

October 7, 2008

I asked Cheryl, “What do you do?” and I got this:

*Cheryl McNamee and Nancy Murphy work at the DPW. Some of their jobs include:*

*Permitting (water, sewer, driveway, street opening & drainage)*

*Answering phone calls from residents*

*Responsible for records of the North, South & West Cemeteries*

*Common & Banner reservations*

*We are the administrative support for the engineering, highway, tree, water and parks department*

Cheryl is waaaaay too modest. Answering calls from residents includes:

Whaddya mean I can't bring my paint to the landfill?

There are leaves blocking the drain on my street – the water is up to my nose!

What do I do about trash, loose dogs, snow, etc.

I have to PAY for a banner??

There's a tree down in front of my driveway and it's YOUR tree.

I want to book the Town Common for a Love In with Beerfest.

Well, you get the idea. Not an easy job – and multifaceted to say the least. Three cheers to Cheryl and Nancy – very hard working SEIU sisters.

Who's next?

Now's the time: Get a flu shot. I have not had an announcement from the Health Department – they usually run a free flu shot clinic for seniors. Employees are usually allowed to attend. However, it's pretty simple to pay the \$5 and go to your own doctor for a shot.

\$75,000 – Childcare Tuition Assistance was included in the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant). What does that mean to you? If you are a resident of Amherst, you might qualify for childcare assistance. Check with Roy Rosenblatt, Children's Services. There are income limits. Again, you might qualify for a subsidy.

I regret to report that I will not be able to attend the [Chapter Chair Convention](#)

**October 22, 2008, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

150 Mt. Vernon St., Boston, MA 02125 (The Boston Teachers' Union)

Because that is the date of the Library's All Staff meeting. All Library staff are required to go to this meeting. If anyone wishes to be a 'designated hitter' and go in my place, the Union will pay for your time and mileage. You will be required to bring me excellent notes. This could be our chance to remind Boston that Western Massachusetts does exist and we'd like to see more action from them out here.

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I have no idea if this is a good thing, but this is from the SEIU 888 website:

**SAVE MY HOME HOTLINE**

Home foreclosures are up. Are you at risk?

If you are facing financial trouble, you may be at risk of missing a mortgage payment. Falling behind on your payments could mean foreclosure!

[The Union Plus Save My Home Hotline](#) can help. Don't wait until it's too late - call 1-866-490-5361, any time day or night.

Don't have a computer? You can use the Internet at the Jones Library. You'll need a library card, but that's easy to get. Then look up [www.seiu.org](http://www.seiu.org) and read about the rest of the member benefits available to you.

Free notary service – if you go to the SEIU headquarters in Charlestown. Now, I'm thinking that a 200 mile trip might be bit pricey. So until March, I will offer free notary service to members. You DO have to give me advance notice (so I can bring my book and seal to work). I cannot perform the service during work time, but lunch works for me. (After March, my commission expires and I'm debating paying \$50 for a new seal.)

As always, please print this out for any Union brothers and sisters without email. Happy Fall!

**UPDATE:** Here it is October 10 and I haven't emailed this yet. It turns out that the flu shot was free. There is no co-payment for a nurse's visit.

Just a reminder to have a happy and safe Columbus Day weekend. You can be a leaf peeper for free or you can spend some hard earned money and take in the Paradise City Arts Festival in Northampton.