



# Your Community Connection

Winter 2008 Issue

Highlights and Insights About Reading's Community Services

Website: [www.ci.reading.ma.us](http://www.ci.reading.ma.us)

## LOCAL AND PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup>



**LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION IS JANUARY 16TH!**

The Town of Reading will be conducting our Local Election for Town Officials as well as the Presidential Primary Election on Tuesday, February 5, 2008 from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. The voting location has returned back to the Hawkes Field House on Oakland Road.

The last day to register for this Presidential Primary and Local Election is Wednesday, January 16th. To register, go to the Town Clerk's Office located at the Town Hall on the first floor, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. The Town Clerk's Office will stay open on January 16th until 8:00 PM. If you have any questions call 781-942-9050.

The following quotation by Thomas Paine from his "Dissertation on First Principles of Government" published in 1795 is as relevant today as when it was written: *"The right of voting for representatives is the primary right by which other rights are protected. To take away this right is to reduce a man to slavery, for slavery consists in being subject to the will of another, and he that has not a vote in the election of representatives is in this case."* Exercise **your** right and vote on Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

### ANNUAL TOWN CENSUS

The Annual Town Census has been mailed to all households. Please return your signed form as soon as possible by mail, drop off at the Town Clerk's Office, or in the Town Mailbox in the Town Hall parking lot.

### FY08 TAX BILLS

- These bills were mailed in late December and payments are due February 1st & May 1st

### WATER/SEWER/STORM WATER BILLS

- These bills were mailed December 7th and are due on January 15th

### Register Your Dog Before March 31<sup>st</sup> to Avoid Late Fee & Fines

- \$10 for every altered male or spayed female
- \$20 for every unaltered male or unsprayed female
- Pets not licensed by March 31<sup>st</sup> subject to a \$10 fine on April 1<sup>st</sup> and an additional \$5 per month for each month thereafter
- 4 or more dogs must be registered as a kennel by January 15<sup>th</sup> each year



## READING MATTERS...

### *The Reading Board of Selectmen*

You can contact the Board by phone, email at [selectmen@ci.reading.ma.us](mailto:selectmen@ci.reading.ma.us), attendance at meetings, and the monthly office hours held at 6:30 PM on the first Meeting of the month.

#### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN OFFICE HOURS:**

**January 8 - February 12 - March 11**

6:30 PM to 7:00 PM - Town Hall Conference Room



## Ask the Town Manager...

January 14 ~ February 11  
March 10

**RCTV Channel 22 at 7:00 PM**

Do you have a question for Peter Hechenbleikner, Reading's Town Manager? Call **781-944-8888** during the **live** show and speak directly to him!



## Two Options for Christmas Tree Disposal

- Rubbish Contractors will collect Christmas trees curbside on your regular rubbish collection day the week of January 7 – January 11. All decorations, including tinsel, must be removed from the tree. Trees in plastic bags or not completely cleaned will not be picked up or accepted at the Compost Area.
- Residents may take their trees to the Compost Area on Stout Avenue from 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM on Saturday, January 12. You must have a 2008 Community Access Sticker to do this.

## SNOW & ICE REMOVAL...

With winter weather here, the Department of Public Works would like to remind residents that their cooperation is needed to keep our streets clear and safe. The Town of Reading's General Bylaws prohibit depositing snow or ice on a portion of any street or sidewalk that has been plowed or cleared for travel. Violation of this General Bylaw is punishable by a fine of up to \$300. The owner of the property is responsible for the violation, even if it was done by a contractor hired by the owner or tenant of the property. We appreciate your cooperation in our efforts to clear all the streets and sidewalks in the school and business districts.



## Are you Eligible for Veteran's Benefits?



There may be many residents in Reading who are not aware they might be eligible to receive benefits through the Reading Veterans' Service Office located at the Town Hall. These benefits are available to veterans, spouses and widows. If your income is below \$1,702 per month for an individual or \$2,282 per month for a couple, you may be eligible. Call Frank Driscoll, Reading's Veterans Service Officer, at 781-942-6652 for more information and to find out if your assets exceed the allowable limit. Or stop by during his office hours: Tuesdays 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, Wednesdays 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, and Thursdays 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM.

