

## LONGMEADOW LINES

**Meet Senator Candaras' Aide**  
**Janice Hassett**  
Monday, January 11th, 11 - 11:45 AM  
**Note date change**



**VAN AROUND TOWN**  
Friday, January 8th  
10:30—12:30 PM  
Longmeadow Shops

### ENFIELD MALL

Friday, January 22nd  
10:00—1:00 pm  
See you on January 22nd for the Sales!  
**Call for reservations—565-4150**

### STATE ELECTION



The Special State Election will be held on January 19, 2010 at the Longmeadow Community House from 7 am—8 pm.

Anyone wishing to vote by Absentee Ballot will need to fill out a NEW application for 2010 Elections.

If need a ride to the polls, please call The Center at 565-4150 a few days in advance.

#### **Clerk's Office News....**

2010 Annual Street Listings (Local Census) forms mailed the end of December.  
2010 Recycling stickers are available.  
2010 Dog licenses are available. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required.  
2010 Hunting and fishing licenses are available.

### CARBON MONOXIDE PROGRAM

The Longmeadow Fire Department and the Council on Aging are partnering to distribute free Carbon Monoxide alarms to residents over age 60 who don't have them. The supply of alarms is limited and they will be distributed to residents who do not have a Carbon Monoxide alarm. To obtain a free Carbon Monoxide alarm and courtesy home inspection contact Captain Macsata at 565-4108 to schedule an appointment.

### Income Tax Preparation

AARP Tax-Aide is the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service. It is available to taxpayers with low- and moderate-incomes residents age 60 and older.

Approximately 34,600 AARP Tax-Aide volunteers, trained in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service, now help more than 2.6 million taxpayers file their federal, state, and local tax returns.

Tax-Aide volunteers are trained to assist with filing the 1040 Form and the more standard of the schedules, including Schedules A and B. Taxpayers with complex tax returns are advised to seek paid tax assistance. Electronic filing (e-filing) is offered at most sites, with no charge to the taxpayer. E-filing ensures more accurate tax returns and faster processing of tax refunds.

The free, year-round assistance Tax-Aide offers via the Web allows taxpayers to pose questions to online volunteers 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from the comfort of home. To learn more, visit [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide). Longmeadow residents should contact the Adult Center for an appointment: 565-4150.

### Senior Homeowners & Renters!

**YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR CASH or CREDIT FROM THE STATE IF For RENT OR PROPERTY TAXES**

The Massachusetts "CIRCUIT BREAKER" TAX PROGRAM is for persons 65 or over whose property taxes (or 25% of rent) exceed 10% of their annual income and who meet other qualifying criteria. You may be eligible even if you receive a property tax exemption through your city/town.

If you meet certain requirements, you may be eligible for the refundable tax credit or "Circuit Breaker" now and for the past three years - even if you did not file Massachusetts state income tax forms. You may file for the 2008 tax year beginning in January 2010 and may file retroactively for the last 3 years. The maximum credit you may receive for tax year 2009 is \$960, for tax year 2008 is \$930, for tax year 2007 is \$900; and for 2006 is \$870.

Forms are available online, at the Adult Center or thru your tax preparer.

### Longmeadow Taxpayer Information

The fiscal 2010 tax rate of \$18.28 (Pending Department of Revenue approval) is \$1.17 more than last year's rate. The Select Board voted on 11/23/2009 to maintain a single tax rate for all property classes.

Taxpayers may call 413-565-4115 or visit the office Monday-Thursday between 8:15 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and Friday 8:15-noon with questions and/or concerns related to assessments, new tax rate, abatements, etc.

#### **1. Exemptions to Persons**

Massachusetts General Laws contain several statutes that provide for individual exemptions from real property tax bills.

Personal exemptions are specific to the individual and applied to the owners' real estate. Exemptions are available for veterans with a war-service connected disability; "legally" blind person; a surviving spouse or minor children of a police officer or firefighter killed in the line of duty; indigent individuals who due to age, infirmity and poverty are unable to pay taxes as well as elderly individuals who meet residency, age, income and asset requirements. Any questions related to personal exemptions should be addressed to the Assessor's Office.

### Abatements

The Assessors can lower an assessment if there is an error in the factual data, or if a taxpayer can show that a property assessment is not in line with assessments for an improved property of similar style, age, square footage, amenities, etc. A taxpayer can only seek an abatement from the time the third bill, know as the "actual" bill is mailed (usually one of the last days in December) until these bills are due to be paid on February 1. The application must be in writing on an approved form! (There are different guidelines if bills are mailed after December 31.) Corrections to factual data can be made at any time however, the change in assessment is applied to the next year's bill if it is not done through the abatement process (i.e. timely filed).

The timing of when an assessment can be adjusted is prescribed by statute. This applies whether the change will increase or decrease the assessed value. It also applies if the Town made an error on the property card. Again, whether the error is against or in favor of the owner, it can only be applied to the current or future tax year (if filed timely, or the next fiscal year). There are no retroactive abatements.