



# BEDFORD BYLINE

Provided by the Town of Bedford describing its services for residents. Responses to Town Manager, 10 Mudge Way, Bedford, MA 01730 are welcome. The Town's website for more information on services is [www.bedfordma.gov](http://www.bedfordma.gov).

February, 2011

## Third Quarter Tax Bill Increase Explained

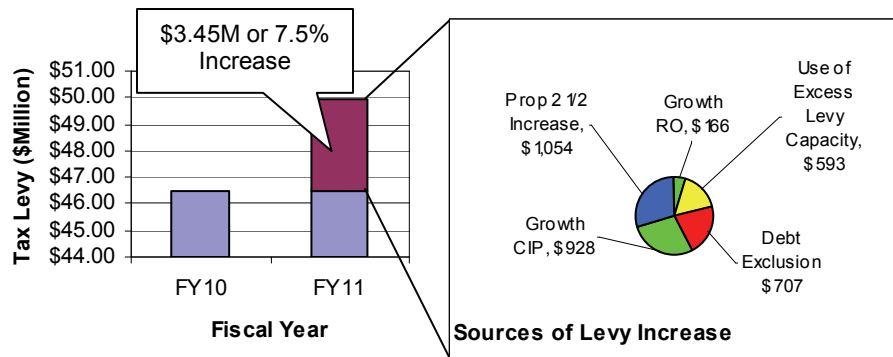
Prepared by the Bedford Board of Assessors

Recently, many Town residents noticed a considerable difference between their second quarter tax bill and third quarter tax bill, which left many wondering why there was such a significant increase.

This increase can largely be explained by three main factors: An increase in the Tax Levy from FY10 to FY11, a shift in value from the Commercial, Industrial, and Personal Property (CIP) classes to the Residential class, and the impact of quarterly tax billing.

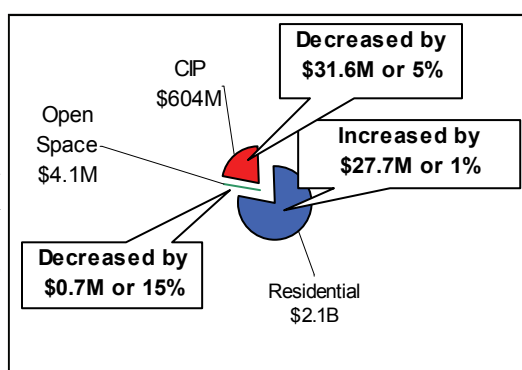
### The Tax Levy Increase

In FY11 the tax levy increased 7.5% or approximately \$3.4 million from FY10. The contributing factors to the \$3.4 million increase are as follows: Each year, towns are allowed to increase their tax levy under Proposition 2½. This year that increase accounts for about \$1 million. Growth in value due to property improvements is another allowable increase under Proposition 2½. This year New Growth for all classes accounts for about \$1.1 million. It is the Town's policy to ask voters to approve Debt Exclusions under Proposition 2½ for large capital infrastructure projects. Excluded debt that the voters approved adds about \$700,000 to this year's Levy increase. In the past, the Town has not raised taxes up to its allowed tax capacity under Proposition 2½. This left the excess levy capacity that was generated when The MITRE Corporation began making PILOT payments untouched. This year, the Town is using some of that capacity, adding approximately another \$700,000 to the Levy.



### The Shift of Value to the Residential Property Class

The higher tax rate for the Commercial, Industrial, and Personal Property (CIP) classes serves as a multiplier in the shift of the tax burden when there is a relative decrease with respect to residential property.



Continued on page 4

## Are Your Kids Addicted to the Internet?

Submitted by Youth & Family Services Director Sue Baldauf



teacher noted that your child has been falling asleep in class, due to staying up late on the computer?

**How do you, as a parent, know how much time on the computer is too much and how do you set limits on computer use?**

Are you worried about your child's use of technology? Does your child spend too much time on the computer, the Internet, or the cell phone? Do you have difficulty getting your child to do homework or chores when computer games, online chatting, text messaging, and Facebook occupy all after school time? Have your child's grades fallen as a result of their computer use? Or has a

As Internet and computer technologies continue to expand, all of these questions face parents on a regular basis. Although computers and the Internet play an essential part of children's lives and are integral to academic success and future growth, they pose a risk of harm when their use becomes excessive and inappropriate.

