

# Town of Williamsburg Spring 2012



## The 2012 Annual Town Meeting – June 4th

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There will be a few new line items in the town budget sheet for the proposed Fiscal Year 2013 budget. Based on the recommendations of our auditor, department head salaries have been separated out from the department labor lines and listed in their own line items.

The Town is being asked to consider two capital purchases for next year. The Highway and Fire

departments are seeking to upgrade and replace their radio equipment, which will keep them compliant with the narrow-bandwidth law that goes into effect January 2013. The cost of the upgrade and purchase of new radios are estimated at \$15,500. The Fire department is seeking to replace the Fire Chief's aging 2000 Expedition with a new vehicle. This vehicle will continue to

function in the same manner as the current vehicle.

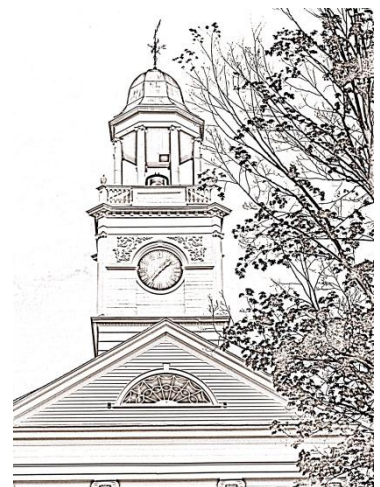
Town Meeting will also be asked to consider amending the Zoning Bylaw, sections 9.81 and 9.82 and adding 9.83 in relation to permitted signs, restrictions and exemptions. Details on the proposed changes may be viewed on the website at [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org).

## Anne T. Dunphy School Building Project

Visit  
[www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org)  
for more  
information about:  
Town Meeting,  
Past and Current  
Budgets,  
The School  
Renovation Project,  
Board &  
Committee  
Meetings,  
and much more!

Following the overwhelming votes of support for the renovation and addition to the Anne T. Dunphy school at the February Special Town meeting and April 2nd ballot vote, the School Building Committee has kicked it into high gear to work with Drummey Rosane Anderson, Inc., the town's architect, to further detail the building designs. The Committee

has established various working groups to design the site, systems and furnishings. It is expected that full construction documents will be ready by the end of the calendar year enabling us to go out to bid in early 2013. The School Building Committee continues to meet every other Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at the Williamsburg Town Offices in Haydenville.



## Board of Health

Twenty-three years ago the Commonwealth built the first Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Mass. on Birnie Ave. in Springfield. Ninety towns in western Mass spent the fall of 1989 creating the infrastructure to make the first deliveries of glass, metal and paper to the MRF in January, 1990. Plastic recycling was introduced two years later. Today the

Springfield MRF is operated by Waste Management Recycle America and accepts recyclables from 78 municipalities. Over 850,000 tons of residential recyclables and 595,000 tons of paper have been recycled since then.

The Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative, with representatives from 10 towns in Hampshire County was created in 1989 as well. Its purpose was to get the recycling process started in those towns and deal with the expense of hauling recyclables and household trash which was becoming very expensive for our small hilltowns.

Tonnage of collected recyclables has not varied much over the years. Here are some of Williamsburg's rates for four recent years (in tons):

<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
133.92	131.77	131.35	124.07

To compare these rates with the other hilltowns: we're doing better than Plainfield but worse than Cummington. Remember, all these recyclables are NOT going into a landfill. We pay only for the hauling cost to the MRF as opposed to the rest of our trash which costs both to haul and to dump.

Paying a Transfer Station permit fee to dump your trash only partially covers expenses to get rid of it. Some HRMC towns also charge a per-bag fee.

*Do you wonder where the recyclables go that you sort out of your trash?*

<u>Town</u>	<u>Sticker Fee</u>	<u>Per Bag Fee</u> <u>Small Bag/ Large Bag</u>
Ashfield	\$35	\$1.00 / \$2.00
Chesterfield	\$25	\$0.75/ \$1.50
Cummington	\$150	\$0/\$0
Goshen	\$20	\$1.33/ \$2.00
Huntington	\$30	\$1.00/ \$2.00

There is evidence that towns in which there are "per bag" fees, more recyclables are first pulled out of household trash. So recycling rates go up and household trash costs drop. The Health Board has discussed for many years this option: a lower sticker fee but a "pay-per-bag" fee. This way folks who generate less trash pay less at the Transfer Station. The process discourages waste. The

Board of Health would like to get residents' opinions about going to this method of payment.

