



# *Town of Natick* Winter 2011/2012 Newsletter

*Issued by Martha L. White,  
Town Administrator*

## **Natick Board of Selectmen**

Charlie Hughes, Chair  
Carol Gloff, Vice Chair  
Paul Joseph, Clerk  
Joshua Ostroff  
Nicholas Mabardy

*Town of Natick, Massachusetts*

*13 East Central Street*

*Natick, Massachusetts 01760*

*[www.natickma.gov](http://www.natickma.gov)*

### **Town Hall and DPW Office Hours**

Effective the week of December 5, Town Hall office hours have changed, as follows:

- Monday through Wednesday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Thursday: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Friday: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The late Thursday evening hours are intended to complement late evening hours for Natick Center businesses. We hope that residents will take advantage of this opportunity to conduct their Town Hall business before or after shopping or dining in Natick Center.

Hours at the Department of Public Works at 75 West Street are as follows:

- Monday: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Tuesday through Thursday: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Friday: 7 a.m. to noon

### **CodeRed Emergency Notification System**

As indicated in my last Newsletter, the Town has implemented the CodeRed emergency notification system. It is critical that contact phone numbers for all residents and business are entered into the system. If you have not yet done so, please enter your preferred contact phone number through the Town's website [www.natickma.gov](http://www.natickma.gov). For those who do not have access to the internet, please call Marylee Watkins, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police at 508-647-9511. Thank you very much for your cooperation in enabling us to contact you in an emergency.

### **Voting Precincts and Town Elections**

The next annual Town Election is Tuesday, March 27, 2012. As a result of the data compiled during the 2010 federal census, all Town's voting precincts have changed, requiring all 180 Town Meeting seats to be voted at the next Town Election.

Town Meeting is a great opportunity to get involved in your community. This is the Town's legislative body; Town Meeting members vote on such important matters as the Town's operating and capital budgets, zoning, land transfers and much more.

As this Newsletter is being written, nomination forms for Town Meeting seats are not yet available because the State Elections Division has not yet completed their required entry of every address into the state voter registry database. We hope to be able to provide these nomination forms in late December. Contact the Town Clerk's office at 508 647-6459 if you are interested in serving on Town Meeting. You will be contacted as soon as forms are available.

Nomination forms for town-wide offices are now available; these must be completed and returned to the Town Clerk's office by January 10. Please check the town website for a listing of the town-wide offices that are part of the 2012 Annual Town Election, and call the Clerk's office if you have any questions.

### **Natick Center Charrette**

Representatives of the Board of Selectmen, Town Administration and Natick Center Associates will soon be holding a planning charrette for Natick Center as a way to engage the community and give the Board input on future decisions.

A charrette is a collaborative session intended to develop solutions to specific problems. This charrette is intended to identify and evaluate opportunities to address a variety of issues relating to Natick Center, including parking concerns, Main Street improvements, safety issues, zoning issues and more.

More information on this event will be developed over the coming weeks. We welcome public input into this

process and encourage interested residents to check the Town website or call the Town Administrator's office at 647-6410 for further information.

### **Safe Steps Grant**

The Town was awarded a grant from the MetroWest Health Foundation to encourage walking in the community. In coming weeks, residents will receive an invitation to participate in a survey about your walking habits and to get your ideas for future improvements to our sidewalks, crosswalks and walking trails.

### **Natick Police Department Personnel Changes**

There were three promotions within the Natick Police Department recently. Sergeant Cara Rossi-Cafarelli was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, Officer Allan Graham was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and Officer John Doherty was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Congratulations to each of these well-deserving members of the Natick Police Department!

Additionally, we welcome two new members to the Natick Police force - Michael Mabardy, whose prior experience was with the Nantucket Police Department, and Christopher DiModica, who transfers to Natick from the Malden Police Department. We look forward to these officers' long and successful careers in our community.

### **Boston Marathon Running Waivers**

As was the case last year, the Boston Athletic Association has given the Town of Natick 20 running "waivers" for the Boston Marathon. The runners who wish to obtain these waivers are required to raise funds for local causes. Last year, over \$17,000 was raised in support of the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall and the Healthy Pantry Initiative, a collaborative effort between the Natick Service Council and the Natick Community Organic Farm.

We plan to use a different approach to our Boston Marathon fundraising this year. Specifically, we will not, at the outset, name the causes for which funds are being raised. Rather, after the fundraising is concluded and we know how much is available for distribution, we will conduct a competitive proposal process and distribute funds to the most worthy local causes.

The details as to how this program will work – both for the runners who wish to obtain waivers and for the local agencies who wish to submit proposals to receive

funds – will be announced in January and will be posted on the Town's website. In the meantime, prospective runners are encouraged to contact Maureen Fleming, executive assistant to the Town Administrator at [m Fleming@natickma.org](mailto:m Fleming@natickma.org) or 508-647-6410.

### **Solar Celebration Update**

My Fall Newsletter indicated that we were working to schedule a public event to showcase the many successful solar projects that are being installed on public buildings; that event has now been scheduled for Tuesday, January 17 at 10:00 a.m. at the Wilson Middle School. The public is welcome to attend this celebration. As a reminder, installations are in progress and nearing completion at Wilson and Kennedy Middle Schools and Memorial and Bennett-Hemenway Elementary Schools for an estimated total first year energy savings of close to \$70,000. At their meetings of December 5, the School Committee and Board of Selectmen authorized installation of systems at the new Natick High School and Community Senior Center for additional estimated first year savings of \$20,000. All told, these projects will reduce Natick's greenhouse gas (carbon dioxide) emissions by an estimated 1.16 million pounds per year, an amount equivalent to removing 390 cars from Natick roads annually.

We are still exploring the feasibility of system installations at the Sassamon Trace Golf Course and the former gravel pit site on Oak Street.

### **Community Services Department**

Effective January 1, the departments of Council on Aging, Human Services, Recreation, and Veterans' Services will be formally consolidated into the newly created Community Services Department. Dick Cugini, present Director of Recreation and Parks, will serve as the Community Services Director, and a new Director of Recreation and Parks will be selected. We feel confident that this new structure will achieve the goals of enhancing collaboration and coordination among the staff and operations that will be represented in the new Community/Senior Center, scheduled to open next fall, as well as enhancing service to Natick residents. We welcome your feedback.

*Whatever holiday you celebrate, please have a safe and happy holiday season!*

