

The Civic Engagement Times

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

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A Message from the Governor

Across the Commonwealth, our mission of governing for the long-term and making an impact on the daily lives of Massachusetts residents continues.

Over the summer, we made progress in our efforts to make state government more accessible to the people of our Commonwealth. Thousands of residents joined me at eleven town hall meetings from Great Barrington to Hyannis and shared with me their questions as well as their suggestions about the role that state government is playing in their lives. Hundreds more joined my Administration's Secretaries and Commissioners in animated dialogue at four cabinet meetings and numerous Budget Hearings. (If you were not able to attend a meeting, you can find highlights on our website at www.mass.gov/governor/townhallvideos.)

As we strive to make a lasting impact on the daily lives of residents, it is essential that I remain equally engaged in the lives and priorities of every county in Massachusetts. That is why this summer's opportunity for unstructured, unscripted conversation between us has been so valuable, and why I have decided to do it again.

In September, we will focus on an issue central to this Administration and to the future of the Commonwealth: Education. Over the next month I will be circling Massachusetts again visiting and speaking with the parents and students of our public schools, and I look forward to seeing new faces and continuing our conversations.

Thank you for your commitment to civic engagement and for taking the time to be a part of this vital conversation.



COMMONWEALTH CORPS INSPIRE. UNITE. ACT.

CALLING ALL CORPS MEMBERS!

Funding has been awarded to 36 public and non-profit organizations to take on nearly 300 Corps members this fall.

Commonwealth Corps service opportunities are posted on the Connect and Serve web portal now.

- Search for opportunities
- Apply to organizations for consideration
- The selection process will be managed and the members selected by Commonwealth Corps Sponsor organizations



www.mass.gov/connectandserve

Please contact Commonwealth Corps sponsors directly for more information.

CHECK IT OUT!

**youMove Massachusetts
Civic Engagement
Workshops on
Transportation**



- Sept. 17: 3 PM Boston
- Sept. 22: 6 PM Natick
- Sept. 23: 6 PM Barnstable
- Sept. 24: 6 PM Lawrence
- Oct. 2: 6 PM North Adams
- Oct. 6: 6 PM Taunton
- Oct. 7: 6 PM Braintree
- Oct. 14: 6:30PM Worcester
- Oct. 15: 6 PM Malden
- Oct. 20: 6 PM Chicopee

For complete information on the workshop locations go to:
www.youmovemassachusetts.org

**NEW AMERICANS
AGENDA PARTNER
ORGANIZATIONS**

- Alliance to Develop Power**
- Center for New Americans**
- Chelsea Collaborative**
- United Neighbors of Cleghorn/
Cleghorn Neighborhood Center**
- Community Economic Development Center**
- Immigrants Assistance Center**
- Irish Immigration Center**
- Mutual Assistance Association Coalition**
- ONE Lowell**
- Roca**

*youMove Massachusetts:
Engaging the Public on Transportation*

This fall, the Executive Office of Transportation is kicking off a civic outreach effort to engage the public in a discussion of transforming the Commonwealth's transportation system. This substantive civic engagement initiative will focus on the identification of core transportation problems and common themes and is intended to bring the public into transportation planning and decision-making.

EOT will be holding ten public workshops across the Commonwealth during September and October. These workshops will be an opportunity

for members of the public to articulate the transportation challenges they experience on a daily basis. Participants will be asked about their commuting patterns, their transportation needs, and the problems they experience and observe. All public input will be documented and will form the foundation for the development of the Commonwealth's new Strategic Transportation Plan.

In addition to providing input at the workshops, the public is also able to communicate with staff at the Executive Office of Transportation

through the website www.youmovemassachusetts.org. The website will feature an interactive map on which users can identify their transportation concerns as well as information about public events and other opportunities for civic engagement on transportation issues.

For more information about the public workshops and the upcoming Strategic Transportation Plan, contact Katherine Fichter of the Executive Office of Transportation at katherine.fichter@eot.state.ma.us.

Governor Patrick announces the launching the New Americans Initiative during a naturalization ceremony at Boston's Faneuil Hall.



