

The Township Democrat

The Official Newsletter of the Winfield Township Democratic Organization

Volume 4, No. 1

www.winfielddems.org

Spring 2010

Conversations With The Township Chair

By **Susan M. Lubonovich**

Chair WTDO & Committeeman, Pct. 014

I welcome all of you to this, our eighth issue of The Township Democrat, the Newsletter of the Winfield Township Democratic Organization. We have not had a Conversation in some time, so I would like to bring you up to date on our Township. I will be brief, though, because once again, we have an issue overflowing with interesting articles written for you by thoughtful fellow Democrats.

First of all, the smallest Township in DuPage County has grown - from thirty-five to thirty-seven precincts. Our two new precincts, Pcts 36 and 37, are in IL-14, Bill Foster's Congressional District.

And secondly, we have three of our own Winfield Township folks running for office in November's General Election: **Maria Owens**, State Rep. District 95; **Shannon Burns**, Forest Preserve District 6 and **Dennis Clark**, Forest Preserve President. We have three good and true Democrats who need our help and support in accomplishing our goal, the goal of having a voice in our LOCAL government. Not too shabby for "the little engine that could" Township.

Read Maria, Shannon, and Dennis's articles in this publication, receive a sense of them, then put on a pair of thick walking shoes, march in our Parades this summer and help get the word out that we have three thoroughly qualified Democratic candidates running for State and County office and they need the support of all of us.

We also have three remarkable individuals running for Congress: **Ben**

Lowe, IL-6th; **Scott Harper**, IL-13th and **Bill Foster**, IL-14th. As I have previously written, Winfield Township is the Keystone Township with the three Congressional Districts in DuPage County coming together in Winfield Township. Thus, our efforts and work will impact all three Congressional races. We have received articles from each of these candidates and have included them in this publication. This will help you to become better acquainted or re-acquainted with these fine Democrats.

At this time, I would also like to humbly and profoundly thank all of you who have supported our LOCAL Democratic organization and our LOCAL publication, The Township Democrat, during these demanding, frightening, difficult and challenging times. Your continued generosity is deeply appreciated. And we do, for sure, need your assistance in building a stronger LOCAL Democratic organization that is able to support our LOCAL Democratic candidates and to continue publishing The Township Democrat, our LOCAL Democratic voice. We do need your help.

Our "Kick in for The Quarter" Campaign is still going strong.

Please mail your contribution to

WTDO
P.O. Box 224
Warrenville, IL 60555

Your Township needs you. The Repubs will not be defeated by rhetoric alone.

And folks, tomorrow really does begin today when you do not back down from what you know is right and true - and are willing to work and fight for that vision.

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19 7:00 PM
WTDO MONTHLY MEETING
WINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
0S291 WINFIELD RD, WINFIELD

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16 7:00 PM
WTDO MONTHLY MEETING
WINFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT
27W530 HIGHLAKE RD,
WINFIELD

SATURDAY, JULY 3RD
WARRENVILLE JULY 4TH PARADE
LINE UP 3:00 PM, STEP OFF
4:00 PM

SUNDAY, JULY 11
WEST CHICAGO RAILROAD DAYS
PARADE
LINE UP NOON, STEP OFF 1:00
PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.WINFIELDDEMS.ORG

Or call: 630- 771-5551

Opinions expressed within are
not necessarily those of the
Winfield Township
Democratic Organization.

Why I Voted For Health Insurance Reform

By Bill Foster
US Congressman, IL-14

After thorough consideration, I decided to support the health insurance reform legislation because it eliminates pre-existing conditions, protects and strengthens Medicare and will significantly reduce the deficit by \$1.3 trillion over 20 years. While the Senate bill itself is not perfect, many important improvements have been made so that the overall package is one that I can support.

One of the most important – and infrequently mentioned – benefits of this bill is freedom. This bill will give my constituents freedom from the fear of becoming uninsurable, and freedom to pursue better job opportunities or start a small business without the fear of losing their insurance. As a former small business owner, I was also pleased to see that this bill will allow small businesses to thrive and expand without facing crippling health care costs.