In these times of environmental and economic concerns, recycling is one more way to save money and save the planet.

The new stickers for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012 are available for sale now at the Town Offices, Town Clerk's

office. Brenda Lessard is there Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; she IS NOT there on Wednesdays. The Transfer Station is open Wednesdays and Saturdays. Stickers will be available at the Transfer Station on Saturdays by mid-May through the beginning of July. The price remains the same: \$60.

- Donna Gibson

## Update following Town Meeting 2011

The town has moved forward with the projects and purchases funded at last year's town meeting. The Board of Selectmen hired Jim Locke as the Building Supervisor. He has been working with department heads in each of the town buildings, putting together a priority list of building maintenance needs, addressing many issues himself, and working with the Board of Selectmen to procure services to carry out larger maintenance projects. The priority list will highlight where to spend the \$20,000 funded in the general building maintenance line to halt deterioration of existing buildings.

The 2011 four-wheel-drive police cruiser was purchased and arrived in December. It is a great addition to the police department fleet, allowing police officers to

reach any location within town regardless of the weather conditions.

At the recommendation of the Technology Committee, the town has upgraded five PC's at the Town Offices and is working to install a single central server. The server will allow for increased security from viruses and spyware, automate the backup of data, allow for the future centralization, and reduce the number of printers and copiers.

The Emergency Management Director has purchased and implemented the Blackboard Connect (also known as Reverse 911) emergency notification and database system. The system has been instrumental in contacting and informing residents during the past year's severe weather incidents and informing

residents about upcoming important town events.

The Board of Selectmen hired Austin Design Inc. to conduct a feasibility study on the Old Town Hall. Initial findings were consistent with the Building Needs Committee assessment. The study was completed in April. Austin Design presented a scope of work and cost estimate broken down into two phases: stabilize and prevent further deterioration, and major improvements. The Board of Selectmen will be reviewing the recommendations for preserving and updating the building. A full copy of the report can be viewed on the Town's website [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org).



## Library News

Spring has arrived at the Haydenville and Meekins Libraries! As of May 1<sup>st</sup> Haydenville Library, in the center of Haydenville village, re-opened with a new fresh look. The bookcases and the bathroom in our sweet historic building have received a new coat of paint. We've added comfortable chairs and arranged chairs in nooks where patrons can view the Mill River. Toddlers will find a comfy spot to curl up with a book or listen to a story. Bring your laptop in and use our Wi-Fi inside or outside the building. In addition to sprucing up the library we have added new DVD's, children's books and are concentrating the adult collection on local authors, local history as well as a few special reads. Book groups, knitting groups, tutors, local

boards, or others looking for a small meeting space (up to 12 people), please ask to use the Haydenville Library! It's available for your use. And don't forget we are always looking for volunteers to help staff the library.

The CW/MARS system wide move from our present circulation system to the new Evergreen System is scheduled for Memorial Day weekend. The library will be closed both Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, combining our Memorial Day off with one day to get back up and running after the changeover. Evening programming scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup> will go on!

