

## **An 'important' inauguration**

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

The city's biennial inauguration of a new administration was officially labeled an "important event" last Tuesday, not because it was the start of a new city government, but because of the piano that was on stage.

Master of Ceremonies Pia Durkin, the Attleboro school superintendent, said the piano was loaned by a company that usually sends it to "the most important events" and clients.

She said the grand piano has been used by the Boston Pops Orchestra, The Vienna Boys Choir and the "Piano Man" himself, Billy Joel.

Mayor Kevin Dumas played the instrument for a duet he had with Erin Blazek, a member of the St. John the Evangelist Choir.

The two sang "Fly Like a Bird." Murray lauds Dumas

During the inauguration, Mayor Kevin Dumas got kudos for his passionate promotion of the city from Lt. Gov. Tim Murray.

Murray said both he and Gov. Deval Patrick have been impressed with Dumas' energy, along with his efforts to pitch city plans for funding when the mayor visits the corner office on Beacon Hill.

Dumas' passion is infectious, he said. "Your leader is a mayor who literally and figuratively sings the praises of this city as a frequent visitor to the corner office," Murray said.

"He's been there many times, and we've been back here several times because of the teamwork that's taking place in this city. We have seen the plans and they are exciting."

Meanwhile, Dumas said Boston Magazine has asked for an interview because the city is gaining a reputation as a good place to live.

Farewell, Jean McNary

While 24 elected officials were sworn in last week for a term of two years, one unelected official announced January will be her last month on the job.

Jean McNary submitted a letter of resignation to Dumas, saying that her 30 years on the planning board were "more than enough."

To put the length of her service to the city in perspective, it began when Dumas was about 1-year-old. The mayor will be 32 next month. "I have enjoyed these years, and

hope I have made a difference both with my votes and other projects on which I have worked, such as the master plan," McNary said in her letter to the mayor.

Just ask Hyman Fine students

While the job of mayor can be stressful, it has its moments of lightness, and sometimes help is offered from unexpected quarters, Dumas told inauguration attendees. Such places include the schools, which he said he visits as often as he can.

Dumas said he gets a kick out of talking to students. For example, elementary students at Hyman Fine are evidently learning a lot, and are quite confident in their abilities.

Students told the mayor recently that if he ever has a question he just can't answer he should talk to them.

"If you have a problem mayor, we'll solve it for you," they told him.