

# Town of Williamsburg Fall 2013



## School Building Committee News

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Mill River Greenway	2
Conservation Comm.	2
Cultural Council	3
Energy Committee	3
Collector's Corner	4
Planning Board	5
Highway Dept.	5
Tax Relief	5
Fire Chief	6
Christmas Tree Pickup	6
Burning Permits	7
Bon Fire	7
Library News	8
Library Events	9
Smith Vocational	10
Winter Parking	10
Senior Center	11
Williamsburg Schools	12



The Anne T. Dunphy Renovation and Addition project is proceeding along and is expected to be substantially complete in April 2014. Drummey Rosane Anderson, Inc. (DRA), project architect, and ARCADIS, our owner's project manager, continue to provide oversight on the work being coordinated by Enfield Builders, Inc., general contractor. Jim Locke, Williamsburg Building Supervisor and School Building Committee representative regularly visits the site and attends weekly construction meetings.

Since the signing of the contract in the spring 2013 the project site work has begun and is almost complete; existing site and building issues emerged and were managed, selective demolition progressed, new footings, foundations and slabs were poured, steel

structures were erected, and exterior facades and roofing were completed.

As we head into the cold weather the work moves inside the building.

Photos of the project as it progresses may be viewed on the Town website: [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org), under Schools, and the Anne T. Dunphy Building School Project.



Visit

[www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org)

for more  
information about:  
The School  
Renovation Project,  
Board &  
Committee  
Meetings,  
and much more!

## News from the Mill River Greenway Committee

The Williamsburg Mill River Greenway Committee completed its report last June on the basic feasibility of establishing a multi-use trail along the Mill River between Haydenville and Williamsburg village centers. The Williamsburg Board of Selectmen voted to "accept the report ... with appreciation, and to encourage the committee to now develop specific proposals".

The report provides a thoughtful evaluation of the many things to consider in creating a Greenway, including the technical, environmental, financial, historical, commercial, and social aspects of such a project.

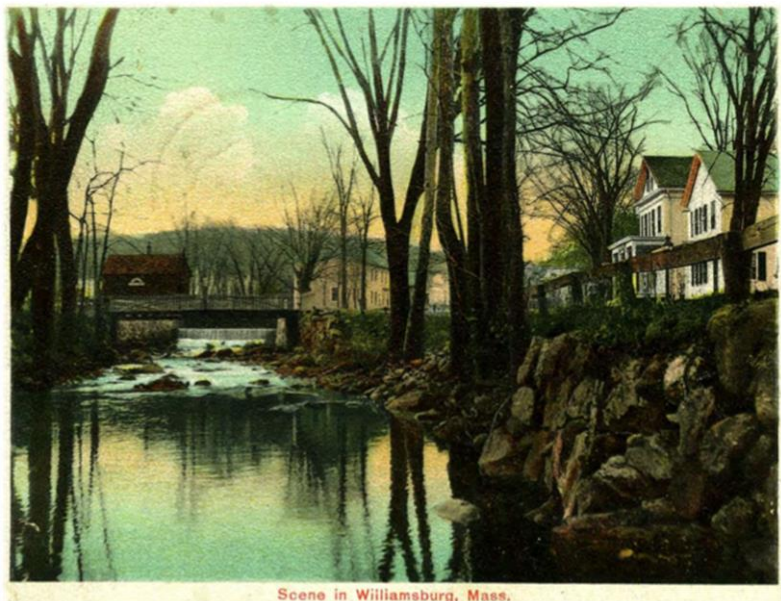
It includes maps, concept sketches, community feedback, and next steps for further action, including working with landowners to identify possible routes.

We encourage everyone to read the report and contact the Committee with any questions or comments.

The full report is available online at:  
[http://burgy.org/Pages/williamsburgma\\_BComm/greenresources/Mill\\_River\\_Greenway - Feasibility Report - June 2013.pdf](http://burgy.org/Pages/williamsburgma_BComm/greenresources/Mill_River_Greenway_-_Feasibility_Report_-_June_2013.pdf)

Physical copies of this report are also available at the Williamsburg Town Offices and at the Meekins Library.