## Library Events, Activities, and More

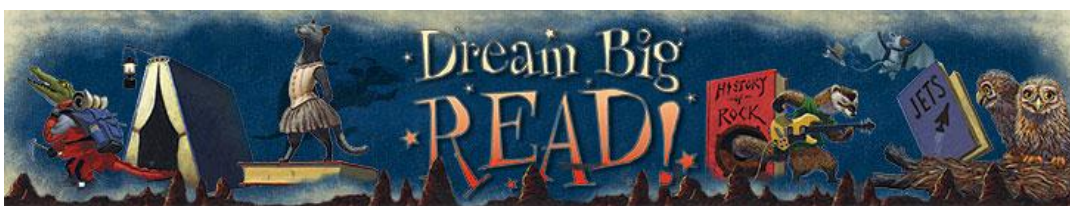
- Amanda Merullo - "A WORLD OF COLORS" a photography show in the Hawks-Hayden Room all May - reception May 12<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm  
[inventivephotodesign@yahoo.com](mailto:inventivephotodesign@yahoo.com).
- Don't forget to check out the Community Parent/Child Center playgroup – Monday mornings at Meekins: May 14<sup>th</sup>, June 11<sup>th</sup>, and June 25<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by Hampshire Regional School District's coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant and the Meekins Library. Free and open to parents and children of pre-school age - story time, games and snacks - call 230- 8552 or jreagan@hr-k12.org.
- May 19<sup>th</sup> - Celebrate National Children's Book Week with children's book author and illustrator, Anna Alter in the Hawks-Hayden Room Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:30. Art activity with Anna who will also talk about the process of writing and illustrating picture books for children. [www.annaalter.com](http://www.annaalter.com).
- May 29<sup>th</sup> - Safe and Healthy Food Choices: Educating and Empowering Families in an Era of High-Tech Food Production A Community Conversation with Ed Stockman, Jennifer Hartley and Tony(a) Lemos. This community conversation will feature three local food advocates highlighting the health risks of genetically modified food (GMO) in children, and how informed families are the best hope for reversing the flow of GMOs into our food supply. Sponsored by: [www.hilltownfamilies.org](http://www.hilltownfamilies.org).
- All summer!!! Summer Reading for all ages. Children between 1-11 sign up for "**Dream Big Read**" (if you can't read yet have an older person read to you) win prizes and play games! Tween or Teen, between 11-19, you will "**Own the Night**" a program designed just for you. Watch our summer teen tween movie series and win great prizes for reading. Grown-ups - where do you want to be after a long week at work? "**Between the Covers**" sign up, win prizes and join our summer reading discussion.
- All June in the Hawks-Hayden Room 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Peace Posters- Don't miss this annual show. Come see and support our 6<sup>th</sup> grade artists and peacemakers!
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 2-4 – Memorial for Dorothy Backer, Williamsburg resident, author and Friend of the Library, Hawks-Hayden Room and Bacon Rotunda.
- June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Summer Reading Kick-off--"Imagine That: A Story and Song Celebration" with two Parent Choice Award winning performers, Davis Bates and Roger Tincknell at Meekins on Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:30-2:30- call library for more information [www.davisbates.com](http://www.davisbates.com) .
- Attention! HRHS Middle School students - June and July at the Meekins - "One Book One School Read-Aloud" "Surviving the Applewhites" by Stephanie Tolan. Come for the friends, campfire, marshmallows and a great story. At Meekins on: June 21<sup>st</sup>, June 28<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, sponsored by HRHS and Meekins Library. Contact Sue Froehlich for more information.
- All July - Photography in the Hawks-Hayden Room with Emily Dines and Jennifer Burdick – reception July 7<sup>th</sup> 1-3pm.
- For more information on any of these events go to [www.meekins-library.org](http://www.meekins-library.org) , "like us" on Facebook, Tweet us @meekinslibrary, or just pick up the phone and dial 413-268-7472.

*Want to make a difference in town government?*

***Become involved.***

*For a full list of vacancies on boards and committees contact the Board of Selectmen's office.*

(413) 268-8400





## From the Assessors' Office

Longtime assessor Margie Dunphy, who also served as the assessors' clerk, retired on March 31, leaving some big shoes to fill. We shall miss her knowledge and experience, and extend our deep appreciation for all she has done for our department. We wish her well in her retirement.

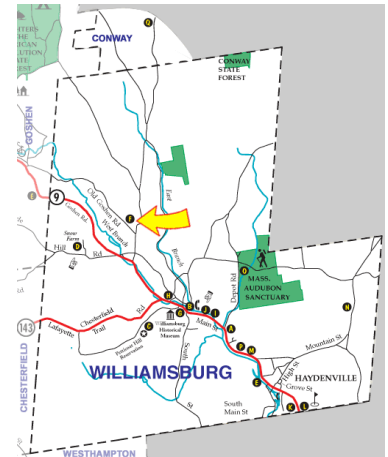
Westhampton resident Dolores Thornhill has been

hired to fill the assessors' clerk job. Dolores serves on the Westhampton Board of Assessors, where she performs the duties of the clerk, and she is also a real estate appraiser.

Because of her familiarity with the computer system utilized in the assessors' office, her experience interfacing with the Department of Revenue, as well as her knowledge and experience as an

assessor, we felt she was a great match. Dolores is in the office on Tuesday mornings and will be happy to help you.

There is still an opening for a third assessor. If you want any information about the position, please contact either Peter Shumway or Denise Banister, or stop in to our meetings held on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8 PM.