In the past year I have heard from thousands of constituents who have passionately argued in favor of or against the legislation. Though there have been spirited disagreements about the details, almost everyone agrees that our health insurance system is broken. I have listened to small business owners who tell me they will not be able to continue to offer health insurance to their employees if costs continue to rise, and I have listened to individuals who have become uninsurable through no fault of their own – like one woman who was denied insurance because her health insurance company cited menopause as her pre-existing condition. I have also made it a priority to carefully read and analyze major pieces of legislation before casting my vote – and to think ahead about what will be best for our country 10, 20 and 50 years from now.

I want to make sure my constituents understand that I have heard their calls, read their emails and letters, seen their faxes, and I have weighed the concerns of those opposed and those in favor. In the last 72 hours before the House vote, I also consulted with experts like Illinois Insurance Commissioner Michael McRaith, who confirmed the positive impact that this legislation will have on Illinois businesses and consumers. I ran for Congress to find workable solutions to the problems facing the families of the 14th District, and by controlling costs and eliminating pre-existing conditions as a barrier to health care, I have kept that promise.

I am pleased that this bill is endorsed by the AARP,

the American Medical Association, the Mayo Clinic and dozens of other organizations. It was also important to my decision that the independent, nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office determined that the legislation will cut the federal deficit by \$1.3 trillion over 20 years, and will increase the solvency of Medicare by nine years.

And finally, I want each of you who helped support my election and re-election to know that you had a hand in making this vote possible. This coming election will no doubt be tougher than the last, and the only guarantee of continued progress towards the kind of fundamental, transformative change and competent leadership that this country needs is to have each and every one of you repeat the hard work that makes our democracy function.

For more information visit
www.billfoster.com

Earth Day and the Opportunity Before Us

By Scott Harper
Democratic Nominee for Congress, IL-13

Thursday, April 22nd was Earth Day, which served as the inspiration for my campaign's cleanup of McDowell Grove Forest Preserve, and this reflection on what we as a region can do to be responsible stewards of our resources. We have an incredible opportunity in this country and in the Chicago area to take advantage of three intersecting trends. We know that there is a large potential harm in the climate change. Although we do not know all the parameters of it, we know that if it gets out of control, it could be catastrophic. We also know that from a national security perspective, there is a danger to our country being dependent on Middle East oil. This last point is too little spoken of in public debate. But the fact that we can make progress on both fronts while making our region more prosperous and creating the jobs of the 21st century makes this a compelling opportunity that we must seize. We cannot let the next globally important industrial development pass us by. Germany and China get it. A tragic mistake would be not jumping into the high-tech energy space with both feet.

(See Harper, p. 9)

Who Runs Washington? And What You Can Do About It

By Ben Lowe

Democratic Nominee for Congress, IL-6

In a frank admission a year ago, Senator Dick Durbin put it bluntly: "Frankly, the banks run this place."

Perhaps they deserve to. After all, they pay enough for the privilege.

Last year the finance industry contributed \$500 million to political campaigns: that's **\$1.4 million dollars a day** to grease the skids of American democracy; nearly **\$1 million per member of Congress**.

For that kind of money, they not only run the place, they own it! Bought and paid for!

Have you ever known banks to be pointlessly generous? When was the last time that your bank gave you \$100, let alone \$1,000,000? (Or, if you are old enough to remember a more innocent time, even a toaster or an electric can opener?)

So what are the banks buying with such spectacular generosity?

What do you think?!

Deregulation.

Obscene profits.

Millions of dollars in executive compensation.

Credit card agreements so complicated and convoluted that you have no hope of reading them, let alone understanding what you read, along with late payment penalties and hidden fees.

The legal right to charge the poor interest at rates competitive with loan sharks (up to 1000% per year for 'payday lenders', who loan to the desperate poor borrowing against upcoming paychecks).