New Americans Agenda

On July 9, 2008 Governor Patrick signed Executive Order 503 launching the New Americans Agenda (NAA). The Governor publicly announced the project the next day during a naturalization ceremony at Faneuil Hall. The NAA is a year long planning initiative, which aims to better integrate refugees and immigrants into the economic and civic life of the Commonwealth. Over the next year, the MA Office for Refugees and Immigrants (MORI) and the Governor's Advisory Council for Refugees and Immigrants (GACRI) will develop a series of policy recommendations on integration challenges and solutions.

The information for these

recommendations will come from a series of public meetings across the state in addition to interviews with experts and input from state agencies. These community hearings and meetings will be coordinated by the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA) in partnership with ten local grassroots organizations. The public meetings provide an opportunity for individuals in local communities to share with the Governor's Advisory Council and each other their vision of what it would mean to become a more welcoming Commonwealth, obstacles to integration, and possible solutions. Successful integration of immigrants and refugees is vital to civic

health of the commonwealth as well as its ongoing economic vitality. These public meetings are a wonderful way for community groups and individuals to provide vital input on this important topic.

The meetings will begin in Chelsea on October 20, 2008 and one will be held each month through March 2009. The tentative locations for the meetings are Chelsea, Springfield, New Bedford, Lowell, Hyannis, and Fitchburg.

For more information about the public meetings or the NAA generally please contact your local network organization or go to www.mass.gov/ori.

The Creative Economy: Art, Culture and the Economy of Massachusetts

From design companies in Boston to the art centers of the Berkshires, the Commonwealth's creative economy is thriving. At every level of state government, from Local Cultural Councils to the State House, Bay State residents are engaging in the work of making our Creative Economy stronger than ever. And in June, former ArtistLink director, Jason Schupbach, joined those ranks and began work as Creative Economy Industry Director at the Massachusetts Office of Business Development.

"I've always had a great interest in the nexus of economic development, urban redevelopment and cultural planning," remarked Schupbach, who sees the public sector as a great platform for positive change. "The Creative Economy is recognized to strengthen traditional economic sectors, create new jobs in the technical, service and management areas, and help to revitalize downtowns and

attract new businesses and residents."

Over the summer, the Patrick-Murray Administration conducted several roundtables to hear directly from businesses, non-profit leaders, local cultural economic development partners, and creative individuals about ways the Commonwealth can continue to create the conditions for growth in the creative sector. Schupbach will continue to work with those stakeholders and others to ensure that Massachusetts is a place where the creative sector can grow and prosper.

In tandem with the administration's efforts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council strives to enhance artistic and cultural exchanges on the community level. Overseeing the 329 Local Cultural Councils statewide in addition to several other programs throughout the year, the Massachusetts Cultural Council provides grants to these boards

which consist of 2,500 volunteer members from across the Commonwealth.

Each year, the Massachusetts Cultural Council distributes grants to the local boards to invest in creative economy initiatives. The Local Cultural Council program enables community leaders to direct financial support for the arts to areas with the greatest need. Grants from the local councils go to support local musicians, artists, art-centric businesses, museums, and theaters.

By combining the community-based leadership of the Local Cultural Councils with the work of our Creative Economy Industry Director, one of the most distinctive economic sectors in Massachusetts is on the move.

(For more information, or to become involved in your own local council, visit www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.asp.)



Above: "Driftwall" at Boston Cyberarts Festival 2007. Drift Wall by Brian Knep, photograph by Michelle Higa.

Below: A scene from the Lakeville Arts & Music Festival.



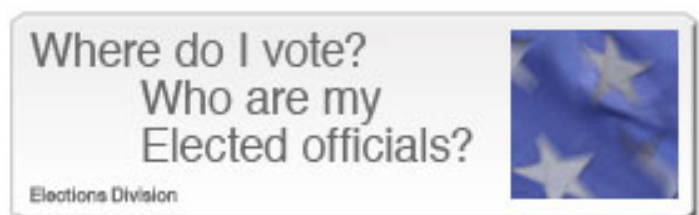
Don't Forget to VOTE!

Election Day (November 4, 2008) will be here before you know it.

As citizens of Massachusetts and the United States, there is no greater act of civic engagement than casting your ballot for your representation. This year we will be electing a new president, members of the state legislature and voting on three statewide ballot questions.

Make sure that you are registered to vote and know where to go to vote on Election Day. If you have moved since the last time you voted, you will need to re-register. The deadline to register for the November 4th election is October 15, 2008.

