

Guest Column

My Loyal Friends, Part II



By William R. Crane

I must begin this column with some bad news. In Part I on this subject my friend Eddie and my cat Brownie combined to give me some grief, as you may recall. Unfortunately, that will be the last time that particular duo will combine to drive me bonkers. On Saturday last old Brownose ran a cropper with a vehicle on Main Street in front of Crane Manor and came out second best. So after 8 1/2 years of the cat in charge here, Brownie is off to wherever good little cats go when their ticket is punched.

So this means I'm going to have to do my columns by myself, with no help from the mouse-catching machine, so if you denote a drop-off in the quality of my ravings you will know the reason.

Now we shall return to my Loyal Friends and pick up where we dropped off. We had been talking about a folder of ideas called "If I Were a Selectman" and examine some of these really dandy thoughts, which I guess, for lack of a better description, comprise what passes for a hypothetical platform.

- Term limits for all elected officials; no more than two full terms shall be allowed.

- Pit bull owners must post liability insurance in the amount of \$5 million per animal owned. Animal must be muzzled and on a leash when outside.

- I would pledge to reduce the operating budget 5% per year for the next three years

- I would work to make Arizona Governor Jan Brewer an honorary citizen of the town of Norfolk and make her the first annual recipient of the Norfolk "Excellence in Courageous Leadership" medal with crossed swords.

- I would immediately move to name the new school "The Sergeant Adam Kennedy School." I would make sure there was a display of Adam's life in-

corporated as a permanent part of the lobby so that we will never forget the sacrifice made by this young hero.

- All bond issues would be presented at Town Meeting on the warrant as "truth in lending" documents showing the total interest paid over the life of the loan. Let me give you a hypothetical example. If you buy a Toyota and finance the vehicle for five years the dealer will give you a disclosure form which states sell price of car \$18,000, length of loan 5 years, number of payments 60, interest rate 4.9%, amount of payments \$384 per month, for a total amount to be paid of \$23000 over the life of the loan. But in Norfolk when we are asked to build a school and the amount is given as \$40 million, this is not the true amount of the cost. The interest expense is shown somewhere else and is not correlated into the loan. If it were it would appear as amount of bond (loan) \$40 million, interest rate 3%, total amount to be repaid at the end of 40 years \$57 million. (Let's not have any of you CPA types panicking.... these are hypothetical guesses off the top of my head for illustrative purposes only, but they do reflect order of magnitude.) I asked a man in town who is very experienced and eminently qualified to comment on this and his comment was, "If we did this we would never get anything passed." Think about that, folks.

- We would immediately institute a system of veteran's preference in our hiring practice. If a veteran is qualified for the job, he immediately goes to the top of the list and is offered the job first.

- All of the folks in town who supported the new school by stating "the best time to build a new school is when the economy is in a deep depression" will be rounded up and sent off to Rosalie Bergdorf's home for the hopelessly insane for 45 days observation. At the end of the observation period they will be strapped into chairs where they will be forced to watch "The new Adventures of Old Christine" twenty-four hours a day interspersed with the Honda ads featuring Mr. Opportunity. That ought to snap them out of their madness.

- I would do some serious thinking and planning about our



cemetery situation and the needs of the future.

- Our cable TV rates are going through the roof and with no end in sight, it's time to look at other options. For instance, Norwood Light has its own cable system and they charge \$89.99 a month for digital cable TV, Internet, and unlimited telephone service. We need to look into this type of operation. We're being hosed.

- I would contact Scott Brown and say "Scott, you need to get the Pondville Hospital site cleaned up for us and then work some magic whereby Norfolk and Walpole gain title to the land and then get us some of the magic money from the stimulus package. (I'm sure there's some left that hasn't been wasted yet.) Then perhaps some sanity will take hold and we can merge Public Safety (fire and police departments) along with DPWs with the town of Walpole and get appropriate consolidated buildings built and functional. Scott, if there is anyone in Washington uniquely positioned to cut through the baloney, it's you. We need some payback, as we've been getting stiffed on the prison funds for too long."

- I would work with our legislators to urge them to file bills which would eradicate tenure from our public school systems.

- Finally, the Stop & Shop fiasco in the center of town must be resolved, by whatever means are necessary. It's time for some innovative thinking, some bold strategy, some frank talk, and some spirited negotiations to get this mess off dead center. Perhaps this could be the site of one of the much bally-hooed gambling casinos. Maybe we should call the Governor and invite him out again?

But don't get your hopes up boys and girls. This is just pie-in-the-sky stuff. There's not enough tea in China to make me get involved in this madness.

Classifieds

For Sale

Ikea Alve Desk in Excellent Condition, White finish like new. Original price \$199. Asking \$95 or best offer. Call Kim at 508-541-7175

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For Sale

Solid Cherry, Full Size, 4 poster bed with arched canopy. In good condition. \$150.
Antique child's "School house desk and chair." Desk has a slot for an inkwell. Both desk & chair have a black iron base. In pretty good condition. \$50. Call Kim at 508-541-7175.

