



Town of North Andover Quarterly Newsletter

JANUARY 2010 - Issue 14

News from the Town Manager's Office

With a population of 30,297 and an annual general fund budget of \$72 million, North Andover is a dynamic and active community. Here is an update on some of the major projects being undertaken by your town government:

- Construction has begun on the renovation of the old Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union building at 1475 Osgood Street into a modern, state of the art, Police Station. This \$3.3 million project scheduled to be completed by the Fall of 2010 will replace the 45 year old existing station on Main Street which had become a health and safety hazard.
- The Department of Public Works this fall began major improvements to the streets and sidewalks in the downtown business district. Work already completed on this \$630,000 project includes new sidewalks and drainage improvements. Scheduled for this spring are repaving of Main Street, new crosswalks and new signage.
- The Board of Assessors recently had its triennial recertification of property values approved by the Commonwealth's Department of Revenue. The total value of all property in North Andover is \$4.23 billion dollars of which residential properties were valued at \$3.67 billion dollars, a decrease of -6.5% from last year, and commercial/industrial property were valued at \$563 million or

increase of 3.44% from last year.

- The Police Department is well into the process of becoming accredited by the Massachusetts Law Enforcement Association. This accreditation, which is expected by June 2010, is only given to departments that meet the highest standards of law enforcement and community service.
- 2010 is the annual Federal Census and the Town Clerk's office has been designated as the liaison with United States Census Bureau to ensure an accurate count in North Andover. This census work along with two special elections has kept this already busy office even more active.
- The Fire Department has embarked upon a review of its emergency communication capabilities and has developed a plan to enhance and improve this critical component of their operations.
- Significant progress has been made in the consolidation of the municipal and school information technology departments. The establishment of one director to oversee both operations has already resulted in greater coordination, economies of scale and cost savings.

These are just a few of the many activities being undertaken by your Town with the desire to better serve you, our residents.

News from the School Department

Kittredge Modular Update

The School Building Committee continues to move forward with the Request For Proposal (RFP) for modular classrooms at the Kittredge School. It is anticipated that the new RFP will be sent out in January. Keeping on that timetable would mean that bids could be accepted in February and an award to a successful vendor made in March or early April. The School Building Committee is confident that the revised RFP will allow us to receive bids that are within the budget that has been given to the School Building Committee, and thus to ensure that Kittredge begins the next school year with the expanded space needed.

Building Respectful Communities (BRC) Initiative

The Building Respectful Communities is a K-12 initiative begun in 2008. The BRC Committee developed a Mission and Vision statement as well as a set of essential standards. The Mission of BRC is to build a community of respect within the Town of North Andover. The essential standards embrace the acronym RAISE: Respect, Achievement, Inclusion, Service and Empathy. In the fall RAISE was incorporated into the North Andover Public Schools' Student Code of Conduct. To learn more about the work of the Building Respectful Communities Committee please take a moment to read the first

issue of the BRC Newsletter, which can be found at: <http://www.northandoverpublicschools.com/documents/guidance/brcNews-11-9-09.pdf>

H1N1 Flu Clinics

The North Andover Health Department has received enough of the H1N1 FluMist vaccine from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to address the needs of all students in the North Andover Public Schools. By the end of December, voluntary flu clinics will have been offered at each of the seven schools. The flu clinics have been a great success thanks to the coordination of the school and town health personnel.

Principal Searches

Interim Principal, Gregg Gilligan, has agreed to serve as interim principal for the Thomson Elementary School for the 2010 – 2011 school year. Gregg has done an outstanding job as principal at the Thomson School over the past few years. Parents and staff are enthusiastic about Gregg's appointment and are confident that the Thomson School continues to move forward under his leadership. Principal Searches for the Sargent and Franklin schools are moving forward. Further information about the searches can be found at www.northandoverpublicschools.com.

News from the Fire Department

Winter Fire Safety

Winter is a time when people turn to alternate ways to heat their homes.

Fireplaces, and wood stoves, are two popular methods of additional heat frequently used today. There are, however, safety precautions that all homeowners must take prior to using this equipment:

1. A building permit must be issued prior to the installation of a fireplace, wood, pellet, or coal burning stove.
2. Solid fuel heating appliances cannot share a common flue with a chimney flue utilized by other solid

fuel, fossil fuel, or gas fired appliance

3. The chimney should be inspected by a qualified person to insure that there are no cracks which potentially could allow flames and heated gases to extend into the home
4. Any ashes cleaned out from a fireplace or a stove should be placed in a metal bucket and removed from the home to an outside location

Remember additional sources of heat can be a good thing. Lets all take care to make them safe as well

News from the Police Department

Handicap Accessible Parking

We receive many calls requesting information on the use of handicap accessible parking spaces. Use of handicap accessible parking requires a special plate or placard issued by the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Applications are available on line from the RMV website or at any RMV branch office. Temporary placards are issued by the registry for periods of 2-24 months. In the event you are recovering from surgery or are suffering from a temporary condition you may want to consider applying for a temporary placard.

Misuse of these parking spaces is a chronic problem in some areas. Please know that even with a placard or special plate it is illegal to use the designated spaces when the affected individual is not exiting or entering the vehicle. If you drive someone to the drug store, for example, and you park in a designated space based on

their placard - but they wait in the car - this would be a violation. Violators are subject to revocation of the placard, a \$200. parking ticket and a fine up to \$1,000.

Drivers not eligible to use these designated spaces and who do so for even "just one minute..." are in violation and subject to a \$200 parking ticket, a \$500 traffic citation and the vehicle may be towed. The striped area adjacent to a designated space is for van accessibility and is consider part of the parking space. Parking in this striped area subjects the driver to the same penalties.

The North Andover Police Department encourages people to report abuse of these designated spaces, misuse of placards as well as reporting deficiencies in the marking and posting of spaces. For further information please visit the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles website.

News from the Town Clerk's Office

THE CENSUS IS COMING – THE CENSUS IS COMING!!

Please note that this year there will be a Federal Census mailed to you in March by the Federal Government. This census is required every 10 years.

The 2010 Federal Census will be a separate document from your annual Town Census. The enclosed Town Census document validates residency and your voter registration status. **It is important to return both the Town Census and the Federal Census in 2010.**

The Federal Census 2010 count will be used to insure that North Andover and Massachusetts get their fair share of grant money and congressional representation for the next 10 years. Congressional Representation in United States Congress is based on the Federal Census numbers.

Frequently Asked Questions about the US Federal Census:

What?

Count—The census is a count of everyone living in the

United States. This mandatory count is required by the United States Constitution.

Who?

Everyone— All residents of the United States must be counted. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and non-citizens. Federal law protects the personal information you provide during the census.

When?

March 2010— The federal census is conducted every 10 years. Census questionnaires will be mailed or delivered to every household in the United States between February and March 2010. The questions ask you to provide information that is accurate for your household as of April 1, 2010.

If you have any questions concerning your Town Census or your 2010 Federal Census, call the Town Clerk's Office at 978-688-9502 or send an email to the office at jbradshaw@townofnorthandover.com.