



# TOWN OF NATICK

## Summer 2008 Newsletter

*Issued by Martha White,  
Town Administrator*

### **Natick Board of Selectmen**

John Ciccariello, Chair  
Joshua Ostroff, Vice Chair  
Kristine VanAmsterdam, Clerk  
Carol A. Gloff  
John Connolly

### **Transitions in Two Key Departments**

Peter Sanchioni will begin his tenure as Natick's School Superintendent July 1<sup>st</sup>. During the superintendent selection process, Peter and I discussed opportunities to collaborate, share resources and enhance general government/school interaction and communication. I look forward to pursuing these opportunities with Peter throughout the years to come.

We also welcome James "Jamie" Sheridan to the position of Fire Chief. Jamie's extensive experience, coupled with his enthusiasm for the position will serve him, the Fire Department and the community well. Congratulations Jamie!

In welcoming these gentlemen to these positions, I also want to thank two outgoing leaders. Dr. Joseph Keefe has served as Interim Superintendent since January, and I know the entire community joins with me in expressing our gratitude for his service. I am glad to have had the opportunity to work with Joe.

Many thanks also to retiring Fire Chief Gene Sabourin for his many years of dedicated service to the community. Best wishes to Gene and his family as they now begin enjoying his well deserved retirement.

### **Affordable Housing Opportunities**

There are a number of affordable housing units available throughout the community for income-eligible buyers. To qualify, the maximum household income for a 1 person household is \$46,300 and for a 4 person household the maximum is \$66,150.

Forty-eight units are being made available at various locations throughout the community as part of the mitigation for the Natick Collection project. To date,

the homes available for purchase through this program are condominiums, but other housing options may become available as well.

In addition, five affordable units will soon be offered for sale at the 20-30 South Avenue project and two units will be offered for sale on Dewey Street.

Affordable rental units are now being marketed at the Cloverleaf Apartment project.

Information regarding affordable housing units is made available on the Town's website at [www.natickma.gov](http://www.natickma.gov) as soon as it becomes available. Keep checking back for updates if you are interested.

### **Summer Recreation Activities**

The Natick Recreation and Parks Department offers a wide variety of quality programming for Natick residents. Registration for many of the summer programs has closed, but great opportunities still exist for swimming at Memorial Beach, golfing at Sassamon Trace and a variety of activities and programs at the Natick Community Organic Farm.

The Monday night *Concerts on the Common* series will run from June 30<sup>th</sup> through August 18<sup>th</sup>, and the Wednesday evening *Family Performing Arts* series will run from July 2<sup>nd</sup> through August 13<sup>th</sup>. Both begin at 7:00 p.m.

For more information visit [www.natickma.gov](http://www.natickma.gov) or call the Recreation Department at 647-6530.

### **July 4th Celebration Week**

Events planned for the week leading up to July 4<sup>th</sup> include a lunchtime cookout sponsored by Middlesex Bank (June 27), a mini-triathlon (June 29), the Monday night Concert on the Common

(June 30), Family Day Activities on the Common (July 1), Children's Performance on the Common (July 2) and the July 4<sup>th</sup> Flea Market and Parade. Visit [www.natick4th.org](http://www.natick4th.org) for more information, and have a safe and fun Independence Day!

### **Metrowest Regional Transit Authority**

Over the past year Natick has been transitioning from the long-standing Natick Neighborhood Bus service to the new Metrowest Regional Transit Authority service to meet the public transportation needs of Natick residents and commuters. Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, this transition will be complete and, while the Neighborhood Bus service will no longer exist, no reduction in service is anticipated. In fact, the MWTRA has already enhanced service by adding a route in East Natick and by providing direct transportation to important destinations in area communities. Please note that fares have increased to \$1.50, in line with fares in other MWRTA member towns. Senior discounts still apply.

### **Natick 360 Strategic Plan**

Following extensive volunteer effort, community input, research and collaboration, the Natick 360 2008-2012 Strategic Plan has been completed and has been adopted unanimously by all five sponsoring boards: Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Finance Committee, Conservation Commission and Planning Board.

As part of the process, a series of value and vision statements were developed to characterize the attributes about Natick that are most valued, and to describe the desired vision of Natick's future.

Subsequently, a set of Strategic Goals was developed to help guide future decision-making; the role of the five sponsoring Boards in helping to achieve these goals is specifically outlined in the Plan.

The goals address areas such as the Town's financial stability, encouraging communication and participation in town government, proactively planning for development, fostering a vibrant Natick Center, improving educational quality and much more.

An Executive Summary of the Plan will soon be mailed to all households. Residents are encouraged

to review the Plan in its entirety; it is available on the Town's website at [www.natickma.gov](http://www.natickma.gov). Copies are also available at the Town Hall, Libraries and Senior Center.

Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers who steered this effort, the sponsoring boards for their input and leadership, and to all residents who participated in this valuable process along the way.

### **Municipal Department Goals and Objectives**

The Natick 360 Strategic Plan is being put to immediate use by serving as a guide to the development of departmental goals and objectives. I have initiated a series of meetings with department heads to identify an agreed-upon set of expectations for the new fiscal year. Department heads have been directed to ensure that their departmental goals are in conformance with and help advance the goals of the Strategic Plan.

This effort will help ensure that the departments are not only "rowing in the same direction" but that we are rowing in the *right* direction. Establishment of departmental goals and objectives will also facilitate an objective review of department managers' performance. Towards this end the Personnel Director and I recently presented a performance evaluation system to the Personnel Board, which unanimously approved its implementation for the FY 2009, which begins on July 1.

### **Donation of Holiday Tree in Town Common**

The Town's DPW Laborers Union recently donated a spruce tree for permanent installation in the Town Common for use during the holiday events. This will be a great improvement over the past practice of installing a temporary tree which must be secured with guy wires. Many thanks to Local 1116 for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

### **Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund**

You are encouraged to contribute to the Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund. These funds are a critical form of assistance to elderly and disabled taxpayers who are having difficulty meeting their tax obligations. Donations may be made payable to the *Town of Natick Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund* and sent to the attention of the Tax Collector, 13 East Central Street.