



# Town of North Andover Quarterly Newsletter

## News from the Town Manager's Office

JULY 2010 - Issue 16

Annually in June, the Board of Selectmen approve water and sanitary sewer rates for the approximately 90% of the Town who receive municipal water and the 70% who use the sanitary sewer system. Since the Town operates these two utilities through an enterprise accounting system, separate from the general fund, state law requires that the Board set the rates at a level that is projected to generate sufficient revenue to pay for the expenses associated with operating and maintaining our water and sewer systems.

In both the water and sewer budgets, the largest component is debt service - 52% in the water budget and 41% in the sewer budget. The reason debt service is such a large percentage of these budgets is because the town regularly borrows money to pay for improvements to the systems so that they operate safely, consistently and in compliance with state and federal regulations.

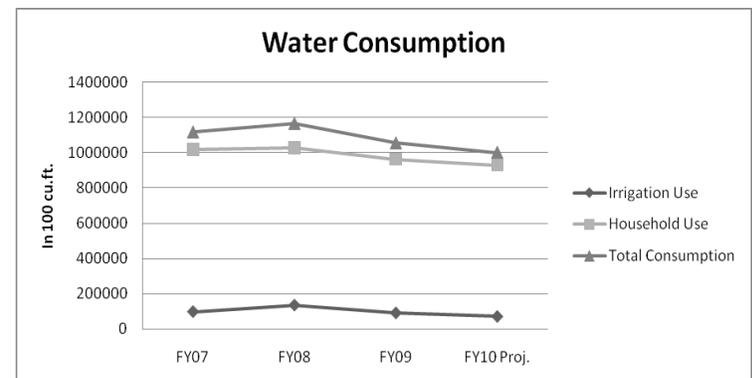
Examples of water system improvement projects in recent years include replacement of aging water mains throughout the Town, improving water pressure in areas that have low water pressure, and replacing two plastic lined storage pits with new concrete reservoirs. These enhancements serve two purposes: one is to ensure that the water we deliver to our customers continues to be of high quality and second, to provide an adequate source of water in case of fire. Overall, the Town has invested over \$18 million dollars over the past ten years to make these necessary capital improvements.

Similarly, the Town has authorized \$14 million dollars in debt for improvements to the sewer collection system since 2001. The majority of this money has been spent on extending sewer lines around the Lake Cochichewick area in order to protect our only water supply from contamination from failing septic systems.

Other major factors impacting the expense budgets of these enterprise funds include electricity and chemical costs for the water treatment plant and the assessment the Town pays each year to the Greater Lawrence Sanitary Sewer District (GLSD) which treats our sewerage along with the sewerage from Lawrence, Methuen and Andover, as well as Salem NH, before being discharged into the Merrimack River. The GLSD operation has contributed significantly to the improved water quality conditions on the river providing for greater recreational opportunities and a healthier environment.

But obviously, enjoying the benefits of an infrastructure system that contributes so much to our quality of life does not come without a price tag and that cost is in the form of water and sewer rates. These rates are based on consumption: the more water one uses, the more one pays. However, since most of the cost of operating our water and sewer system are fixed (i.e., they don't change regardless of how much water is produced or sewerage is treated), when consumption declines as it has in three of the last four years, the result is that rates have to increase to provide sufficient revenue to cover costs. Further complicating the rate setting process is that consumption is very dependent upon the weather. During dry springs and summers, residents and businesses use more water to irrigate lawns and fields, while with wet springs or summers like we experienced in 2009, consumption drops considerably.

However, even with all these pressures on rates, North An-



dover's water rates are slightly below the average water rate of the communities we benchmark ourselves against: \$3.80 per 100 cubic feet for North Andover compared to an average of \$3.92 (FY10 rates). Our sewer rates are slightly above average: \$5.83 for North Andover compared to the average of \$5.57 (FY10 rates). In return, our customers are provided with modern, safe and reliable systems that provides high quality water and disposes of our wastes in an environmentally sound manner. Relatively speaking, it is also very inexpensive. The Town can provide 750 gallons of the same quality water you can purchase in a store for \$3.80. If you were to buy the same quantity of water in one gallon containers, the cost would be a minimum of \$325.00.

## News from the School Department

**NAHS Graduation**— On June 11<sup>th</sup> 332 students graduated from North Andover High School. Over 92% of the graduates plan to attend either a two or four year college next year. The entire school community extends best wishes to members of the Class of 2010.

**School Start Time**—The Superintendent's School Start Time Advisory Committee has been expanded to include members of the teaching staff and parent representatives from each of the elementary schools and from St. Michael's. The work of the committee will continue with K-12 recommendations due in the fall for possible implementation in school year 2011-12. For the 2010-2011 school year, the administration is recommending that the start times for the five elementary schools, Atkinson, Franklin, Kittredge, Sargent and Thomson be aligned. The official start time for all elementary schools

would then be 8:25 a.m.

**Elementary Libraries**—A presentation was made to the School Committee on June 3 by NAMS Librarian Anne Bate and, via an audio-video presentation, part-time elementary librarian Ellen Reusch. This presentation was very informative and will form the basis for an Advisory Committee to make recommendations for restoration of library services at our elementary schools. The Elementary Library Presentation is available online at [www.northandoverpublicschools.com](http://www.northandoverpublicschools.com).

**Kittredge Classrooms Project**—The company M-Space has been selected via the bid process to construct the Kittredge additional classrooms. Plans should be filed shortly and the project will begin as soon as the building permit has been secured. The project is on schedule for September 1<sup>st</sup> completion.

