

# The Connecticut Libertarian

August 2001

The Official Newsletter of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

www.lpct.org

## Volunteers Needed for Bethlehem Fair

by James Madison

Have a fun and exciting day at the Bethlehem Fair by volunteering to help run the Libertarian Party information booth. George Eggert is seeking fellow party members who are willing to staff the booth from September 7-9 (Friday-Sunday) for any part of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Last year, the booth was right next to the Green Party booth, which proved to be quite fun. When we encountered people who clearly had no interest in living in a free society, we would send them to the Green booth. When the Greens encountered people who started ranting about the failures of government, they would send them to us. It worked out quite well, oddly enough.

Antagonism with the Greens aside, it's also a good deal because you get into the fair for free. Now let's not get crazy here—if the whole LPCT shows up at the fair to do 5 minutes at the booth and then spends the rest of the day sight seeing, George might get some heat from the management of the fair. But if you're looking for a great way to help the party grow while at the same time eating unhealthy food, spending \$12 trying to win a \$2 bear, and finding out who has the biggest pig in the northwest corner of Connecticut, this is it!

George has been running the booth for years, but this year can't make it himself, so he's counting on you. Several members have already volunteered their time, but more are needed. George can be contacted at 203-266-7421.

## Eminent Domain Undermines Our Flag's Symbolism

by Lenny Rasch

BRISTOL—For the past few years the city of Bristol has conducted an eminent domain battle against an elderly family that is unfortunate enough to live next to a light industrial zone. Their property is being seized by the mayor to accommodate the expansion plans of a prominent local company.

In spite of the fact that this company is now issuing layoffs and canceled their expansion plans, the city continues to demand the property. Although the family fought the claim in court, Bristol prevailed and will soon move these people out of their lifelong homestead. Meanwhile, Mayor Nicastro of Bristol has come down solidly in favor of a flag desecration amendment.

This pair of outrages prompted me to send the following letter to the Bristol Press, which was subsequently published:

*As a neighbor of Bristol, it is with deep disappointment that I read of Mayor Nicastro's support of a flag "desecration amendment".*

*A veteran myself, I think I can safely say that Americans did not make sacrifices merely for a symbol like the flag. After all, the Nazis had a swastika, the Japanese a rising sun, in fact, everyone has a flag to symbolize their country's values, for better or worse.*

*Veterans fought and died to preserve the human rights that are the hallmark of this country. Among these rights are the right of expression and the right to property. Because of these rights, for example, we expect that an aging family may remain in their home without being forcibly removed for the "greater good" of the state/community. Rights protect us from tyrants, both individual tyrants and the tyranny of the majority.*

See **Symbolism**, Page 2

Continued from Page 1  
**Symbolism**

*Unfortunately, Mayor Nicaastro places much more value on the symbol of the flag than he appears to place on the human rights it symbolizes. When he decided that land owned by others should be seized and used to benefit his favorite interest, he showed us that he places little value on rights.*

*Brutal violation of property rights is inconsistent with Mr. Nicaastro's flag-waving. It's time that he honored our veterans by focusing on the substance of what they have defended, not just the symbol.*

I received two phone calls from members of the victimized family, thanking me for the letter. The mother left a voice mail, which included the tearful statement that she didn't know where she was going to go now.

A third call was from one of the sons, who expressed support for the city. He stated that the creation of new jobs was important, the original money offer was good, and the mayor was a nice guy, so we shouldn't criticize him.

On hearing these latter comments, I am inclined to agree with Mark Twain's observations about the hopelessness of the human race. But letters-to-the-editor are definitely read, and I am glad I took the time to write this one.

•

## LPCT Convention in October

Mark your calendars now for the Libertarian Party of Connecticut Convention on Saturday, October 6th from 1:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The day will include a fantastic line-up of speakers – including a very special keynote speaker, a great meal, a live band, and a chance to talk to other freedom-loving people like you. In fact, it would be a good opportunity to invite all your fence-sitting friends to show them what you've been trying to tell them about the Libertarian philosophy.

The official announcement will arrive in your mailbox in the next few weeks giving you all the details, so keep an eye out for it.

We will also be sending the announcement to over 4,000 others throughout southern New England, including several hundred media outlets.

The 1998 Connecticut convention was a spectacular success, and this year's is lining up to be even better.

---

## August Strategy Session Being Held in Guilford

Since variety is the spice of life, we will be holding the August Strategy Session in Guilford at the home of Ned Vare, the 1998 Libertarian candidate for Governor of Connecticut (see date, time, and directions below).

From time to time, we may move the meeting to different locations so those members from various areas of the state will have an opportunity to attend a meeting near them.

Be sure to stop by, and if you have other ideas for meeting locations of future strategy sessions, e-mail them to [TCL@lpct.org](mailto:TCL@lpct.org) or call 860-635-8334.

---

**Meeting Notice:** The LPCT will meet from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup> in Guilford at Ned Vare's house, 22 Wild Rose Ave. His number is 203-458-7402. All members are welcome, and bringing visitors is *strongly* encouraged. The atmosphere is casual, and all things Libertarian are up for discussion, from the purely philosophical to the painfully practical. Hope to see you there!

### Directions:

- From I 95: Exit 58 (crossing with CT route 77), take route 77.
- South one mile to Guilford Green.
- Turn Right, then Left on Whitfield Street
- Go 300 yards to South end of green;
- Turn Right on Water Street (route 146); go one mile;
- Turn Right on Wild Rose Avenue; go 200 yards;
- Turn Left on Chasse Drive.
- Driveway is immediately on Left – #22 on mailbox.

### Menu:

Buffet breakfast for fast, courteous self-service – all you can stand  
Menu: Fresh squeezed Refund juice (while it lasts); Eggs Libertarian (hard boiled with salsa); Self-government Croissants (sour grapes jelly); Personal responsibility coffee; Liber tea. Actually, there will be real food.