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## 2011 Town Election

**Important dates to remember:**

**Friday, February 18, 2011** is the last day for voter registration for the Town Election. You may register to vote at the Town Clerk's Office from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or at the Police Station from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Saturday, March 12, 2011** is the Town Election. Polling hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the John Glenn Middle School located at 99 McMahon Road.

## Winter Weather for Seniors

Submitted by COA Director Pat LeVan

When winter weather strikes, the Council on Aging (COA) is happy to be of assistance! The COA offers a variety of services that are available year-round, but some might be especially helpful in winter. Among these are:

COA know and they will be placed on the COA's list of people to call when severe weather strikes to make sure all is well.



- **Information and referral to in-home services.** Having trouble getting out to do shopping or other chores? Would you like an emergency response device to summon help in a medical crisis? The COA can let you know who might be able to help and how much it will cost.

- **Rides to doctor's appointments.** If you don't like to drive in the winter but need to get to a doctor's appointment, give the COA a call three days in advance and they may be able to provide you with a volunteer driver or taxi.

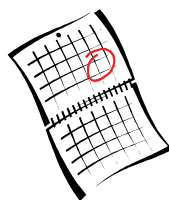
- **Check-ups.** Are you concerned about yourself or an elderly relative who lives alone in Bedford? Let the

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## Save the Date! Annual Town Meeting



Annual Town Meeting will take place on **Monday, March 28, 2011** and **Tuesday, March 29, 2011** in the Bedford High School Auditorium at 7:30

p.m. All registered voters are encouraged to attend.

Look for Town Meeting Warrants in the mail during early March.

Town of Bedford  
Massachusetts 01730

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## Winter Weather for Seniors, (Continued from page 1)

• **Exercise.** If you love to exercise, but find that you are unable to get onto the golf course or tennis courts, try the COA's fitness programs. The COA Walking Club meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. to walk inside or out. Just show up and start walking! The COA also has an array of fitness classes, ranging from aerobics to yoga. Call to see if the COA has space left in these classes!

• **Telephone health benefits and legal help.** If you can't get out but need advice, the COA's SHINE health benefits counselor and volunteer lawyer are happy to set up telephone appointments with you.

• **The world brought to you at your very own senior center.** At the senior center the COA offers movies, parties, informative and entertaining programs, book clubs and support groups, podiatry, massage and screening clinics, and much, much more! And the COA is much closer than where you might be driving for these things!

• **Trips.** Want a day-long getaway but don't want to drive in the wintry weather? Call the COA to see if it is running any February or March trips you might enjoy!

The COA is here to serve you, Bedford's elders and caregivers. So call the Council on Aging at 781-275-

6825 to see what the COA can do for you this winter!

### What Can You Do to Help?

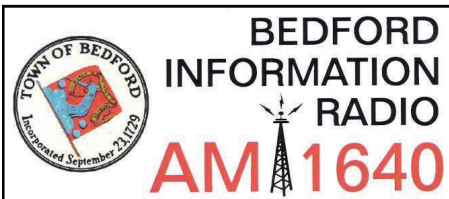
While the Town offers many services and programs for those who have trouble in the winter, you can also help. Here are some suggestions:

• Do you have a neighbor who is elderly or disabled and alone? Why don't you give a call just to let them know you are available. You might want to offer to pick up something at the grocery store, bring them their mail when you get home at night if their mailbox is far from their door, or occasionally shovel a walkway.

• Are you concerned about a neighbor? If you haven't seen a frail or disabled neighbor in awhile and you cannot get in touch with them, or they do not answer their phone, feel free to call Public Safety Dispatch at 781-275-1212 to ask for someone to check on them. You might save a life.

• Become involved in a volunteer program. The Minuteman Senior Services meals program always needs home-delivered meals drivers or people to help at the lunch site. Call Judy Atherton at 781-275-8542. The Council on Aging (781-275-6825) especially needs people to drive seniors to medical appointments in the winter. Many churches and other organizations have volunteer programs you can join.

One of the joys of small-town life is neighbors helping neighbors. Get involved!



**Town of Bedford  
Bedford Byline**

**Selectmen**  
**Michael Rosenberg, Chair**  
**Catherine Cordes**  
**William Moonan**  
**Mark Siegenthaler**  
**Walter J. St. Onge III**

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**Jessica Porter, Editor**  
**Sarah Brun, Graphics**

The *Bedford Byline*, an official publication of the Town of Bedford, Town Hall, 10 Mudge Way, Bedford, MA 01730, is delivered to all residents of Bedford. For information about or response to the *Byline*, please write, or call the Town Manager's Office at (781) 275-1111.