## From the Emergency Manager



**Emergency Manager Director and Deputy Assistant**

The folks who provide the core of the emergency services in town - the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Highway Department, the Emergency Manager, and the Assistant Emergency Manager - have begun to meet quarterly. At our first quarterly meeting, one of the participants mentioned an article about an emergency response trailer that was purchased by a neighboring

town in part by a grant from the municipal insurance company. We had our Town Administrator Charlene Nardi look into this, and the result is the trailer which is now in the yard at the Highway Garage. It is packed and ready to be hitched to a vehicle and towed to the scene of an emergency. In the trailer are items that can be used for many different emergencies. At our next quarterly meeting we plan to itemize what is in the trailer and to determine other items that would be useful. The full cost of the trailer was not covered by the insurance grant, and so our friends at the Burgy Bullets Snowmobile Club have offered to hold a spaghetti supper fundraiser with a raffle and music at 5:30 PM on Saturday, June 2, at their club on 12 Laurel Road to help us out. Tickets are \$12.00, and can be purchased from Mark Chereski at 268-0181.

I have applied for an Emergency Management Program Grant from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to fund the

restoring of the sirens on each of the fire stations back to service. When they are up and running again, they can be another tool to use to warn residents of impending danger. As reported in the news recently, sirens were used to warn of immediate danger from approaching tornadoes in Michigan, and no lives were lost. Fire Chief Don Lawton suggested that the bringing of the sirens back into service would be a great use for this grant.

The laptop and the cell phone funded by a vote at the Special Town meeting have been received, so Reverse 911 calls can be made even if power is out. Thank you for your support.



## Highway Department

*The easy winter allowed the Highway Department to catch up on work that had been delayed due to handling the emergency work in 2011. The following work is planned for the summer season:*

- Build new intersection on the East end of Laurel Rd.;
- Mill and pave Chesterfield Rd.;
- Replace sidewalk on East Main St., by Boy Scout house;
- Mill and pave East Main Street from North St to Nash Hill Place;
- Straighten corner on Adams Road;
- Extend paving on Nash Hill Road to the bottom of the hill;
- Drainage improvements on Conway, Briar Hill and Old Goshen Roads



## The Williamsburg Senior Center/Council on Aging

The **Williamsburg Senior Center** is currently offering many services to seniors, care givers and people with disabilities. We have congregate and take home meal programs, companionship services, transportation and so much more. Want to know more? We will meet with you, or your caregiver, to determine your eligibility for services, programs and entitlements, help you apply and orient you to the Senior Center. Let us know what your needs are. We want to hear from you!

**You don't have to be or feel old to be part of the active, vibrant and growing community here at the Williamsburg Senior Center!**

We have something here for everyone. Whether you come here to share a meal, see a performance, exercise, take a class or just see the foot nurse it's important to stay active, be social and keep on learning new things!

Did you know that most of our programs are Intergenerational and Free? Seniors of all ages and levels of activity, adults and families are involved here in cooking classes, Tai Chi, yoga, gardening and more! Come check us out Monday-Thursday from 10-1:30, we are located on the first floor of the Haydenville Town Offices Building!

**Volunteer Opportunities:** the Williamsburg Senior Center is currently seeking volunteers to teach classes, help with office work, PR work, deliver meals and help with events, and special projects.

The **Council on Aging Advisory Board** is seeking new members, subcommittee members and volunteers! As members of the COA Board we advise and support the work that is done by the staff of the Williamsburg Senior Center to address the needs of Williamsburg elders age 60 and up. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to get involved, be a voice for others, and (if you are willing) occasionally roll up your sleeves and do mailings or make some phone calls. We are looking for people of all ages and backgrounds to join us in the important work we do to advise, advocate, and vision for the short and long-term needs of elders in our community.

Are you a working senior, a retired, active or vulnerable senior who can speak up for others like yourself? Maybe you are a caregiver and understand the needs of elders and caregivers and can help us in identifying these needs.

**Curious?** Please come to a COA Advisory Board Meeting which meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 10:00 at the Williamsburg Senior Center. Come see how we operate, share your views and ideas or express your desire to join our work in any way which appeals to you. Not interested in being on the board? Come in and talk to staff about how you might contribute a couple hours a month to helping out.

For an appointment or for more information about any of these services, programs or volunteer opportunities please call the Senior Center Director, Marie Westburg at 268-8410 or email [coa@burgy.org](mailto:coa@burgy.org).

**Highland Valley Elder Services:**

Lunch Served Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursdays at 11:45am at the COA.

