

NOTES FROM TOWN HALL
Town Administrator Rosemary Cashman

Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Abatement Program. The Selectmen's Office will be accepting applications from eligible senior citizens for the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Abatement Program. Applications are available at the Selectmen's Office, Library, Council on Aging, and Town web site (www.tyngsboroughma.gov). This is the second year for this program. The maximum tax abatement is \$750 for 94 hours worked by each senior citizen. Five senior citizens will be selected to participate based on qualifications. The senior citizens must be at least 60 years old and have owned and resided in a home in Tyngsborough for at least 5 years. Upon completion of the work, each senior citizen will be credited with a net abatement in the tax bills issued in January and April 2010. The 5 positions are: 3 Library Aides, 1 Council on Aging Aide, and 1 Clerical Aide (Town Offices/Senior Center). The cost will be paid from the Assessors' Abatement Account.

Budget. The, Selectmen, Finance Committee, School Committee, and Strategic Financial Planning Committee continue to discuss how to balance the budget for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2009. At the present time, the Town and School budgets are out of balance by more than \$2,000,000. Recently, State Senator Steven Panagiotakos and State Representative Colleen Garry attended a meeting and provided information on possible financial aid from the State. It is anticipated that State aid will be reduced. Research is being done on possible additional revenue sources, expense reductions, and regionalization of services. While the economic indicators are gloomy these days, everyone is making a concerted effort to balance the budget and provide a certain level of services to citizens.

Council on Aging. The Council on Aging offers numerous activities and assistance for senior citizens. Activities include bingo, exercise class, meditation, yoga, tai chi, painting, bingo, wellness clinics, and lunch during the week. Meals-on-wheels can be provided for those unable to attend the Community Center but who need a hot lunch. Also, the COA offers information on fuel assistance and tax preparation. A van is available to provide transportation to the grocery store, pharmacy, or medical appointments. For information, call the COA at 978-649-9211 or visit them at the Community Center on Lakeview Avenue.

HVAC at Elementary School. The Town is working with an engineering consultant on repairs to the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system at the Elementary School. These repairs are necessary due to workmanship problems with the original construction of the school. The Town received funds from a litigation settlement to pay for the repairs. The project will be bid soon.

Former Campground. Town Meeting recently approved the expenditure of community preservation funds for the creation of a park at the former campground off Frost Road. Bid specifications are being prepared, and conservation permits are being obtained.