



# Tewksbury's Town News

## TOWN MANAGER

Over the next several months the registered voters of Tewksbury will have the opportunity to vote on a number of important issues which will determine the level of services provided, whether to continue the Master Sewer program, and whether to start the process of addressing the High School facility. While these votes will determine the level of services and what residents will also pay for these services these votes will determine how the community is viewed by people outside the community and most likely the value of property in the community.

One of the votes will be concerning the Town's FY09 budget. There appears to be no additional State Aid than what has already been identified nor will there likely be any one time fixes. Instead, it will be the choice of voters at Town Meeting and possibly a Special Election to determine whether to close the projected deficit through only budget reductions or a combination of budget reductions and revenue increases similar to what was recommended by the Financial Plan Task Force.

The second opportunity to vote will be whether to complete the Master Sewer program or end it at Phase 10 and not provide the opportunity for sewer service to residents in Phase 11.

The third opportunity to vote will be whether to take the next step in funding a feasibility study and schematic design to decide on how to improve the High School facility.

Beginning in January, 2008 Brian Gilbert started his service as the DPW Superintendent after Bill Burris was civic minded and agreed to return from retirement and serve as the interim Public Works Superintendent. I want to thank Bill Burris for his service and note that to date DPW Superintendent Gilbert has done well handling the Snow and Ice season along with providing other Public Works Services.

For many residents and myself the best news is that the Senior Center opened on March 24, 2008. While it took longer to complete than planned my goal has been to insure that it was done correctly so we do not subject ourselves to premature failures or endanger users while construction workers are completing their tasks.

Finally, a significant amount of time was spent on bidding a new solid waste collection contract along with three other towns. This contract will provide savings over what

was anticipated for FY09 and further savings in FY10 plus encourage more recycling by you the residents thereby lowering our solid waste disposal costs as much as \$200,000 in FY10.

David G. Cressman  
Town Manager

## TEWKSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### **The Good News at Tewksbury Memorial High School**

On Tuesday February 19, 2008 the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) notified Tewksbury Memorial High School that we will continue to enjoy full accreditation. We were also informed that we can prepare for the five-year report. The five year report is completed by those schools that continue to be accredited. This report will be filed in October 2010. In continuing our accreditation NEASC applauded the High School for their work in adopting the practices of the professional learning community, their plans for a freshman transition program and their efforts to mentor new faculty members.

Ms. Lally, Principal of Tewksbury Memorial High School has been named as member of the new High School Building Committee. This Committee will work with the Massachusetts School Building Committee on the plans for a Feasibility Study for a new high school. The process will include the hiring of a project manager, the selection of an architectural firm to complete the development of the preliminary drawings for a new school. Funding for the project will be cost shared by MSBA and the community. MSBA expects that their contribution to our project will be set at a minimum of 51.49%. The project will also require action by Town Meeting to support the local share of the funding.

Students at Tewksbury Memorial High School continue to distinguish themselves and bring honor to the School. Recently 12 students were honored by the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Competition. These students will be honored at a reception scheduled for April 7, 2008. Two of our students Liam and Keegan Sheehy will be on stage playing with the All State Symphony Orchestra at Boston Symphony Hall on Saturday March 22, 2008. Two of our student athletes were crowned State Champions. Kristen Judge is State Champion in the High Jump and James Tarpey was named State Champ in Wrestling in his weight category. In addition members

of our senior class are receiving notification of their acceptance at many highly selective colleges and universities.

We are proud to share this information with the community.

Christine L. McGrath, PhD  
Superintendent of Schools

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Tewksbury Fire Department continues 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)) and then select town departments).

The Tewksbury Firefighters, Local 1647 is sponsoring a File of Life Program. This program provides Tewksbury Residents who have significant medical history to compile this information on paper work that can be stored in a magnetized envelope that can be kept on a refrigerator and accessed in an emergency. Details will be provided at the fire stations or call 978 640 4410.

Burning season began on January 15<sup>th</sup> and will continue until May 1<sup>st</sup>. Burning permits and burning information may be obtained at the central fire station. There is a \$10 fee for a burning permit.

### **Safety Tips**

- Test smoke detectors. Don't leave candles burning unattended.
  - Install Carbon Monoxide Detectors inside your home.
  - Plan a home fire escape route and hold a practice drill at least twice a year.
  - Attach house numbers on your home.
- Keep all matches and lighters out of the reach of children. Store in a high cabinet, preferably a locked one.

### **Hotel-Motel Safety**

Select accommodations equipped with sprinklers and smoke detectors in guest rooms. Consider fire safety when checking into a hotel or motel. Count the number of doors down the hall to the nearest fire exit staircase. Never use elevators in case of fire. Keep the room key, eyeglasses and a flashlight on the night table. If a fire occurs, take them with you and go to the door.

- If the door feels cool, open the door a crack. Be ready to close the door if hot air, flames, or smoke rush through the crack.
- If this does not occur, yet the hall is hazy with smoke, crawl down the hall counting the doors to the nearest stairway exit.

If this exit cannot be reached, turn around and count the doors back to your room. Unlock the door and re-enter.

**If it is unsafe to leave the room during a fire:**

- Fill the tub with cold water.
  - Stuff wet towels around the door to keep smoke out.
  - If possible, open a window and hang a sheet outside to signal for help.
- Cover your face with a wet cloth and stay low if smoke gets in the room.