Articles without a byline have been written by staff of the Town Manager.

## Volunteer for Local Government

Several local government committees and boards are looking for new members to fill vacancies:

- Arbor Resource Committee
- Cable Television Advisory
- Fair Housing Committee
- Historic District Commission
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Housing Partnership
- Land Acquisition Committee
- Sign Bylaw Review Committee
- Wilson Mill Park Planning
- Zoning Board of Appeals

To fill out a Questionnaire for Volunteers form, visit our website at [www.bedfordma.gov](http://www.bedfordma.gov) and click on Committees. Questionnaires should be printed, completed, and mailed to the Town Manager's Office, Town Hall at 10 Mudge Way, Bedford, MA 01730.

For questions, please contact a member of the Volunteer Coordinating Committee:

Dawn Theodore	781-275-9243
Lora Goldenberg	781-275-7354
Ilsa Gottlieb	781-275-0953

## Rental Space for Social Functions Available

WOULD YOU BELIEVE...

...that Old Town Hall constructed in 1856 has kept the historic character of the structure while providing an elevator and a fully equipped kitchen during renovations in 2004? The third floor Great Room can be rented for wedding receptions, birthday and anniversary parties, corporate conferences, etc. The first and second floors are leased to the Bedford Center for the Arts and Bedford TV, respectively;



...that Town Center (the former Union/Center School) was constructed in 1891 with elementary school classes commencing in January of 1892? Renovated in 2005, the former school is now a community center housing four town departments including the Council on Aging, Recreation Department, Board of Health, and Youth and Family Services. There are four leased tenants including the Bedford Chamber of Commerce, Minuteman Senior Services, Iskwelahang Pilipino, and Recreation Kids' Club. The Bedford Community Table/Pantry prepares an evening dinner each Thursday and distributes groceries to those qualified. Five multi-use spaces of varying sizes are rented to groups and individuals for parties, meetings, and dance and exercise classes;



...that RDC (rail diesel car) #6211 was brought to Bedford from Billerica in January of 1998? For fifteen years it had been out of service. Cosmetically restored, it is on display at Bedford Depot Park and adjacent to the Minuteman Bikeway and Freight House. It is also available for rental for small parties and meetings;



...that a call to 781-275-4880 or email: [frusso@bedfordma.gov](mailto:frusso@bedfordma.gov) will provide additional information and rental charges, along with an opportunity to check the available space(s) prior to booking your party, meeting, or conference.

## Building Stretch Code Information Meeting

The adoption of the Building Stretch Code will be proposed at the 2011 Annual Town Meeting in March. How does it and the Massachusetts Green Communities Act affect you and benefit the Town of Bedford?

An informational meeting regarding the Building Stretch Code will take place on **Tuesday, February 8, 2011** at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall in the Multi-Purpose Room. For more information about the Building Stretch Code and Green Community Grants visit the Bedford Energy Task Force website at [www.bedfordma.gov/index.php/committees/committees-c-e/energy-task-force](http://www.bedfordma.gov/index.php/committees/committees-c-e/energy-task-force)

## Recreation Department Summer Employment Opportunities

Town of Bedford applications for summer work with the Recreation Department (Bedford Summer Adventures and Springs Brook Park) may be found online at: [www.bedfordrecreation.org/jobapplication.pdf](http://www.bedfordrecreation.org/jobapplication.pdf) or may be picked up at the Recreation Office.

### Springs Brook Park Summer 2011 Employment:

**Lifeguards and Swim Instructors:** To be eligible for a lifeguard or swim instructor position the minimum age is 16 as of June 11, 2011. Candidates must have current Lifeguard Training, CPR, and/or Water Safety Instructor certification.



Hourly rates start at \$9.44 and are based on experience. Applications are available at the Recreation Office or online. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled. Interviews will start in April.

**Crew Positions: Open to Bedford residents only:** The information for these positions will be in the Spring Recreation brochure available in March. Interviews will be held in mid-May.

## Winter Time Activity: Reserve Museum Passes Through the Public Library



Winter is a great time to take advantage of the numerous museums that the surrounding area has to offer. Passes to museums are provided by the Friends of the Bedford Free Public Library. Some passes cover the complete cost of admission, while others provide admission at a reduced rate. Popular passes are often booked well in advance so plan ahead!

**Please Note:** Patrons are urged to always check with individual museums in regards to hours prior to their visit. Changes in hours may occur without prior notice.



