Nashoba Proposes Flat Budget
By Ann Needle

The Nashoba Regional School District bowed to tough times at Thursday night’s School Committee meeting, proposing that the district keep next year’s spending essentially even with 2009/10. The tentative 2010/11 budget totals $44.2 million, compared with $44.1 million for this school year. Meanwhile, more changes can be expected in next year’s school calendar.

The proposed budget is a sharp departure from years of spending increases. Last year, the district presented a “level services” budget, which kept services intact, but factored in cost of living increases and inflation. (The proposed

Continued on page 12

Seen & Heard Around Stow
By Nancy Arsenault

Home Saved in Fire on Sandy Brook Drive
“It was a great save. It would have been gone if the neighbors hadn’t been home,” said Stow Public Safety Dispatcher Sherry Morton of the house fire at 36 Sandy Brook Drive late yesterday morning.

The home of Dan and Amy Keough suffered extensive damage to a family room addition in which there was a wood stove. A neighbor next door saw smoke billowing from under the roof and called 911, and then called Pomposittic School where Amy is a kindergarten teacher.

Continued on page 10

Taking Stock of History
By Nancy Arsenault

Does your home have real historical significance? What about that old barn down the road or even that field around the corner? Who lived in your neighbor’s house in the 1800’s and what role did that family play in the town’s history? The Stow Historical Commission is about to embark upon a two year project that they hope will reveal the full story behind the town’s most significant historic treasures.

“As a community, they tell us Stow’s stories – of homes and families, farms, businesses, and community institutions – stories with which we honor the past and carry into the future,” said project co-coordinator Susan McLaughlin. McLaughlin and her project partner, Ralph Fuller, feel strongly that the town needs to know the story behind each historic property in Stow in order to better address municipal planning decisions and long range preservation efforts.

McLaughlin and Fuller estimate that there are close to 300 resources in Stow in need of documentation. In 1982, an earlier inventory report looked at 180 historic treasures.

Continued on page 7

Wood’s Pursuit isn’t Trivial
By Ellen Oliver

Question: Name three companies formed during downturns in the economy.

Proctor & Gamble, FedEx, and Egghead Team Trivia.
Stow Woman’s Cause... continued from page 1

The details of what happened the night of her head-on collision were recited to her many times over. A third-year law student at Suffolk University at the time, she was driving home to Acton from her job at a law firm in Winchester. As she traveled a winding, twisting road through the town, she came around a bend, and was hit head-on by a man driving a motorcycle who had bunched a wheel on the wheel. It was later revealed that the other driver was a known prescription drug addict whose habit led to her blacking out. Buttiglieri recalled that the woman received only a suspended sentence due to a technicality. Buttiglieri’s injuries, however, were something that stay with her to this day.

Rushed to Massachusetts General Hospital, Buttiglieri said she thankfully didn’t have any major injuries to her body — but her brain was another matter. She was in the hospital for six weeks and spent the next week and a half at MGH, though she doesn’t remember the stay.

After being transferred to Spaulding Rehabilitation Center, Buttiglieri recalled, “The significance of the injury, I had no real clue of. I thought things would go back to normal.” Despite the help of her fellow law students, Buttiglieri’s children, and Buttiglieri would tell them she would return the following semester. Looking back, Buttiglieri now understands why her declarations prompted such sorry looks from her classmates.

During the next six weeks at Spaulding, Buttiglieri worked on learning to recall names and memories, along with simple details that had been a routine part of life as a law student. Her most significant memory of Spaulding was working to name the objects in different pictures flashed to her by the speech therapist, and how she could never remember the “frog.”

“The head doctor said I should not go back to school, and that’s when it hit me,” recalled Buttiglieri. “I was determined to become a lawyer, I wasn’t giving it up that fast.”

Buttiglieri did finish her last few months of law school — although it took her two years. And, that was with the help of a speech therapist she worked with for three years at Emerson Hospital. Though Buttiglieri practiced law for a few years, “The issues you have to deal with, thinking on your feet, it was hard to overcome a lot of that,” she said.

Meanwhile, the accident left Buttiglieri with fairly severe epilepsy. Six years after the accident, knowing she wanted to be able to raise children someday, Buttiglieri took the chance on cutting-edge brain surgery at Boston’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Buttiglieri found it worth the risk, leaving her epilepsy much more manageable.

Mom Takes the Reins

Buttiglieri and her husband, Rich, now have two school-age children. As she began raising her family, she decided it was time to try to help others. She contacted the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts, an organization started by mothers whose children had suffered debilitating brain injuries. Fortunately for Buttiglieri, BIA-MA was launching its Ambassador Program, and they put her in charge. Buttiglieri spent the next three years lining up volunteers to speak to groups about the treatment and prevention of brain injuries.

Buttiglieri praises the support from her family, especially her husband, Rich. “It’s tough, because when you think about it, I was going through the gamut of everything emotional when it all happened,” she said. As for her children, Buttiglieri laughs, “I am the freak mother on the street, the one who goes crazy when someone takes their helmet off when they’re biking. But he gets it,” Buttiglieri laughs, “It’s tough, because when you think about it, I was going through the gamut of everything emotional when it all happened,” she said. As for her children, Buttiglieri laughs, “I was determined to become a lawyer, I wasn’t giving it up that fast.”

After taking a few years off from the Ambassador Program, Buttiglieri contacted BIA-MA again last summer, picking up where she left off, bringing her story to groups in the area. Last month, Buttiglieri spoke to the Stow Lions’ Club about its current activities. Currently, Buttiglieri works with about 10 speakers, including a police officer who suffered an on-the-job injury, a former corporate executive, a mother whose son sustained a brain injury in a car accident. Buttiglieri said she had blacked out at the wheel. It was later revealed that the other driver was a known prescription drug addict whose habit led to her blacking out. Buttiglieri recalled that the woman received only a suspended sentence due to a technicality. Buttiglieri’s injuries, however, were something that stay with her to this day.

The remaining two works, for chorus and orchestra, are by beloved and influential French composers. Gabriel Fauré’s setting of a meditative poem, “Cantique de Jean Racine” is a familiar favorite with choruses and church choirs throughout the world. Usually heard with organ or piano accompaniment, this performance will feature Fauré’s own orchestra, conducted by Andrew Link. Also on the program is Duruflé’s “Cantique de Jean Racine,” a well-known requiem by Fauré. Both share a sense of calm and beauty, and use the full range of color available to a large orchestra. Duruflé creates a sense of timelessness through his use of Gregorian chant, so that the piece feels both ancient and modern at the same time.

Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project Pesticide Exclusion Information

The Pesticide Exclusion program was implemented by the Department of Food and Agriculture to allow landowners to exclude their property from public area-wide applications of pesticides (see 333 CMR 13.03 - Exclusions for Application). The full text of this regulation may be found at http://www.mass.gov/agr/legal/regs/pesticides_33313_std_application.pdf.

The telephone number for the Central Mass. Mosquito Control office is 508-393-3055. Applications for pesticide exclusion can be filed with the Office of the Town Clerk or directly with the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project until April 1, 2010.