney & Clemente, Green Rainbow party; and Nader & Gonzalez, Independent).

Senator John Kerry is facing a challenge from Jeff Beatty and Robert Underwood. U.S. Representative John Olver is being challenged by Nathan Bech. Governors Councillor Tom Foley is not being challenged. The open State Senate seat has Jennifer Flanagan uncontested. State Representative Robert Rice is facing off against Carolyn Kamuda. Register of Probate Stephen Abraham is unchallenged.

There are also three binding questions on the ballot:

A YES vote on question 1 would repeal the states income tax.

A YES vote on question 2 would decriminalize possession of less than 1 oz of marijuana.

A YES vote on question 3 would ban dog racing in Massachusetts.

I encourage you all to learn all you can about the candidates and the questions. You can learn more at www.mass.gov.

Boston Visitors

Since the writing of my last newsletter, we have had a few high ranking officials come to Gardner. The Commissioner of the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) Rick Sullivan, came to Gardner at my request to personally view the closed Heritage State Park Visitors Center as well as some dam's owned by the City and regulated by DCR.

By bringing Commissioner Sullivan to Gardner to see first hand the beautiful Visitors Center that has been shuttered for over six years, he can gain a new appreciation of what we are trying to do and why this building is important to us. Unfortunately, the positive news and thoughts that came from the visit were tampered recently with the Governor's mid-year cuts. We will keep pursuing all avenues with regard to reopening this State owned building in our downtown.

You may have heard about the 1 billion dollars dedicated to the newly created Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. This center is headed by Dr. Susan Windham-Bannister. Dr. Bannister will be visiting Gardner this week to view and tour Gardner's bio facilities.

I spoke with Dr. Bannister at a Governor's Cabinet meeting I attended. She was unaware of any bio companies in Gardner. I asked her to come to Gardner to meet our bio companies and she agreed. We will be meeting with New England Peptide, Biomedical Polymers, Mack Prototype and Heywood Hospital. These companies stand to benefit from the \$1 Billion initiative and I want to make sure they have the opportunity to meet with Dr. Bannister and make a case for their facilities and Gardner.

Groundbreakings

In the past two months, I have taken part in two separate groundbreakings. The first groundbreaking was for the Northeast Veteran Training and Rehabilitation Center. This center will be located in the northwest corner of the Mount Wachusett Community College campus. The center will focus on aiding disabled veterans cope with returning home and assist with physical, occupational, psychological and speech therapies. You can learn more about the Northeast Veteran Homestead at www.veteranhomestead.org.



Northeast Veterans Training & Rehabilitation Center Groundbreaking

The Greater Gardner Community Development Corporation (CDC) also recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new duplex home on Cleveland Street. The home is being built by Montachusett Regional Technical School and is scheduled to be completed by May of 2009. The new homes will be ADA accessible and will be sold at a reduced rate to eligible families. The selling price and eligibility standards are still to be determined. You can learn more about the CDC and this home ownership opportunity at www.GGCDC.org.

City of Gardner Website

If you haven't taken a look at the City's website (www.Gardner-Ma.gov) recently, you've been missing out on a lot of changes. We now have a community calendar, minutes and agendas to public meetings posted, job postings, reports, plans and a whole slew of new information added daily. I am working to get as much information out to the public as possible. Check the site often for updates.

The City Council meets the first and third Monday of each month and the agendas are posted shortly before noon on the Friday before.

Gardner Little League

I had the opportunity to attend the initial meeting of the 2008-2009 Little League Officers and Board of Directors meeting last month. This is a great group of men and women that put in a lot of hours so that our community can have a first rate little league. For that I thank them for helping to make Gardner great.



Mayor Hawke with Little League Officers & Board of Directors

You may have heard about Gardner's "Field of Dreams" contest hopes. This was a contest sponsored by Granite City Electric, in which the winner receives lights for their respective field. Thanks to Stan Hartshorn (Little League volunteer extraordinaire) and the residents of Gardner that voted in the contest, we were one of about 13 communities in the running for the \$100K worth of lights. Unfortunately, we did not win. However, the awareness of the Little League in the Greater Gardner community was raised.

This years Officers and Board members will be working on plans for a new field on the former L&Z Kamaan site. I can't wait to see a game on that new field. Good luck little leaguers and thank you to all those involved.

United Way 211

The United Way of North Central Massachusetts recently announced a new campaign in an effort to proactively address the unprecedented need and cost of basic services in the area. With utility costs ever increasing and the price of oil fluctuating daily, the United Way has established a new fund that keeps the money donated in the zip code from which it is donated and no administrative costs will be removed from these donations. 100% of the donation stays within the community.



Mayor Hawke at the United Way 211 Campaign

If you wish to learn more about the campaign, you can visit www.SupportUnitedWay.org/csf or by calling the Mass 2-1-1 hotline.

The 2-1-1 hotline is something I was only vaguely aware of until recently. By dialing 2-1-1, you can access statewide community resources, donate to the United Way or find community organizations that can help. You can learn more at www.mass211.org.

Sincerely

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