Passes are available for the following museums:

- Boston Children's Museum
- Concord Museum
- DeCordova Museum
- Discovery Museums
- Harvard Museum of Natural History
- Institutue of Contemporary Art
- Isabella Stewart Gardener Museum
- JFK Library and Museum
- Massachusetts Audubon
- Museum of Fine Arts
- Museum of Science
- New England Aquarium
- Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House
- Peabody Essex Museum
- TD Garden Sports Museum
- Stone and Franklin Park Zoos

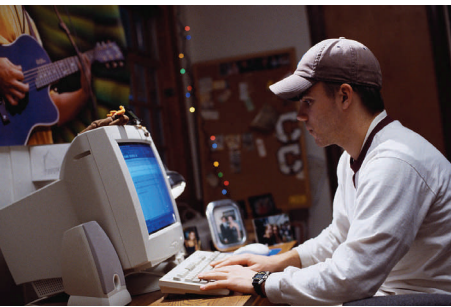
### MUSEUM



Reservations can be made directly at the Bedford Public Library website by going to [www.BedfordLibrary.net](http://www.BedfordLibrary.net) and clicking on "Museum Pass Reservations".

## Youth Internet Addiction, (Continued from page 1)

If you answered yes to the above questions, you might be concerned you child has "Internet Addiction." This condition, often referred to by a number of different terms, including "Computer Addiction," "Cyberaddiction," and "Pathological Internet Use," is poorly defined by medical professionals, while the demand for treatment by parents (often with some of the above concerns) is rising.



Similarly, the media has reported on addiction to technology as a growing phenomenon, while colleges and universities report increases in excessive computer use associated with rule infractions, student failures, and academic drop-outs. Problems with Internet use, like other addictions, are clearly affecting children's lives, along with the families around them, while services available for parental advice and treatment are limited.

At parent request due to rising concerns about our children's use of and reliance on the technology, a free parent education event entitled: **Are Your Kids Addicted to the Internet?** will be presented **Wednesday, March 2, 2011** from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Bedford Town Hall in the Auditorium.

Featured presenter will be Benjamin Silverman, M.D., an Addiction Psychiatry Fellow at Partners Health-Care System. Silverman is also affiliated with Massachusetts General Hospital, McLean Hospital, and Harvard Medical School. A graduate of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Dr. Silverman has a long standing interest in technology and addiction issues of all types, including Internet and social networking addiction in particular.

This parent education event is appropriate for parents of youth computer users of all ages. Come and find out how to ensure your child uses computers and the Internet wisely and safely.

This event is sponsored by Bedford Youth and Family Services (BYFS) and is part of a year long series coordinated by BYFS in conjunction with the school parent associations and several local groups. Questions about the series may be directed to 781-275-7727.

## Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results and Ways to Keep Your Kids Safe

By Youth & Family Services Prevention Services Coordinator Jessica Santos

In November the results of the 2010 Bedford Youth Risk Behavior Survey were presented to the community in a panel discussion that is being aired on Bedford TV. The presentation includes 2010 data as well as trend data from past surveys and a review of our community efforts to ensure our youth are safe. Panelists include: Dr. Maureen LaCroix, Superintendent of Schools, Chief James Hicks, Police Chief, and Jackie Supprise, School Health Coordinator. Make sure to check out our website for the latest Youth Risk Behavior Survey results at [www.bedfordma.gov/youth](http://www.bedfordma.gov/youth).

The 2009-10 Bedford Youth Risk Behavior Survey results show that:

Alcohol is the substance of choice among Bedford middle and high school students, with more students reporting use of alcohol than any other substance, including cigarettes.

By spring of their 8th grade year, 17% of Bedford students have tried alcohol (more than a sip), and that figure jumps to 75% by 12th grade. Parents, either intentionally or not, are the main source of alcohol among middle school students, with 55% of 8th graders who drink alcohol reporting that they usually get the alcohol they drink by either taking it from their parents or parents of their friends (25%) or having it given to them by their parents (30%).

As students age, they are more likely to seek out other sources of alcohol beyond parents, often "third party adults" who purchase alcohol for them. For example, only 12% of Bedford 12th graders who drink alcohol report that they usually get their alcohol by taking it from their friends' parents, while 21% report

getting it by asking someone of legal age to buy it for them, 19% get it from older friends, and 3% get it from older brothers or sisters.



