



# Tewksbury's Town News

## TOWN MANAGER

Someday someone will write about the history of 2005 in Tewksbury and will most likely conclude that it represented the greatest development of utility infrastructure in the Town's history. This conclusion can be reached by noting that the Town was in the third year of the Master Sewer Program. This meant that final paving of streets in Phase 6 was undertaken. In Phase 7, sewer pipe installation in Contracts 22 and 24 was completed and a significant amount of the sewer pipes in Contracts 23 and 25 was installed. In Phase 8, sewer pipe construction was started on Contracts 26 and 27 and final design of Contract 28 was completed. Additionally, surveying work was started in the Phase 9 area. Verizon decided to offer Cable TV service to Tewksbury residents which resulted in the installation of new wiring on almost every street in Town so that the Town could be serviced by two Cable TV providers. The Massachusetts Highway Department started the long awaited re-construction of the Main and Shawsheen Streets intersection which is one of the busiest intersections in town. Tennessee Gas constructed a gas supply line across most of the Town to provide service to Wyeth in Andover. The Town completed the traffic light installation at East and Chandler Streets. The Town re-paved part of Brown Street and Hoover Road. Finally, Massachusetts Electric was making improvements to its service on Main Street. While all of this work was a challenge to the Town, its contractors, engineering consultants and employees particularly in Police, Public Works and Community Development Departments, the Massachusetts Highway Department and its contractors, Verizon, Massachusetts Electric and its contractor, and Tennessee Gas and contractor, the greatest achievement was the cooperation and understanding of Town residents and businesses who realize that these utility improvements will provide the necessary infrastructure for the Town in the 21st century.

While the utility infrastructure work was a major achievement, there were some disappointments over the past few months. The first disappointment was that bids for the water storage facility at Foster Road and Colonial Drive were 25% over the estimate. This has required us to re-bid the work and possibly revise its size. The second

disappointment was not being funded \$800,000 in State Community Development Block Grant funds for the Senior Center. Ironically, after this occurred, the Town received bids for the Senior Center Renovations and Expansion project which were slightly below the estimates for this work. Thus, as this is written, Town staff in conjunction with its legislative delegation is trying to address the funding gap of \$800,000 and trying to proceed with the project.

In June, the Town adopted a balanced budget for FY2006. This was achieved due to the ability of using one-time Hotel Tax revenue and NESWC Stabilization funds plus the raising of water rates and the institution or increase of School Department fees combined with employees agreeing to accept a less costly health insurance program. Looking ahead to FY2007, Tewksbury and other Massachusetts cities and towns face enormous financial challenges due to rising health insurance, pension and utility costs combined with the fact that the Commonwealth has not shared sufficient fiscal resources to make up for the reductions which occurred several years ago and the rising costs of education. Unless these issues are addressed in next twelve months, Tewksbury and other Massachusetts cities and towns will be facing more significant fiscal problems.

By the time this is published, the Town's NESWC Solid Waste Disposal Contract will have ended. For the first ten years of its history, this contract was a major fiscal problem. However, over the last several years, the NESWC organization of which I am Vice Chairman resulted in stable or declining budget requests and resulted in a give back of over \$1 million to the Town in the last year plus market rate or below market rates for tipping fees through FY2010.

Looking ahead, the Fire Department Long Range Planning Committee is coming forward with plans for the Center Station and the Long Range School Space Committee is starting to develop a master plan to improve school facilities. This work will require significant effort over the coming months and years.

David G. Cressman  
Town Manager

## TEWKSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Tewksbury Memorial High School Accreditation Visit

A team of educators representing the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) will visit Tewksbury Memorial High School from October 23-26, 2005. The purpose of the visit is to make a recommendation regarding the continued accreditation of our High School. The team will review documents, tour the facility and conduct interviews with faculty, staff, administration, students and parents/guardians.

The faculty, staff and administration at the High School have worked hard to prepare for this visit. They have developed a new mission statement and learning expectations. They have framed a school wide scoring rubric to provide a comprehensive and a consistent process for evaluating student work. They have also completed a very exhaustive self-study. The maintenance and custodial staff worked diligently throughout the summer to ready the school facility.