Free! Donations accepted. Call to sign up at 268-8407

**Take-Home Meal Program:**

THE BLUE HOUSE CAFÉ will be providing meals Tuesdays and Thursdays. Smith Vocational Culinary Classes will provide its **last meal** on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in June, and Blue House Café meals will fill in for them for the summer and meals will be available every Thursday (choice of Mac-n-Cheese or Black Bean Burrito). Tuesday's menu will vary each week.

JUNE 2012			
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<b>4</b> Line Dancing 9:30 AM Veterans' Agent 11:30AM – 1:00PM Water Color Class 10:30AM - NOON	<b>5</b> Cooking Club 9:00 – 11:00 Osteoporosis Class Nash Hill 10:00AM Yoga Class 7PM – 8:00PM	<b>6</b> Puzzle Making – 9:00AM Osteoporosis Class 10:30 Community Meeting 12:15	<b>7</b> Puzzle Making – 9:00AM Tai Chi 9:30 – 11:00AM Meekins Writing Group 10:00AM Card Club 12:30PM Yoga Class 12:30 – 1:30
<b>11</b> <b>Veterans and their Wives</b> Pancake Breakfast 9:00 AM Line Dancing 9:30 AM Veterans' Agent 11:30 – 1:00PM Water Color Class 10:30 - NOON	<b>12</b> Cooking Club 9:00 – 11:00 Osteoporosis Class Nash Hill 10:00AM Yoga Class 7PM – 8:00PM	<b>13</b> Puzzle Making – 9:00AM Podiatrist : Dr. Coby <b>By Appointment</b> Osteoporosis Class 10:30	<b>14</b> Puzzle Making – 9:00AM Tai Chi 9:30 – 11:00AM Meekins Writing Group 10:00AM <b>BROWN BAG 9:30 - 12</b> <b>Blood Pressure 11:30AM</b> Card Club 12:30PM Yoga Class 12:30 – 1:30PM Last Take Home Meal from Smith Voc. High Sch. – by Order
<b>18</b> <b>Van Trip</b> <b>Wistariahurst Museum</b> 10:00AM Line Dancing 9:30 AM Veteran's Agent 11:30AM – 1:00PM Water Color Class 10:30AM - NOON	<b>19</b> Foot Nurse by Appointment Cooking Club 9:00 – 11:00 Osteoporosis Class Nash Hill 10:00AM Yoga Class 7PM – 8:00PM	<b>20</b> Puzzle Making – 9:00AM <u>Council on Aging Mtg.</u> <u>10AM</u> Osteoporosis Class 10:30	<b>21</b> Puzzle Making – 9:00AM Tai Chi 9:30 – 11:00AM Meekins Writing Group 10:00AM Card Club 12:30PM BLUE HOUSE CAFÉ Meals are now offered Every Thursday for the summer
<b>25</b> Line Dancing 9:30 AM Veteran's Agent 11:30AM – 1:00PM Water Color Class 10:30AM - NOON	<b>26</b> Cooking Club 9:00 – 11:00 Osteoporosis Class Nash Hill 10:00AM Yoga Class 7PM – 8:00PM	<b>27</b> Puzzle Making – 9:00AM Osteoporosis Class 10:30	<b>28</b> Puzzle Making – 9:00AM Tai Chi 9:30 – 11:00AM Meekins Writing Group 10:00AM Card Club 12:30PM



## Upcoming Events



### Farmers' Market is Back!

The Burgy Farmers' Market starts Thursday May 10<sup>th</sup> (2:30pm-7:00pm) on the lawn of the Meekins Library in the Williamsburg Center and continues through October 25th.

The vendors this second season will have plants, plenty of produce, grass-fed beef, poultry and pork, syrup, jams, cut flowers, berries, mushrooms, coffee drinks, soaps & more!

For more info, check out the Burgy Thursday Market Facebook page, or contact Shana Totino, Market Manager, at [shanatotino@hotmail.com](mailto:shanatotino@hotmail.com) to be put on our email list to find out what's fresh, and what to expect each week in terms of drop-in vendors, music, crafts, and special events.



### 50th Anniversary

The Williamsburg Historical Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a day of special events on Saturday, June 2nd. There will be reenactments, tours, cross-generation conversations, stories of the past and present, and a historic display at the Williamsburg Fire Station. All three Historical Society museums will be open. The schedule of activities begins at 10:00 a.m. Look for a separate flyer detailing events of the day. It is a day to look back and remember.