## NOTES FROM BIRCH MEADOW SCHOOL...

This past December, Birch Meadow's principal, Tom Daniels, and four teachers took a trip with many other Reading Educators to Charleston, South Carolina, for the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Conference where they learned about the critical importance of creating a rich, warm, inviting, stimulating and clutter free environment in which children can learn. Birch Meadow has been working hard to improve in all of the nine Blue Ribbon categories, particularly in terms of technology integration and school climate and culture. This year they began whole school assemblies centered around their code of behavior but also around the research based and effective social competency program, "Open Circle." Birch Meadow just hosted its book fair and has continued to benefit from many enrichment programs. Birch Meadow also recently purchased 7 new Smart-boards. Thank you to all Reading residents who support Birch Meadow School!



## SENIOR CENTER WINTER HAPPENINGS

**Lunch & Trivia:** January 2 - February 6 - March 5

**Special Lunches:** Winter – January 11 / Valentine’s Day – February 14 / St. Patrick’s – March 13

**Guided Visualization** (with Continental Breakfast): January 10 – 10:15 AM

**You Are What You Eat** (with Continental Breakfast): February 12 – 10:15 AM

**Come Meet Abigail Adams:** February 19 – 12:30 PM

**Managing Pain in the Elderly** (with Light Lunch): March 11 - 11:30 AM

Questions? Call the Senior Center at 781-942-6794

### J.W. Killam PTO Inc. Auction



**Friday March 14, 2008**

Hillview Country Club

**7:00 PM – Midnight**

\$30 pp / \$60 per couple

Donate items by January 18

Contact Dena Taylor at 781-944-8555

### Alice M. Barrows

#### Shining Stars Silent & Live Auction



**Saturday March 8, 2008**

Hillview Country Club

**7:00 PM – Midnight**

\$30 pp / \$60 per couple

Donate items by February 16

Contact Beth Robinson at [rwoburn201@comcast.net](mailto:rwoburn201@comcast.net)

## RMHS DRAMA CLUB

**Present**

**2 Plays for the  
Winter 2008 Season:**



### **The Grey Zone**

by Tim Blake Nelson

January 31, February 1 & 2



### **Playing for Time**

by Arthur Miller

February 28 & 29, March 1

### **RMHS Performing Arts Center**

Both shows have mature content and are not suitable for children under Middle School age.

## Winter Activities for Adults at the Reading Public Library...

**Saturday, March 1:** The Library will be celebrating their 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House, generously sponsored by The Friends of the Library. Something for everyone between 10 AM and 2PM including programs for all ages, door prizes, music, refreshments and more! And be on the lookout for more info on the Friends “Little Black Dress” program coming as part of Open House.

**Join our book group: Bibliobabblers** book discussion group meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7PM. January 8 will feature Karen Burke leading a discussion of Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson. On February 12 the group will discuss Cold Sassy Tree by Olive Ann Burns led by Betty Vanasse. On March 11 the title will be On Chesil Beach by Ian McEwen moderated by Kathy Miksis. No registration is necessary and newcomers are always welcome. Books are available to pick up at the Circulation Desk.

**Spinning Yarns: a storytelling program for adults.** Wednesday, February 13 at 10 a.m.

With Valentine's Day in mind, a humorous tale of what a man must do to win the heart of his beloved will be told in the oral tradition by Reference Librarian Eileen Barrett. Please drop-in (no registration required).

**LiveWires is back!** This popular program series returns with film discussions and a variety of speakers to promote lifelong learning in the library. **Coffee & More** programs are offered during the mornings: Jan 8, Feb. 12, March 11; and **LiveWires Presents** are evening programs: Jan 22, Feb. 26, and March 25.

## SUBSCRIBE TO *Your Community Connection!*

Would you like to have this newsletter delivered directly to your email address? Just send an email to [mknight@ci.reading.ma.us](mailto:mknight@ci.reading.ma.us) and you will be added to the automatic delivery! We also post the newsletter on the Town website at [www.ci.reading.ma.us](http://www.ci.reading.ma.us) and print a limited number of copies available for pick-up at the library, senior center and Town Hall.

### READING ART ASSOCIATION

**January 9 – 7:30 PM**  
Oil Landscape demo by Randy Knowles

**February 13 – 7:30 PM**  
Oil Still Life demo by Kathy Cooper

**March 12 – 7:30 PM**  
Watercolor Landscape demo by Jack Harand

Guild Hall, First Congregational Church, Sanborn St.



### READING SYMPHONY RECEIVES GIFT OF PAINTING

Joseph Finigan, RMHS principal, accepts painting of the Reading Symphony Orchestra dated 1967 by the artist John Del Buono, longtime RSO violin player. Presenting the painting on behalf of their father are Emilie De Flumeri and Diana Murphy. Representing the RSO is Dr. Roland Vazquez, music director, Eugene Nigro, RSO president and Gene Martin, RSO vice president. The event is part of the year-long celebration of the Orchestra's 75th anniversary. The painting will be hung at the entrance of the Performing Arts Center where concertgoers may view it. Pictured in the painting is Jim Roth, RSO's music director at the time and former music director for RMHS.

