



A PERIODIC NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG

DUNPHY SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT

The renovation of the Anne T. Dunphy School took a step forward with the selection of Springfield-based Arcadis to serve as our Owner's Project Manager. With their help we are beginning the process of selecting a design firm to conduct a feasibility study of the options for consolidation and renovation of our elementary schools and to prepare preliminary plans. While the project is being overseen by the School Building Committee appointed by the Selectboard, there will be a series of public meetings to review the study, receive input on a preferred option and begin developing the plans. The preferred option and preliminary plans will then go to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) - which will be reimbursing the town for 57% of the design and construction costs - for their approval to move forward with full plans and construction. Once the MSBA board ap-

proves the scope and budget for this project, which we are hoping will happen in the spring or summer of 2011, the Town has 120 days to appropriate the money - that is, to hold a town meeting and then a ballot vote to approve a debt-exclusion override.

The School Building Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month, as the pace of the project requires. The committee will likely start meeting more often as the feasibility study progresses. The committee is chaired by Dave Mathers, with Bill Sayre serving as vice-chair. More information about the membership of the committee and drafts of the study and design as they become available can be found on the Town's web-site at:

http://williamsburgma.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/williamsburgma_BComm/buildcomm

Visit
www.burgy.org

for more about:

Past and Current
Budgets

The School Renova-
tion Project

Board & Committee
Meetings

On-Line Bill Payment

Building Permits and
other Forms

LIVES OF THE VALLEY

Fannie Clary and Jessie Tarbox Beals:

Williamsburg Ladies Ahead of Their Time on the Leading Edge in a Changing World,

~an illustrated talk by historian Ralmon Jon Black

Meekins Library in collaboration with the Williamsburg Historical Society will kick off a year-long program celebrating biography and the stories of people here in the Pioneer Valley on October 12.

Did you know that Williamsburg was the home and inspiration for America's first female to run for State Office, Fannie Clary, and first woman photo-journalist, Jessie Tarbox Beals?

On October 12, 2010, gather in the Friendship Hall of the Williamsburg

Congregational Church in Williamsburg Center for a social at 6:00 pm, a potluck supper at 6:30 with a talk by Ralmon Black beginning after 7:30. The Williamsburg Historical Society in partnership with the Meekins Library, is hosting this event as the program for its Annual Meeting. The events are free and everyone is welcome.

Get acquainted with your neighbors, both old and new. Meet Frances Guilford Clary once a teacher and a turn-of-the-century dynamic woman in Burgy. Jessie Tarbox Beals taught in Williamsburg with Fannie, *cont. pg 4*

INSIDE:

Collector	2
Around Town	2
Libraries	3
Technology Com	3

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

It seems like no matter how young or old you are today, computers are part of your daily life. Are you aware that the town accepts payments for taxes and water/sewer online? If you go to www.burgy.org, you will find a link for Unipay Gold. It is very "user friendly" thanks to recent updates and allows you to enter your bank account information and payment information in a few minutes and be done! The payment is then sent electronically to the town's bank account. No delivering it in person or remembering to put it in the mail.

Some of you make "online" payments through your own bank's website. The bank then prepares and mails a paper check to my office. You may not be aware however that this process can take up to 3 weeks before I receive the check. If the payment is not received in my office by the due date, interest and charges accrue – even though you may have "paid" it on time through your bank. Why not skip a step and pay through the town's website? This also allows for bill number and other identifying information to be sent with your payment and gets it to

the town account the same day.

Many people are also not aware that I can accept partial payments any time for bills other than motor vehicle excise (Mass General Laws prohibit partial payments for excise bills). If you would prefer to send payments monthly, rather than quarterly, the online option makes this very easy. **Keep in mind that bills are due and payable ON THE DUE DATE.** Payments are considered made when they are received in my office. The "grace period" is the time from when the bill is sent until the actual due date. Interest accrues beginning the day after the due date.

Real estate and personal property bills are payable next on November 1st. The water department will begin reading meters shortly for the fall billing. Please make sure your outside readers are not blocked by bushes, wood or other materials.

Also, keep in mind that many town forms are available on the town website, as well as lots of other useful information about town departments and goings on.

AROUND TOWN

The **Building Needs Committee** has been studying the the space needs of each town office and department and the condition of the buildings in which they are located. Their report, which is expected to be delivered to the Select Board in the near future, will prioritize the needs of both Town boards, committees and departments for space and of the buildings themselves for repair or renovation.

TRIAD is reorganizing. TRIAD is a partnership of seniors, law enforcement and supportive and protective services who work together to reduce the criminal victimization of older citizens and enhance the delivery of law enforcement services to elders. If you are interested in serving on the local TRIAD S.A.L.T. (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) council, or if you have concerns that you would like to have addressed, please contact Larry West by email: landwest3315@yahoo.com or by calling 268-3315.

Winter Ordinances—Winter Parking Ban: Overnight parking is prohibited on all Town roads, sidewalks and rights-of-way from midnight to 6:00 a.m. between December 1st and March 31st. By keeping your cars off the streets, you will make it easier for the Highway Department to plow and sand thoroughly, allow police, fire

and ambulances quick and safe access in an emergency, and ensure more travel room on our streets for daily use. Please remember that violators are subject to a fine and also may be towed if their vehicle interferes with snow plowing or emergency vehicles access.

Sidewalk Clearance: Town bylaws require that all sidewalks be cleared of snow and ice within 24 hours of the end of any storm. Clearance is the responsibility of the tenant, occupant, and in the case there is no tenant, the owner of any property with such a sidewalk. Failure to clear the sidewalk is punishable by a fine of \$50.00. Complaints about sidewalks that have not been properly cleared can be made to the Town Administrator (268-8418), Police Department (268-7237), or Highway Department (268-8405).