The freedom to provide unsecured, predatory mortgages to people who have no hope of paying, first driving up the price you pay for your house, and then collapsing its value to the point that it makes financial sense just to walk away.

The opportunity to sell newly innovated, unregulated financial products to your pension fund, so that their profits and your losses destroy the nest egg that you depend on to support you in your old age.

And most of all, with their millions in political donations, the financial industry and Wall Street banks buy themselves a stupendous bailout, complete with a 'get out of jail free' card.

I do not need to belabor the point. You *know* what the banks bought with their bucks: they bought your Congressman.

And they bought the right to squeeze you by the throat.

This is not an issue of blue vs. red or left vs. right; it is an issue of right vs. wrong. And many of our elected officials in Washington have lost their moral compass. **Here is what we can do about it:**

First, contact your Senators.

In December, the House voted 223-202, approving the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009 (H.R. 4173), legislation opposed by the banking and finance lobby, but correcting many of the abuses which nearly imploded the U.S. economy in the fall of 2008. (Republican members of Congress – including my competitor, Peter Roskam – unanimously opposed the bill. We must not let such shameful behavior stand unchallenged.)

Now the Senate version – the Restoring American Financial Stability Act – is under debate on the Senate floor. It proposes to create a consumer financial protection agency to protect you from Wall Street speculation and deception, by overseeing the companies that provide credit cards, car loans, mortgages, and other financial products.

The banks and financial industry do not need to defeat the bill; all they need to do is to weaken its provisions. The most effective strategy is to offer an alternative, one that is all talk and no teeth, one with great safeguards but little authority to enforce them.

(See **Lowe**, p. 4)

(Lowe, from p. 3)

After the House vote, Edward Yingling, president of the American Bankers Association trade group, said: "Reform is needed, and ABA wants to work with the Congress and the Administration to enact that reform, but the House-passed bill contains provisions that have nothing to do with needed reform and which could make it very difficult for banks to effectively serve their consumer and business customers." These are the same people who just raped the economy – who just got done sucking up your assets, home, and IRAs – for their company profits and their executive bonuses. And now they offer to write the necessary reforms to prevent them from raping you again. Yeah, right.

So contact your members of Congress, the Representatives who have already voted, and the Senators who are preparing to vote. Under the current electoral system, elected officials depend on two things to keep their jobs: your vote and corporate donations. Let them know that they can have only one. Let them choose which it will be. Over the next six months the banking and finance lobby will remember how they vote, and reward them accordingly. Let your Representative know that you too will remember how they vote, and will reward them accordingly. Let them have the bankers' money, if that's what they prefer; but don't let them have the banks' money *and* your vote.

Then, second, follow through on the threat, and vote. Vote out the corporate Representatives who vote for the banks. Support and vote for clean candidates who will protect America's economy and your savings.

To those in or concerned about the 6th District: My campaign is doing everything we can to hold Peter Roskam accountable for his obstruction and opposition of the common good in favor of special interests. And instituting robust financial reform that will protect our communities and our future is a priority I am resolutely committed to. But we cannot succeed without you. Learn more about our grassroots campaign at www.loweforcongress.com and join us.

Made in the USA

By Dave Werle

Committeeman, Pct. 026

America's ailments have become more obvious to each of us as time goes on. Being skeptical of the new "service economy," which produces bubbles instead of products, we've seen the move toward the idea where exchanging wealth, rather than creating it, has become the fuel for the sputtering U. S. economic engine.

We remember, with nostalgia, the belief that if Americans work hard, and play by the rules, we can take part in the American Dream. For many years following WWII, this was achieved. The greatest generation returned from the war. In doing so, they resolutely built a strong, vibrant, expanding middle class. Women and minorities were even included in the belief of the "American Way." An honest day's work could provide for a family, it could buy a home, it could put a Chevy (Ford) in the driveway, and it could save for retirement.

