



Tewksbury's Town News

TOWN MANAGER

For the past few months, I feel that the Town has been in a sprint mode racing from one project to the next. The first race was to complete the sewer work so that the school buses could operate on their major routes by the time school started. The next sprint was to complete the signing of the Sewer Contracts No. 23 & 25 in Phase 7 and then starting to do detailed design reviews of Contracts No. 26 & 27 in Phase 8 plus authorize the start of survey work in Phase 9.

The next sprint was to pave South Street from Brown Street to the Town line plus pave some segments of Whipple Road, Trull Road, North Billerica Road along with some other streets in Town and then finally pave on November 15, 2004 a section of Shawshen Street where sewer work occurred.

The next sprint was to gain approval of the 6.0 million gallons water storage facility at Colonial Drive and Foster Road at the October Special Town Meeting, submit the paperwork for the State low interest loan by October 15, 2004 and start to attain comments from the Planning Board and residents about the design of the facility.

The next sprint was to attain Special Town Meeting approval for the expansion and renovation of the Senior Center and then achieve approval of the debt exemption for this project which allows the Town to complete the final design for the project and initiate the application process for CDBG funding.

The next sprint was to substantially complete the Water Treatment Plant residual facility on time and finally complete it so that there could be a ceremony on November 16, 2004 to introduce various Town officials and the media to the finished product.

The next sprint was to complete a short segment of sidewalk on Livingston Street, a longer segment on Main Street near Hinckley Road and a major segment on North Street from East Street to the railroad tracks.

While not completed nor planned for completion this year, the Kendall and Livingston drainage, water and road improvements project was initiated with the expectation that the project will be completed within the next year.

I and Town staff started to plan improvements to River Road near Mt. Joy and Fiske Streets. Rather than just address the pavement in that area, we now plan to first determine if we can address the drainage problems which appear to have been created more than twenty years ago.

While working on these activities, I and Town staff also worked to re-initiate construction of the traffic signals at Chandler and East Streets plus trying to encourage the DEP to find the source of perchlorate in the Merrimack River which we now believe to

be coming from the Concord River and the Billerica wastewater treatment facility and its collection system. Hopefully by the time you read this, the DEP and Billerica will have pinpointed the source of perchlorate so that it can be eliminated.

In terms of departmental operations, the Fire Department undertook an inspection of the Town's fire hydrants and completed inspecting most of the Town's fire hydrants with the remainder to be completed in the Spring, 2005. Also, Chief Mackey proposed the Town initiate a revision to its fire alarm system to a wireless mode in order to eliminate the costly maintenance of its current wire system. I and the Board of Selectmen accepted this proposal which is currently being installed with a complete installation to occur over the next several years.

Looking ahead, work in many of these activities will continue. The next few months will be spent planning the sewer construction work for next year, the final design of the Water Storage Facility, and submitting an application for CDBG funding for the Senior Center. Additionally, staff has started to explore the development of a computerized Geographic Information System (GIS) which will integrate some existing applications and expand into other applications. Finally, the Water Distribution Study Committee is working on completing their report and studying the development of a Water Enterprise Fund.

In conclusion, the Town's staff, consultants, and contractors successfully completed numerous projects over the past few months and should be complimented for these efforts.

David G. Cressman
Town Manager

TEWKSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Work on Yearlong Goals

At the start of the 2004-2005 school year, each school established a yearlong instructional goal. These goals help to frame the work of the faculty and students during the school year. I am pleased to share these goals with you and the value that these goals have added to our instructional program.

Center School Pre-school Program- Faculty members are learning the *Boardmaker Software Program*. This Program includes a database containing over 3500 picture communication symbols. This Program will enhance the development of communication skills in our young learners.

North Street School- Following a detailed analysis of the school MCAS scores, the faculty selected *Enhancing Mathematics Instruction* for their goal. The focus of this effort includes developing open-response questions to strengthen student skills in math. Teachers will coordinate their math

lessons to include these assessment questions.

Heath Brook School- The faculty are researching and developing classroom units to promote the use of *cooperative learning structures and strategies*. This work will benefit students by identifying individual learning styles and developing lessons that best match these learning styles.

John F. Ryan School- Faculty and students selected the goal of improving research skills utilizing *computer technology*. The primary benefit of this goal will be to increase student knowledge of curriculum content and to use technology to enhance their presentation of this content through projects and exhibitions.

Louise D. Trahan School, Loella F. Dewing School and the John W. Wynn School- These schools have chosen *differentiated instruction*. The faculty will develop their skills in using multiple teaching approaches to meet the diverse leaning needs of their students. This work will be of particular benefit in those grades where student enrollment has increased.