### Spaghetti Supper Fund Raiser

On Saturday, June 2nd at 5:30 p.m., the Burgy Bullets Snowmobile Club (12 Laurel Road) is hosting a spaghetti dinner with live music, and a raffle event to support the purchase of the Emergency Response Trailer. The trailer is packed with signs, hazard cones, tape and other equipment which emergency responders can easily transport and use during a crisis.

Come enjoy dinner and music and support this worthy cause. Tickets are \$12.00 and may be purchased by contacting Mark Chereski at 268-0181.

### Haydenville Garden/Playground Improvement Day

The COA, Fertile Ground, neighborhood residents and Haydenville Congregational Church members are planning for a Haydenville Garden and Playground Improvement Day (behind the Town Offices.) Please join us on Saturday, May 19th 9:00 – Noon. Please R.S.V.P., if you expect to come.

We will be planting several of the raised gardens, planting perennials to further landscape the garden and playground space, and generally cleaning up the area.

Please bring gardening tools (rakes, shovels, trowels) and gloves. If you have any extra perennials you would like to contribute to the space or annual vegetable seedlings or seeds, please contact Sally.

Questions/ donations/ RSVP – contact:  
Sally Loomis – 268-0108 or [Loomissally@gmail.com](mailto:Loomissally@gmail.com).



### Memorial Day Parade

Scheduled for Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at Noon  
beginning at the Williamsburg Fire Station with an observance  
to follow at the Veterans' Memorial



## News from the Williamsburg Schools

The 2011-2012 school year is flying by at the Anne T. Dunphy and Helen E. James Schools! The staff and 162 students have been busy at work for the past eight months. Our students in grades three, four, five, and six have had the recent opportunity to show some of what they've learned by taking the MCAS tests. We are proud of how hard our students worked during these testing sessions. It seems as if we have been in the midst of a flurry of spring field trips, with students having the opportunity to visit Northfield Mountain, Old Deerfield, the Springfield Science Museums, Lupa Zoo, Look Park, Boston, and New York City!

We are looking forward to end-of-the-year traditions in June that will mark the end of the school year as well as the end of our time with the sixth grade students. One of the highlights in June will be the annual Field Day

event on which we get to partner with the members of the Williamsburg Fire Department! And of course, our Sixth Grade Graduation on June 18th is always a special event.

Our staff and students are looking forward, with great anticipation and excitement, to the unfolding of the building project. Although construction will not begin until winter, the school district is planning that students at the Anne T. Dunphy School will transition to Helen E. James for the start of the 2012-2013 school year. The staff and students will be planning and participating in some transition activities in the next two months! It will be a busy summer!

~Stacey Jenkins  
Williamsburg Schools, Principal



## School Building Transition Planning

Throughout the school year, and in previous years, countless community members have been working very hard to make the Anne T. Dunphy School renovation project a reality. Although there were moments of celebration and gratitude after the community votes, the work continued days later at a nearly feverish pace! At this point, the School Building Committee is involved in the "design development" phase. This phase will lead to the final construction documents and the bidding process.

Although construction is planned to begin in winter, the school district is planning that students currently housed at the Anne T. Dunphy School will transition to the Helen E. James School for the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year. The logistics of planning a school move and consolidation mid-year would substantially affect the educational momentum for our students and would significantly disrupt the routines that schools and classrooms work to establish at the beginning of each year.

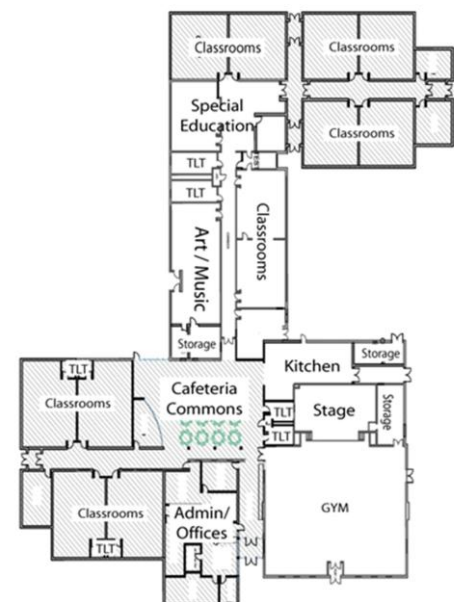
In making this decision, we considered the number of shifts necessary in combining the two

school communities. The transitions necessary and the time to implement them are significant. The following are simply examples of the types of preparation and shifting for which we need to plan: lunch program structure, numbers of staff, staff assignments, locations of classrooms, lunch and recess schedules, weekly specialist schedules, daily specialist schedules, drop-off and dismissal process, parking routines, after-school programming, physical education routines, phone and technology wiring and networking, electrical upgrades, and physical classroom set-up. These changes and many more, paired with the uncertainty of winter weather, make a move over the summer months a more sound alternative.