In those days, U.S. manufacturers expanded their plants, instead of shuttering them. Workers got a promotion, instead of a pink slip. Jobs were resourced, not outsourced. We proudly bought our clothing, refrigerators, TV's and cars, which were made right here in the USA, by Americans, for Americans.

Presently, unemployment is the highest it has been in a generation. Real wages have not kept up with the higher cost of living and the manufacturing sector has shed millions of American jobs. Today our country's leading economists have concluded that these jobs are not only gone, but "They ain't coming back".

I recall with amazement the patriotic outpouring, when our nation was attacked by cowardly terrorists. How we banded together. We hopped into our Toyotas, headed to the Wal-Mart, and bought our new Chinese made American Flags. A unique way of displaying our unity and patriotism, and together we saw the crisis through.

Unfortunately, our largest trading partner has dumped dangerous products on our stores, including lead poisoned toys, tainted pet food and toothpaste, and toxic drywall to name a few. As consumers, we should be outraged about the substandard, unregulated manner in which these products are manufactured and distributed. This alone should convince us that domestic products are the wisest choice. We must demand an American made option from our retailers. Although we may not always achieve equity in our free trade agreements, we

(See Werle, p. 8)

Perspective on the Race for Lt. Governor

By Dirk Enger

DuPage County Board Member, Dist. 6

I would like to thank everyone who supported me in my bid for the Lt. Governor nomination. I am proud to say that we were among the final 14 to show up in Springfield and after a strong week of campaigning and speaking with the Central Committee men and women we finished in the top 4 candidates.

In my speech, I was proud to tell those in Springfield that the DuPage County Board is working in a bipartisan and transparent manner. DuPage County finished the year with a \$10 million surplus and was able to fund all the state mandates without full state funding. I presented a record of integrity, commitment and most of all respect from those I am fortunate enough to represent in District 6.

After working the room and evaluating how the process would work, reality set in that this was going to be a two person race for Lt. Governor. In the end it would be between Art Turner and Sheila Simon. Art Turner seemed like the obvious choice. He has an impeccable record of standing up for his constituents and all of us in Illinois. His unyielding commitment to show that this party is a beacon of hope for everyone no matter their social status, race or age. Art's commitment to our state for over thirty years makes you want to stand up proud and say you are a Democrat and he is one of the reasons why.

I still feel that Art Turner was the strongest candidate for Lt. Governor and for the hard working people of Illinois, for organized labor and for those who have been forgotten. In the end when the votes were tallied we found that those who gave their word of support did not honor it. I will never forget the look in his eyes as he slowly realized that thirty years of commitment to this party did not weigh in as much as having the right last name. I respect those committee men and women who kept their word and voted for Art Turner, and for those who did not, I feel you made a mistake.

For more information visit

www.engercounty6.org

From the White House to the Courthouse

By Jennifer Laesch

Democratic State Central Committeewoman, IL-14

On February 2, 2010 I was elected as the Democratic State Central Committeewoman to represent the 14th Congressional District. Not many people know what the State Central Committeewoman's elected position does, but I like to think of it as an unpaid position of recruiting precinct committeemen; training precinct committeemen to help get Democratic candidates elected from the White House to the Courthouse.

Since being elected, we have nominated our Democratic Chairman, Michael Madigan. In the first month of being elected, the 38-member State Central Committeemen has been busy. We have also been given the task of interviewing and selecting a new Lt Governor after the duly elected Lt Governor nominee, Scott Cohen, stepped down due to his controversial past. Many candidates came forward with impeccable resumes, but I nominated your very own DuPage County Board member, Dirk Enger. Dirk would have made a great Lt Governor, but the Central Committee nominated Sheila Simon, daughter of the late Paul Simon. Sheila Simon brings name recognition and life long political experience; she started campaigning for her father, the late Senator Paul Simon.