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Help Wanted

Seeking experienced horse care person, preferably female that rides well and has free time. High school age or older is fine as long as the person is independent and reliable. Part-time only, including most weekends. Call 508-528-2635.

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Free

Danby countertop dishwasher, great for apartment or office. If you can pick up, it's yours for free. Call 774-571-3324

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Free Classifieds

Many types of classified ads are free for subscribers to The Norfolk Boomerang. Some restrictions may apply. Here are some of the details:

1. Classified ads are text-only ads, and are not to be confused with display ads or inserts.
2. Appropriate topics include items for sale, items for rent, items free of charge, services requested (but not services to be rendered), and yard sales.
3. Limit of 70 words per classified
4. Asking price for sales or rentals or purchases must be \$200 or less, in total. (So a rental that asks for a total sum likely to be more than \$200 once the entire term of the rental is taken into account does not qualify for a free classified. Likewise, a sale with asking prices that when added all together exceed \$200 does not qualify for a free classified.)
5. No personals
6. Free-classifieds offer applies to individual subscribers only, not to businesses, organizations, corporations, or government entities.
7. The free-classifieds offer does not apply to Help Wanted notices for businesses. (But Help Wanted ads are free for regular advertisers who take out display ads, Service Directory ads, or inserts. Help Wanted ads are also free to individual subscribers seeking part-time help at their home property, such as a farm.)
8. Non-subscribers may take out a classified ad at a cost of \$20, which covers a run of at least two times.
9. A classified ad that does not meet the criteria for free-ness may be taken out by a subscriber at a cost of \$20, which covers a run of at least two times.
10. All classifieds must be sent by email to NorfolkBoomerang@gmail.com; please put the word "Classified" somewhere in the subject line of the email message.
11. We will assume a run of two weeks per classified ad unless otherwise specified; ordinary limit of four weeks per run, unless we extend it capriciously.
12. Requests for classified ads must have complete information, including an adequate description of what is being offered and a way for the reader to obtain it.
13. Requests for classified ads should include the name, telephone number, and mailing address of the person making the request, even if that information is not meant to appear in the online version of the newspaper; but make it clear what is supposed to go into the online version of the paper and what isn't.
14. Requests to stop a classified ad must be sent by email to NorfolkBoomerang@gmail.com in a timely fashion.
15. We reserve the right to edit any ad.
16. We reserve the right to reject any ad for any reason.
17. We do not promise to get a particular classified ad in any particular online issue of the newspaper (though we will of course try to get it in at a useful date).
18. Deadline is 5 p.m. Monday for the online issue of the newspaper that comes out Friday of that same week.
19. This offer is good through July 31, 2010, at which time it will be reevaluated and may be extended.

Happenings

An Events Calendar for Norfolk

Editor's Note: Norfolk Public Library is at 139 Main Street in Norfolk Center. All places and addresses below that do not specify a municipality are in the town of Norfolk.

Tuesday, July 27

6:30 to 8 p.m.
T-Bone plans to perform a children's concert on Town Hill in Norfolk Center. It's the fifth of seven free 2010 Summer Concerts on Town Hill. The T-Bone concert is sponsored jointly by the Norfolk Recreation Department and Norfolk Public Library. The concert is scheduled to take place outside, weather-permitting. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs. In case of inclement weather, organizers plan to move the concert inside to the town library nearby.

Thursday, July 29

6:30 to 8 p.m.
Deluze Quality Band, which plays a variety of music, plans to perform on Town Hill in Norfolk

Center. It's the sixth of seven free 2010 Summer Concerts on Town Hill sponsored by the Norfolk Recreation Department. Concerts take place weather-permitting. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs.

Thursday, August 5

6:30 to 8 p.m.
Dick Kaplan and the Excellent Jazz Band plans to perform on Town Hill in Norfolk Center. It's the last of seven free 2010 Summer Concerts on Town Hill sponsored by the Norfolk Recreation Department. Concerts take place weather-permitting. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs.

Editor's Note: Please send descriptions of events by email to NorfolkBoomerang@gmail.com. Please put the word "Calendar" somewhere in the subject line. The deadline for sending a Happenings item is 8 p.m. the Friday before the week you would like the event notice to appear.

Meetings

The following are meetings that were posted or announced recently. Boards and committees can schedule meetings, cancel meetings, or alter the starting times of meetings on relatively short notice. Norfolk Town Hall is at One Liberty Lane in Norfolk Center.

Monday, July 26

7 p.m. Board of Selectmen
Town Hall, Room 125

7 p.m. Ad Hoc Town Meeting Technology Committee
Norfolk Public Library, 139 Main Street

Tuesday, July 27

9 a.m. Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Certification Review
State Transportation Building, Conference Room # 2/3
10 Park Plaza, Boston

Wednesday, July 28

No Meetings Posted

Thursday, July 29

6:30 p.m. Energy Committee
Town Hall, Room 124