Tewksbury Memorial High School- The faculty continues to work on the goal of the *accreditation* of the School by the New England of Schools and Colleges. This goal has many benefits for our students including the development of consistent learning expectations, scoring rubrics for grading student work and effective assessment tools.

We encourage all parents and guardians to discuss these goals with the faculty and the administration during parent conferences, at PAC and school council meetings and to review our progress in the school newsletters.

Christine L. McGrath, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

POLICE DEPARTMENT – SAFETY

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Tewksbury Police Department is announcing open enrollment for residents interested in attending the Citizens Police Academy program starting Wednesday January 12th 2005 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. This academy will run for 10 weeks every Wednesday night and will be held in the training room at Tewksbury Police Headquarters.

The purpose of the Citizen Police Academy is to develop a positive relationship between the police and the community through education. The goal is to create a growing nucleus of responsible well informed citizens. The citizens attending will gain an appreciation of the problems and challenges facing law enforcement and have an opportunity to offer ideas and comments regarding solu-

tions. The class material will be presented by instructors who are members of the police department or other supporting law enforcement agencies.

The Program Director Ray Lafortune says, JOIN US and attend the following classes; Arrest Procedures, Use of Force, K-9 Operations, Overview of the Court System, Crime Scene Investigation, the Sex Offender Registry, Accident and Insurance Information, and CPR. These classes are only a sample of what will be presented in the police station training room. You will find out WHO we are, WHAT we do and WHY we do it.

If you are interested in attending this program, you must be 21 years of age or older. Applications can be obtained in the lobby of the Tewksbury Police Headquarters, 918 Main Street. The selection process will be accomplished through a lottery system. For further information, please contact Safety Officer Raymond Lafortune at 978-851-7373-extension 240. There is no charge to attend this program.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Tewksbury Fire Department has been very active in the past few months.

The Department has been awarded a grant from the Department of Homeland Security in the amount \$129,431. The department will purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus. This equipment has many operational and safety enhancements. Firefighters will be able to work more safely and provide greater capability in performing rescues.

The Department has purchased a new rescue boat. We are currently planning training exercises for joint ice and water rescue with the Fire Departments from Andover, Dracut, Methuen and Lawrence.

We also have purchased two new multi-gas meters. These meters are used in checking for carbon monoxide, oxygen deficiency, hydrogen sulfide and combustibles. The department was assisted with this purchase by a grant of \$1,000 from Walmart.

At the beginning of December, we will be installing new alarm receivers at the Police Station and Central Fire Station. These receivers will allow us to receive fire alarms by radio boxes instead of the wired system we currently use. This conversion will take a few years to complete.

Firefighters have been checking hydrant operation in conjunction with the water department. Also we have had assistance from the Middlesex Sheriff's Community Work Program in painting fire hydrants throughout town.

Firefighter Mike Merrill graduated in November from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. Firefighter Dan Yost entered the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in November.

The Tewksbury Fire Department Long Range Planning Committee has been formed to assist in planning the long range plans of the department to meet the future needs of the town residents. The committee will be chaired by former Selectman Joan Dunlevy.

The Tewksbury Fire Department will be applying for a grant to help fund the

S.A.F.E. program in our schools.

Seasonal Safety Tips

- Never thaw frozen pipes with a blow torch or other open flame. Use Hot water or a UL listed device such as a hand held dryer.
- Dispose of hot ashes in metal containers placed away from the house.
- If there is a fire hydrant near your home, keep it clear of snow.
- Install CO alarms inside your home. CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each separate sleeping area.
- Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Try to keep Christmas Trees as moist as possible by giving them plenty of water daily. Do not purchase a tree that is dry or dropping needles.
- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. When cooking for holiday visitors, remember to keep an eye on the range.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving the house or going to bed.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

HIGHWAY DIVISION

The Department of Public Works is now in the process of accepting applications for Snow Plowing and Material Spreading. There are new rules and regulations in place along with a new rate schedule. If you are interested in plowing for the Town, please contact Ernie Lightfoot, Snow & Ice Coordinator at 978-640-4440 ext. 4 or you may drop by the office, Monday-Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 A.M. (excluding holidays) to pick up a snow plowing package. For all Snow/Ice Non Emergency, you may call the Department of Public Works. If it is an Immediate Emergency, please call the Tewksbury Police Department at 978-640-4381.

Please keep in mind the overnight parking-Snow/Ice parking ban by-law **Chapter 8.24 Section 8.24.010** as follows:

A. It shall be unlawful for any vehicle, other than one acting in an emergency to be parked on any street from 12:00 (Midnight) to 6:00 A.M. This shall take effect on November 1st of each year and end on March 31st. (A fine of \$10.00 will be imposed for a violation of this section).

