

## TOWN OF ANDOVER ~ WINTER 2008 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present the inaugural edition of the Town of Andover Newsletter. This newsletter is one of the key elements of the Town's strategic plan to improve communications with the citizens of Andover. We are looking to produce the newsletter on a semi-annual basis to help keep you informed of some important things happening in your Town. We hope you find it helpful, timely, and informative resource.

Another new Town communications initiative which will be getting underway soon, is the 2008 Andover Citizens Survey. Here the Town will be partnering with the Center for Public Opinion Research at Merrimack College to conduct a public opinion survey through the mail. 1,200 Andover households will be randomly selected to participate in this scientifically conducted survey. They will be asked to complete a form containing a variety of multiple-choice questions about municipal services, quality of life, and various town issues.

The survey responses will then be compiled, analyzed, interpreted, and presented in a written report to the Board of Selectmen, which will also be publically available on our website. We will ultimately utilize the findings of the survey to help guide future decisions on how best to provide services and address some of the issues facing Andover. If you receive a survey, please take a few moments to complete the questions and then drop the form in a mailbox. Your input will make a difference!

Happy New Year and warm regards to you and your family.

*Buzz Stapczynski, Town Manager*

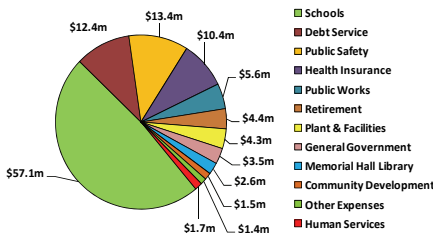


**The Andover Board of Selectmen**

From left to right: Gerald "Jerry" Stabile, Jr.; Alexander J. Vispoli; Brain P. Major (Chairman); Mary K. Lyman; and Ted E. Teichert

### FY08 Town Operating Budget

\$118,316,460 (General Fund)



### Where Your Taxes Go

**\$6,800 Average Residential Tax Bill for FY08**

Schools	\$3,333	49.0%
Debt Service	\$728	10.7%
Public Safety	\$722	10.6%
Health Insurance	\$612	9.0%
Public Works	\$325	4.8%
Retirement	\$258	3.8%
Plant & Facilities	\$244	3.6%
General Government	\$203	3.0%
Memorial Hall Library	\$153	2.2%
Community Development	\$89	1.3%
Other Expenses	\$79	1.2%
Human Services	\$57	0.8%

### IMPORTANT DATES

- January 18<sup>th</sup> Warrant Closes for 2008 Annual Town Meeting
- February 1<sup>st</sup> Town Manager releases Recommended FY09 Budget
- February 5<sup>th</sup> Presidential Primary Election
- March 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Election
- April 18<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee Report
- April 30<sup>th</sup> 2008 Annual Town Meeting
- May 1<sup>st</sup> (5/5 & 5/6 if needed)

### Customer Feedback

Have you recently...applied for a building permit; paid a bill in person; called an office for information; registered a complaint; or had any other type of contact with the Town? We want to know about your experience. Was the experience positive, was it negative, was the service friendly, responsive and helpful? Do you have any suggestions on ways to improve the service? Please visit [www.andoverma.gov](http://www.andoverma.gov) and click on the "Customer Feedback Form" link to complete the Town's new web-based, multi-question customer satisfaction form. All responses will be reviewed by the Town Manager and the applicable department head in Town's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of services. *Thank you.*



## CALLING ALL VETERANS



The Director of Veterans Services is seeking to identify all veterans residing in Andover to provide periodic news and updates about veterans events and benefits. If you are a military veteran, and are not sure if you are currently listed in the Town's database or have a military discharge on file in the Veterans Office, please contact Michael Burke, Director of Veteran Services at (978) 623-8221 or [veterans@andoverma.gov](mailto:veterans@andoverma.gov)

### OVERNIGHT PARKING BAN IN EFFECT

The winter overnight parking ban on all roads and in all public parking lots within the Town of Andover will be in effect from 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m., December 1st through March 31st. Motor vehicles parked for longer than 1 hour on roadways and in public lots during this time will be subject to a parking violation. Vehicles that are interfering with snow and ice removal operations, regardless of the time of day, may be towed at the owner's expense. Thank you for your cooperation.

#### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

*Steven Bucuzzo,  
Assistant Town Manager*

*Randy Hanson,  
Town Clerk*

*James Sutton,  
Library Director*

#### DESIGN & LAYOUT

*Steven Bucuzzo*



## MEMORIAL HALL LIBRARY

Visit [www.mhl.org](http://www.mhl.org) for more information about your local library's programs and services for all ages!

Need an answer to a question? MassAnswers, available at [www.mhl.org/ask/](http://www.mhl.org/ask/), is staffed by a librarian who will answer your question 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, using chat software.

Find access to full-text magazine and newspaper articles, including *The Boston Globe*, using online databases available to anyone with a library card at [www.mhl.org/resources/databases.htm](http://www.mhl.org/resources/databases.htm).

Find titles of downloadable digital audio books at [www.mhl.org/catalog/collections/eaudio/](http://www.mhl.org/catalog/collections/eaudio/). Download titles onto your own player at the library or onto your home computer.

Come to this season's series of pre-school story hours beginning the week of January 21<sup>st</sup>. Check out the new schedule at [www.mhl.org/kids/programs/](http://www.mhl.org/kids/programs/)

Sign up to receive Library News by email at [www.mhl.org/about/events/alerts.htm](http://www.mhl.org/about/events/alerts.htm) and get info about programs, book sales, new materials, new services, etc.

Go to [www.mhl.org/about/hours.htm](http://www.mhl.org/about/hours.htm) for library hours and directions.

## Presidential Primary Election Date Changed to February 5<sup>th</sup>



The Massachusetts State Legislature has changed the date of the Presidential Primary to February 5, 2008. All precincts will vote at the Collins Field House at Andover High School on Shawsheen Road.

The last day to register to vote or change party for the Presidential Primary Election is January 16<sup>th</sup>. The Town Clerk's Office will be open until 8:00 p.m. that night for new registrations at the Town Offices on Bartlet Street.

The last day to apply for an absentee ballot if you will be out of town on the day of the election is February 4<sup>th</sup>, by noon.

View additional voting information at [www.andoverma.gov/clerk/voting.php](http://www.andoverma.gov/clerk/voting.php)

andoverma.gov  
The Official Website of the Town of Andover, Massachusetts

# ANDOVER

*Home of America*

### Weekly Town e-News

Don't miss out on what's going on!

Receive weekly notices of Town news, programs, events, etc. via e-mail by subscribing to the Town of Andover's "e-Notices" service at [www.andoverma.gov/e-services/e-notices.php](http://www.andoverma.gov/e-services/e-notices.php)

*Subscribe today and be in the know!*

## Community Preservation Act vote – March 25<sup>th</sup>

Voters will decide if Andover adopts the "Community Preservation Act" at the March 25, 2008 town election. Mass General Law, Ch. 44B, § 3-7, allows cities and towns to adopt the CPA to assess a surcharge on real estate taxes for open space, historic resources, and affordable housing purposes. Adopting communities also receive matching funds from the state.

The 2007 Annual Town Meeting voted to accept the CPA with a 1% surcharge on annual property taxes, and with exemptions for low income and on the first \$100k of value of all residential property. Voters can expect to hear more about the CPA within the next few months from the local newspapers and advocacy groups.

To learn more about the CPA, visit the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' extensive website on the subject at – <http://commpres.env.state.ma.us/content/cpa.asp>



## BOOMERVENTURE

Andover activities for the adventurous 50+

BoomerVenture is a new Town initiative developed to engage Andover's population of Baby Boomers in a series of activities and events aimed at stimulating interests, broadening involvement, and embracing community.

BoomerVenture will be sponsoring a new 8 week series, beginning January 10th, offering yoga, exercise, book clubs, bridge and more. Register now.

For more information or to register for a program visit [www.boomerventure.com](http://www.boomerventure.com) or contact the BoomerVenture Coordinator, Karen Payne-Taylor at (978) 623-8321 or [kpaynetaylor@andoverma.gov](mailto:kpaynetaylor@andoverma.gov)