

Joint override sought for town, schools for FY08

By **Caitlyn Kelleher**
JOURNAL REPORTER

Selectmen have decided to try to combine the override request for both the town and school services.

At their Wednesday, March 21, the board asked Linda Sanders to ensure it is legal to put an override for the school services and the town services in the same article for the same ballot question.

"I think if we put them separate then we pit the schools against the town and the schools," said Peter McMurray.

The town is looking for raise about \$248,000 for town services and about \$373,000 for the schools.

The dollar amounts can be lowered on the floor of the town meeting, something the school committee said they would do if there is more state aid approved for the district.

Officials are looking to pass a Proposition 2 1/2 override to help supplement the

town budget and make up the difference in state-mandated minimum school funding. If the article is approved at the annual town meeting in May then it will be brought to a ballot vote.

The money must go to the specified issue during the first year and then after that the money can go town fund any town service as part of the general operating budget.

Ashby isn't the only town in the school district that will seek an override to fund the school budget. Townsend's selectmen also plan to hold an override election after their town meeting.

If two of the towns in the school district, which includes Pepperell, pass the school budget then the third town must fund its share of the budget, according to the regional agreement.

"We'll get caught if the other two towns accept the budget," McMurray said.

The town meeting is Saturday, May 5, at Ashby Elementary School.

Ashby Community Notes

Antonioni to hold office hours

Senator Robert A. Antonioni will hold office hours in Ashby on Wednesday, April 25, at 9-10 a.m. at the Town Hall.

Antonioni encourages any resident or interested party to attend and discuss any community, regional, or statewide issue that may concern them. Any questions regarding the Senator's office hours should be directed to his legislative aide, Tillie Ryan, at (617) 722-1230.

If any resident cannot attend these office hours and would like to speak with the senator of his staff regarding any issue, please contact his Boston office at (617) 722-1230 or his Leominster district office at (978) 534-6946 to set up a personal appointment at any time.

Time to think about Summer Camp!

Registration for summer camp is in full swing at 4-H Camp Middlesex in Ashby. Camp Middlesex, located on Willard Brook, 1031 Erickson Road, Ashby, offers Day Camp (ages 6-12) and Overnight Camp (ages 8-15) for boys and girls, running seven weeks in July and August. Open to all, 4-H membership is not required.

An Open House will be held from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 22 and Sunday, June 3, or stop by their booth at the Earth Day Celebration on the Townsend Common, on Saturday, April 28.

Day Camp offers various extended day options for early morning drop-offs (includes breakfast) and/or late afternoon pickups (includes dinner), for flexible hours to accommodate working parents.

The camp offers Dance, Theater, Archery, Fishing, Boating, Swimming, Low Ropes, Sports & Games, Arts & Crafts, Barnyard, Horse Management, Nature, Pioneering and Rocketry, to name a few.

To learn more about the camp, visit www.campmiddlesex.com, where you can download registration forms or register online.

For more information, call (978) 386-7704 or e-mail office@campmiddlesex.com.

Townsend Community Notes

NMRS Scholarship Foundation to hold annual drive

The North Middlesex Regional Schools Scholarship Foundation Drive will be Saturday, April 7, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in all three of the district towns of Pepperell, Townsend and Ashby. All money raised will go to scholarships for graduating seniors at NMRHS pursuing a higher education.

The Scholarship Foundation has given over \$1 million to over 1,900 graduating seniors since 1964. Last year the foundation gave out scholarships to 110 deserving seniors totaling \$64,200. Consideration for scholarships is based on a financial need, scholastic achievement, school or community involvement and participation in the annual drive. Money is raised for scholarships by the Annual Drive and from very generous businesses and individuals in the communities.

On Saturday, April 7, the day of the Annual Drive, students can pick up their route listings at the Pepperell Community Center, the Ashby Grange, and the high school in Cafeteria B. In addition to canvassing neighborhoods, some students will be at local businesses from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students from all grades are encouraged to participate.

Students will be going door-to-door, but if your house is missed or you are away on Saturday April 7, donations may also be mailed to: NMRS Scholarship Foundation, PO Box

715, Townsend, MA 01469. For more information please contact Marcia Tessier at (978) 597-8701 or Jeanne Wholey at (978) 433-6112.

Local students win essay and poster contest

The Townsend VFW Post 6538 Ladies Auxiliary is pleased to announce the local winners in its "Our Flag is Called Old Glory" essay and poster contests.

The essay entry written by Ashley Considine of Townsend, a student at the Squannacook Elementary School, placed first in the essay contest for grade 5 students.

The winning entry in the poster contest for students in grades 3 and 4 were submitted by Victoria Pappas, winning a \$15 cash award. Second place honors and the \$10 award were earned by Stephanie Mullin. Pappas and Mullin both reside in Townsend and attend Squannacook Elementary School.

Winners will be honored at an open house and awards ceremony later in the school year.

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I Can Cope

HealthAlliance Hospital, in partnership with the American Cancer Society, offers *I Can Cope* – an educational program for people facing cancer, either personally, as a friend, or as a family caregiver.

Living with cancer can be one of the greatest challenges a person can face in the course of a lifetime. This three-part program offers help in the form of reliable information, peer support, and practical coping skills so that *you* can meet this challenge.

Session 1

Tuesday, April 10 • 1 – 3 pm

Learning About Cancer and Understanding Cancer and Cancer Treatments

Session 2

Tuesday, April 17 • 1 – 3 pm

Managing Cancer Related Fatigue and Relieving Cancer Pain

Session 3

Tuesday, April 24 • 1 – 3 pm

Feelings and Mobilizing Services and Support

All sessions held at the

Simonds-Sinon Regional Cancer Center
HealthAlliance Hospital – Burbank Campus
Brian Bergevin Conference Room
275 Nichols Road, Fitchburg, MA

All sessions are free.

To register or for more information, call 978-343-5442.



www.healthalliance.com

Spend Easter Sunday at the farm.

Enjoy a traditional Easter Dinner at the Harrington Farm Country Inn & Restaurant. Special Holiday hours are noon to five, Sunday April 8th.



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