For more information, please call Secretary of State William Galvin's office at (800) 392-6090 or (617) 727-7030 or visit <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm>.



From the Executive Branch and Across the Commonwealth

Public events being hosted by the Executive Offices include:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Sept. 10— MA Workforce Investment Board – Riverwalk Conference Center, Lawrence 8:30AM-11AM

Join Governor Deval Patrick and Secretary Suzanne Bump as the board makes recommendations on better connections between adult education and the workplace and discuss other workforce development projects.

(For more information, please visit www.mass.gov/mwib.)

Sept. 22—Joint Task Force on the Underground Economy, Worcester

Hearings provide an opportunity for business, labor and community groups to share the impacts of workplace fraud by business and organization. (For location details, please visit www.mass.gov/dol/labortaskforce.)

The Massachusetts Regional Workforce Strategies Initiative

is a statewide effort to build regional capacity to prepare MA workers for high demand jobs.

(For event details, please visit www.mass.gov/eolwd.)

Oct. 2—Franklin/Hampshire, Hotel Northampton, Northampton 3PM—6PM

*Please RSVP to Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board - 413.773.1835

Oct. 23—SouthEast Summit (Brockton, New Bedford and Fall River) Massasoit Community College Conference Center, Brockton 8:30AM- 12PM

Oct. 30—Central Massachusetts Chocksett Inn, Shrewsbury 8:30AM— 11AM

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Environmental Protection

Sept. 17—Citizens Coordinating Council (CCC) Meeting – Comprised of interested citizens, General Electric, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the MA DEP, to discuss the GE Pittsfield/Housatonic River cleanup project. 5:30PM, Lee Middle/High School, Lee.

Oct. 23—Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting. 1PM—3:30PM MassDEP, One Winter St., Boston

Ocean Advisory Commission

This Commission is charged with advising Secretary Bowles as he oversees development of a first-in-the-nation comprehensive management plan.

Hearing Schedule:

Sept. 18—Boston, State House

Sept. 23—Gloucester City Hall

Sept. 24—Salem City Hall Annex

Sept. 25—Salisbury Town Hall

Sept. 29—Weymouth, Tufts Library

Sept. 30—Plymouth Public Library

Oct. 1—Norwell, South Shore Natural Science Center

Oct. 8—Fall River Heritage State Park

Oct. 14—Martha’s Vineyard - Oak Bluffs, 33 New York Ave.

Oct. 16—Nantucket Town Hall

Oct. 21—Woods Hole, (WHOI) 53 Water St.

Oct. 22—Eastham, NPS Salt Pond Visitor Center

Oct. 27—Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Sq.

Oct. 28—Lowell, Pollard Memorial Library

Oct. 29—Pittsfield Public Library - Berkshire Athenaeum

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Department of Mental Health and

Department of Public Health

Sept. 17—Depression: True Stories—A Town Hall Meeting Cape Cod Community College 9AM-12PM

Pleas RSVP to Jane Evans at 508.564.9624 or

jane.evans@dmh.state.ma.us

Department of Transitional Assistance

Senior Benefits Expos

Featuring a free continental breakfast and resource information on Food Stamps and nutrition; fuel and utilities; transportation; health and fitness; among other critical areas.

Expos will be held from 9AM-12PM. Please visit

www.mass.gov keywords: DTA, Upcoming Activities for location details.

Sept. 12—Lowell

Sept. 16—Peabody

Oct. 3—Bourne

Oct. 6—Boston

Oct. 8—Taunton

Oct. 10—Springfield

Oct. 14—Worcester

All are welcome to attend.

SAVE THE DATES:

SEPTEMBER 18

Massachusetts Career Day

This event is a collaboration between Governor Deval Patrick, Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Suzanne M. Bump, Workforce Investment Boards and One-Stop Career Centers. Statewide job fair held to highlight the work of the state’s 37 One Stop Career Centers.

For specific locations, please visit www.mass.gov/eolwd.

OCTOBER 27

Commonwealth Career Discovery Expo

UMass Boston—10AM-3PM

You will have the unique opportunity to explore a number of careers with over 60 state agencies. If you are a talented, civic-minded individual, with an interest in partnering with the Commonwealth, please come discover the possibilities.