## News from Youth Services

**STEVENS POND** -The North Andover Beach at Stevens Pond will be OPEN from June 23 - August 20, 2010. Pond Stickers are on sale at the Youth Center until the pond opens. After that, they are only available at the pond. A Season Pass costs \$75. Additional stickers may be purchased for \$20 per car. Proof of Residency and Auto Registration will be required at the time of purchase. Swimming Lessons will once again be available for 2, Four Week sessions for \$50 per session.

**SUMMER FUN 2010** - Cost: \$280 The Summer Fun program is a summer day camp for all children **presently** in grades 1 through 5. The camp is run outdoors and includes an array of activities including sports, games, arts & crafts and much more! Currently there are two locations for Summer Fun. All

children presently in grades 1 & 2 will attend Summer Fun at the Atkinson School from 8:30 am until 12:30 pm. All children in grades 3, 4 & 5 will attend Summer Fun at Drummond Playground from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. Sign up at the Youth Center! We look forward to seeing you this summer!

Atkinson Program—Monday, June 28th to Thursday, August 5th  
Drummond Program—Monday, June 28th to Friday, August 6th  
**SUMMER BAND CONCERT SERIES** — July 11th - August 29th Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm on the North Andover Town Common

**CHILDREN'S SHOWS** — July 6th - August 17th Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10:00 am on the North Andover Town Common.  
RAIN SITE: North Andover Middle School Blaisdell Center

## News from the Fire Department

Fire Chief William Martineau retired on June 4, 2010, after 33 years of dedicated service to the North Andover Fire Department. The Board of Selectmen voted on June 6<sup>th</sup> to appoint Andrew Melnikas as our next Fire Chief. Chief Melnikas is a 32-year veteran of the North Andover Fire Department and has held the positions of Firefighter, EMT, Lieutenant, Fire Prevention Officer, Line Officer, Deputy Chief and Acting Chief. He is a graduate of Central Catholic High School, has a Bachelor's Degree in teaching from Merrimack College and earned an Associate Degree in Fire Science from North Shore Community College where he currently teaches in the Fire Science program. Chief Melnikas is a long-time resident of North Andover

On April 5, 2010 there was a significant change in the smoke detector requirements upon the sale or transfer of residential property. The new law requires certain types of smoke detectors be used throughout the home, depending on the locations

of kitchen and bathrooms.

On June 30, 2010 a new law was enacted requiring owners of fuel oil tanks to upgrade tanks with spill protection. Tanks must be equipped with either a fuel supply line with a continuous non metallic protective sleeve or an oil safety valve (OSV). Most tanks are in compliance; these measures have been in place since 1990. A new regulation is forth coming requiring a permit for the use of certain floor finishing products. Floor finishes containing flammable liquids will require a permit from the fire department. There is an exception for residential buildings of 3 units or less as long as written notification is forwarded to the fire department at least 48 hours in advance. Most consumer grade polyurethanes are combustible not flammable. Use of these and water based products do not require notification or permitting. Please call fire prevention at 978-688-9590 for more information or questions.

## News from the Police Department

The North Andover Police Department, Neighborhood Crime Watch, Wood Ridge Homes and the North Andover Merchants Association will be sponsoring "National Night Out 2010" celebration on Tuesday, August 3, 2010, for all North Andover residents. The program will start at Woodridge Homes 10 Wood Ridge Drive from 4:00pm to 6:00pm and then a town-wide event at the North Andover Middle School football field (Hayes Stadium) from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

This is the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary for National Night Out, which supports the Neighborhood Crime Watch initiatives for crime and drug prevention. The program is designed to heighten awareness, and generate support and participation in anti-crime programs. It strengthens neighborhood spirit, police-community partnerships, and sends a message to criminals letting them know that the neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

The North Andover Police Department is in its 7<sup>th</sup> year of National Night Out. Local businesses, town organizations, municipal departments, town clergy and others have come forward together for the North Andover community partnership.

The North Andover Police and Fire Departments will have equipment and personnel on hand for viewing with demonstrations. Children will have an opportunity to have their pictures taken with Public Safety personnel and equipment. Residents will also be an opportunity to obtain information on various programs offered throughout our community and displays by town businesses. There will a barbecue, prepared by a local chef. North Andover Youth & Recreation Services will once again be offering games and face painting for our younger residents. Additional information or to participate please contact [crime-watch@napd.us](mailto:crime-watch@napd.us)

## News from the Town Clerk's Office

Janet L. Eaton, Assistant Town Clerk, retired on June 4, 2010 after 23 years of outstanding service to our Town. Janet served as Assistant Town Clerk for 15 years and was in the Planning Department and Assistant to the Director of Community Development. She will be missed and we all wish her a happy and healthy retirement.

Karen Fitzgibbons was promoted to Assistant Town Clerk and was sworn to her new duties on June 7. Karen has been in our office for over 10 years and worked in the Planning and Conservation Departments for 5 years before. The Town Clerk's Office is so fortunate to have such dedicated employees to continue a tradition of innovation and service.

Summer travel plans may necessitate having a passport. If you are traveling out of the country, even to Canada or Mexico you need a passport. The Clerk's Office is a passport agency and we accept passport applications Monday through Friday from 9:00AM to 3:30PM. The normal processing time is 5-6 weeks. You can expedite your passport through an agency for an additional fee of \$60.00 per passport and receive it with 2-3 weeks. Please contact our office if you have immediate travel plans and we can direct you to the proper agency. All forms and information can be found at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov). We can only accept checks or money orders for the fee to the U.S. Department of State. The agency fee can be cash, check, or money order.