I have been logging miles talking to many County Chairmen and Chairwomen and Township Chairmen and Chairwomen inquiring about their democratic organization. Many of the eight counties are very well established and growing in strength, but are looking for assistance in precinct committeeman recruitment and training, and others ask for assistance in grooming candidates. I will be touring throughout the 14th Congressional District this summer and fall assisting in recruitment, training, assisting with candidate fundraising and having a presence in many parades and summer county picnics. I only hope to succeed with the knowledge and information I have and to share it among the Democratic County Organizations.

If you'd like to contact me, please email me at jjlaesch@gmail.com or by cell phone at 630.809.6595

Common Sense Government

By Dennis Clark

Candidate for President

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

As President of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage, my top priorities will be

- * Protection of the public's Forest Preserve lands;
- * Focus on Mission; and
- * Transparency with the tax-paying public.

The residents of DuPage are incredibly fortunate to have had the foresight, resources, and the opportunity to acquire more than 26,000 acres of magnificent forest preserve. Rarely has a suburban county so close to a major metropolitan center like Chicago, possessed such a jewel in their midst. North or south, no other county can boast a more glorious collection of natural areas than in our own preserves. I am intensely committed to preserving this very precious gem.

However, the District is at a critical crossroads, and the "jewel" is still a "diamond-in-the-rough". While acquisition of open lands is the foundation, the real challenge is to protect and transform that "uncut gem" to a state of perfection: to support the diverse interests of our residents and truly enrich the quality of their lives. The key to reaching that goal is to create and maintain a delicate balance between recreation, preservation and restoration of lands previously used for other purposes, such as agriculture. As a leader, my highest priority will be to ensure that the District achieves this important balance in pursuit of the perfect blend for the preserves, protecting existing lands from over-development and restoring others.

Focus on Mission

The mission of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County is "to acquire and hold lands containing forests, prairies, wetlands, and associated plant communities or lands capable of being restored to such natural conditions for the purpose of protecting and preserving the flora, fauna, and scenic beauty for the education, pleasure, and recreation of its citizens." It is important to emphasize that, in a broad sense, the District exists to support and uphold this mission. However, people sense that the District has moved away from the mission in recent years. As President, my goal will be to transform the District into a truly "mission-driven" organization. This means, in practical terms, that every significant decision we contemplate will automatically be weighed against our mission prior

to moving ahead. Moreover, the mission will effectively be the "lens" through which every member of our staff views both the Forest Preserve's role within our County and their own role within the District. Since this is not the current management style, reaching this goal will require a cultural change at all levels.

Transparency with the Tax-paying Public

As a division of our DuPage County government, The Forest Preserve District of DuPage is substantially supported by the taxes paid by each and every resident. Therefore, the District has a significant level of accountability to the public. However, people across the county are concerned with the general lack of accountability and sense of arrogance they detect when interacting with the District at virtually all levels. Most people do not feel that there is anyone truly listening to their concerns, or that they have reasonable access to information on projects or decisions which are important to them. As a result, there clearly has been an erosion of the public's trust and level of confidence in the District across the County.

As President, I will move the District to a customer-centric model, ensuring that we recognize that every member of our staff has a connection with those we serve. This, again, will involve exciting and sweeping change in the way we approach our daily business across a whole spectrum of issues of concern to our residents. Under my leadership, all plans and projects will be planned and executed only following proper due diligence and full disclosure to the public. Furthermore, I will ensure access to information about projects, free from many of the barriers and hurdles that exist today. Our customers will be informed of decisions and activities well before they are imminent, or "shovel-ready". My goal will be to restore the basic foundation of trust with each and every "customer" in the county. This will be one of our most important challenges and a common sense approach will guide the District's activities.

The District needs a proven leader with vision, energy and a strong connection with nature. My professional credentials and personal interests are the perfect blend of leadership, management and a passion for preserving this precious gift. I look forward to leading the District to transform our preserves to a truly "flawless gem", through protection of forest lands, focus on our Mission, and transparency.

