



# Town of North Andover

## Quarterly Newsletter

January 2007  
Issue 2

### Message from the Board of Selectmen

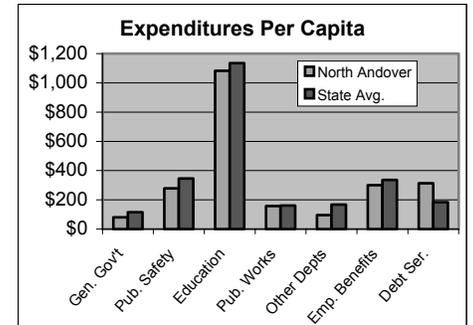
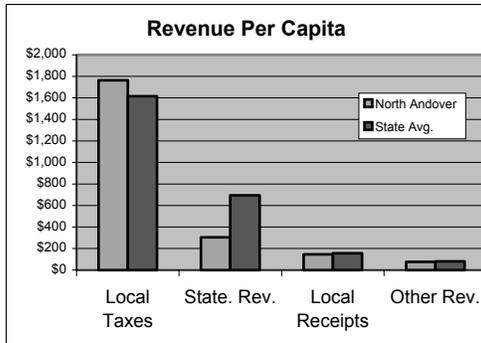
As the Town embarks upon the FY08 budget cycle, it is informative to compare our town finances to state averages as provided by the state Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services Data Base. All of this data is based on FY05 information.

In terms of revenue, property taxes, on a

per capita basis, is 9% higher than the state average of \$1,615 or \$1,763. Related to property taxes is property values; The average single family house in FY05 was valued at \$450,013; statewide the average value was \$352,820. Revenue we receive from the state, primarily for education aid and lottery proceeds, is 43% below the state average: \$304 for North Andover, \$694 for the state average. Local Receipts and Other Revenue are comparable to the state average.

On the expenditure side of the budget equation, North Andover spends below the state per capita average in General Government (-30%) Public Safety (-19%) Education (-5%) and Other Departments: Library, Youth Services and Elder Services (-43%). Public Works is close to the state average at -2%, but includes solid waste collection

and disposal, a service that many communities do not provide. Debt Service is higher than the state average by 70% due in part to school construction projects which is partially offset by state reimbursements. Finally, employee benefits which includes health insurance, is 10% below the state average.



### Message from the School Committee



The North Andover School Committee is happy to have this opportunity to inform you about some of the activities your schools have been involved in during the first half of the 2006-2007 school year.

First, the School Committee selected Dr. Daniel O'Connor to serve as Interim Superin-

tendent of Schools for 2006-2007. His main tasks involved getting the school year started off on the right foot for our students, guiding the school system while it underwent a thorough review of all financial matters, and preparing school operations for the change in leadership.

The School Committee has participated in an unprecedented number of official and professional reviews by local and state officials to ensure the proper operation of the schools. These reviews included the high school accreditation, a state level k-12 review of the schools, and a field audit of the central office.

A new financial reporting system is being

developed by volunteers, which will provide full access to all to review a transparent document on school financial activity. In addition, several adjustments have occurred which have further clarified the financial operation of the school system.

The School Committee has held a number of public work sessions throughout the fall. Principals and directors of programs have provided important details on school operations.

In conclusion, we want to thank our staff and numerous volunteers who have given of their time and talent to help our children.

### Stevens Memorial Library Turns 100

The Library – the first hundred years! On November 7, 2006 the Stevens Memorial Library turned 99 years old. Throughout 2007 we will be celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At a Special Town Meeting in 1904 the townspeople of North Andover considered the proposal of Moses T. Stevens in which he would provide both the land and the building for use as a public library. His offer was accepted unanimously by the town who “pledged themselves ever faithfully to cherish and support the library”. Guy Lowell, architect of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, was chosen from more than 40 applicants to design North Andover’s new public library. Ground was broken on Octo-

ber 25, 1905 and the building opened to the public on November 7, 1907. “About 364 applications were made for the privilege of taking books. All persons living in North Andover above the age of twelve are entitled to draw books.”

