

The Haverhill Gazette

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WEEK OF MAY 21: RECYCLE BLUE

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Bradford Post Office saved — for now

By ALEX LIPPA
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Officials say more details of money-saving plan coming

It appears residents and merchants of Bradford will continue to have their own post office — at least for now.

The Bradford office was one of 600 postal stations and

branch offices being considered for closure because of financial problems.

But postal officials said this week the Bradford branch will remain open for the immediate future. Earlier

this year, the officials has set a deadline of this week for deciding whether to close the Bradford site.

Local postal spokesman Dennis Tarmey said more detailed plans will be

unveiled soon.

“We will have a plan which will be put in place,” Tarmey said. “Plans to close Bradford have been put on hold and later in the week we will have more detailed plans about

what the next steps will be.”

City Council President John Michitson said the announcement is good news for people in the city’s Bradford section.

“The Bradford office has

been extremely convenient for the residents of Bradford,” he said. “This is celebratory news for them.”

The Bradford office was among 3,700 offices in the country which faced a May 15 deadline about whether

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CELEBRATING ‘SOULS’ WHO MADE CITY A SHOE GIANT



This shot of a shoe shop during Haverhill’s time as an international footwear giant features the faces of several workers. The city’s Historical Commission is asking Gazette readers to identify the workers and tell their personal stories. This is the first in a series of photos from Haverhill’s shoemaking past that will appear in the Gazette.

Commission wants to identify workers, tell their stories

By ALEX LIPPA
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One of the most common nicknames for Haverhill is the “Queen Slipper City.”

It came from the early 20th century when Haverhill was a mecca for the manufacturing of women’s shoes in America. At one point, the city’s factories made one-tenth of the shoes produced in the nation.

As the city celebrates its new identity as a place of mixed industry featuring new homes in its old downtown shoe shops, Haverhill is also memorializing its shoe-making past. It was an industry that for generations pumped the community’s economic lifeblood.

In 2009, the city’s “Shoe-la-bration” put on by the Haverhill Cultural Council unveiled shoe statues around the city to recognize the impact that Haverhill’s footwear industry had on the nation.

Now, the Haverhill Historical Commission is kicking off a new

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MARY SCHWALM/Staff photo

Haverhill Mayor James Fiorentini joins Haverhill Historical Commission members, from left, Marilyn Sandberg, Edgar Movsepian, Carol Crowell, Daniel Spurling, Celeste Hynick, and Kathy Kimball as they pose for a photo outside the new parking garage downtown.

Public asked to help tell shoe workers’ stories, ID photos

The Haverhill Historical Commission is seeking the public’s help on its project telling the stories of the city’s shoe factory workers.

The commission is asking residents for stories and memories of shoe workers from the 1890s to the 1950s. It is also asking residents to contact the commission if they can identify shoe workers in photos that will appear regularly in the Gazette.

The public can share stories of

shoe workers and identify workers in the photos by emailing commission Chairwoman Carol Crowell at cacrowell@comcast.net.

Current commission members include Crowell, Vice Chairwoman Celeste Hynick, Secretary Daniel Spurling, and researchers Edgar Movsepian, Kathy Kimball and Marilyn Sandberg.

The commission plans to build a memorial to shoe workers in front of the new downtown parking

garage. The garage is central to the area where the history happened, as the shoe workers both worked and lived within minutes of where the garage now stands now.

The small area in front of the garage will be named Shoe Workers Memorial Plaza. The commission also plans to display pictures and stories of the workers in the first floor of the parking garage.

— Alex Lippa

Zion Bible College to change its name

By ALEX LIPPA
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There will be no more Zion Bible College at the site of the former Bradford College next year.

No, Zion is not moving out. It’s changing its name.

The college will be called Northpoint Bible College starting Jan. 1.

The name change comes as a result of some confusion in relation to the Pentecostal Christian school.

“The term ‘Zion’ is very misunderstood in religious community among Evangelicals,” said Crabtree. “There are a lot of misconceptions where people thought we were some kind of Jewish organization. The term Zionism means different things to different people.”

The college decided to

scrap the name to avoid any misunderstanding and then looked into new possible names for the school. More than 200 names were considered and suggestions were taken from students, faculty and the college’s Board of Trustees.

The school ultimately decided on Northpoint because it had both spiritual and regional ties. Along with it being in the northeastern United States, it has a spiritual dimension, with “north point” being another name for the location of a higher being.

“West Point is known for excellence in military training. Northpoint will be known for excellence in ministry training,” reads a press release from the school.

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College to get new president

By ALEX LIPPA
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Another big change is coming at Zion Bible College.

School President Charles Crabtree said he will leave his post after the 2012-2013 school year.

Six months after the school gets a new name, Crabtree, 74, will retire as president. He became president in 2008 following the school’s move from Barrington, RI, to Haverhill.

“I was asked to take over the school when they moved and I said I’d give them five years,” Crabtree said.

He was previously the assistant general superintendent of the Assemblies of God based in Springfield, MO.

A search committee is accepting resumes to fill Crabtree’s position. He expects the college’s Board of Trustees to name his successor in October and that person to take over when he leaves at the end of the 2012-2013 school year.



AMY SWEENEY/Staff photo

Brian Nagel, tech facilitator at Haverhill High School, demonstrates how the smart board works during the opening of the iSchool.

‘iSchool’ computer lab moves into Haverhill High

By ALEX LIPPA
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After going into classrooms and seeing precious time wasted by students trying unsuccessfully to log on to the Internet, Superintendent James Scully decided it was time to upgrade their technology.

The new iSchool computer lab has arrived at Haverhill High school, the first phase in the technology upgrade.

“I saw teachers and students getting frustrated because they don’t have

Internet,” Scully said. “I sat down with the mayor and decided that we needed to do the right thing for our schools.”

The city borrowed nearly \$1 million for a new Apple technology to be available throughout the school system. It allowed for the purchase of 200 MacBook Air laptops, 150 iPads and 142 Poly Vision whiteboards to use at Haverhill High. Each classroom teacher will be equipped with MacBook

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