For more information visit
www.electdennisclark.com

Stages of Community

Activism:

How We Organized to Oppose the Fleet Building at Blackwell Forest Preserve

By Shannon Burns

*Candidate for Dist. 6 Commissioner
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County*

Residents of Bender Lane in West Chicago had a first-hand chance to experience the stages of grief last spring. First learning of the DuPage Forest Preserve District's plans to build a 28,000+ square foot Fleet Maintenance Building near the McKee Marsh in Blackwell Forest Preserve via an email from a Director at the Forest Preserve offices in March, 2009, we experienced the first stage of grief: Denial. "This can't be happening!" "There must be some mistake!"

Soon, we experienced the second stage of grief: Anger. "It's not fair!" "Let's find someone to blame!" By this stage, the West-Win Homeowner's Association, with their experience in similar matters affecting the areas lifestyle, stepped in with an offer to host an initial community strategy meeting to assist community members in organizing an opposition to the Fleet Building.

Motivation is the one advantage of the anger stage. Our anger prompted us to action: We got information, called people, searched records, made lists, wrote letters and spoke at weekly meetings of the Forest Preserve Board.

It was in the third stage of grief – Bargaining – that individual strengths began to surface. At this stage, we began to identify specific skills within our community. Individuals began to offer specific skills that would contribute to the larger purpose of stopping the Fleet Building from being built in McKee Marsh. My personal stage of bargaining took the form of offering to Chair meetings, set an agenda, and keep our discussions focused.

By now, we had begun hearing from the Forest Preserve Board that the Fleet Building was "A done deal." In a small group meeting with Commissioner Roger Kotecki, we were told that our chances of stopping the Fleet Building were "nearly zero."

As often happens at this point in the grieving process, the stages began to blur. Some of us moved on to the next stage (Depression) and began to believe that our opposition was hopeless.

Other group members moved into the final stage of grief (Acceptance) and began to participate in an organized opposition effort. At this stage, many group members wavered between feeling depressed about our chances of success and accepting of the need to work hard to make a difference. The fact of the GROUP saved the day: We rallied in support of each other, we divided up tasks according to individual strengths, and everyone had a chance to contribute. Our effort began to move forward with increasing momentum.

At this stage, we had evolved a single minded focus (No Fleet Maintenance Building on ANY preserved land) and a solid strategy of action. Our action efforts began with fact finding through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to the Forest Preserve District and other public agencies. Via information obtained through FOIA reviews, it became obvious that the Forest Preserve District had not conducted due diligence in planning for the Fleet Maintenance Building. No traffic study had been conducted, no other sites were considered, the McKee Marsh location was based on a 20 year old plan, septic tests on the site had failed, the budget did not include money for maintaining the facility....

Although motivated by emotion, our opposition of the Fleet Maintenance Building focused on fact. Using facts uncovered through FOIA reviews, we spoke at EVERY Board meeting. With the help of West-Win HOA, we established a web site to gather facts and comments about the Fleet Building issue. We launched an email campaign making it easy for people to email their Forest Preserve Commissioner opposing the project. We wrote a fact sheet and distributed it widely. We launched a letter to the editor campaign that gathered County-wide support for our opposition. We raised money to host a booth at the County Fair to gather over 1750 signed petition letters opposing the project. We tirelessly requested an evening meeting of the Forest Preserve Board and, when one was finally scheduled, we organized to have press coverage, large attendance, and more than 17 speakers. We researched alternative construction sites and presented them to the Board. Most of all, we did not give up.

Our hard work paid off: On August 18, 2009, the Forest Preserve Board formally agreed to halt plans for construction at Blackwell while other sites were explored. We are now cautiously optimistic but we

(See Burns, p. 9)

(Werle, cont'd from p. 3)

consumers, who make up sixty percent of the U.S. economy, still have a voice.

