



Town of North Andover Quarterly Newsletter

APRIL 2010 - Issue 15

Town Notes

Census 2010

The Federal Census forms should have been received by all households by Census Day April 1, 2010. Please take a few minutes to make certain you complete the simple form and return it. Every person counts and you are required by the United States Constitution to answer the 2010 Census. Any information you provide cannot be shared with any other agency. It is critical for North Andover to be eligible for Federal funding, grants, and be properly represented in Congress. These population numbers will be used for State Representative and Senate District in 2012 and U. S. Congressional Districts. Census takers will be doing follow-up mailings and visits to assure compliance.

Annual Town Meeting

The 2010 Annual Town Meeting begins at 7:00 PM Tuesday May 11, 2010 at the North Andover High School 430 Osgood Street. This important event is the Town's Legislative process. All registered voters can participate and vote in our Open Town Meeting. The last day to register

to vote if you are not already a voter is Wednesday April 21, 2010. The Town Clerk's Office at 120 Main Street will be open until 8:00PM. If you want to verify your voter status please e-mail jbrashaw@townofnorthandover.com or call (978) 688-9502 and they will check your status. Voter registration forms can also be mailed to you if you are unable to come to the Clerk's office.

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, April 28 – Sunday, May 2: Youth and Recreation Services Annual Carnival to be held at Osgood Landing at 1600 Osgood Street.
- Sunday, May 23: Annual Sheep Shearing Festival at the Town Common from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. Rain or Shine.
- Sunday, June 27th and Monday 28th; Lions Club Circus.
- Saturday July 3 & Sunday, July 4th: 4th of July Celebration on the Town Common including games, road race, entertainment, family picnic, beverage tent, crafters and fireworks.

News from the School Department

Kindergarten Registration

The North Andover Kindergarten Orientation and Registration evening was held on February 23, 2010. About 160 families registered for full-day kindergarten and 60 for half-day kindergarten. It was announced that current plans call for offering 8 full-day kindergarten classes. The schools use a full-day kindergarten grant to supplement the fee of \$3,000 that is charged for enrollment in the full-day program. Half-day kindergarten is provided by law, free of charge, to all resident students who will reach the age of 5 by August 31. To help us in planning, WE URGE ALL PARENTS WHO HAVE NOT YET REGISTERED THEIR CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN FOR THE 2010/11 SCHOOL YEAR TO DO SO as soon as possible. This allows the schools to plan for appropriate classes at each school.

Success of Our Students

Congratulations to high school participants in the Massachusetts All-State Music Competition, to the award-winning thespians in the Massachusetts Drama Guild Competition, to the first participants from North Andover in the regional Robotics competition, and to the following high school athletic teams and individuals: Division Two State Champion Wrestling Team, four individual place winners in the Division Two Indoor Track State Championships, two place finishers in the Division One Swimming State Championships, and to the high school Girls' Gymnastics Team, which finished the season as North Sectional Finalists and achieved a 5th Place Finish in the State Gymnastics Meet.

High School Accreditation

In January, North Andover High School Principal Carla

Scuzzarella informed NAHS staff, Superintendent Hottel, and School Committee Chair Stan Limpert that the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Public Secondary Schools has voted to remove the warning status on North Andover's accreditation. The recent vote came after the Commission on Public Secondary Schools reviewed NAHS' Two-Year Progress Report submitted by Dr. Scuzzarella in November, 2009.

Building Respectful Communities (BRC) Initiative

With national and state news, as well as legislators on Beacon Hill, focusing on the issue of bullying in schools, the North Andover BRC Committee is teaming up with the North Andover Speaker Series, North Andover Youth Center, and the Enrichment Council to bring to students and the community speakers who will address topics relevant to the values of RAISE [Respect, Achievement, Inclusion, Service, Empathy]. On May 3rd, the BRC and the Joint Speaker Series will present John Halligan, a state leader in spearheading anti-bullying and suicide prevention legislation. North Andover Middle School students will attend assemblies and engage in discussions leading up to and following the presentation. In addition, Mr. Halligan's message will be incorporated into the middle school's ongoing BRC initiative to address bullying.