The visiting team will review the status of the school against seven standards. These seven standards include: **Mission and Expectations for Student Learning, Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment of Student Learning, Leadership and Organization, School Resources for Learning and Community Resources for Learning.** The Team will assess the progress of our school against these seven standards and the multiple indicators within the standards. The team will then prepare a report and a recommendation regarding our continued accreditation.

I commend the work of the faculty, staff and administration to prepare for this important visit. I would like to thank the many parents/guardians and students who served on the various sub-committees for the preparation of the self-study.

Accreditation is a journey and not a single event in the life of the school. We have already derived many benefits from our preparatory work. We have made many improvements within our instructional program as a result of the self-study. We have raised our expectations for students in

our classrooms and we have increased the rigor of our assessment practices. It is our hope that this work will meet with the approval of the visiting team. We know that we will benefit from their visit and the recommendations outlined in their report.

Christine L. McGrath, PhD  
Superintendent of Schools

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

#### **All Terrain Vehicles**

The Tewksbury Police Department ATV program is back on track. The Tewksbury Police Department is proud to announce that they will be assigning an Officer on a ATV to patrol the Livingston Street Recreation area during the fall months. The Tewksbury Police Department was the first Police Department in the area to implement a ATV patrol and they have received numerous accolades for assisting other law enforcement agencies across the state during search and rescue missions. The department is currently conducting a certification program for the Officers assigned to ride the ATV's which is also one of the first of its kind.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Tewksbury Fire Department is having an Open House at the Center Station on Sunday, October 16, 2005 from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. Fire personnel will be on hand to show equipment and answer questions. Free pizza and soft drinks will be provided by Papa Gino's. The Safety House will also be at the Open House.

The firefighters will be participating in "**Fire Safety Day**" at the Home Depot on Saturday, October 1, 2005 from 9am to 1 pm, and at Walmart on Saturday, October 8, 2005 from 10am to 1pm.

The Tewksbury Firefighters will be participating with the schools in providing fire prevention education during Fire Prevention Week October 9<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>.

The fire prevention theme this year is "**Use Candles With Care.**"

Reducing the risk

- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Extinguish all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Almost half of all home fires started by candles begin in the bedroom. NFPA discourages the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people

may fall asleep.

- Keep candles at least one foot away from anything that can burn including curtains, blinds, wallpaper, clothing or any other material that can catch fire.
- Don't place lit candles in windows or near doorways where drafts could bring combustibles in contact with the flame.
- Keep candles away from flammable liquids.

"Candle with Care"

- Use candle holders that are sturdy, won't tip over easily, are made from a material that can't burn, and are large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Place candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface—away from edges and any place where they could be knocked over by kids or pets.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Keep candle wicks trimmed to one-quarter inch.
- Extinguish candles when they burn down to within two inches of their holder or any decorative material.
- Extinguish candles carefully, using a long-handled candle snuffer or a soft, directed breath. Be careful not to splatter wax when extinguishing. Do not leave the room until wicks have stopped glowing.
- Avoid using candles during a power outage. Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting on hand for emergency lighting.

Candles and kids

- Never leave a child unattended in a room with a burning candle.
- Don't allow kids or teens to burn candles in their bedrooms.
- Don't let kids play with candles or dripping wax – or with materials that could catch fire near candles.
- Store matches and lighters up high and out of children's sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.

The Tewksbury Fire Department is continuing to promote the purchase of hydrant markers for its Adopt a Hydrant

Program. Information may be obtained at Tewksbury fire stations or the Tewksbury Fire Department web site ([www.tewksbury.info](http://www.tewksbury.info); select town departments).

As coordinator for the Town of Tewksbury's United Way Campaign, I urge my fellow residents to consider donating to this vital organization.

United Way of Merrimack Valley is a non-profit organization whose goal is to create a network of "**people helping people**" within our community. United Way of Merrimack Valley invested over \$3.5 million annually in health and human services programs, initiatives, and technical assistance. It provided over \$4 million dollars through its Product Philanthropy Program during the last 5 years. This gifts-in-kind program has served countless individuals and 250 agencies.

One of the best ways to help people affected by hurricane Katrina is to make a contribution to the United Way Hurricane Katrina Response Fund. Your donation will be used to provide immediate relief in communities like Houston, Texas, that are hosting displaced families. It will also help the hardest-hit communities along the Gulf Coast as people rebuild their homes and lives in the months and years to come.

### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

The Water Treatment Plant has completed the Lead and Copper Survey of over 30 homes in Tewksbury. The results are the best seen to date since starting this program many years ago. Due to the good analytical data, Tewksbury will remain on an every three year monitoring period. There is no detectable lead or copper in the effluent of the treatment plant. Lead and copper are picked up through household plumbing. A corrosion inhibitor is used to prevent lead and copper leaching. The system is obviously working very well as indicated by the results.

Since the beginning of July we have completed paving the following roads; Eighth Street, Ninth Street, Tenth Street, Rosewood Ave, Carroll Road, Young Street, a section of McLaren Road, all of Albert Road, Stephany Road, Belvoir Road, a section of Brown Street, and all of Hoover Road and certain sections of Kendall Road, Livingston Street, Brentwood Road. The paving will continue on various roads throughout Town. Visit our website for further updates on paving.

If anyone is interested in snowplowing for the Town of Tewksbury this season,

applications may be picked up at the Department of Public Works Office at 999 Whipple Road. Included in the application package is all the information you will need to know about plowing. Early submission of your application once approved and all requirements are met, will assure a route assignment by the snow/ice coordinator.

At this time, we would like to remind residents and contractors they will need to obtain a permit to install or reconstruct a driveway in town. Permits may be obtained at the DPW Offices or from our web site [www.tewksbury.info](http://www.tewksbury.info).

### **ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

For more detailed information on the following projects, check the Engineering Department web site; <http://www.tewksbury.info/dcd/engineering/index.html>

We thank you for your continued understanding and patience as we work to improve your home town.

#### **Sewer Project**

Phase 6 (contract 21) Sewer main and services complete and turned over to the Town. Paving of streets completed. Punch list work being completed by contractor in September and October.

Phase 7 (contracts 22, 24) Most of the sewer main and services are complete and will be turned over to the Town this fall. Paving of streets has begun and will continue next year as well.

Phase 7 (contracts 23, 25) Good progress has been made and some of this work will continue into next spring.

Phase 8 (Contract 26) CJP & Sons has completed their summer schedule (involved closing of Trull Rd. during summer vacation). They will continue their work through the winter.

Phase 8 (Contract 27) Albanese D&S will begin work in October 2005.

Phase 8 (Contract 28) Design plans being finalized and going out to bid this winter.

Phase 9 survey work has been completed. Design is underway.

Phase 10 survey work has begun. Survey Mapping Consultants (SMC) is doing the work.

#### **Main/Shawsheen**

This MassHighway project extends from MacDonald's to the Miceli Bridge on Main St. and from the Oakdale Plaza entrance to just past the back of the cemetery on Shawsheen St.

As their contractor (A.R. Belli) continues with their work schedule, there will be delays at this intersection. Please try to plan your travel ahead of time to avoid this intersection if possible.

When complete, there will be two multi-purpose lanes on Main and one left turn and one straight through lane on Shawsheen. New signalization and pedestrian crossings will also be installed.

Any questions on this project should be directed to the MassHighway District 4 office in Arlington.

#### **East/Chandler**

Now that the new lights are active with a full cycle, vehicles from the State Hospital property are no longer allowed to enter that intersection. The hospital driveway has now become one-way in only.

Please take note of the STOP lines in the travel lanes. When you stop at the light, if your vehicle is beyond these lines, the signal will not change for you. To activate the signal change, you must stop at the stop line. Otherwise you will be waiting at the light and it won't know you are there.

#### **Livingston/Brentwood**

Drainage improvements in the neighborhood as well as some water main replacements have been completed. A binder coat of pavement has been installed; top coat scheduled to be installed in October.

#### **Water Tank**

Contract 1 of this project involves installing an upgraded water main in Colonial Dr. from Main St. to the site. This construction could begin this fall. Contracts 2 & 3 are being opened September 16, 2005. These relate to the site work and tank construction, respectively. Watch the Town's web site for more information on this project.

### **COUNCIL ON AGING**

The Tewksbury Council On Aging is pleased to announce that the Senior Center Expansion Project will soon be underway. Whiteway Construction was recently awarded the project and construction is scheduled to begin on October 11, 2005.