The Bedford Safe Homes Directory for 2010-11 was mailed out at the beginning of November to all families that made the pledge this year to provide a safe, alcohol and drug free environment. The updated Directory has listings for 258 families who have students in Grades 6-12 and who have chosen to participate in the program. Since it started in 2001, the Safe Homes program has grown steadily each year, and participation has more than doubled in four years. The goal of the Safe Homes program in Bedford is to ensure families with children in Grades 6-12 agree to provide a safe, alcohol and drug free environment and to discourage underage drinking parties.

A big thank you to all the families who pledged for their willingness to make a commitment to the Safe Homes principles that support the safety and well-being of our youth. Know that you are helping to send a clear and positive message to all youth and parents in Bedford. We welcome all parents who are committed to making the effort to ensure a safe social environment for local youth and assume that anyone doing so does that in good faith.

Continued on page 4

## Bedford Council on Aging Volunteers Needed

Volunteering is a wonderful way to help your neighbors and contribute to the intergenerational character of Bedford while meeting new people, becoming more integrated into our community, and learning new skills.

The Bedford Council on Aging has volunteer opportunities for those who would like to assist elders to remain independently in their homes as well as opportunities for older Bedford residents to use their skills and expertise to help both seniors and children.

Volunteers often serve as tutors and help staff at the reception desk. Volunteers also work at the meal site, lead interest groups, and deliver meals to homebound elders through the Meals-On-Wheels program. There are also opportunities to teach

classes and perform many other essential functions.

Volunteers are especially needed to present programs about special interests and to act as friendly drivers on local trips!



Pictured here: Barbara Jones & Esther Mancini enjoy a visit from Elvis at a special event at the Council on Aging.

For more information, all interested persons should call the Bedford Council on Aging at 781-275-6825, they'd love to have you!

## Refuse and Recycling Collection Dates



Please be advised all collections of both residential refuse and recycling take place on WEDNESDAY except when an observed holiday occurs on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, at which time collections are moved to THURSDAY. Upcoming dates when refuse and recycling collection is moved to Thursday are as follows:



Holiday	Date	Collection Day
President's Day	Monday, February 21, 2011	Thursday, February 24, 2011
Patriot's Day	Monday, April 18, 2011	Thursday, April 21, 2011
Memorial Day	Monday, May 30, 2011	Thursday, June 2, 2011

## The 2011 Burning Season is Open: January 15, 2011 – May 1, 2011

### Burning Regulations:

- A permit is required for permission to burn.
- Burning will be allowed from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **All fires must be extinguished by 4:00 p.m.**
- No burning may commence after 2:00 p.m. on any given day.



- Burning must be at least 75 feet from all dwelling units.
- No starters, such as gasoline or tires may be used.
- No hay, grass, leaves, whole trees, stumps, carpentry debris, building debris, paper or rubbish may be burned at any time.
- No debris from land or site clearing for development purposes may be burned.
- Under the law, you are allowed to burn debris from the following: domestic tree trimming and pruning, domestic garden preparation, commercial nursery tree trimming and pruning, govern-

- ment nursery and forest tree trimming and pruning, and maintenance of existing access ways.
- No burning will be allowed in barrels.
- Burning must be conducted without causing a hardship or nuisance to others.
- The issuing of a permit does not release the holder from liability for damage caused by his/her fire.
- A means of extinguishing the fire must be available at all times, and the fire must never be left unattended.
- This permit may be revoked or a fine issued at any time for violations of the above regulations or any state laws.
- The permit holder must be aware of changing weather conditions and extinguish fires as dictated.
- The permit holder is responsible for any fire or fire related damage due to negligence and/or failure to follow the regulations.
- You must call **781-275-7262 x161** on the day you wish to burn. If the recording says it is okay to burn for this day, please leave your permit number. You may call this number for permission to burn any time after 9:30 a.m.

### Risk Behavior and Safe Homes Program, (Continued from page 3)

That means they intend to uphold the pledge now, even if they may have made another decision in the past.

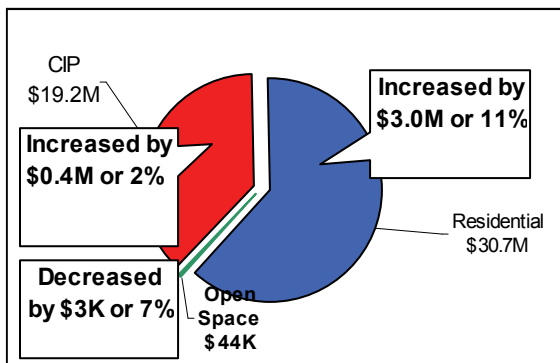
If you find out your teenager has been to a party where alcohol or drugs were present, discuss the situation and your concerns with the parents who were hosting the party. Let them know that you plan to share this information with other parents, especially Safe Homes parents, so everyone is informed of the potential danger of letting their children go to a party there. Let your son

or daughter know what you are doing and why they will not be allowed to attend future parties in that home. Consider informing the police of the violations as well. Massachusetts has a strong Social Host Liability law that the police are well aware of and can help educate you and any parent about whom you might be concerned.