In addition, the architects and their contractors will need access to Anne T. Dunphy throughout the fall for further exploratory tests before construction, some of which could be invasive to the building. In transitioning our school community over the summer, access to the Anne T. Dunphy school for the contractors would not be impeded, which will allow the construction process to

continue on schedule.

We are committed to ensuring that the academic experience for our students remains positive and that students will have access to the same opportunities during the consolidation period. In fact, the school staff are excitedly planning for new opportunities we can offer our students because of the fact we will become one school community.



## Local Grants Awarded for Town of Williamsburg

Freda Brackley, co-chair of the Williamsburg Cultural Council, has announced the award of 18 grants totaling \$4,260 for cultural programs in Williamsburg and surrounding towns. A complete list of recipients and grant amounts can be found below.

The Williamsburg Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils (LCC) serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community. Decisions about which activities to support are made at the community level by a board of municipally appointed volunteers. The members of the Williamsburg Cultural Council are: Freda Brackley, Deborah Hollingworth, Jennifer Cody, Michelle Morales, and Mary Dudek.

### This year's grants include:

Trustees of Reservations/Bryant House/Bryant Day  
Hilltown Winter Concert Series  
Martin Klein  
Richard W. Clark  
Ashfield Community Theater  
Hilltown Spring Festival  
Da Camera Singers  
Triple Shadow  
Aimee Gelinis  
Dance Generators  
Plainfield Congregational Church Concerts at 7  
Williamsburg Council on Aging  
Angel Park Summer Music Series  
Pothole Pictures Film Series  
Hampshire Regional Community Musical  
Hilltown Choral Society  
Meekins Summer Reading Program

Statewide, more than \$2.34 million will be distributed by local cultural councils. Grants will support an enormous range of grassroots activities: concerts, exhibitions, radio and video productions, field trips for schoolchildren, after-school youth programs, writing workshops, historical preservation efforts, lectures, First Night celebrations, nature and science education programs for families and town festivals. Nearly half of LCC funds support educational activities for young people.

The Williamsburg Cultural Council will seek applications again in the fall of 2012. Information and forms are available online at [www.massculturalcouncil.org](http://www.massculturalcouncil.org).

We invite community input as guidance in choosing what types of cultural events are important to Williamsburg residents. Send your suggestions, or if you want to become a member, to [WilliamsburgCC@gmail.com](mailto:WilliamsburgCC@gmail.com) or Williamsburg Cultural Council, PO Box 447, Haydenville, MA 01039-0447.



## Blackboard Connect, Reverse 911 System

Would you like to receive important information from the Town? Opt in to the emergency notification and database system. We can contact you by telephone and email.

Look for forms at the annual town meeting on June 4th or contact the Town Clerk's Office by email ([townclerk@burgy.org](mailto:townclerk@burgy.org)) or in person.

## Hampshire Regional High School News

### NEW TELEPHONES

Hampshire Regional High School, including the District's Central Office, has a new telephone system. The new system uses the Internet to make and receive telephone calls using a "Voice over Internet Protocol". The new system is faster and more efficient and has an enhanced 911 capability that allows all 911 calls made from the building to provide internal notification to first responder-staff available via paging, email and text messaging.



Comments from staff have been very positive. They like the call logging feature and the caller ID, as well as the clarity of the calls and being able to receive their voicemail in their email.

The system was installed during the last weekend of March with a huge contribution of time from numerous volunteers that saved approximately \$9000 in installation costs. A big "thank you" to community volunteers Ben Ashley and Ben Quackenbush, District staff members Lisa Lacroix, Joe Guerin, and Kim Florek and student volunteers Anthony Hoskins, Ben Gallica, Billy Laprade, Roman Kozodoy, and Dennis Krasun.

### COMMUNITY INNOVATION CHALLENGE GRANT

The Hampshire Regional School District was recently awarded \$78,000 through the Governor's "Community Innovation Challenge" grant program and approximately \$32,000 from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to work on "Regionalized Technology Support Services." Funds will be used for regionalized technology support focused on the need to improve the efficiencies of our technology applications for human resources, accounting and finance, communication, and educational support (including transportation). The grants will also allow the District to be more active in working with our five towns on similar issues that might improve efficiencies, collaborations, and reduce redundancies. Kim Florek will be directing and coordinating the technology applications and upgrades.

