

Summer 2006
Richard DeFreitas
CBA President

Lowell's gain is Chelmsford's loss. This is not an idle statement. By now everyone knows Bernie Lynch, our Town Manager, is the next Lowell City Manager... which leaves a huge void in Chelmsford. I'm sure that in the long run we will survive... mostly because Bernie leaves the town in such good shape.

Our financial situation is surviving because of his leadership and vision in that area. It is exactly that quality that will make him successful as a city manager. Make no mistake about it... Bernie is a leader. While we may not have always agreed with his direction, he paved the way and led us to whatever goal he had set. He is directly responsible for the state of the town. And for this, we were well served and we will miss him.

As long as I have known Bernie, he has always had a yen to manage a city. He has had his eye on Lowell for quite a while, but, alas, he waited until the timing was right. In Lowell he will not have to worry about Chapter 70 money from the state... Lowell receives more than its fair share now. Neither will he have to worry about "Tax Classification", an area that we differed with him, because Lowell is heavily classified. He may even learn why classification is not a panacea. But, he will find other challenges and I'm sure he will pursue them with a vengeance. He will shine in his new position and, as such, you can expect to see his picture in the Lowell Sun almost daily.

His departure now leaves us with our own challenge. Bernie must be replaced by a competent person with superior financial and management skills. I hope that the Board of Selectmen will do due diligence to find such a person. Whether or not a citizen committee is formed is the selectmen's call. But, as representatives of the business community, we must do everything we can to be a positive influence on the selection task ahead. In my opinion, the selectmen must not pick a politico. They must go for the best-qualified person available that can convince us that he/she can do the job.

I wish the selectmen... God speed, good luck and common sense. What they do now, affects our future as well as theirs.

Thank you
for
listening...
*Richard E
DeFreitas,
President*

It's been sixteen years of CBA participation in our annual 4th of July parade. This year was no different. Let's see, we had floats, hands, ships, race cars, balloons and I can't remember what else. This year the committee with Jeff Hardy, Brian Reidy and myself built a float with a patriotic theme. In case you missed it this year, the lettering on it was "Chelmsford Business Association a strong voice for the business community" On the rear was Chelmsford Business Association and our website www.chelmsfordbusiness.org.

On board was the band 'Joe's Attic' most of you know this local band, in case you don't our own Jeff Hardy is the drummer. Jeff and his follow band members performed the entire route without a brake. Most importantly the piece "Taking Care of Business" was played no less than 16 times over the parade route. I don't think a better song could have been used and they did a fantastic job.

Andy Kahl riding his Crazy Bike!

Along the parade Debbie Murphy and I tossed out foam frisbees that looked like the CBA logos. They were a terrific hit with all the young people. We also had our "roving crazy bike rider," Andy Kahl pass out candy to the young ones.

Although we won no prizes I did hear a great "plug" given by the announcer down at the reviewing stand. I want to extend my sincere thanks to Jeff Hardy for all his hard work building and dismantling the float as well as the great job he and his band did playing. We can always count on Jeff. I also want to thank Tommy Murphy of Landscaping Unlimited for his use of a trailer that we used to build the float on. Tommy also supplied us with a driver for the day.

And last but not least, Thanks to Brian Reidy for his use of the generator used to power up the band. We wish everyone a safe and happy summer.

Hank Hamelin
Chairman – 4th of July Committee