Contact information and more about the Mill River Greenway Committee is available at:  
[http://burgy.org/Pages/williamsburgma\\_BComm/greenway\\_comm](http://burgy.org/Pages/williamsburgma_BComm/greenway_comm)



Scene in Williamsburg, Mass.

## Conservation Commission News

The Conservation Commission seeks individuals who are interested in joining the Commission. As a member of the Commission you would be an important resource/representative for the town, providing guidance for people to manage their land in a way that protects and enhances the water and ecological resources of our community. While the majority of the Commission's work centers on the administration of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, there are also initiatives the Commission plans with the Woodland Trails Committee and Open Space Committee. Additionally, as a member of the Commission, there are opportunities to register for courses in Wetland regulations, plant identification and permitting. If you have an interest and time to volunteer several hours a month, please contact the Town Clerk, Brenda Lessard. The Conservation Commission meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month except July and August when single meetings are held. Site visits are scheduled as needed on weekdays before the Thursday meeting.

## News from the Williamsburg Cultural Council

The Williamsburg Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

For 2013/2014, the Williamsburg Cultural Council was allocated a total of \$4,250 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for grants to individuals or organizations for cultural projects that benefit the community. Projects eligible for grants may be in the arts, humanities, or interpretive

sciences. The deadline for submitting applications for 2013/2014 was October 15. Here are some of recipients of the past season's grants:



Chesterfield 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade; Hampshire Regional High School musical; Music for Seniors at Town Offices; Friends of Williamsburg Libraries; The Valley Five;

Williamsburg Elementary School; and Hilltown Cooperative Charter Public School.

For more information on the Williamsburg Cultural Council, visit the council's web site at <https://www.mass-culture.org/Williamsburg> or e-mail [BurgyCC@yahoo.com](mailto:BurgyCC@yahoo.com).

The members of the Williamsburg Cultural Council are: Chairperson, Mary Dudek; Treasurer, Charles Dudek; Michele Morales Wolk, Secretary; Catherine Carija, and Sean Mallari

## Energy Committee

### GREEN COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

The Energy Committee, with assistance from David Elvin of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and the Town Administrator, has completed work on its Green Communities application. The Town must meet five criteria to be designated a Green Community. These criteria are: provide as-of-right siting in designated locations for renewable/alternative energy generation; adopt an expedited application and permit process for as-of-right energy facilities; establish an energy use baseline and develop a plan to reduce energy use; purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles (where applicable); and minimize life-cycle energy costs for new construction by adopting the Board of Building Regulations Standards (BBRS) Stretch Code. We expect the final review of our submission to be completed and official notice of designation as a Green Community in late November or early December 2013.

### SOLARIZE MASS PROGRAM

The Solarize Mass Program is intended to give residents and businesses access to low-cost solar electricity and expand adoption of clean energy in Massachusetts. The Energy Committee has partnered with the towns of Whately and Chesterfield and submitted a joint application for acceptance into the program. Our joint application has passed the first review step, and representatives of the Towns will be participating in an interview with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) Department of Energy Resources (DOER) staff on November 12, 2013, to discuss our application. The selection of successful applicants will be made by the MassCEC and DOER in late November 2013.



## Collector's Corner

The Collector's Office is busy working on the fall water and sewer billing and working with the Assessors' Office on getting the tax rate set for the real estate bills to be out by January 1st. As technology changes, the town is working on changes to keep up with the technology as budgets and time permit.