B. It shall be unlawful for any vehicle, other than one acting in an emergency, to be parked on any street, day or night, when it is snowing or when it is snowing or when icy conditions exist. (A fine of \$10.00 will be imposed for a violation of this section).

C. Any vehicle, other than one acting in an emergency, parked, day or night, on any street in the Town, so as to interfere with the work of removing or plowing snow, removing, ice or sanding the street, may be removed or towed away, at the sole expense of the registered owner of said vehicle, under the authority and direction of the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works to a public garage or any convenient place. The Superintendent of the Department of Public Works, shall within a reasonable time, notify the Chief of Police of the removal of any such vehicle and of the place to which it has been removed, and the Chief

of Police shall give like notice to the registered own of the vehicle. Vehicles so towed away shall be stored in a safe place and restored to the registered owner thereof upon proper identification and full payment, to the Town or to the Keeper of the place of storage, for the expenses incurred in such removal and storage.

Inquiries, about vehicles so towed away, shall be made at the Police Station. (Art. 48, ATM 1991)

WATER FILTRATION PLANT

The sludge processing facility at the Tewksbury Water Plant is nearing its completion. Final bugs are being worked out of the mechanical and computer systems as we become more familiar with the new and larger equipment. Our new sludge master, Head Filter operator Marc Beland, has joined our staff and his primary role will be to run and maintain that facility.

One main concern of our facility has been the perchlorate problem. This contaminant continues to fluctuate around 1.1 – 1.3 ppb, just above the interim advisory limit. Staff members from MADEP, EPA, Lowell WW, Billerica WW and the Tewksbury WTP continue to investigate this problem. The main issue continues to be perchlorate emanating from the Billerica WW plant. The amount coming from the Lowell WW plant is now considered minor and recent samples were even non-detectable. Samples are being collected within the sewer collection system and hopefully the source can be narrowed down to a few streets.

Our new chemist, Marlene Ladderbush, has been christened under fire with learning Bacterial procedures and handling the technical and public requirements for the perchlorate issue. She is doing well and continues to work hard with contractors, engineers, the public and operators.

The other head filter operators continue to work hard producing water and protecting the chemical process used to filter the water. Each operator has worked to educate and inform the public about perchlorate in the last few weeks. Their continued effort is greatly appreciated.

Our maintenance mechanic continues to show off his mechanical prowess as we overhaul and update the older section of the plant and maintains the recent additions. A testament to his efforts is the very few "distress calls" I have received early in the morning.

FORESTRY DIVISION

The forestry division will continue to perform tree take downs and up-branching at necessary locations. In addition, the forestry division and our electrician are presently working on the Christmas Lights on the Town Common which are scheduled to be turned on December 3, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

WATER & SEWER DIVISION

The water and sewer division is continuing to mark out Phase 8 and Phase 9 for sewer design and is beginning to mark out Phase 8 for test borings and Phase 7 and 8 for sewer installations. They will also be working on any water emergencies as needed.

As usual, all departments will be working

together as needed for all snow and ice emergencies to make sure all the streets are open for emergency vehicles and residents.

Toma Duhani, P.E.
DPW Superintendent

TEWKSBURY RECYCLING NOTES

The Tewksbury Recycling Committee would like to provide a few reminders about town recycling and refuse disposal:

- **Third Saturday of every month** – Many people hold onto items for hazardous waste day when they can bring many of them down to the DPW on the 3rd Saturday of each month (9 am to 1 pm). No lines. Items that can be brought down are waste oil, fluorescent bulbs, sheet rock, and TVs/CRTs (\$10 fee).
- **Rechargeable (Ni-Cd) batteries and lithium-based (watch or calculator) batteries** should not be thrown out in the regular trash. Please bring them down to either the library or the Town Manager's office and place them in the collection containers. Standard alkaline batteries can be disposed of in the regular trash – they no longer contain mercury.
- **Mercury thermometers** may be brought to the Town Manager's office or the Board of Health.
- Note that the **blue recycling bins** are NOT necessary for recycling pickup. If recyclables are placed in a container separate from refuse and is clearly distinguished from the normal trash (for example, trash on one side of the driveway and recyclables on the other side), they should be collected separately. Many people have enough recyclables such that another garbage can is used. If you would feel more comfortable having a sticker on the container stating that it is recyclables, they are available at the town manager's office.
- If you are aware of improper collection methods (e.g., recyclables or yard waste being thrown in with regular trash), please contact Sandy at 978-640-4300 so that she can straighten things out (alternately, you may call Jae at 978-657-7810).
- **Cell phones** can be recycled at Radio Shack (any condition) or Staples (for use at shelters).
- **Microwave ovens** may be placed out with normal trash. They are not considered "white goods." To recycle white goods (including air conditioners, refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves, and water heaters), call BFI at 1-800-442-9006 to schedule a Saturday pickup.
- **Latex paint** cans can be thrown away in the regular trash. Remove the lids and allow the remaining paint to dry out prior to placing in your trash.
- **Leaves** – Spring leaf pickup runs April 11–May 6, 2005. They are collected on the day that your house previously had trash collection (prior to the town converting to a single-day collection). Place leaves in barrels or paper bags (plastic bags will not be collected) next to the road. If you have any questions, please call either Sandy at 978-640-4300 or Jae at 978-657-7810.

