

Tax man cometh

Gov. Malloy to present budget to state today

Proposal draws praise, criticism

NORWALK
By **ROBERT KOCH**
Hour Staff Writer

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's proposed overhaul of Connecticut's income tax structure is drawing praise from fellow Democrats and fire from Republicans who say it goes against the wishes of voters and will send jobs to other states.

"The governor is missing the points of the recent federal elections throughout the country in that Americans are tired of the tax and spending that's been going on," said Art Scialabba, Norwalk Republican Town Committee chairman. "It's not just a revenue problem we have in this state. It is an appetite for spending."

Michael W. Lyons, a Republican on the city's Board of Estimate and Taxation, predicts that higher tax rates — income, corporate or sales taxes — will drive businesses and employees out of the state.

"Let's face it, you can run your business from your beach in Florida on your laptop, and if you make it so expensive in Connecticut to do business here, that's what a lot of people will do," Lyons said. What you have is a massive flow of population and businesses from over-taxed blue states to lower-taxed red states, and everything Malloy

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Norwalk resident Bruce Riznyk watches as his pickup truck is cleaned and dried at Splash Car Wash on Westport Ave. Hour photo / ALEX von KLEYDORFF

Car washes, hairdressers, boat marinas respond to proposed new sales taxes

NORWALK
By **JERROD FERRARI**
Hour Staff Writer

Gail Sagel sees having your haircut as a maintenance item, a service that people have no choice but to get and, therefore, it shouldn't be taxed.

"Services have never been taxed," said Sagel, owner of Faces Beautiful in Westport, responding to Gov. Dannel P.

Malloy's proposal to tax haircuts and other previously tax-exempt items. "The consumer is so stressed as it is. They (the government) need to find another pocket to dip into."

Under Malloy's two-year budget proposal, the sales tax rate would change for the first time in 20 years, from 6 percent to 6.25 percent, and it would be applied to now-exempt items such as yoga, pet grooming, haircuts, car wash-

es, boat services, non-prescription drugs and cosmetic surgery.

Sagel, who says the average haircut at her salon is \$65, compares a haircut to food and that people must get them so that they can go on interviews and look presentable.

"It will hurt business," said Sagel. "People used to pay with cash and now that times are tight they are paying with

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Malloy see \$2 billion from union

HARTFORD
By **MARK PAZNIOK**
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Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's proposed biennial budget relies on about \$2 billion in state employee concessions and other labor savings over the next two years, his media adviser said today.

The Malloy administration's confirmation it seeks deep concessions by a day its announcement the governor will pose a \$1.5 billion increase when he releases budget Wednesday.

Roy Occhiogrosso, governor's senior adviser, would only to the extent of what the administration will be seeking organized labor, which is a pivotal role in the governor's close victory last fall declined to say how the concessions would be spread over wages and benefits. Later this morning, I

see MAL

Budget Presentation

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy will deliver his Fiscal year 2012-2013 state budget address in front of a joint session of the Connecticut General Assembly on Wednesday at noon.

Budget documents, including the budget address, will be available on the official website www.ct.gov/malloy.

Follow the Governor

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NEW TAXES

+ 40 cents per cigarette pack

+3 cents on gas +2 cents on diesel

Tax exemption on clothing under \$50 will be removed

Increasing tax on electricity generation by 2/10th of one cent per kilowatt hour

Housing discrimination reported up in Norwalk

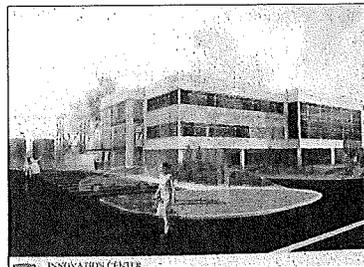
NORWALK
By **ROBERT KOCH**
Hour Staff Writer

Housing discrimination continues to rise in Norwalk, likely due to the recession, according to the city's fair

housing officer.

On Tuesday afternoon, Fair Housing Officer Margaret K. Sulb submitted her Norwalk Fair Housing Officer's Annual Report Fiscal Year 2009-10 to the Norwalk Fair Housing

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Zoning reviews Pepperidge Farm

NORWALK
By **CHRIS BOSAK**
and **ROBERT KOCH**
Hour Staff Writers

Pepperidge Farm's plan to increase its presence in Norwalk

Hour photo / MATTHEW VINCI
Plans for research and development center at Pepperidge Farms on Westport Avenue.

took a step forward as it went into review by a subcommittee of the city's Zoning Commission Thursday night.