As you already know, we have online payment capability for real estate and personal property taxes and water and sewer bills. Through the town's website at [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org), you can follow the Unibank/Unipay links and pay by checking account, debit or credit card. Payments made through Unibank are received almost instantaneously into the town account. Some of you make "online" payments through your own bank's website. Please be aware that your bank then prepares and mails a paper check to my office. This process can and has sometimes taken up to 4 weeks before I receive it in my office, regardless of whatever date you have requested that the check be sent. If the payment is not RECEIVED in my office by the due date, interest and charges accrue even though you have "paid" it timely through your own bank and the money has been deducted from your account.

As of September, the Deputy Collector, Art Jones, who handles delinquent motor vehicle excise taxes for Williamsburg also now has the capability of accepting online payments! If you go to his website at <https://www.apjones.com> the main page has a link to follow that will bring you to a page listing the towns his office handles. Scroll down and select Williamsburg to make your excise payment. Please note debit cards and checking account transfers are not accepted. This is only by credit card and currently accepts Discover and Master Card. Unibank is working with Visa to add those cards as well and they hope by December to be able to accept Visa. Payment of your delinquent bill does not necessarily clear your driver's license and/or registration at the Registry of Motor Vehicles but does allow his office to process it faster and notify the Registry to remove the block much faster. Deputy Jones can be reached at (413) 527-2388 if you have questions and to obtain the payment obligations necessary to complete payment for your excise bill. Please note that Massachusetts Law prohibits partial payments on excise bills.

The Water/Sewer Commissioner has been out reading meters. Sometimes his attempt to read your meter is unsuccessful. This is sometimes because the "outside reader device" attached from your inside meter to the outside of your house has been disconnected. Sometimes wood piles, bushes, dog yards etc. block the access to the reader. Please note that you are REQUIRED to keep this device attached and accessible. The Commission is in the beginning phase of replacing meters with new meters that will have the capability to be read electronically without accessing an outside reader device. It will take some time to change over all of the meters due to the cost of equipment and the time involved.

The Water Department suggests checking periodically for water leaks in your home or business. If even a very small leak or malfunction of an appliance is occurring, your bill will increase and you will be responsible for the increase. There are several ways to check for leaks. When you know no one is using water, check your meter to see if it is turning. If it is, water is going through. Examine faucet gaskets and pipe fittings and don't forget the outside faucets and piping if any. "Running" toilets are oftentimes the culprit for higher bills. Don't let it cost you more!



## Planning Board News

The Planning Board has been working on the first implementation of our Ground-mounted Solar Bylaw passed by Town Meeting in June. Diversified Construction of Amherst is planning an 18 acre solar PV installation off Kellogg Road, up behind Lashway Logging. This installation is intended to produce about 2.26 megawatts of electric power, enough for several hundred homes, and will be grid-connected.

The bylaw worked as intended; the project was reviewed by the Conservation Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Planning

Board. We held a public hearing in late August. We heard from neighbors and town officials, and ended up finding the project passed our Site Plan Review. Once the ZBA has ruled on the Special Permit, Diversified can pursue its building permit and installation.

Next up is final input on the Medical Marijuana bylaw we promised to have for next Town Meeting. People in several area towns are active on this matter, and we want to get the bylaw right. We welcome public comment at any meeting or by email through <http://www.burgy.org>.

## Highway News

The Highway Department completed many projects over the summer; reconfigured Laurel Road intersection, paved Judd Lane and Hemenway Road, and fixed sidewalks on South Main, Bridge Street, and South Street, and installed a new one on Nash Hill Road.

The winter season will soon be here and along with it, snowy roads. The Highway Department does several things to make sure

our roads are passable throughout a snowstorm and the entire winter. The most important application of sand and salt is at the beginning of a storm. This prevents the snow and ice from bonding to the pavement. Sometimes this will be done even before the storm starts. This allows us to be able to scrape the pavement clean during the storm and then we apply more material at the end of

the storm. We use a different mixture of sand and salt on the dirt roads, so if you notice that the blacktop has been sanded, we will be back to finish the dirt once we reload the trucks with the other mixture. At times, in between storms, we widen the roads by pushing the snow banks back with a bigger plow. If your driveway gets filled in after we have done this, please call 268-8405 and someone will come clean the end back out.

## Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program

The Town participates in the Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Program (sometimes called the Senior Work-Off Program), in which eligible seniors can do work for the Town and earn a reduction in property tax, up to \$1000 per household per year. There are still a few slots available in the program for the coming year. A person must be at least 60 years old and have a household income of no more than \$29,201. It is now permissible for someone else to do the work if the senior is physically unable to do so. Note that the tax reduction is counted as taxable income by the Federal Government. The application form is available from the Selectmen's Administrative Assistant (268-8400) or online. Deadlines on the form can be ignored, as there are still spaces available.

## Fire Department

### Firefighters' Association:

We often get asked, "What is the Firefighters' Association?" It's a group of firefighters past and present that meets on a monthly basis to discuss the health and welfare of its members. At times the Association will assist in purchasing items that may be needed but are unable to be covered by the fire department's budget.

The Williamsburg firefighters are supported by two associations, the Williamsburg Firefighters' Association (Williamsburg/Station 1) and the Haydenville Firefighters' Association (Haydenville/Station 2). These associations are the groups that do the Rag Shag Parades and also supply games and treats at the station on Halloween. These associations also hold several fundraisers throughout the year, including the Christmas Tree Collection, Rabies Clinic and the Road Block.

### Williamsburg Fire Chief:

I would like to take a minute to introduce myself to you all. My name is Jason Connell and I have lived in Haydenville/Williamsburg my entire life. I am married to my beautiful wife Deborah and we have two amazing children. I joined the fire department when I was just sixteen years old, in hopes of following in the footsteps of my grandfather, father and brother.



I am honored to serve the town and represent the outstanding members of the Williamsburg Fire Department.

### What is a Call/Volunteer Firefighter?

A volunteer fire department (VFD) is a fire department composed of volunteers who perform fire suppression and other related emergency services for a local jurisdiction without any compensation.

The term "volunteer" may also be used in reference to a group of part-time or on-call firefighters who may have other occupations when not engaged in occasional firefighting. Although they may have "volunteered" to become members, and to respond to the call for help during an emergency, they are compensated as employees for their time.

A Call/Volunteer firefighter may also volunteer time for other non-emergency duties as well (training, fundraising, equipment maintenance, etc.).

## Christmas Tree Pickup

Once again the Haydenville Firefighters Association will be collecting Undecorated Christmas Trees for a minimum donation of \$5. Collections dates will be Tuesdays and Thursdays between 5 and 7pm and Saturdays. Checks may be made out to the Haydenville Firefighters Association. If you would like to arrange for a pickup please call 413-340-1116 or email us at [fundraiser@williamsburgfire.com](mailto:fundraiser@williamsburgfire.com). You can also use our online form, by going to our website and clicking on the link.



### Please Note:

- \*Only undecorated trees will be collected.
- \*Trees must be removed from the residence prior to being picked up.

### Pickup Dates & Times

Tuesday December 31st, Between 5pm & 7pm  
 Thursday January 2nd, Between 5pm & 7pm  
 Saturday January 4th, Time TBD  
 Tuesday January 7th, Between 5pm & 7pm  
 Thursday January 9th, Between 5pm & 7pm  
 Saturday January 11th, Time TBD  
 Tuesday January 14th, Between 5pm & 7pm  
 Thursday January 16th, Between 5pm & 7pm  
 Saturday January 18th, Between 9am and 11am



## Burning Permits

Brush burning season starts January 15th and runs through May 1st. To obtain a burn permit you can go online at [www.hcburnpermits.com](http://www.hcburnpermits.com) on the day you would like to burn, between the hours of 8:30am and 1pm and self-issue a permit. Please complete the form as accurately as possible. When completed, please print the permit out and read the rules carefully. If burning is not allowed for that particular day the program will not allow any permits to be issued.

