

## Without your action

**Our town will be without a Library, Community Center, and Senior Center by July 31st. These invaluable town services were not funded for the fiscal year beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>. No other state or local resources are available to restore these operating budgets.**

Our only recourse at this time is a Proposition 2½ override to raise additional revenue.  
(See details on reverse side.)

If the override fails, staff will have one month to end services and close these buildings. Interlibrary loans and borrowing will end at the library on June 30<sup>th</sup>, and the doors of all three departments will close to the public by July 31st.

## Please vote YES on the override!

**Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>,  
7:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.  
Varnum Brook Elementary School**

Absentee ballots are available at Town Hall until noon on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>  
for those who can't get to the polls on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Some tax relief is available to veterans, the disabled, and seniors on fixed incomes.**

Seniors may call Joan Goddard, Senior Center Outreach Coordinator, at 433-0326  
Seniors/Vets/Disabled: Call Sue Smith, Town Assessor, at 433-0322

**Total funds to be raised through the override: \$647,000 for three town departments.**

Cost to homeowners: \$52 per \$100,000 of tax valuation  
\$104 per year—\$26 per quarter—on a home valued at \$200,000  
\$156 per year—\$39 per quarter—on a home valued at \$300,000  
\$208 per year—\$52 per quarter—on a home valued at \$400,000

**How much are our town library, senior center, and community  
center worth to you and your friends and family?**

**\*\* VOTE YES ON JUNE 29<sup>th</sup>! \*\***

## Why an override? And why now?

- The state has cut our state aid and reimbursements to our school district for several consecutive years, so the town has had to pick up a larger share of the costs each year. This is expected to get worse.
- New growth in town is practically non-existent, and several businesses have been lost, so the tax base is not growing.
- Under Proposition 2½, annual tax revenue has not kept pace with inflation, so the town has often had to deny budget requests, make budget cuts, or rely on savings to keep services level or to increase services and personnel as needed to meet population growth during the three decades since Prop 2½ passed.
- The town's savings—Free Cash and the Stabilization Fund—have now been drawn to levels low enough to adversely affect the town's bond rating and continued financial stability.
- The town has contractual obligations that cannot be reduced, including debt repayment and service contracts. Many bargaining groups have generously reopened their contracts and made cost-saving concessions. Most town employees are not getting raises, some are taking pay cuts, and some are being laid off or not being replaced when they retire.
- Over the past few years, equipment, supply, and maintenance budgets have been reduced or level-funded despite need for increases. Peter Fitzpatrick School is being closed, staff reduced, and students consolidated into two buildings to reduce the school budget.

**Further cuts to the 2010 town budget will adversely impact remaining town services and resources. The Lawrence Library, the Community Center, and the Senior Center have therefore not been funded in this budget and will remain unfunded unless an override is passed to restore their operating budgets.**

## What will we have if the override passes?

- We will keep our library, will preserve the sharing privileges we have with other public libraries, will keep our only free public internet access and WiFi, and many community groups will continue to have access to the library's resources and meeting room.
- Our senior citizens will keep their meeting center and the services it supplies: Meals on Wheels, outreach activities, and social groups.
- Our community center will continue to be available for scouts, sports groups, teen and children's activities, dances, adult classes, AA, public meetings and functions, etc.
- Our property values and our investments in these buildings and in the library's resources will be preserved.

## What will we lose if the override fails?

- Most of our public meeting spaces will be closed. Our seniors, young people, and many organized groups will not have gathering places for their activities.
- We will have no town library; and without membership in the regional library association, we will lose all borrowing privileges in other libraries. You will not be able to borrow books, movies, or research materials from Groton, Townsend, or other Massachusetts town libraries.
- Our senior citizens will lose their meeting place, center-related services, and the social contact that keeps many of them going.
- We will have to pay the costs of closing these buildings and the maintenance to preserve them--without getting any benefit from this expenditure. We lose the investment we've made in them so far; and once library staff and accreditation are lost, they will be difficult to replace.
- The appearance and reputation of our town will degenerate with these additional empty public buildings, and all of our property values will fall even further with the loss of these valuable town service