Principal Positions Filled

With the hiring of Ms. Varsha Desai as Principal of Sargent Elementary School beginning July 1, 2010, all our elementary schools have filled Principal openings for next year. Mary Lou McCarthy, currently the Interim Principal at Franklin, will officially become Principal there, and Gregg Gilligan has agreed to return for one more year as Principal of Thomson Elementary School.

News from the Police Department

The Town of North Andover, and the North Andover Police Department, is pleased to announce the launch of the "Blackboard Connect" service, our new town-to-resident notification system. With this service, town leaders can send personalized voice messages to residents and businesses within minutes with specific information about time-sensitive or common-interest issues such as emergencies and local community matters. The notification can be town-wide or neighborhood specific. The service will be used to supplement our current communication plans and augment public safety services.

There have been several recent successful uses of the system. You may have received a call notifying you of recent H1N1 flu clinics. Also, the Police Department used the system for a missing person. Hundreds of residents were notified in minutes to be on the lookout for the person. The system was then used to update our citizens that the miss-

ing person was located and found safe.

Please accept our invitation to participate in this great service. We know that your personal information is important, and rest assured that we will not share it with anyone. Even if you HAVE already received a call from the system, or if you did not receive a call and wish to add your information, please go to the Town website (www.townofnorthandover.com) and click the Blackboard Connect image to sign up. Whether you have received a call or not, click "Add my Contact Info". You will be able to enter a primary number, as well as cell phone, and email addresses if you so choose. At any time, you can also return to the site and edit, or delete, your information.

Any questions concerning the new program please contact North Andover Police Lead Communication Officer John Burke (jburke@napd.us) with any questions or concerns.

News from the Fire Department

Burn Permits 2010

It is currently open burning season for brush burning. The season runs from Jan 15 – May 1. Any permit issued in prior years is no longer valid. There is a change as to how to obtain a permit. A new permit must be obtained each year. With that in mind, the Fire Dept is pleased to announce an easy method of obtaining your permit, which can be completed entirely online. You can go to the Town of North Andover website (www.townofnorthandover.com) and follow links from the home page to "Burn Permits 2010" – or you may follow links to Fire Dept page, and click the same "Burn Permits 2010".

Fill in your information to obtain a permit, and the system will email you a confirmation. Each day that you wish to burn, you may access the same website in order to see if burning is allowed anytime after 9:30 am. If the page indicates burning is allowed, you simply click to activate your permit. The system will only allow you to activate a permit between the hours of 9:30 am and 3:00 pm. The hours that you can burn under normal conditions is from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. It is no longer necessary to contact the Central Dispatch facility by phone. However, if you do not have internet access or a computer, you may still contact Central Dispatch for assistance.

News from Veteran's Services



Veteran's & Surviving Spouses We want you to receive the benefits you have earned!

If you are a veteran or a widow(er) of a veteran with an income of less than \$ 1,805 month or \$ 2,428 month for married couples with cash assets less than \$3,200

or \$7,000 for married couples (*Primary residence and automobiles are not counted as assets*) you may be entitled to REIMBURSEMENT of your MEDICAL EXPENSES and/or FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE Under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 115. If so call your Veteran's Service Officer for more information (978) 688-9525.

News from the Conservation Department

Native Planting for Wildlife Habitat

With spring approaching, many homeowners, schools and businesses begin to think of gardening and landscaping. As you begin planning your spring planting, the Conservation Department would like to encourage you to plant native species that are beneficial to local wildlife. While no one wants their new plants to become deer food (many local nurseries can point you to deer resistant species), there is an opportunity to plant species that provide food such as fruits, nuts and berries for local wildlife. Plantings can also provide cover and nesting habitat. Many tree, shrub and herbaceous species that enhance wildlife



habitat can provide multi season beauty to your garden as well. Many shrubs produce berries and seed heads that remain on the plant long after the leaves have fallen providing color and interest as well as food for wildlife during the winter months. For more information, check out some of these links:

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife—www.mass.gov/dfwefe/dfw/nhesp/conservation/plants/native_shrubs.htm

New England Wildflower Society—www.newfs.org/
Greenscapes Massachusetts—www.greenscapes.org/
and the Massachusetts Landscape and Nursery Association—www.progrownews.com/.