For more details, please visit www.mass.gov/hrd/expo

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS

MassHighway Department Public Hearings

Sept. 15—Boston, 5PM
Sept. 16—Brimfield, 6:30PM
Sept. 17—Milford, 7PM
Oct. 1—Amesbury, 7PM

For complete hearing descriptions and locations please visit www.mhd.state.ma.us/ and click Public Hearings.

Citizens Advisory Committee Meetings

Sept. 11—Quinsigamond Community Center, Worcester District 3: The Route 146 Corridor project.

Sept. 18—MHD District 4 Office, 519 Appleton St. Arlington, 8AM
 Covering sections of Route 2 in Acton, Lincoln and Concord.

Oct. 2—Citizens Advisory Committee Meetings, Erving Town Hall, 7:00pm
 District 2: Route 2 Task Force

Planning Department

These are meetings of transportation policy-making organizations made up of representatives from local government and transportation authorities. They will meet to endorse the Federal FY 2009 Unified Planning Work Program.

Sept. 9—Franklin Transportation Planning Organization, Franklin Regional Council of Governments, 425 Main Street, Suite 20, Greenfield 12PM

Sept. 9—Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, 1 Fenn Street, Suite 201, Pittsfield 4:30PM

Sept. 10—Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization, Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission, Union Station, Washington Sq., Worcester 4:30 PM

Planning Department Cont.

Sept. 15—Green Line Extension Advisory Group Meeting, St. Clements High School, 579 Boston Ave., Medford 4PM
www.greenlineextension.org

Sept. 22 and Oct. 20—Urban Ring Citizens Advisory Committee, State Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza, Conference Rooms 2-3, Boston 4PM-6PM
www.theurbanring.com

Oct. 20—Presentation to the Somerville Disability Commission, Somerville Community Access Television, 90 Union Square, Somerville 6PM
 Presentation of overview of Green Line Extension project, and opportunity for comments from the Commission

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Office of Access and Opportunity

The purpose of these town hall meetings will be to gauge the "state of civil rights in the Commonwealth".

(All town halls take place from 6–8pm)
 Hosted in conjunction with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, the Civil Rights Division of the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Massachusetts Office on Disability.

Oct. 7—Lawrence
 Our House Center
 168 Newbury Street
Nov. 6—Springfield
Jan. 14, 2009—Worcester
Feb. 5, 2009—Boston
Mar. 10, 2009—New Bedford

(Please visit www.mass.gov keyword: Access and Opportunity and click on "State of Civil Rights" Town Hall Meetings for location details.)

State Library

Sept. 17—Constitution Day, Bunker Hill Community College, 1 - 2:30PM

This community discussion will be centered on civic engagement, and the State Library will be hosting a table.

Affirmative Market Program

Sept. 16—Affirmative Market Program Kickoff Meeting for FY 2009, Great Hall, State House 9AM–1PM

Sept. 30, Oct. 30, Nov. 11—Basic Vendor Workshop
 All trainings take place from 10AM-12PM at the Operational Services Division, 1 Ashburton Place, Room 1017, Boston.

The Commonwealth's Affirmative Market Program (AMP) Invites Minority and Women-Owned Businesses who are

Affirmative Market Program (cont.)

new to state procurement for Free - Basic - Vendor Procurement Trainings.

Oct. 9—Intermediate Vendor Training, in partnership with SOWMBA and DCAM, MEMA Headquarters, Route 9, Framingham 7:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sept. 30, Oct. 23, Oct. 28, Nov. 5—How to Submit an Effective AMP Plan Workshop
 All workshops take place from 10AM-12PM at the Operational Services Division, 1 Ashburton Place, Room 1017, Boston.

(All workshops and training listed here require pre-registration and some require an entrance fee. Please go to www.mass.gov/amp for details.)

Moving Together 2008

Massachusetts
Bicycle and Pedestrian
Conference



Save The Date...
October 14,
2008

Courtyard by Marriott
Tremont Hotel
275 Tremont St.
Boston, MA

250 participants are expected to attend this annual state-wide conference. Fifteen sessions will be presented, including:

- Facility design
- Safe Routes to School
- Trail initiatives
- and Healthy Community Programs.

For more information please call (413) 545-2604 or visit www.baystateroads.org/mt. (Space is limited, so register early.)