It is not always the easiest option to buy products made in the USA; however, we have always been a resourceful people. We can educate ourselves on where American goods are bought and sold. On the internet are many sites dedicated to this idea - Made in the USA.org and Why Buy USA.com are just a couple of examples. Recently, one of the area's larger home improvement store (Menards) featured sales on Made in the USA products. We should encourage more of this and patronize these establishments. So my challenge is to start reading the labels (country of origin) when we shop for everyday items and see what we find made in the USA. We may surprise ourselves that even many of the value brands are made right here in America.

In the past year since Wall Street let us down, I see how my neighbor's financial health can affect my own. If my neighbor is unemployed, it affects my community's tax base and resources. If my neighbor has a medical crisis, but no health care coverage, it affects my premiums. If my neighbor's home is foreclosed upon, it drive's down my property value. However, if my neighbor has a good paying job, making, assembling, selling, shipping, exporting, or growing American goods and products, all sectors of the community are healthy.

So, isn't it time we believe in America?

Isn't it time we buy American?

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Letters, opinions, jokes
(keep'em clean, folks!)



WTDO

PO Box 224

Warrenville, IL 60555-0224

info@winfielddems.org

Jobs and the Economy

Maria Owens

Candidate for State Representative, District 95

Illinois is a stellar state with a dedicated workforce and great resources. We need to get our people back to work. In the early 80s the federal government gave a tax credit for businesses willing to expand and hire. We need to resurrect this for Illinois. If you are a small business owner and you are willing to purchase another truck and hire an additional driver for that truck, you get a tax credit over a period of 3-5 years. Businesses willing to expand and hire would be rewarded.

We need to promote "green jobs" in Illinois. It is a blossoming industry and Illinois can become the center of the "green" movement. We need to set green energy goals with timelines and enforce them with stiff penalties for those who do not comply. Throughout our state we can promote and attract businesses with incentives to come to Illinois, particularly businesses which produce energy saving technologies. Experts estimate that as many as 100,000 jobs and billions in revenue can be realized with "green" jobs right here in Illinois. These jobs would not be limited to manufacturing. Construction managers, energy auditors, and technicians would be just a few of the "green" industry jobs created. By offering incentives for "green" renovations for both new and existing buildings, and both private residences and commercial buildings, we could realize jobs and revenues while promoting energy conservation and a cleaner and healthier environment for the people of Illinois.

Currently, our state is a leader in nuclear power. Nuclear power generates roughly half, or 47.8% of our state's electricity, with the other half generated by coal. Less than 2% comes from renewable energy sources. We have the expertise right here in this state to increase that 2%. Driving south to Bloomington you see large wind farms. I would be in favor of expanding and promoting wind farms and helping to further develop solar, which has wide deployment in Germany, a place with a climate fairly comparable to Illinois.

And how do we pay for these incentives and

(See Owens, p. 9)

(Burns, cont'd from p. 7)

remain poised for continued action should plans for a Maintenance Complex at Blackwell surface again. Next time, having passed through the stages of grief and accepted our need to organize and focus our action, we will be ready with an organized, focused effort.

This successful community action effort took just over five months. In the process, to paraphrase Margaret Mead, we demonstrated a core principle of Democracy: That a small group of committed people can change the world!

For more information visit

(Harper, cont'd from p. 2)

But why the Chicago region? Does that make sense? What is not realized broadly enough is that we have the infrastructure to make the Chicago area the national center for high-tech energy. We have Argonne National Lab in the heart of our district making great strides in battery technology, improving the gear boxes of wind turbines, developing bacteria for cellulosic ethanol, studying new materials for heat exchange, and much more. We have great companies in wind energy infrastructure, biogas development, squeezing more energy out of waste heat, battery companies and more.

And with smart policy and active commercialization, we can harness all the nascent strengths of the region and promote them around the country and around the world. When you add private capital to the venture funds, our financial reach exceeds more famous centers of innovation. And we already create much of the technology that runs global business. On the policy side, we need to look at smart regulation, rating firms by emissions/kW (output standards), we need stable portfolio standards (% of electricity from renewable sources by a given date), we need tie-in tariffs to spur innovation from the ground up, and we need to label conservation as a renewable innovation to capture all the gains from efficiency.