A complete redesign of the District's websites will be among the first initiatives to get started. Other projects include: improvements to electronic data sharing; migration from a fee based email service provider to free educational email and collaboration services such as Google Apps for Education; implementation of regionalized "HelpDesk" software and inventory support system to coordinate and track technology supports; planning for Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI) implementation so



that schools are regionally prepared for immediate connection upon completion of the fiber connection in Western Massachusetts; and improving regionalized transportation system for more efficient bus routes by coordinating student information with the use of routing software (Versatrans) and our student information system (PowerSchool).

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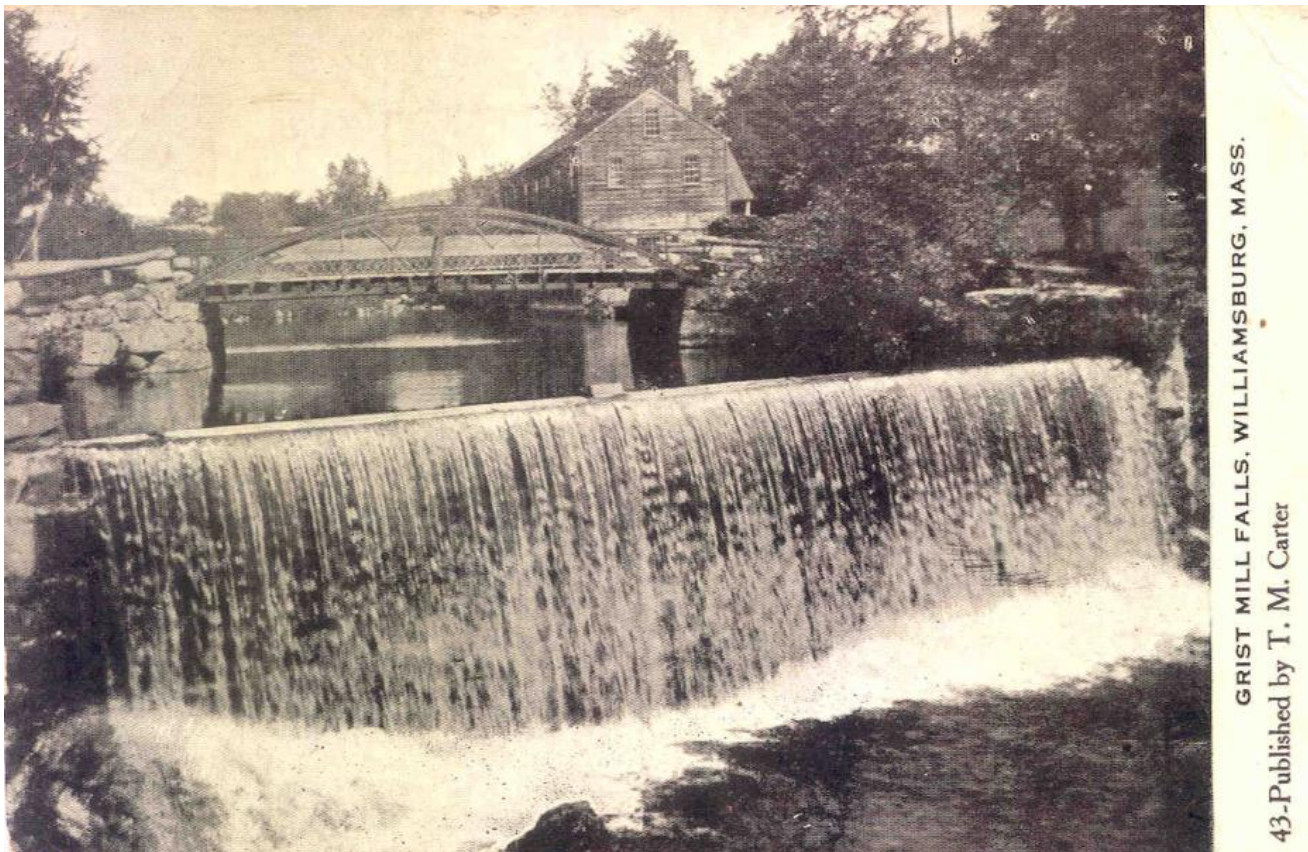
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