Richard Mackey  
Fire Chief

**ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**

**Sewer Construction** The construction season for 2008 has begun. You may have various questions as to what the status is with the sewer expansion project.

Phase 9 and 10 kicked off their construction season during the first week of March. As the weather progresses to warm up more and more construction crews will be on the streets.

This summer we will have paving on Phase 8, Contract 28, Phase 9, Contract's 29 and 30. There will be construction on Phase 9, Contract 31 and Phase 10, Contract's 32 and 33.

Pending on the vote for the Annual Town Meeting, Phase 11 may join the rest of the construction crews this summer. For Phase 11 residents, the Town is hosting a Pre-construction meeting on April 28, 2008 at 7:30 PM in the High School Auditorium. Phase 11 is composed for Contract's 34/35 and 36. This is the LAST of the Phases.

Be sure to check out the Town's website <http://www.tewksbury.info/dcd/engineering/index.html> for an update on the sewer construction schedule and for any road closures taking place throughout the Town, this will let you know when the contractors are proposed to be on your street. Reverse 911, public broadcast announcements, and message boards are constantly used to provide the residents with as much information possible to provide the least possible disruption while the sewer project is being constructed. We appreciate your continuing patience and consideration throughout the construction process.

**Sewer Connections** Sewer connections can be made at anytime through the year. The sewer service connection (stub) left at each property runs from the sewer mainline to the edge of your property line. The end of the stub at the property line is conveniently placed off the paved area of the Town's Right of Way. This way connection's can be done without disturbing the asphalt. The sewer connections are made by the Town's

licensed drain layers. A list of the approved drain layers is available at Department of Public Works building, located at 999 Whipple Road or online at [www.tewksbury.info](http://www.tewksbury.info)

**Stormwater** The Town will be hosting our MS4 Phase II Municipal Stormwater Training Seminar. This will be offered at the Town Hall Auditorium on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM and at the Community Room located in the Police Department at 7:00 PM. This will be broadcasted live on Channel 10 for all residents that may be interested. This is a requirement for Town Staff under our stormwater management plan that is filed with the EPA.

Michelle Stein,  
Town Engineer

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

The Tewksbury Board of health and the Senior Center will hold a "Health Fair" on Wednesday April 23, 2008 from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the New Senior Center located at 175 Chandler Street Tewksbury. The Fair is open to all and will provide health safety and preventive educational information.

If you are interested in being an exhibitor please contact Barbara Westaway at the Board of Health 978-640-4470 or email [bwestaway@town.tewksbury.ma.us](mailto:bwestaway@town.tewksbury.ma.us). Please join us for our first Health Fair.

Lou-Ann Clement  
Public Health Director

**LIBRARY**

New at the Tewksbury Library!

**Food for Fines in April:** During the month of April our patrons can pay their overdue fines by donating food for the Tewksbury Community Pantry. Help us support this vital town service!

**New calendar and online services:** The library has purchased a new software package that offers online museum pass reservations, an interactive online calendar including features such as email reminders and program registration, and online meeting room requests. Visit our website at [www.tewksburypl.org](http://www.tewksburypl.org) to try these new self-service options, all you need is your library card! This purchase was made possible by a grant we received from the Praxair Foundation in February.

**Local History at the library:** We are very happy to announce a new partnership with the Tewksbury Historical Society, starting with the arrival of the society's historic cabinet and the beginning of regular "office hours" in our local history room. Historical Society volunteers will be available several hours per week to answer your questions about town history and show some of their

artifacts. Look for more historical society programs events happening throughout the year.

Jennifer Hinderer  
Director of Public Library

**PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

The Recreation Department has had a very busy year with several new programs/events such as Imagination Station, Preschool Basketball, Soccer, and T-Ball, the Winter Festival, an Easter Egg Hunt, and many more. Looking forward, the Recreation Staff is pleased to announce the following upcoming events:

**Middlesex Senior Softball**

The League is looking for more players ages 55 and older. If interested, please contact Paul at 781.935.0356.

**Drop-In Program**

Don't forget, during April School Vacation, the Recreation Center will be open for child-care. 7:30am-5:30pm, \$25 per day. No Pre-registration required.

**Summer Program**

Summer Program Registration will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-8pm, and on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am-noon. The Summer Program begins on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and continues through August 15<sup>th</sup>. Also, there is a new six week program that has been added as well as an extended Preschool Play Pals Program (9am-1:30pm).

**Touch-A-Truck**

Date (in June) TBA. Kids can climb in them, sit in them and pretend their driving away!

**Discounts**

Discount Movie Tickets  
Discount Water Country Tickets  
Discount Canobie Lake Tickets

**Tewksbury Night with the Paw Sox**

August 12, 2008. For game tickets and bus transportation, it will be \$25 per person. Come and join the fun cheering on the Pawsox. There are limited tickets available, so don't wait. Tickets are available at the Recreation Center 978.640.4460.

**Channel 10**

As always, watch channel 10 or 33, depending on your provider, for all of the Recreation Department's upcoming events. Also please check out our website at [www.tewksbury.net](http://www.tewksbury.net).

Roy Patterson  
Director of Parks and Recreation

**Stay Current....  
Tewksbury Local T.V. Channels:  
Comcast 10 or Verizon 33  
Official Website:  
[www.tewksbury.net](http://www.tewksbury.net)**