We encourage parents to learn more about this particular issue themselves by attending the **Town of Bedford Parent Education series program on Social Host Liability** in the spring, **Wednesday, April 6, 2011**, featuring Richard P. Campbell, Attorney. The event will be from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in Bedford

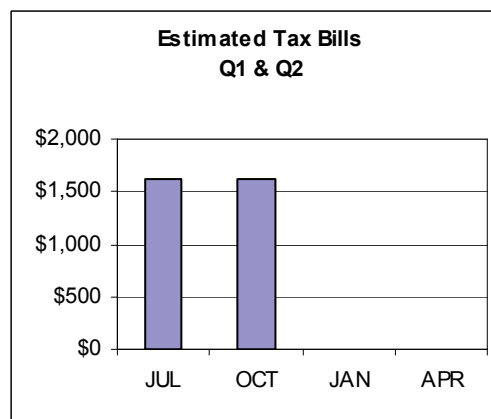
### Tax Bill Increase Explanation, (Continued from page 1)

#### A shift in property values leads to a shift in the tax burden...

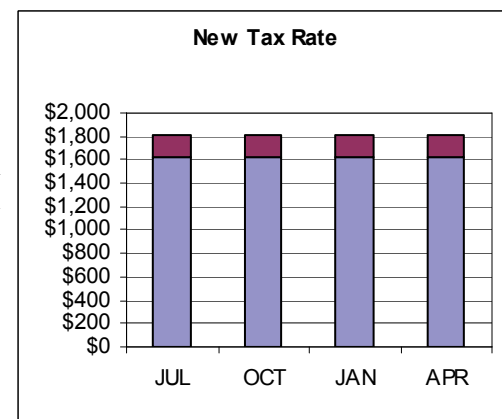


The property tax burden is in proportion to the value of the property. This year the value of residential property in Bedford increased slightly while the values for the other classes fell.

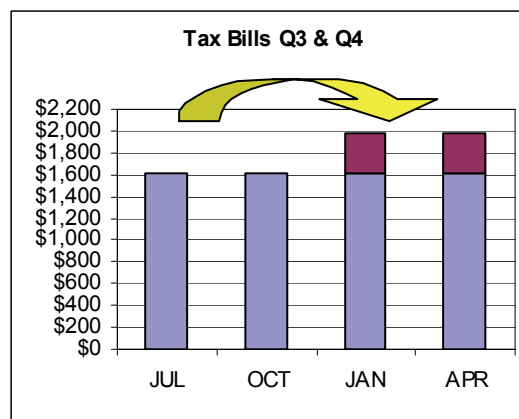
#### The Impact of Quarterly Tax Bills



Because the tax rate is set in November, the first two tax bills of the year are estimated tax bills. They are estimated based on last year's tax bill.



When the new tax rate is set in November, the actual quarterly tax obligation is calculated.



The unpaid obligation for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 is split evenly across the tax bills for Quarter 3 and Quarter 4. As a consequence, an 11% increase in the tax obligation appears to be a 22% increase when comparing the Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 tax bills.

Should you have any remaining questions concerning the increase of your third quarter tax bill please do not hesitate to contact the Assessors Office at 781-275-0046 or the Finance Department at 781-275-1517.

*This report was based on the analysis of Board of Assessors member John Linz; prepared for the FY11 Tax Classification Hearings.*

Town Hall Auditorium and will be most appropriate for parents of Middle and High School age youth.

Campbell, Campbell, Edwards & Conroy Professional Corporation from Boston, MA makes regular presentations to parents and communities discussing the Social Host Law in Massachusetts and illustrating the legal consequences of allowing those under the age of 21 to possess alcoholic beverages. Their presentation describes the cases that led to the change in the law and tells the stories of the victims of underage drinking and of the individuals who have been prosecuted under the law. They show what happens when good kids make bad decisions and well-

meaning parents who think that they are providing safe havens for their children and children's friends painfully discover that these havens are not safe after all.

Please feel free to call **781-275-7727** if you have specific questions about this event or any other Safe Homes or substance use issue. And thank you again for all your efforts to keep our kids safe!