For people who do not have access to the internet, you can call 413-340-1114 prior to the day you would like to burn. Someone will return your call and issue you a permit number. Then on the day you would like to burn, call back and listen to the message to see if burning is allowed or not. If burning is allowed for that day, leave a message with your name, phone number and permit number.

If for any reason weather conditions change for the worse, someone will attempt to contact you and advise you of the change and request the fire be extinguished immediately. For this reason it is very important to list

phone numbers where the parties doing the burning can be reached. Permit requests will only be accepted through the listed number and not through the regular department business number. Be advised burning may not be allowed on certain days due to holidays, observances or other occurrences where fire coverage may be limited.

Brush piles are subject to inspection by fire personnel at any time without prior notice.

### Regulations:

- You may only burn BRUSH! All other materials are illegal. No leaves, grass, hay, stumps, building debris or any other materials are allowed to be burned.
- All open burning must be a minimum of 75 feet from buildings or structures.
- Burning will be allowed to start at 10am and must be extinguished by 4pm.
- Any open fire must be attended at all times by the permit holder. (Fire Dept. will respond to all unattended fires and extinguish

them. Repeat offenders will have their permit revoked for the remainder of the season)

- No person shall set, maintain or increase a fire in open air at any time except by permission.
- You must be 18 years or older to apply for a permit and/or set, maintain or increase a fire once permission has been granted by the Fire Department.
- You must have an appropriate means to extinguish an open air fire completely at the end of the day or if requested by the Fire Department.
- The Fire Department can refuse or cancel a permit at any time. (Example: Violation of permit regulations, or change in weather conditions.)
- Open burning season is January 15 - May 1.
- Massachusetts Regulation 310 CMR: DEP 7.07 "Open Burning"

Phone # 413-340-1114  
[www.hcburnpermits.com](http://www.hcburnpermits.com)  
Jan 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 to May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

## The Bonfire

On Saturday, January 18th, 2014, between 11a.m. and 1p.m. we will be burning all the collected Christmas Trees in a large Bonfire at the Williamsburg Fire Training Center on Mountain Street, next to the Town Recycling Center.

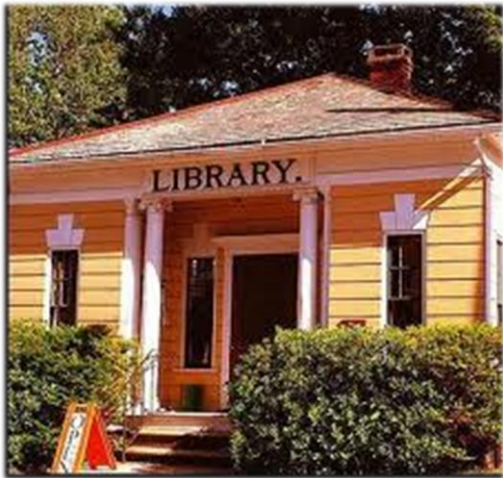
Refreshments will be available along with fire department equipment on display. Please dress for the weather.



## Williamsburg Libraries News:

### ***Important planning news from the Williamsburg Libraries:***

The Williamsburg Library Long-Range Planning Survey will be available to fill out early in the New Year 2014. The library needs input from everyone whether you use the library or not. You will be able to find a link to the survey on-line at [www.meekins-library.org](http://www.meekins-library.org) or pick up a hard copy at the library, town office or other locations to be announced. The information collected will help the library set goals and plan activities for the next five years.



### ***Meekins Library Hands Free at last!***

The Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries have funded the installation of new power doors at the parking lot entrance to Meekins. Activated by pushing a button, these doors make the library more accessible allowing easy entry and exit for all. THANK YOU, FRIENDS!

**Friends of the Library** meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at Meekins at 7:00! New members always welcome!

