

**Hingham Burtons celebrates fourth anniversary with fund raiser**

By Carol Britton Meyer  
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HINGHAM - Burtons Grill at the Derby Street Shoppes is celebrating its fourth anniversary by giving back to the community. Burtons, which offers contemporary American cuisine in a warm, inviting atmosphere, first opened its doors in April, 2005. On Tues., April 7, Burtons will donate a percentage of the proceeds from the entire business day to the town's Aid to the Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund. (See related story.) Burtons Grill has a tradition of maintaining strong ties to the communities in which it does business. In addition to the Hingham restaurant, there are four other Burtons restaurants located throughout New England and Virginia.

Hingham Burtons co-owner Patrick Gordon is looking forward to adding to the fund following next Tuesday's event. "We've been blessed with having a loyal customer base, and this seems like a great time to say thank-you to our customers in Hingham and surrounding communities who have made us very successful in our business," Gordon said. "This is also an opportunity to help people during these tough economic times." Planning for the event began a few weeks ago. "I was sitting in the restaurant with my partners having dinner, and while we were talking, Hingham's town administrator Kevin Paicos happened to walk by. He introduced himself and said he had been coming here for years," Gordon said. "As my partners and I continued our conversation, we decided that we should come up with a plan to celebrate our anniversary and at the same time help the community. We're hoping other businesses will follow suit." The decision as to which local fund or charity would benefit from the proceeds wasn't an easy one because there are "so many worthy causes out there," he said. "We did our due diligence and came up with a plan."

Before making a decision, Burtons contacted the selectmen's office seeking ideas from Town Hall. "We received numerous emails and suggestions, but this one stood out to us," Gordon said. "A large part of our business, especially during the day, comes from folks who are seniors, and this seemed like a perfect way to give back to a segment of our business that supports us so well."

Guests that day who also wish to make an additional donation of \$10 or more will receive a \$10 gift certificate redeemable at any Burtons Grill location.

"Serving our customers and being an integral part of the community is what the Burtons Grill concept is truly about," said Kevin Harron, CEO of Burtons Grill. "We hope everyone will join in both our celebration of four years in business as well as giving back to the community in which we work and live."

Burton's will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. on the day of the event. For further information, call (781) 749-1007.

**Tax relief fund helps elderly and disabled**

During these challenging economic times, there's an Aid to the Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund to help alleviate the property tax burden on certain elderly and disabled citizens who are living on fixed incomes.

April 2000 Town Meeting voted to accept the provisions under state law that allow the establishment of such a fund. The current balance is \$9,184. No one has yet applied for assistance.

All of the money in the fund to date has come from taxpayers who have donated to the fund through the tax bill check-off program. When tax bills are mailed, a donation check-off form is included. This form provides an option for taxpayers to donate to any of three funds — the Education Fund, the Scholarship Fund, and the Aid to Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund.

"An analysis of the donation history over the past three years shows annual donations to the taxation fund ranging between \$400 and \$500," Treasurer/Collector Jean Montgomery said.

The distribution of the tax relief funds is administered by a taxation aid committee consisting of the chairman of the board of assessors, the town treasurer, and three residents appointed by the selectmen.

"As the fund balance is finally approaching a healthy \$10,000, it is time to call the Committee into action," said Montgomery. "It is now in a position to take things to the next step in terms of setting policy and getting the word out to taxpayers as to who may qualify."

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 60, section 3D, stipulates that funds are to go to elderly and disabled citizens living on fixed incomes, so that is the basic criteria for qualification. Other exemption and deferment programs are also in place for Hingham's senior citizens.

More information will be available at a later date. In the meantime, the Committee will develop a policy, procedures, and qualification criteria. Currently, there is no set distribution amount.



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