

DID YOU KNOW?

The Town of Chelmsford is currently facing a crisis!

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

The School Committee is considering closing Westlands Elementary School in June of 2006 and cutting important existing programs at ALL schools throughout the town because of a \$3 million budget deficit. Cuts include nurses and psychological services, 60 teachers and staff, music, art and technology. These cuts could increase class sizes to 30 students in a classroom, relax high school graduation requirements and jeopardize Chelmsford's longstanding reputation for providing its students with quality education. Chelmsford is NOT getting its fair share of funding from the state. The town currently receives \$1,100 per student, *at least \$1,000 less* than surrounding towns like Westford and Billerica. Chapter 70 is the law that determines how much money each town receives from the state for education. It is not fair and it must be changed.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT ME?

- Your property values will be adversely affected -- 62% of home buyers make their purchase decision based on neighborhood quality;
- Additional reductions in town services;
- Redistricting of all town schools;
- Increased class sizes;
- Health and safety issues with fewer nurses, psychologists and staff;
- Relaxed graduation requirements and loss of accreditation;
- Chelmsford has a strong tradition and reputation as a close-knit community and a great place to live. That could all change if these problems are not solved.

WHO'S HELPING?

Preserve Chelmsford's Future (PCF) is a group of concerned Chelmsford citizens, organized to preserve the quality of life, reputation and strong tradition of the town. We are parents from all the town schools, teachers and concerned residents looking to work together with elected state and local officials to find solutions to current and future budget shortfalls. We want to create a plan for the future that ensures a good education for the children of Chelmsford and that preserves the quality of life in our town.

WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

- Join PCF! Contact Therese Hogan at tmekhogan@comcast.net or visit the group's website at: www.preservechelmsfordsfuture.com.
- Support the Initiative for Local Aid (ILA), working toward Chapter 70 reform and fair funding for schools throughout Massachusetts. Visit www.chelmsford.k12.ma.us and click on "School Committee," then click on "Initiative for Local Aid."
- Contact local and state officials and voice your concerns for Chelmsford's future!
- Spread the word about this crisis in Chelmsford! Tell your neighbors and call or e-mail friends. *Get involved and preserve Chelmsford's future!* THANK YOU!

"Let the children guard what the sires have won." -- Chelmsford town motto