

December 21, 2005

* The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Department have announced a new convenient way to drop off payments due the town. Any payment can now be simply dropped off instead of having to enter the building or make payments during regular office hours. Payments for real-estate and utility bills for example can be made anytime. The BOS authorized the installation of this low cost drive-up drop box which is now located in front of Memorial Hall, located at 801 Washington Street Canton 02021. Any customer, during any hours of the day, may now, "drive in and drop off". Daily assigned finance department staff will retrieve any item left in the box and deliver them the next day to the appropriate town department for recording the payment. The BOS continue to look for ways to enhance customer service. Hopefully you find this new feature useful! Any questions call 781 - 821- 5000.

* Deadline for all zoning articles for the annual Town Meeting was December 19, 2005. There were nine such articles submitted and three by citizen petition. The annual town meeting warrant opens on Thursday, January 5, 2006 and closes for the submission of non zoning articles on January 20th, 2006. Please consult our web home page and click on "Town Meeting Time Line" for more information.

* The recently completed High Street Bridge will soon have "operating" historic streetlights. Additional electrical component installation has been completed by the Town's Wiring Inspector, Paul Reynolds. This final install was the last step before activating the bridge lights. Thank you Paul. The feedback and response to the upgrading of the bridge has been extremely favorable. In addition to the electrical work, improved drainage has been installed to correct a standing water issue on the Canton side. Great work by the contractor and Selectmen John Connolly, who led the effort to get drainage corrected. We have to also adjust the drainage on the Sharon side of the bridge, and that correction is in the works. Finally, the Canton Police Department is running radar in the area of the High Street Bridge. Please show the neighborhood respect when traveling through. Please obey the speed limit. Thank you !

* The Board of Selectmen will consider the installation of a "three way stop" at the intersection of Mechanic and Crane Street to address public safety concerns. The Board of Selectmen will consider calling a public hearing to consider this request in early January 2006. The focus of any such public hearing will be to amend the parking and traffic rules and regulations to implement such a change. Please call (781) 821 - 5000 or attend the public hearing. Please consult your local weekly papers for more information and our web page. This hearing will be publicly advertised.

* The Zoning Board of Appeals has acted to enhance public safety along Neponset Street by prohibiting Dunkin Donuts to serve Tractor Trailer (TT) trucks. Unsafe conditions result when TT pull along side the restaurant, park and enter the store for service. Passenger vehicles then trying to enter and or exit the parking area have little or no visibility along Neponset Street as a result. Signage has been posted to this effect. If you see any TT parked in front of Dunkin Donut's on Neponset Street please report it to the local Police.

* BOS have joined the MWRA Advisory Board supporting a legislative petition dedicating 25 million dollars in sewer rate relief for the 60 MWRA member communities including Canton. This additional financial support would mean a reduction in the proposed increase of the assessment charged by the MWRA to the Town of Canton. Such an assessment reduction to the town by the MWRA, is estimated to be down from 9 percent to approximately 4 percent. A significant reduction! We are contacting our legislative delegation to support the Board of Selectmen in their efforts.

* Effective January 1, 2006 the Town of Canton will offer new and more cost effective health insurance plans to school and municipal employees. The Board of Selectmen appreciate and recognize the sacrifice and participation of the employees of the town who had to approve making

these changes. Effectively, the Town will not continue to offer Master Medical or Harvard Pilgrim insurance plans instead moving to a more modern, lower cost and preventative health care approach. Older outdated plans will be replaced by new PPO and HMO Blue Cross plans. The Town's goal continues to be reducing overall health care costs to the Town and continue to provide quality health care to our employees. The Town feels it has accomplished both. Recognition should also go to Gayle McCracken, HR Administrator and Ellen Jones-Arsenault, Finance Department administrative secretary who facilitated the employee "subscriber change over process" for all school and municipal employees including retirees. Well done !

PUBLIC SKATING DATES AND TIMES:
METROPOLIS SKATING RINK HOLIDAY PUBLIC SKATING

MONDAY, DEC. 26	10AM TO 12N
TUESDAY, DEC. 27	10AM TO 12N
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28	10AM TO 12N
THURSDAY, DEC. 29	10AM TO 12N
FRIDAY, DEC. 30	10AM TO 12N
FRIDAY, DEC. 30	7:30PM TO 9:20PM
MONDAY, JAN. 2	10AM TO 12N

ADMISSION ADULTS \$3.00 CHILDREN \$2.00

FOR INFORMATION CALL 781-575-6660

* Finally, a reminder to please use SELECTMEN DIRECT. A simple online feature available to anyone who wants to talk to their Board of Selectmen directly. Please email bos@town.canton.ma.us to ask a question, register a complaint or make a suggestion. All comments are welcomed!