### ***Important news for the digital age:***

Are you lost somewhere on the digital highway? Want to use that cool new electronic device to read or listen and don't know how? You need to come to Drop-In Tech Help Night on the third Thursday evening of each month – drop in starts at 6PM and goes until 8PM. Want to download audio books or e-books onto your Nook, Kindle, iPad, MP3 player and don't know how? Downloading Diva Michele Morales-Wolk and Tech-

Master Steve Berlin can help you learn how to use the **CW/MARS** digital system so you'll be ready to request, place holds, download, listen and read on your device.

Even if you are an old pro, you will especially want to know about Zinio, a new magazine database. Our tech specialists will help you use your Meekins Library card to access over 20 wonderful digital periodicals (including, *Bloomberg BusinessWeek*, *The Economist*, *ArtNews*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *National Geographic*, *Popular Science*, *Seventeen Magazine*, *Smithsonian*, *Vegetarian Times*, *New York Review of Books*, *MACWorld* and others). No limit to how many you can have out or how many people can read them at one time!



And sign up to watch independent films on **INDIEFLIX**, a new digital database of movies. You can also sign up for a Boston Public Library card and access a wealth of new information and borrowing options. Don't be shy! More information, ask for Michele Morales-Wolk or Lisa Wenner at Meekins.

<https://meekins-library.org>  
facebook.com/meekinslibrary  
instagram.com/meekinslibrary  
413-268-7472



## Library Events

### November:

**Neil Hammer Gallery** November: Jean Lally features one of a kind wearable works of art, beautiful scarves, individually hand-bound and dyed in the traditional Japanese Shibori technique.

**Meekins Market returns for the 6th year** November 21<sup>st</sup> through December 22<sup>nd</sup> find fun, funky, and fabulous inexpensive gifts for loved ones and friends and help support the library. Come and see what the fun is all about!

**Annual Daikin, Survival Center and COA Food Pantry Collection** begins on November 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Helen Bacon Rotunda at Meekins. Pet related items will go to Daikin, winter coats to the Survival Center and canned goods to the Williamsburg COA supplemental food pantry. Let's all help together!

### December:

**Neil Hammer Gallery** December: Shirley Cranston and the Meekins Library present *The Wonderful Winter Wonderland*

**Annual Library Holiday Reading and Treats** at Meekins in the Hawks-Hayden Room on Sunday, December 15th from 4-6PM. Come read a classic Christmas tale of kindness, greed and redemption—Charles Dickens' ***A Christmas Carol***, and a joyful Hanukkah story filled with miracles. In the *Miracle of Potato Latkes* by Malka Penn, Tante Golda believes that "God will provide", even when she has only one potato left to make her delicious potato latkes for all the guests on the first night of Hanukkah.

**French Conversation and Movie** Want to speak French? Want to listen and watch in French? Meet the first Friday of the month—Watch *L'ARNACOEUR* December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 Alex and his sister run a business designed to break up relationships. They are hired by a rich man to break up the wedding of his daughter. The only problem is that they only have one week to do so.

**Hilltown Families Annual Board Game Swap** Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11 Bring your old games and walk out with "new" old ones! Contact: [sienna@hilltownfamilies.org](mailto:sienna@hilltownfamilies.org)

**Harvey Allen: Creating Hope: a mini-documentary** on December 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-9:00 come to the Meekins and watch a new documentary celebrating the life and work of Harvey Allen, a man for all seasons, a man who has spent his life getting to know the landscape, wild animals and birds of the Pioneer Valley and helping to create a life-sustaining society through devotion to his corner of the world.

### Ongoing

**The Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Program** for children and parents ages 0-8 on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and January 6<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 in the Hawks-Hayden Community Room with educator Victoria Loud. Each session involves a story, a craft and a game. This program is offered every other week at the Meekins. Please call the library for subsequent dates.

**Pre-school Story-time** every Wednesday at 10:30 with Storyteller-Librarian extraordinaire Rochelle Wildfong, in the Picture Book Room at Meekins. Contact her at [rwildfon@hotmail.com](mailto:rwildfon@hotmail.com)

**Tween-Teen Time** at Meekins every Monday school is in session from 2:30-5p.m. at Meekins for ages 11-19 offering: study, games - board and video - as well as crafts and socializing for the community's young people, with teen-tween coordinator Ellen Sulzycki and staff. Tween-Teen time is open for this age group only.

