

WINDOWS ON WAKEFIELD GOVERNMENT

WAKEFIELD INVESTMENTS

Over the last few weeks there has been much consternation in regard to the situation on Wall Street and how it affects the lives of all Americans, Citizens of Wakefield and the World as well. In fact recently WBZ completed a story on how the conditions on Wall Street affected Main Street Wakefield including interviews of many townspeople and business owners regarding the economy. We all certainly have friends or relatives who have seen their retirement and/or college funds dwindle in a matter of minutes. Like many of us, the town of Wakefield is a holder of funds on deposit in financial institutions and as a depositor; the town is not immune to the fluctuations of the market. However, I am happy to report that our independent Town Treasurer John McCarthy has insured that "Wakefield invests all of its municipal monies in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws. Therefore all of our deposits are only invested in those instruments and institutions considered "Legal investments in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts". Mr. McCarthy continues in his report to me that "the town of Wakefield's investments are secure and liquid and the Treasurer's office will continue to maintain the balance between the return and security of the town's monies." Our Treasurer deserves much credit for being ahead of the curve in keeping the town assets secure and performing as well as can be expected in this market.

FUEL PRICES

I recently attended a Winter Heating and Energy Roundtable sponsored by Attorney General Coakley. This symposium included state and municipal leaders as well as representatives from the private sector. There were many ideas discussed in regard to energy savings and conservation and the attorney general has promised to publish the ideas not only from this forum but from others held around the state. I will make the list available once published. In the meantime, there are a multitude of state programs available for assistance and I would suggest that if anyone has a problem in regard to heating that they contact the public inquiry and assistance hotline at 617-727-8400. This line is manned by trained specialists from 10-4 Monday through Friday. You can also obtain information on the Attorney General's Web Site @ www.mass.gov/ago.

Finally, if you are forced to use space heaters to keep warm please follow a few simple rules:

- 1) Make sure the heater is stable
- 2) Make sure it is at least three feet away from anything that could catch fire
- 3) If you need to use an extension chord make sure the extension cord is heavy duty.

- 4) Turn off space heaters when leaving the room or sleeping.
- 5) Kerosene heaters are not allowed to be used inside your house.

PHONES

The new phone system is finally up and running. For the most part the numbers have remained the same. I have included the direct department line list for all who have not checked the numbers on the WEB SITE. So to ensure that you avoid the dreaded auto attendant, cut out the list and tape it to your refrigerator for future use.

CABLE TELEVISION

Over the last few weeks the Selectmen's office has been inundated with inquiries and frustrated callers regarding the government mandated transition of all television broadcast signals to digital format. The transition is required to be completed by February 17, 2009 although at least one local carrier (RCN) chose to switch sooner. The Board of Selectmen recently sponsored a forum which included all of the three cable carriers servicing Wakefield as well as a representative from Congressman Tierney's office to explain the effects this mandate will have on the users. Luckily in many instances you will need to do nothing. However, in some cases consumers will have to purchase converter boxes or connect to cable or satellite TV. If you are unsure what to do contact National Telecommunications and Information Association by calling 888-388-2009 or visit www.dtv2009.gov for information and coupons to be used toward the purchase of converter boxes.

Enjoy the colorful fall days ahead,

Steve Maio

Town Administrator