- **Plastics** numbered 1 through 7 are recyclable in Tewksbury. Many people still think the program is limited to the lower numbers. Styrofoam is not part of the program even if it has a number on it. Please check out our website (www.tewksbury.info/recycle/) for some styrofoam recycling options, primarily with respect to packing peanuts. Plastic grocery/shopping bags should not be placed in the recycling bins (they get caught in the mechanical separators at the recycling facility). They should be recycled at the stores distributing them (e.g., Market Basket, Wal-Mart, Staples, etc.).
 - Remember that **paper and cardboard** make up a significant, if not the largest, portion of our refuse mass....and it should almost all be recycled. This saves the town money in a time when funding continues to be an issue in the Commonwealth. Please take a little time to break down/cut up cardboard boxes and recycle as much paper as you can. For people who are trying to keep town finances in the best shape possible by recycling, it becomes frustrating to see people throwing out so much cardboard which is just costing the town more money. A few more minutes of effort will help both your pocket (when the town won't have to ask for more money) and the environment. Also remember that you can include magazines, newspaper, junk mail (the plastic windows are okay to include!), receipts, tags, paper towel and toilet paper tubes, cereal boxes, and pasta boxes (again, the plastic windows are okay).
 - To give and get items for free ("freecycle"), check out <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Tewksburyfreecycle/> this is a local group which is part of www.freecycle.org, covering many different locations.
- If you have any further questions, check out our website (noted above) or call Jae Gray at 978-657-7810.

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

TAX BILLS

Tewksbury's third and fourth quarter Real Estate Tax bills and Personal Property Tax bills will be mailed prior to December 31, 2004. The third quarter is due on or before February 1, 2005.

If anyone does not receive this bill, please call the Collector's Office at (978) 640-4340 for a copy. Any questions with regard to your billing information or assessment, other than payment information should be directed to the Assessor's Office (978) 640-4330.

Any third quarter payments received after 4:30 on February 1, 2005 will be delinquent and subject to an interest charge.

Collector's Office

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Now that the cold weather is here, there are some things to look for when buying home heating oil. Home heating oil is sold by volume. The Town Weights and Measures Department routinely inspects oil meters for accuracy. When this product is delivered to your home, the seller must give you a deliv-

ery ticket at the time of delivery. Unless arrangements are made in writing and prior to the sale, the oil dealer must give you an oil delivery ticket. The delivery ticket should contain the following information:

- Serial number,
- Date of delivery,
- Name and address of seller legibly recorded,
- Name of and address of buyer legibly recorded,
- The quantity of oil delivered mechanically printed on the ticket,
- A sale sequence number mechanically printed on the ticket,
- The price per gallon,
- The identity of person making such delivery (may be drivers' name, initials on code number).

If you do not receive a ticket or if the ticket you received is missing any of this information, please contact the Building Department and ask for, Edward Johnson, Sealer of Weights and Measures at 978-640-4430.

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

"Clip and Save"
Important Dates

2005 TOWN ELECTION & TOWN MEETING DATES

TOWN NOMINATION PAPERS AVAILABLE
January 3, 2005 (Monday)

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
April 2, 2005 (Saturday)

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 2, 2005 (Monday)

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 4, 2005 (Wednesday)

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
October 4, 2005 (Tuesday)

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE

March 11, 2005 (Friday)
8:30 AM to 8:00 PM
Last day to register to vote to be eligible to vote at the Annual Town Election and the Annual Town Meeting.

ABSENTEE VOTING INFORMATION

Town Clerk Office – 978-640-4355
Last day & time to request to vote Absentee for the Annual Town Election:
Friday, April 1, 2005
12:00 PM (Noon)

OFFICE OF THE PARKING CLERK

OVERNIGHT PARKING BAN
12:00 MIDNIGHT TO 6:00 AM
In effect on all streets beginning
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2004
Remains in effect until MARCH 31, 2005
During a snowstorm, DAY OR NIGHT, all vehicles must park off the street.
\$10.00 fine will be imposed for violation.
(Town Bylaw 8.24.010)
Your cooperation is needed to prevent interference with the snow plowing and sanding and to keep the streets open for Fire, Police, Ambulance, the School Buses, and other emergency vehicles.