**Yarn Spinners** Bring your knitting projects. Are you a knitter, do you want some company or need some help? Meet up with the Yarn Spinners on the SECOND Sunday of the month, from 3-6 at the Meekins. Contact Michele at Meekins 268-7472.

**Burgy Bookshare** The next read is *The Maid's Version* by Daniel Woodrell; contact Michele at Meekins for more information.

**Don't forget to sign on for Libraries** Write your "John Hancock" or "Dolly Madison" on the American Library Association's ~Declaration for the Right to Libraries~ *Libraries Change Lives*. You can sign the declaration at the Meekins at the circulation desk. Let's all stand up for libraries!

## News from the Smith Vocational School

### Culinary Treats and Education Combine



Did you know that the Oliver Smith Restaurant, located at Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School, is open to the public for dining?

The Culinary Arts program is designed to provide students with the various skills necessary for employment in the food service industry. Many of our Williamsburg and surrounding Hilltown students attend Smith Voke, and several are in the Culinary program. The Oliver Smith Restaurant purchases lamb, beef and pork from the Smith Voke Agricultural Department and uses these products on the restaurant menu.

In a modern, fully equipped kitchen, students receive instruction in commercial cooking, baking, meat preparation and food service sanitation. In the guest dining area, table setting, service and food

displays are practiced. The classroom studies include pricing, selecting and purchasing. Students acquire certification in ServSafe, ProStart and Allergen Awareness.

The student-run restaurant operates three days a week. It is open to the public with a buffet on Tuesdays and has a menu made by the students on Thursdays and Fridays. Hours of operation are 10:45 a.m. til 12:15 p.m. You can reach them at (413) 587-1432. You can find menus each week under the Culinary Arts Program on the school website at [www.smith.tec.ma.us](http://www.smith.tec.ma.us).

The Restaurant Bakery now has fresh baked cookies and other very yummy baked goods for sale. They are even glad to accept cookie or bakeshop orders and special requests.

Please think about visiting the restaurant for lunch soon. You will be astonished at the delicious food offerings for very reasonable (inexpensive) cost and the smiles on the students' faces to welcome you to dine are irreplaceable. The students enjoy showcasing their accomplishments and the opportunity to put learning into practical application.

Smith Vocational is a valuable addition to our children's education. Visit soon!

### WINTER PARKING AND SIDEWALK REGULATIONS

The Williamsburg Board of Selectmen wants to remind residents that the winter parking ban is in effect from December 1<sup>st</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup>. During this time parking is prohibited on any street, regardless of whether we have snow or not, between the hours of midnight and 6:00 a.m., except in an emergency.

Residents and owners of all residential and commercial buildings are also reminded that they are required to clear the sidewalks on their properties within 24 hours of the end of any snow or ice storm and to keep these sidewalks free of snow and ice and properly sanded.

With your help, we can ensure that both our roadways and our sidewalks remain open and accessible throughout the winter.

## News from the Senior Center

### Senior Center News:

Are you a Senior? If you are 60 or over, you are eligible for the services below. Call 268-8407 for more information.

### Council on Aging Christmas Centerpiece Fundraising Sale!

Pretty up your home for the holidays! The COA Friends Group and Power of the Petal are doing a Christmas Centerpiece Sale! The beautiful centerpieces, made in Williamsburg will be ready to pick up on Dec. 21. Call the Senior Center for information. 268-8407.

### Ride the COA VAN - New Services!

Tuesdays beginning 9 AM, the van will pick you up at your home, drive you to the Town Center, the Senior Center, Northampton (Big Y) Plaza or Stop and Shop, and take you home. Make your reservations now! Round trip fares are just \$2. (Discounted fares are available. Call the Senior Center.) Personal Care Attendants ride free. Assistance with groceries is provided. There is a three bag limit. The van is wheelchair accessible.