The plan calls for construction of a three-story, 33,000-sq-foot addition to the existing 595 Westport Ave. The

see ZON

Today's Poll

Do you think haircuts should be taxed?

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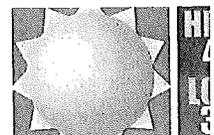
Obituaries

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President Obama presents 2010 Presidential Medal of Freedom to former President George H.W. Bush, 14 others
see World/Nation, Page A9



Weather/A2



Housing discrimination reported up in Norwalk

From A1

Advisory Commission for consideration and adoption. The commission adopted the report after reviewing it page by page, and recommending several language changes.

"Something that jumped out at me, discrimination issues have increased by 75 percent," said Jeffrey A. Ingraham, commission chairman, while reviewing one section of the report.

According to the report, discrimination issues increased 75 percent, from 64 to 112, in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, and another 13 percent, in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010. Most of the discrimination complaints were based upon color or race, followed by disability, family status, national origin, marital status, and sex or gender, according to Suib.

While technically finished according to economists, the Great Recession which began in 2008 doesn't feel like it is over and recovery is slow at best, wrote Suib in her report.

"A housing bubble and irresponsible, predatory lending were the cause of the beginning of this economic downturn. Job losses continue to compound housing problems," Suib wrote. "Hard economic times traditionally lead to an increase in discrimination and we have seen that all across the country. It's a perfect storm for highly challenging times for Norwalk Fair Housing."

Among the other issues highlighted by Suib in her annual report: Norwalk Housing Authority Policies and Practices, including where Housing Authority tenants are adequately informed about their rights under the law.

Suib told commissioners that she was once invited by the Housing Authority to pro-

vide such training. Prior to fiscal year 2006-07, Suib participated in numerous training sessions for Section 8 voucher holders and/or new tenants of the authority. Since then, Suib has been invited to either none or one a year, according to her report.

The topic prompted discussion among Fair Housing Advisory commissioners about whose responsibility such training is.

"Some of these things that are addressed in here have been going on for a while, and the Norwalk Housing Authority has refused to address them," said Commissioner Carol Frank. "The fair housing officer has not been invited to participate, and I think that they have to train people, and they have to know that Margaret is here to help them, and what is available to them."

Ingraham suggested revising language within the report "to express it in the positive rather than the negative."

"The Norwalk Housing Authority is encouraged to use the services of the fair housing officer relative to the training of its residents," Ingraham said. "So rather than kind of putting them on the defensive, (the NHA) is encouraged to make use of the services of the fair housing officer."

The executive director of the Housing Authority could not be reached for comment Tuesday afternoon.

The annual report is part of Suib's responsibilities as the city's fair housing officer. Her position was created in 1986 as the result of a settlement to a lawsuit brought by the Norwalk chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People against the city over alleged housing discrimination.

comes back for many car washes teetering on the edge. "Unfortunately, I do not think it would be good for our business," said Mark Curtis, CEO and co-founder of Splash Car Wash. "We have had three pretty tough years here in Connecticut, primarily because the weather, and the economy has made that even worse; now this."

Curtis said that the tax would create "another government form to fill out" and adds to expenses that have spiked due to an increase in the minimum wage.

Norwalk Mayor Richard A. Moccia agrees that the sales tax hike and removal of exemptions will hurt small-business owners.

"If you have a small barbershop or hairdresser, that's

going to have people to admire fairness I want (Malloy's) budget cuts v Bill Gardella manager of Re: if the state i boaters — esp eastern part of could head to where there is storage or servi

"This could jobs in Conn Gardella, whos Rex Marine and where a cor boats are store declining and going up, what to do? You hav on the help."

The average

Zoning commissi

From A1

would accommodate ongoing product research and development needs.

"Pepperidge Farm is a growing business and innovation is one of the most important priorities to keep our business growing," said Nan Redmond, director of corporate communications for Pepperidge Farm. "We're pleased that we are able to continue investing in our business and the city of Norwalk, which has been our home for a long time. We still have additional approvals that are necessary and we're hopeful they will go forward as planned."

The Innovation Center would include culinary kitchens, sensory testing areas, and innovation rooms.

The proposal went before the commission's Plan Review Committee last week for preliminary review. The full commission likely will

take action in M

Pepperidge the Campbell S makes baked as Goldfish, Milano Cookies

The center w to the south an of the existin Farm Significant la proposed along and southern center. No entr directly from th Road, accord overview prov Department of Zoning.

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Plantation Shutters