

# 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

### To the Tiverton Community:



**Administrator David A. Souza**

As the new Town Administrator it's my pleasure to provide this report on Tiverton issues. In my brief tenure at Town Hall I have come to appreciate even more than before how wonderful a place Tiverton is to live. As Administrator it's been a pleasure to work with our dedicated employees and the many volunteers who are focused on ensuring that Tiverton's unique character remains intact. I have briefly summarized some of the major events that have taken place since the last Financial Town Meeting.

First, some key personnel changes. Last year Thomas Blakey became Tiverton's Chief of Police. Chief Blakey is by now a familiar face around town. He came to us with 20+ years of law enforcement experience and by all accounts is well prepared to lead our police force into the future.

Following some turmoil in the DPW Chief's position, we have recruited a top-notch candidate to take over that ever-important role. David Webster will start work on May 17. Mr. Webster comes to us with 30 years experience in civil engineering, landfill management, sewer installations, streets and highways management, and much more. He is a certified Professional Engineer as well. I look forward to his arrival and his leadership on some very important issues.

Recently our tax assessor resigned and the process of replacing him is well underway. The assessor's position is also a key position, and grows in importance as Tiverton's tax base expands. New construction at the Starwood development is well underway and important tax assessment issues are now



Tiverton Town Hall  
343 Highland Road  
Tiverton, RI 02878

THE VILLAGES ON MOUNT HOPE BAY

front and center. With assistance from the Personnel Board and Town Council I hope to complete filling this position in the very near future.

Our Wastewater Management Commission has been reconstituted with four of the original five members.

Raul Fernandes, Don Wilbur, Steve Freitas and Tom Brady graciously accepted reappointment, and newly appointed John Christo has joined them. This commission's role of overseeing the growth of sewerage issues throughout town is very important. Their expertise and

**P**eople began moving into finished units in early April; there have been 10 closings already.

The first mid-rise building is scheduled to open with 24 condos of 1,100-1,700 square feet in June, 2005.

Current Townhouse prices are \$400,000 to \$975,000 and expected to rise.



Bradley Perry, property manager at The Villages on Mount Hope Bay, stands in front of a three-story, 3,200-square foot model off Schooner Street.

institutional memory will serve us well. Other important happenings around town include the progress of the Villages at Mount Hope. The project is far from complete but has progressed to the point that we now have new neighbors living there. The developers are

predicting at least two closings per week for the remainder of the year. As you know this high-end, over-55 community, adds revenues to our tax base without adding students to our school system. Some of the tax revenues go to the town General Fund while some goes to pay down

the TIF bond. Future tax revenues should grow and grow quickly as more housing units are sold.

**T**he long awaited Sakonnet River Bridge project, although not yet begun, is inching closer to reality. The bridge design will include a bike path,

SAKONNET RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT



The old Railroad Bridge under the Sakonnet River Bridge comes down this year.

which may in turn link up to a bike path here in town running south along Main Road to Stone Bridge. There are several plans being considered along with several funding options under consideration. State, and possibly federal grants, will

be sought when a viable plan is finalized. Additionally plans for a park at the current site of the Stone Bridge abutment are being considered. These projects may be a few years away from finalization but they are very exciting concepts.

**STONE BRIDGE AREA**



The Stone Bridge Abutment area, which is being considered for a park area.

The observation tower at our beloved Fort Barton is being rebuilt thanks to the efforts of Garry Plunkett, Buz Wyman, and other volunteers. The former tower was taken down due to its deterioration over many years' use. The newly rebuilt tower will be ready by summer. Hours of volunteer time to rebuild the tower deserves our appreciation.

**FORT BARTON**



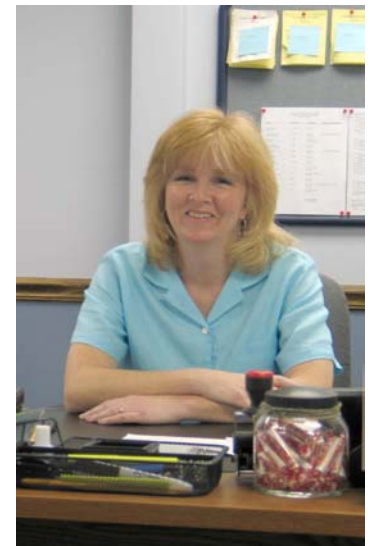
The new observation tower at Fort Barton is almost ready to use.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

The Department of Public Works' office has been completely rehabilitated following a fire last February. The department secretary has moved back in and a new desk awaits our new DPW Chief's arrival later this month. The disruption to office operations

that took place following the fire caused Marcia Robitaille to work out of a temporary office, with a borrowed computer, telephone and office supplies. Now operations are returning to normal. I thank Marcia for handling the crisis so well.

Marsha Robitaille, happy to be back working in the new DPW office.



**BLISS FOUR CORNERS**

Awashonk Realty's new home under construction (below), next to the Subway Sandwich Shop. Both units are north of the Rt. 177 and Stafford Road intersection.



Steve Sowersby (above), stands in front of the new Subway Sandwich Shop that he will operate, beginning in mid to late May.



Bliss Four Corners is changing and changing quickly. Guimond Farms store is giving way to a branch of the Citizens-Union Bank from Fall River. Additionally an office building and fast food store are well under construction just north of the intersection. I grew up in this neighborhood. It will take some time, I think, to get used to the changing scenery.

**"I'm enjoying the town, the geography and the coastline. All the departments are extremely cooperative. I have some good plans and things I'm looking forward to doing. A third of the police department will have a change of position or be promoted."**

***Police Chief Thomas Blakey***

**Police Chief Thomas Blakey is a welcome addition to the community in the last year.**



## The Town of Tiverton—Departmental

**Town Administrator  
Dave Souza, Office Phone 625-6710**

### Town Council

**Claudia Linhares, President.....624-6963  
Tracy D. Connors.....624-3823  
Manuel R. Cabral, vice president.....624-2503  
John H. Fernandes.....624-8852  
Louise Durfee.....624-4147  
Donald Bollin.....624-9049  
Lori Doyle.....624-1371**

### Town Clerk

**Hannibal Costa.....Office Phone 625-6700, ext. 3**

### Treasurer

**Cecil E. Leonard.....Office Phone 625-5323**

### Building Official

**Rob Walker.....Office Phone 625-6715**

### Tax Assessor

**Temporarily vacant....Office Phone 625-6709**

### Tax Collector

**Nancy Mello.....Office Phone 625-6706**

### DPW Director

**David Webster.....Office Phone 625-6760**

### Senior Center

**Janice Gomes.....Office Phone 625-6790**

### Planning Board (Chair)

**Rosemary Eva.....Phone 624-4001**

**Tiverton Police Department.....625-6716**

**Tiverton Animal Control.....625-6716**

**Tiverton Fire Department.....625-6740**

**D**evelopment is not always welcome in small towns like Tiverton, but change seems inevitable and at least generates additional tax revenues for the town.

Other issues around town include a proposed—albeit far from approved, town center project—targeted along the Souza Road area. A developer has proposed a village-type mall that is currently under review by our Planning Board. It's only a proposal, but it has possibilities and if approved could contribute significant tax dollars to the town.

In closing let me say that all departments in town administration are very aware of the burden that tax increases have on residents. It is difficult sometimes to balance the ever-increasing demands for town services with budget constraints, but we will continue to make every effort to keep budget requests reasonable and manageable for our taxpayers.

My office is always open. Also, feel free to call me and discuss any issues.

Best regards,

*David A Souza*

David A Souza

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[www.Tiverton.org](http://www.Tiverton.org)**