### Breakfast at the Senior Center!

Join us for Breakfast provided by Highland Valley! Each Tuesday, at **9 am**, we are offering coffee, muffins, oatmeal and more. Come and nosh with your friends and neighbors. Play cards, games, puzzles, bingo, or whatever! We planned to have it on Tuesdays, so you'd be able to take the Senior Van if you wish (call us for the van).

### Stop by and enjoy breakfast with us at the Senior Center - no reservation needed!

### Have You Tried our Congregate Meals?

Highland Valley Elder Services prepares and delivers hot meals to the Senior Center every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 11:45, occasionally followed by a program or entertainment. Lunches are free, but a donation is welcome. Come and join your friends and neighbors for lunch! **Call 268-8407** at least two days ahead. **See you there!**

### Join our Take Home Meal Program!

It's time to sign up or renew your membership in the **Take Home Meal Program!** Once-weekly meals are prepared throughout the school year by the Culinary Arts students at Smith Vocational High School, at \$5.50 each. Discounts are available for qualifying low-income seniors. These restaurant-quality meals can be picked up at the Senior Center or delivered to you on Wednesdays. People with food allergies can be accommodated. To register, **call Fran at 296-8407**. Please consider joining this valuable program, so we can keep this great food coming!

### Join the COA Cooking Club and/or make soup for Bread & Soup Lunches on Mondays.

Call the Senior Center at 268-8407 for information. First Bread & Soup Luncheon for \$1.00 is on Monday, November 18. Call for future dates; usually the third Monday.

### Your Donations are Important to All Seniors!

Your donations help support our Companion and Transportation Services, which include weekly visits to homebound elders and help with grocery shopping and local errands. Many of the folks receiving these services would be isolated without our help. Please consider a tax deductible contribution at any time. If you would like to make a donation please send your check made out to:

The Williamsburg Council on Aging,  
P.O. Box 193,  
Haydenville, MA 01039

And write "program support fund" in the memo line.



**Photos of Williamsburg  
Courtesy of Reelife  
Productions/Folktography &  
Country Journal**



TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG  
141 MAIN STREET  
PO BOX 447  
HAYDENVILLE, MA 01039

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
NORTHAMPTON, MA  
PERMIT NO. 141  
ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

## News from the Williamsburg Schools

The 2013-2014 school year is off to a busy start! We welcomed 155 students and several new staff members to our school community in September. Although there continue to be occasional challenges with space, and need for creativity and flexibility at times, our students continue to have access to the same positive academic experiences. In early November, the school was visited by Massachusetts Secretary of Education, Matthew Malone. During his tour of our school, Secretary Malone was impressed with the instructional practices he observed and was complimentary of the learning experiences in which our students participate.

Throughout the past year, the school has been graciously supported by groups and organizations throughout the community. It is only because of

this support that consolidation during construction has been successful. Our school lunch program is only sustainable through an agreement between the school and the First Congregational Church. The Williamsburg Grange has provided space for our PE and music programs during the winter months, and has also hosted numerous school events such as concerts, performances, and the Harvest Feast. We also appreciate the willingness of Meekins Library to provide meeting space for school groups and professional development from time to time. And, as always, we appreciate the support of the Williamsburg Police and Fire Departments in helping us to ensure the safety of our students.

Our students have already had many opportunities to explore local resources in these first few weeks of

school! Classes have visited Outlook Farm, Art in the Orchard, the Eric Carle Museum of Picturebook Art, the Beneski Museum of Natural History, local artist studios, and performances at the UMASS Fine Arts Center.

The staff and students continue to benefit from this very supportive community. We so appreciate the time that our parent volunteers, PTO, School Committee, and School Council members graciously provide to enhance our students' school experience. We are looking forward to a great year and a very exciting move this summer!