



TRURO  
NON-RESIDENT  
TAXPAYERS'  
ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 324 • Truro • MA, 02666  
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# TNRTA NEWSLETTER

Fall / Winter 2010

## Letter from the President

Dear Neighbors,

Fall 2010 arrived suddenly in Truro, with much of the rain we missed over the summer arriving in sheets and disappearing as quickly on the winds. What a glorious summer it was, although I imagine this Fall will not be climactically memorable except perhaps for Earl, the Hurricane-That-Wasn't. From the Town's perspective we have entered the budget development period, in which the budget to be presented to voters in April 2011 is roughed out. Already, Town officials are keenly aware that economic realities are affecting all taxpayers and thus, also the construction of the next year's budget. We expect a basically flat budget overall except for salary and benefit costs. Truro remains in better fiscal shape than most neighboring towns, in great measure because of good fiscal management and because non-resident taxpayers use limited Town services while paying full taxes.

In the Spring newsletter we reported on many activities, and momentum on these continues. The Police Chief Search Committee is in full swing, and is moving forward on time to conclude an open search for the next Police Chief of Truro. Provincetown's water deal with Truro, which P'town concluded in anticipation of receiving \$7 million in federal stimulus funds that were denied, leaves Provincetown with a big problem, but apparently not Truro. Our Town has concluded

the underlying land swaps within Truro meant to make the well site available and to provide the school with additional land. Provincetown will need to identify revenue streams to meet the financial terms of the agreement with Truro.

On the regional level, there's been good news for Outer Cape Health - its Provincetown site received \$3.6 million in federal stimulus revenues to upgrade its facility, expand urgent care, create an in-house dental office, x-ray and mammography services, and improve AIDS and geriatric care. Outer Cape Health will also open a pharmacy in Wellfleet in February 2011, to be located on Rt. 6 near the corner of Main Street. Wellfleet and Harwich are now in serious discussions about sharing police dispatching services while Truro and Provincetown are now sharing ambulance services, and minor renovations to the Truro Safety Facility are underway to accommodate shared space use.

Last winter's significant erosion on bay and ocean beaches led the Conservation Commission to develop new by-laws for sand drift coastal management, adopted in October after public hearings in which TNRTA participated. Massachusetts has still not moved positively on homeowners insurance, despite the fact that Not-Hurricane Earl showed what regional climate modelers have long

said: the Cape is a highly unlikely place for a hurricane to cause significant damage.

The Town saw its second Truro Ag Fair this summer, a tad larger than its inaugural year, with many more local participants and some interesting local entries. We hope the Ag Fair portends the development of local agriculture and related organic initiatives as part of a green economic future for Truro. In that vein, the BoS has proposed to establish an ad-hoc Economic Development Committee for Truro. Because seasonal residents value and rely upon local businesses and trades people, TNRTA has undertaken a few of its own efforts to promote economic opportunities for businesses and trades in Truro, described in more detail in this newsletter.

More information on these and other items of interest follow inside. Please feel free to contact us anytime at [tnrta@tnrta.org](mailto:tnrta@tnrta.org) with your views, concerns, and questions and to check our website occasionally for updates at [www.tnrta.org](http://www.tnrta.org). We expect another busy off-season for TNRTA and as usual, will keep you posted on important and timely matters.

Best Wishes for the Holidays,

Regan McCarthy,  
President

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# Town News

## Search for the Next Police Chief

The Board of Selectmen established a Committee this summer comprised of eight community members to identify a pool of up to 5 candidates from which the BoS will select the next Police Chief of Truro. The Committee is comprised of the Assistant Town Administrator Charleen Greenhalgh (non-voting chair), Truro Police Officer Craig Danziger, Eastham Police Chief Ed Kulhawik, TNRTA President Regan McCarthy, at-large members Lori Meads and Buddy Perkel, Library Director Meg Royka, and former Selectman John Snow. The Town received 69 applications for the post, of which 62 were complete, including several from internal candidates. The Committee is presently reviewing application materials to identify a smaller pool that will be asked to provide more detailed information and to participate in preliminary screening interviews conducted by the Committee. Committee members are prohibited from discussing the details of any candidate(s) or application(s).

At the recommendation of the Committee, the Town approved retaining a police chief search consultant to help the Committee in two tasks: to evaluate the qualities needed by the next Police Chief according to key constituencies (e.g. the Selectmen, the rank and file police department staff) and to formulate and conduct specific assessment exercises related to policing and police leadership (which the Committee will observe and use to evaluate) based upon the criteria identified and tailored according to the Committee's recommendations.