During construction, Council On Aging business will be conducted at 460 East Street...what was once the residence of the Hospital Superintendent, Mr. Saunders. This site is located at the corner of Livingston and East Streets. Council On Aging office hours will remain the same from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and some evenings. Programs and activities will be held at the regularly scheduled times. However, they will be held at various locations within the Town as listed below.

Senior Citizens may use the billiard tables at the Livingston Street Teen Center once a schedule has been established with the Recreation Department. Other programs such as Podiatry Clinics, guest speakers/seminar and Legislator Office Hours will be held at the Saunders House.

Any changes to the following schedule or any special events will be noted on the Town's Message Channel and in the Council On Aging weekly news articles found in the Advocate and the Town Crier. All locations are handicapped accessible. All programs will have a volunteer supervisor on site...and every effort will be made to help this transition run as smoothly as possible.

The Council On Aging and its staff extend a note of thanks to all program participants for their anticipated cooperation. Likewise, a hearty thank you is sent to our Satellite Hosts and to the residents of Tewksbury for their help in making this project a reality.

Any questions or concerns may be directed to the COA Director, Linda Brabant at 978-640-4482.

## COA SCHEDULE

### Mornings

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 8 am and 9 am Outdoor Walking	<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 8 am and 9 am Outdoor Walking	<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 8 am and 9 am Outdoor Walking	<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 8 am and 9 am Outdoor Walking	<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 8 am and 9 am Outdoor Walking
<b>Chapel</b> 8:30 am Stretch & Box		<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 8:30 to 11:00 am Craft Class		<b>Chapel</b> 8:30 am Tai Chi
	<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 9:00 to 11:30 am Wood Carving	<b>Private Home</b> 9:00 am Bocce	<b>Saunders Circle Housing Hall</b> 9:00 to 11:00 am Tradition Embroidery	
<b>Chapel</b> 9:30 am Tap Dance	<b>Rod &amp; Gun</b> 9:00 am Line Dancing	<b>Library</b> 9:15 to 11:15 am Advanced Quilting	<b>Chapel</b> 9:00 to 10:00 am GAC Dance Practice 10:15 am Aerobic	<b>Chapel</b> 10:00 am Stretch & Tone
	<b>Rod &amp; Gun</b> 10:30 am Light Exercise Indoor Walking	<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 10:30 to 12:30 pm VNA Clinic 4 <sup>th</sup> wk of month 11:00 to 1:00 pm	<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 11:00 am Diet Workshop	
	<b>Rod &amp; Gun</b> 11:00 to 2:00 pm Town Nurse			
<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 11:45 lunch	<b>Rod &amp; Gun</b> 11:45 lunch	<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 11:45 lunch	<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 11:45 lunch	<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 11:45 lunch

### Afternoon & Evenings

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Library</b> 12:30 to 3:30 pm Bunka Embroidery	<b>Rod &amp; Gun</b> 12:30 to 3:30 pm Zingo	<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 11:30 to 3:00/4:30 pm Stained Glass Classes	<b>Elks</b> 12:30 to 3:00 pm Whist	<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 12:30 to 3:30 pm "Cootie Party" 1/mo. or Elks - TBA
<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 12:30 to 4:00 pm Oil Painting	<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 12:30 to 4:00 pm Oil Painting	<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 12:30 to 4:00 pm Town Nurse	<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 12:30 to 4:00 pm Town Nurse	<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 12:30 pm Card Games
<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 12:30 to 3:00 pm Card Games		<b>Elks</b> 12:30 to 3:00 pm Cribbage		
	<b>Rod &amp; Gun</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. 1:00 to 3:30 pm GAC Meet			<b>Library</b> 1:30 pm Yoga Class  2:30 pm Yoga Class
<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 6 to 9 pm Band Practice	<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 5:15 to 6:30 pm Evening Yoga			<b>Elks</b> 6 to 11 pm Monthly Dances
<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 7:00-9:30 pm Crafts & Bldg. Meeting	<b><u>"The White House"</u></b> 7 to 9 pm Watercolor Painting		<b>Rod &amp; Gun</b> 6:00 to 9:30 pm GAC Show Rehearsal	