Quannapowitt Players  
present

## HIDE & SEEK

A suspenseful mystery and thriller  
by Lezley Havard and directed by  
**J. Mark Baumhardt**

Quannapowitt Theater  
55 Hopkins Street, Reading  
[www.qptheater.com](http://www.qptheater.com)

**February 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16**



Reading Symphony Orchestra Concert

**MARCH 16, 2008 ~ 3:30 PM**

RMHS Performing Arts Center

**Gershwin – Cuban Overture**

**Rimsky Korsakov – Capriccio Espagnol**

**Dvork – Symphony #9, in e-minor, "From the New World"**

Adults \$15 ~ Seniors & Students \$10

Children 12 and under Free

## Reading Community Concert Band and pianist Virginia Eskin

present  
**Gershwin & Grofe**  
Featuring  
**Rhapsody in Blue**

Saturday March 8 – 8:00 PM  
RMHS Performing Arts Center  
Adults \$ 15 – Students & Seniors \$10



Coolidge Middle School Presents:

## *Romeo and Juliet*

January 18 & 19 – 7:30 PM

**RMHS Performing Arts Center**

\$10 Adults, \$5 Students & Seniors, doors open at 7:00 PM and tickets can be purchased at door. Tickets can also be purchased at the RMHS Ticket Office on January 14 – 17 from 5:30 to 6:30 PM.





READING COMMUNITY SINGERS

### Fundraiser at Fuddruckers

January 8 ~ 4:00 to 8:00 PM

**Support Your Community Chorus!**

Rehearsals begin January 15  
for our Spring Concert!

[www.readingcommunitysingers.org](http://www.readingcommunitysingers.org)



The Ivy Chord Coffee House

### Presents...Antje Duvekot



**Saturday, January 26 ~ 8:00 PM**

\$15 General Admission ~ \$12 Students & Seniors

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading  
Newly Renovated Space & Handicap Accessible!

**For more information: [bethpiano@rcn.com](mailto:bethpiano@rcn.com)**

## READING COLLEGE CLUB

**February 6 ..... David Kruh**

*Charles Ponzi & the Ponzi Scheme*

**March 5 ..... Paul Zambella**

*How forensic science helps determine "hodunnit"*

**Senior Center~ 7:30 PM**

Annual Dues \$25 ~ Guests Welcome \$3

## READING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

### Children's Concert

Sunday, January 13 ~ 2:00 PM

Parker Middle School



**MUSIC MAGIC!** An afternoon with musical wizard Maestro Vazquez and the RSO as they play some musical magic and tricks for the young!

**Ticket Information: 978-664-0024**

### Enjoy the arts? Like spending money? Join the **READING CULTURAL COUNCIL!**

Help distribute state funds to local arts programs. It's a fun volunteer opportunity that isn't a huge time commitment, generally one meeting a month, but it has a big impact on the community. For more information contact Liz Whitlam at [lizhop@gmail.com](mailto:lizhop@gmail.com)

### IS SOMETHING MISSING IN THIS NEWSLETTER?



Maybe it's your group or organization's events! If you are holding an event that the general public is invited to, it may be eligible for insertion in *Your Community Connection!* For more information email: [mknight@ci.reading.ma.us](mailto:mknight@ci.reading.ma.us).

## Lots of Winter Fun & Activities at CREATIVE ARTS!

**Open House:** Saturday, January 5, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Lots of activities and fun

**Winter Student Concert:** Friday, January 18, 7:00 PM, Free! Suitable for entire family!

**Mystery Dinner Theatre "Mischievous Maui Mystery":** Saturday, February 2, 5 - 8:00 PM

**Student Performance Night:** Friday, February 8, 7:00 PM, Free! Suitable for entire family!

**Theatre Arts Vacation Workshop:** February 18 – February 22, 8:15 AM -5:45 PM, all students get speaking parts!

**30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:** Saturday, March 8, see website for details: [www.creativeartsforkids.org](http://www.creativeartsforkids.org)

**Jazz Night & Auction:** Saturday, April 5, Music! Conversation! Silent & Live Auction! Raffles!



## 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

## READING PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Saturday, March 1, 2008**

Generously sponsored by The Friends of the Library