The **Capital Planning Committee** is sending out forms early this year to allow time for proper processing of requests for FY2012. There is a new inventory form this year to match the Capital Planning inventory with the Town's more extensive insurance list; departments are requested to review and complete that form. All forms are available electronically and departments are requested to use that format. Paper forms will also be available. The deadline for submissions and reporting forms will be October 15.

HRMC **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day**, will be Saturday October 23, 2010 in the center of Cummington at the Corner of Route 9 and Fairgrounds Road from 9am – 12noon.

WILLIAMSBURG LIBRARIES

Teens and Tweens at the Library: For the past two years the Meekins Library, with the help of a \$20,000 LSTA Grant, has worked with Teens and Tweens in the area to create an active Teen/Tween Program. The tweens and teens ages 11-19 meet weekly on Monday afternoons at the Library during special hours for young adults. Teen Coordinators Meg Anastasi and Deanna Scarfe serve snacks and supervise games, homework and other activities. Older Teens meet once a month on Monday evenings and plan movie nights, Harry Potter Parties as well as a Jane Austen Tea Party and classes in Yoga, henna and woodcarving! The Monday afternoon program will be extended through the end of December! The Library Trustees are working to find additional funding to keep the program active past December.

Photographer Amanda S. Merullo's show "Inventive Photo Design, photo collage posters of Italy, Russia and Florida," will be in the Hawks-Hayden Community Room's Neil Hammer Gallery through October 30th. Please come to the reception on Saturday, October 23rd from 1-3 PM.

October 24th - It's almost time to Move it For Meekins again! As part of the Williamsburg Fall Festival the Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries will hold Move it For

Meekins and Chili-Fest on the library lawn on October 24 from 9-3. The Woodland Trails Committee will also offer a walk that day starting from the Library.

November 8th - Dinner at Bread Euphoria! Bring a favorite book and your appetite. November 8th from 6-8 when the Williamsburg Libraries hold a dinner fundraiser at Bread Euphoria in Haydenville. Tickets will be available soon at the Meekins Library. Get yours soon as space is limited. Sit with some of your favorite local authors and chat over a fine dinner of soup, salad and bread provided by Bread Euphoria as well as main dishes supplied by Friends.

November 17th - Discussion of Climate Disruption in the Hawks-Hayden Community Room with David Ham. Anyone interested in discussing questions or concerns about these topics is encouraged to come and contribute to the discussion. Books on the topic are available at the Meekins.

Meekins Library is a three star library once again. Library Journal announced its Library Stars in the October 1, 2010 issue. Out of 7,407 libraries considered, Meekins was one of 258 public libraries honored. Meekins was honored because of high circulation and program attendance as well as public computer use at the library.

NEWS AND NOTES

Beside the Dunphy School there are many other projects underway in Town. The sides of the Town Offices have been painted to match the front, and much-needed roof and chimney repairs will be underway by mid-October.

The Town also recently secured a \$60,000 grant for energy-conservation improvements to two town buildings. At the Highway Garage improvements

will include insulating the original building, to complement the \$25,000 voted at town meeting for much needed safety equipment and air purifiers. The Town Offices will also get better insulated and a new thermostat to better regulate the heat in the building prior to this heating season.

The Council on Aging is seeking a new Director; anyone interested in applying for this position should contact the Town Administrator at 268-8418 or townadmin@burgy.org

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

New IT Consultant hired: John Sternala has been hired to provide information technology support to town departments. John is an independent consultant who has worked with several other towns in western Massachusetts and has a good understanding of the technology needs of town offices, experience with working with town staff, and also knows how towns such as Williamsburg get their funding. He has been contracted initially to do a complete assessment and inventory of the town's current computers and networks and will work with the Technology Committee, Town Administrator and Selectboard to help us with our ongoing technology plan.

Burgy.org: The town's website continues to be a great asset for Town residents and staff. There has been a great deal of activity and updating of the site during this first year of operation. If you haven't been there lately, please visit www.burgy.org for all of the latest official events and postings by town departments and committees.

Channel 15: Burgy TV, Channel 15 continues to provide up-to-date information and current-events postings. Brenda Lessard, the Town Clerk, has done a great job fielding and posting residents' and organization's announcements, while adding colorful and fun imagery to the channel. Some people have even said, "It's the best thing on TV".

TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG

141 Main Street
PO Box 447
Haydenville, MA 01039

Phone: 413.268.8400
Fax: 413.268.8409
Web-site: www.burgy.org

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 7
Haydenville, MA 01039

Resident/Boxholder
Williamsburg, MA
01096



MRS. FANNIE J. CLARY

Fannie Clary 1902

Lives of the Valley

continued from page 1

JESSIE, 17 YEARS OLD

and from her brief window here launched her pioneering career as America's first female photo-journalist.

It is the stories of our historical Valley friends and neighbors that reach across generations and make this a special place. Look for more programs at the Meekins Library in the coming year and seize the chance to meet other Valley residents, poet Emily Dickinson, first lady Grace Coolidge and others whose remarkable lives touched the people of our town.

October is American Archives Month. It is a collaborative effort by professional organizations and historical repositories around the nation to highlight the importance of records of enduring value. Archivists are professionals who assess, collect, organize, preserve, maintain control of, and provide access to information that has lasting value, and they help people find and understand the information they need in those records.

For more information contact Daria D'Arienzo at: ddariento@cwmar.org or at ddariento@me.com or call: 413-268-7472, or visit the Meekins Library online at: www.meekins-library.org/.



Jessie Tarbox Beals at 17