

## Diehl to run for state rep

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Wednesday, 02 December 2009 17:29

Whitman resident Geoff Diehl, who is known for restoring the local landmark Toll House sign, is now running for the state representative position for the 7th Plymouth District against incumbent, Democrat Allen McCarthy.

Diehl's campaign kick off will take place on Feb. 22 at the Whitman VFW. More details on the campaign kick-off will be announced on Diehl's Web site: [geoffdiehl.com](http://geoffdiehl.com).

The event will give residents from all three towns the chance to meet the candidate face to face and let him know what they see is important in the state representative role. He will also discuss his plans for the future.

"This is their position I just want to be the liaison," Diehl said.

The event will be free but attendees are asked to donate what they can to the MassGeneral Institute for Neurodegenerative Disease. Diehl felt using awareness in his campaign for MIND will promote the work being done.

The institute's mission is to translate laboratory discoveries into prevention, treatment and cures for Alzheimer's, ALS, Huntington's Parkinson's and other neurodegenerative diseases. MIND seeks to accelerate therapies that lessen the devastating toll of the disease on patients and their families.

"I think the work being done by MIND can benefit families who are affected by these specific diseases," Diehl said.

As a Republican, he hopes to protect local aid from being cut. He said instead of tax hikes, the state needs to keep the communities affordable for the working families and seniors.

Diehl is a member of the Whitman Finance Committee and he has seen first hand how local aid is the first thing the state cuts during a budget crisis.

"The position of state representative, to me, looked like the most effective way to try to enact change for the better for our towns," Diehl said.

Diehl is an account executive at Poyant Signs, and he also assisted his wife KathyJo with opening Boss Academy of Performing Arts in Hanson eight years ago.

Diehl said he will fight to improve the business climate in the region so that everyone can earn a decent living and local businesses can continue to support the towns they call home.

Diehl feels Abington, East Bridgewater and Whitman have good fundamental strengths.

"It's a conservative area that does put family first, acting in a fiscally sound manner," he said.

Diehl said that he is proud of Whitman for coming through this year's budget crunch and for being able to afford the new police station.

While the district is positioned well for the immediate future, Diehl said that next year looks tough.

"I think what is important to me, once elected, is to be dedicated to the role of state representative full-time," Diehl said.

He said if he wasn't working at the Statehouse he would meet with the town managers and ensure he got a list of the needs of the towns

and relay them back at the Statehouse.

Diehl feels that the position warrants full-time work during this type of economic crisis.

He said his personal success in the sign industry, the Natick Collection refurbishment and other high profile sign projects in the state has lent him the opportunity to be able to afford to make this run for state representative.

This summer, Diehl said he spent a great deal of time going door to door to meet people and learn what is important to them.

“What is most important is making decisions based on the needs of the town and not the party in power,” he said.

His goal is to know the issues that face working families and the average citizen and convey them once in office.

Diehl is currently the liaison to the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District School Committee for the Whitman Finance Committee. He said he sees first hand how the schools are trying to patch the budget shortfall with one-time stimulus monies.

In Whitman-Hanson, he said the schools are trying to creatively address the budget needs. Diehl said Abington has faced severe cuts and in East Bridgewater accreditation is an ongoing issue.

He said that it’s getting to the point where schools have to increase bus fees just for the students to get to school.

“Another cup of coffee a week turns into a lot of money over time,” he said.

Diehl said funding for the schools by the state cannot be compromised by bad decisions in the legislature.

“I will work to preserve local aid so that taxpayers are not asked to spend more each year to sustain basic programs and services necessary for our children to remain competitive,” he said.

“There is no doubt with the proper mentality we can pull out of this as a state, as a town, as each individual family making good decision,” he said. “I want to be the new voice of the 7th Plymouth District and make the right choices for our families, towns and ultimately the state.”

Diehl will be participating in East Bridgewater’s Christmas on the Common on Dec. 5. He will also be caroling outside the Venus Café in Whitman on Dec. 6 during Winterfest. Both events are a great opportunity for residents to meet the candidate.