Plans are now being formulated for a series of special events to be held throughout the anniversary year. Exhibits of what people were reading during these years will be on display in our Reading Room overlooking Memorial Park. We are in the process of collecting best selling books and materials by best selling authors. If you have some “treasures in your attics” which you would like to share with us please contact



Library Director, Sue Ellen Holmes at (978-688-9505 or at [sholmes@mvlc.org](mailto:sholmes@mvlc.org). Help us celebrate “The Library – Its First Hundred Years!”

### News from the Town Clerk: 2007 Annual Census

2007 Annual Town Census – Please look for your Annual Town Census which will be mailed to all households in the month of January. It is extremely important that you answer your census and return it as mandated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This information is used as proof of residence for abatement requests, governmental program require-

ments, voting verification, and for public safety use. Verify all information on the form, make any corrections, and return in the enclosed envelope. You may also return the form in person at 120 Main Street. If you have not received a census form, please call our office and we will send one out to you.

It is important to notify our office if

you move within North Andover or out of Town so that we can update our records. Changes of address do not automatically come to us from the Post Office or Tax Records. You can call us at (978)688-9501, by e-mail to [jbrashaw@townofnorthandover.com](mailto:jbrashaw@townofnorthandover.com) or by fax at (978)688-9557. We appreciate your cooperation.

### News from the Police Department: R.A.D. Program

The North Andover Police Department offers two self defense and empowerment programs. Rape Aggression Defense System R.A.D. ([www.rad-systems.com](http://www.rad-systems.com)) for our adult women residents and radKIDS ([www.radkids.org](http://www.radkids.org)) for children ages 5-11. The courses are taught by North Andover Police Officers that are nationally certified.

R.A.D. is a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques. It is a comprehensive women-only course that

begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance, while progressing on to the basics of hands on defense training.

radKIDS is a ten hour safety program. It is designed for:

- home, school and vehicle safety
- out and about safety
- realistic defense against abduction
- good-bad-uncomfortable touch and more
- stranger tricks (including physical

defense against abduction)

- self-realization of personal power

The programs are provided by community policing grant to the North Andover Police Department. Any questions or to register please call the police station at 978-683-3168 and ask for the RAD program coordinator.

### News from the Fire Department: Open Burning Season

The North Andover Fire Department reminds residents that the annual open burning regulations as established by the Department of Environmental Protection relative to air quality are to take affect shortly. It is the responsibility of the local fire department to oversee these regulations to insure the safety of the public.

#### Open Burning Season:

Open burning season is from January 15 through May 1 each year. Open burning must be a minimum of 75 feet from all buildings and must be conducted between the hours of 10 AM and 4 PM. It is dependent upon wind, weather and dryness

as determined by the North Andover Fire Department.

#### To Activate Permit:

On the day you desire to burn, call 978-683-3168, no earlier than 9:45 AM to see if burning will be allowed. If weather conditions change making burning unsafe, permits can be rescinded.

#### Burning Of The Following Materials Is Allowed:

Brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris from other than commercial or industrial land clearing operations. Materials normally associated with the pursuit of agriculture such as fruit tree prunings, dead

raspberry stalks, blueberry patches for pruning purposes, and infected bee hives for disease control. Trees and brush resulting from agricultural land clearing. Fungus infected elm wood, if no other acceptable means of disposal is available.

#### Burning Of The Following Materials Is Prohibited

Brush, trees, cane and driftwood from commercial and/or industrial land clearing operations, grass, hay, leaves and stumps, tires, and construction material and debris.

### Visit the new North Andover website at [www.townofnorthandover.com](http://www.townofnorthandover.com) for additional information on:

- 1) Community Preservation Act including First Time Homeowner Program.
- 2) Fire Department — Safety tips for burning season
- 3) “Change A Light” campaign to reduce energy consumption by changing from incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- 4) New Water Storage Tank construction on Bear Hill and Sutton Hill.
- 5) How you can help the Town’s financial situation by recycling.