After receiving community input, the Selectmen charged the Committee to conduct an open search for the next Police Chief in the belief that an open process would ensure that Truro gets the best possible Police Chief, whether from our current police force or from another. The Committee is committed to completing its charge and anticipates that it will have a pool of up to 5 candidates, as instructed by the Selectmen, by the end of January 2011. The Selectmen will subsequently conduct its own interviews of the finalist pool, will obtain background checks, and will select the next Police Chief.

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## Economic Development Committee Proposed –

In early November, the BoS proposed to establish an economic development committee whose purpose would be to “assist local businesses by facilitating their interactions with Town boards and leaders” and to “create a positive environment for the working community in Truro” which Selectman Jan Worthington believes will “give existing businesses a shot in the arm and a voice in the community.” Wellfleet had launched such a committee two years ago with success while Provincetown recently abandoned its economic development committee, concluding that a full year-round economy was not feasible. The membership, aims and work scope of the proposed Committee have not been finalized. While local businesses have always had a voice with local boards and officials, we believe an open dialogue on how best to foster the development of existing businesses in Truro is sound and would benefit the community greatly, both by gaining a realistic and fact-driven assessment of the local economic potential and in light of the need to balance the interests of businesses & homeowners who jointly contribute to the economic well-being of the Town and its residents. We look forward to participating in this emerging dialogue.

## Truro Announces E-Newsletter

The Town has launched a monthly e-newsletter to inform the public about Town activities. Available on the first day of each month, this newsletter can be accessed three ways: by enrolling online at [www.truro-ma.gov](http://www.truro-ma.gov) to receive it by email; by reading it on the Town website; or by reading it on the TNRTA website at [www.trnata.org](http://www.trnata.org) where you can access current and back issues and, for those interested, be directed to the Town website to sign up. Because we have promised not to share TNRTA members' email addresses, we will link you to the Town website where you can directly provide the Town with your personal email information if you wish. Otherwise, feel free to read the Town e-newsletter on the TNRTA site.

**Solar School** - In April 2009 Town voters approved up to \$70,000 to fund a portion of the costs of installing solar panels on the Truro Elementary School. The Town subsequently obtained \$90,000 in federal stimulus funds and \$4100 in state funds to cover the \$115,000 cost of the project, resulting in approximately \$45,000 unexpended from the 2009 voter-approved funds. This September the new solar panel (“photovoltaic” or “PV”) system went live, generating 25,000 watts of electricity, able to meet nearly 14% of the school's current electric needs. The project was proposed in 2009 as both an environmentally and financially beneficial project as well as a sound infrastructure innovation for Truro. The significantly lower costs of construction combined with ongoing energy cost savings will lead to faster recoupment of the Town's investment in the project and may lead to similar solar projects in the future.

**Truro's Growing Harvest** - The Second Truro Ag Fair was held this past Labor Day weekend in downtown Truro. Larger, with stronger attendance, and great offerings by Cape growers - both amateur and professional - the Truro Ag Fair promises to become a regular celebration of the bounty of Truro and the

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Outer Cape. The event celebrated local agriculture, aquaculture, husbandry, gardening, fishing, and farming. The folks who organize the Ag Fair are also involved in two related and important Ag projects: *Sustainable C.A.P.E.* and the *Truro Children's Community Garden*, a program to teach Truro's children about seeding, planting, harvesting and eating fresh fruits and vegetables. The program has now begun to bring produce to supplement the Truro school lunch program.

**Truro's Green Future** - TNRTA has begun to "seed" a concept of developing an agricultural future as a viable addition to the Town's economy. Truro's essential character is rural - and while this has often been touted as a handicap to its economic development, it may in fact be its strength. Truro could be poised to take advantage of the Buy Local/Eat Local organic food movement if we anticipate it, make good use of our growing spaces, and plan wisely both in policy and on the ground. Because we also have unused and underused commercial space in Town, there is potential for space re-purposing for year-round indoor growing for the restaurant and food market

### Truro Scholarship Winners 2010-11

TNRTA members contributed more than \$1600 this year to the Truro Scholarship Awards, granted annually to exceptional college-bound Truro students. This year, our support contributed to the scholarships for two exceptional Truro residents, Julie Travers and Sylvia Tamyko-Peters.

**Julie** was a member of the National Honor Society at Nauset Regional HS, where she also was a member of the Honors Orchestra and the Varsity Cross Country Track Team. An ardent environmentalist, she has also tutored and participated in many community volunteer activities. Julie is now a freshman at Wheaton College.