We have every reasons to be green, and we have the resources to make it happen; all we need is the local initiative and stronger leadership at the federal level. Let's make Earth Day 2010 mark the beginning of our determination to succeed.

For more information visit
www.scottharperforcongress.com

(May, cont'd from p. 10)

At the recent AFL-CIO convention, Steelworkers President Richard Trumka was elected President of the Federation. His union (USW) recently won a victory over the issue of Chinese tire imports. They filed a charge of dumping to the International Trade Commission, and the commission agreed with the union. This will result in tariffs being added to Chinese tire imports. China had agreed to these rules to gain entry into the WTO, but this is probably the first time that a US administration has taken action. The Bush administration routinely ignored trade disputes and it is good to see the Obama administration taking some labor issues seriously.

Needless to say, this has resulted in cries of "protectionism" from the folks at the Wall Street Journal and other so-called "free traders". Since when did it become protectionist to enforce trade agreements?

Doug May is a member of The National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 825.

(Owens, cont'd from p. 8)

tax credits? Where and how can we increase our desperately needed revenue flow? Illinois should begin by finding and eliminating all wasteful spending. Government is notorious for wasting dollars. Only then should we begin to look at additional revenue sources. One option would be to charge sales tax on Internet purchases and services. When I go into a store to buy something I expect to pay a sales tax. Why should I not pay sales tax when I purchase that same item on the Internet? Similarly, services such as a haircut, spa treatment or dry cleaning, should be subject to sales tax.

In addition, I support a 5-10 cent charge on all transactions that take place at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, the Board of Options and the Stock Exchange. Experts have estimated this would bring in close to \$1 billion dollars per year in tax revenue from around the world.

Our elected officials have looked the other way for far too long on our burgeoning debt and unbalanced budget. They have spent more than they had and did not plan for the future. It is time for Springfield to roll up its sleeves and get the job done. The people of Illinois deserve better than they have been getting.

For more information visit
www.owensforillinois.com

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Labor & Economic Recovery

By Doug May

Committeeman, Pct. 001

As I write this, we are experiencing some mixed economic situations. The Dow Jones Index recently closed over 10,000 points, which it has not done for some time. This should help out the 401k accounts for those of us who have seen stunning declines in their value over the last few years. But along with this somewhat positive news, we are also facing record unemployment, soon to be over 10%. Locally, nearly all sectors have been hit hard, but the building trade workers have been hit harder than most. I don't have hard numbers, but leaders of some locals are reporting unemployed members are at levels never seen before.

My employer, the United States Postal Service, has been hit very hard by the recession. Mail volume has declined due to many factors, including electronic communications, but the largest culprit is the lack of economic activity. Reports estimate that the Postal Service is losing around 21 million dollars a day. This is obviously not sustainable over a long period of time. For our part, letter carriers have agreed to longer routes based on the reduced workload. These adjustments have just recently occurred, so chances are, your mail is arriving at a different time, and by a new carrier as territory has been reassigned. You may have read stories about how the Postmaster General is advocating for eliminating a day of mail delivery to cut costs. While it would save some money, it would not make much of dent in the big picture. It would, however, have a huge impact on the workers, with 1 out of 6 letter carriers losing their work assignments. The Postal Service is also trying to close numerous Post Offices, and processing

centers. This invariably leads to the local Congressman becoming involved, as no elected official wants a Postal facility in their district to close. Legislation was recently signed, giving the Postal Service some breathing room for a year. It enjoyed broad support from both parties, with all but one of our Illinois delegation voting in favor. The one holdout? Peter Roskam from the 6th district. As predicted, Roskam has been a reliable vote against working families throughout his brief congressional career earning him a grade of "D" from themiddleclass.org. We have a link to scores for our local legislators on our website www.winfielddems.org

(See **May**, p. 9)

“Power goes to two poles – to those who’ve got the money and those who’ve got the people.”

Saul Alinsky