**Sylvia**, also a member of the National Honor Society, was 2010 Class Valedictorian at NRHS and senior editor of the school's literary review. Sylvia was active in the Model U.N. program and is a member of the One World Youth Project promoting cross cultural exchange, understanding and action. She is a freshman at Brown University. We wish them all success. And we encourage TNRTA members to continue your support for this program. Thank You!

### Truro Property Taxes

As mentioned in a recent email to all TNRTA members, Truro property tax rates rose 3.1% this year against re-assessed property values. The first of our 2 annual tax bills should be arriving just around or before the time you receive this newsletter. This bill will reflect 50% of last year's assessment; the Town will adjust the second bill based upon the State's approval of the new valuations.

Pay Taxes Online - There are **3 ways to pay** Truro property taxes: **by mail** (PO Box 2012/02666), **in person** (Town Hall, M-F 8 AM to 4 PM), or **online**. The Town prefers online payment and is encouraging taxpayers to use this method. Paying online significantly reduces the cost of managing the tax collection process, is environmentally sound, and makes it more efficient for taxpayers as well. To pay online through your checking account incurs a fee of a mere 25 cents - less than the cost of a stamp - while to pay by credit card may cost up to 3% of the tax bill depending on the credit card you use. So check your paper bill for instructions on how to pay online or go to [www.truro-ma.gov](http://www.truro-ma.gov), click "Departments" then "Tax Collector" and use the links there.

businesses in the area which could be made possible by grants supporting a well-developed community-wide plan. Even amateurs could contribute seasonally. We hope to catalyze a conversation among local businesses, growers, community members, and town officials - including the newly proposed Economic Development Committee - to develop a sustainable community effort to buy local/eat local by raising locally as well.


**TNRTA's Local Business Directory** - TNRTA has offered to the BoS to develop an online and paper directory of all businesses located in or operating out of Truro to be made available advertisement free and free of charge to anyone willing to download it. At the present time no single source of this information exists. We believe that the best way to help local businesses is to make sure they are known to the residents of Truro and the area. It is a surprising to know the variety and diversity of the local businesses - from trades to services and professions - available nearby. It is much more than we knew! We will have this directory online by April 2011 and will update it regularly.

**RECENT ELECTIONS** - For those living outside the State or the region, the results of November's elections were as follows:

Governor/ Lt Governor	Barnstable County
<b>Deval Patrick/ Tim Murray</b>	Commissioner (new member)
Attorney General	<b>William Doherty</b>
<b>Martha Coakley</b>	Barnstable Assembly of Delegates (Truro)
Secretary Of State	<b>Deborah McCutcheon</b>
<b>William F. Galvin</b>	Questions on the Ballot:
Treasurer	<b>Q1</b> - to remove Mass. sales tax on alcoholic beverages - <b>Yes</b> [passed statewide]
<b>Steven Grossman</b>	<b>Q2</b> - to repeal state law allowing a single comprehensive permit for government subsidized low-or moderate-income housing construction - <b>No</b> [failed statewide]
Auditor	<b>Q3</b> - to reduce state sales and use tax rates - <b>No</b> [failed statewide]
<b>Suzanne M. Bump</b>	<b>Q4</b> - to adopt revisions in Barnstable County Charter - <b>Yes</b> [passed county-wide]
Representative In Congress	
<b>William R. Keating</b>	
Governor's Council	
<b>Oliver P. Cipollino, Jr.</b>	
Jr. State Senator	
<b>Daniel A. Wolf</b>	
State Representative	
<b>Sarah K. Peake</b>	
District Attorney	
<b>Michael D. O'Keefe</b>	
Barnstable Sheriff	
<b>James M. Cummings</b>	

**Please Contribute Your Experience and Skills!  
Join and Become an Active Member of TNRTA**

RENEW your membership today or become a NEW MEMBER. Send a completed membership form (enclosed below) with dues to TNRTA. Dues are \$35 per household annually. Contributions appreciated.

 <p><b>TRURO</b> NON-RESIDENT TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION</p> <p>P.O. Box 324 • Truro, MA • 02666 www.tnrta.org • info@tnrta.org</p>	Name(s)				
	Permanent Address				
	City		State		Zip Code
	E-mail			Phone	
Truro PO Box			Dues	TNRTA Dues Enclosed:	\$35
Truro Zip Code			*Contributions	To TNRTA: \$	
Truro phone				To TEEA Scholarship Fund: \$	
				Total Enclosed:\$	

\*All contributions designated for the Truro Citizenship Scholarship Fund will go in full from TNRTA to TEEA



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