

A periodic newsletter of the Town of Williamsburg

Town of Williamsburg Spring 2013



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Solar Installation	2
Solarize Mass	2
Burgy Farmers' Market	2
Town Sign Boards	3
Blackboard Connect	3
Town Government	3
New Fire Chief	4
Cultural Council	4
Council On Aging	4
CPR Training	4
Board of Health	5
Federal Disasters	5
Foothills Health Agent	6-7
Key Access	6
School Building Project	7
EMPG Grants	8
Route 9 Construction	8
US Veteran's Convoy	8
TRIAD, Police, Fire	9
Highway Department	9
Libraries	10
Chief Lawton Retires	11

Annual Town Meeting, Monday, June 3rd

Town Office Building at 141 Main Street, Haydenville

[Not at the Anne T. Dunphy School](#)

Voters will be asked to consider 20 articles at the 2013 annual town meeting; two prior fiscal year articles, four capital planning articles, fiscal year 2014 budget articles to support government operations, two zoning bylaw articles and a request to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire an easement with the City of Northampton and to convey a piece of land on South Main Street. A complete copy of the Town Meeting warrant articles including the proposed budget and Capital Plan for FY14 can be viewed by visiting the Town's website at www.burgy.org.



Participate in your government:

attend Town Meeting at the Williamsburg Town Office building on Monday, June 3rd beginning at 7:00p.m

Memorial Day Parade Monday, May 27th

Short ceremonies will be held at the American Legion Post #236 beginning at 8:30 a.m., and then at each of the following cemeteries: Mountain Street, St. Mary's, High Street, Old Village Hill, and Village Hill.



The parade will kick-off at 1:00 p.m. Participants, including the HRHS Band, will depart from the Williamsburg Fire House and Congregational Church and march up North Main Street onto Buttonshop Road, and east on Route 9 ending at the Williamsburg Veteran's Memorial. A service will be held following the parade.

For more details visit www.burgy.org under Town News.

Visit

www.burgy.org

for more

information about:
Town Government,
Board & Committee
Meetings,
Community Events,
and much more!

Solar Installation

The Town, Water/Sewer Commission, and Energy Committee are considering the feasibility of installing a solar photovoltaic system (PV) on town owned land on Roger Bisbee Road (a private way) off of South St. The system under consideration would be designed to produce at least enough electricity to power all of Williamsburg's municipal use.

Town electric accounts would receive a net metering credit from the electricity produced by the PV system.



The credit received by the Town is based upon its electricity consumption. Any additional credits could be sold to other

National Grid municipalities in western Massachusetts. The end result is that the Town could see a significant reduction in its electricity costs. It is estimated that only five acres of land would be needed for the system and it would be designed to have minimal visual impact. The project is still in the discussion phase and many questions remain regarding the costs and benefits. If you are interested in this initiative, please contact the Town Administrator's Office at 268-8418 to get details on future meetings.

Solarize Mass!

The Town Energy Committee is considering responding to a request for proposals from the Clean Energy Center to create a SOLARIZE MASS effort in Williamsburg. The program would help local residents and businesses to purchase solar energy systems, also known as photovoltaic or PV systems at a reduced cost through a bulk purchase process. Williamsburg will need to partner with another town to meet the program's required number of households and Whately has expressed its interest.

To find out more go to www.solarizemass.com.

There is need for interested individuals to participate in putting the Town's response together by mid-September. Help make this happen! Come to the next Energy committee meeting on June 11th at 7:00 PM if you are interested.



Burgy Farmers' Market



The Burgy Thursday Market is back! Stop by after school each Thursday to pick up local veggies, meats and breads for farm-fresh family dinners and lunches; coffee, eggs, baked goods, honey and syrup to get you ready for breakfast; and delicious prepared foods when you're in a hurry! Support local farmers, visit with your neighbors, and listen to great live music. **New for kids this year:** enjoy story time at 3:30 pm at the market every week! Burgy Thursday Market is open 2-6 pm every Thursday, May 9 - October 24 on the Meekins Library lawn, Williamsburg Center. See you there!



Town Sign Boards

The Town is looking for someone interested in managing the Town message boards located at either end of Route 9 in Williamsburg. Ellie Loomis has effectively and efficiently handled the posting of news on them for many years, but is ready to pass the responsibility on to another volunteer. Please call the Board of Selectmen's Office at 268-8400, if you are interested

Town-wide Calling System

Communication is the key to keeping residents informed and connected to their local government and community. The reverse 911 system, also known as the Blackboard Connect system, was initially designed and purchased to inform residents in emergency situations; however, municipalities and schools have discovered with reduced budgets for newsletters and mailings that the town-wide calling system provides a cost-effective and efficient way of informing the community. The Williamsburg Board of Selectmen has come to the same conclusion and as a result the

system is being used more frequently to notify residents of town government and community-wide events. In acknowledgement that not everyone wants these calls, we are in the process of developing an Exclude list. The individuals entered into the Exclude list would only receive calls in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.



The Way the System Works

The system automatically picks up and adds any Williamsburg landline phone number (268) so even if you have been removed your number will be picked up again. Cell phone numbers and email addresses are not automatically picked up and therefore must be manually entered. If you would like your name, cell phone number and email address entered into the system and/or your information added to the Exclude list, please contact the Town Administrator at 268-8418 or townadmin@burgy.org. We ask for your patience as we build the list and train our staff to use the list appropriately.

A major portion of Town Government operates through the dedication and commitment of elected and appointed volunteers. It is through the sharing of their time, energy, expertise and skills that we function so well and accomplish all that we do and we need YOU! Please consider getting involved in your town government. Below is a list of vacancies that need to be filled. To learn more or if the position or committee you are interested in is not listed, please contact the Board of Selectmen's office at 268-8400.

- Council on Aging Advisory Board
- Cultural Council Commission
- Field Driver
- Open Space and Recreation
- Pioneer Valley Region Joint Transportation alternate
- Planning Board
- Shade Tree Committee/Tree Warden
- Technology
- Woodland Trails.

TOWN GOVERNMENT

New Fire Chief

The Town received responses from several qualified candidates in the search for a new Fire Chief. An appointed search committee reviewed the applications and recommended finalists to the Board of Selectmen.



After careful consideration, the Board of Selectmen appointed Jason Connell as the new Williamsburg Fire Chief effective June 1st. Jason, Captain/EMT-B, has been a member of the Williamsburg Fire Department for the past 20 years. He is a second generation fire fighter and a graduate from HRHS. He will work with former Fire Chief Lawton over the next few months.



Cultural Council News

In January the Williamsburg Cultural Council awarded over \$4,000 to local and regional individuals and organizations for cultural projects that benefit the community.

The recipients of grants for the 2012/2013 period were: The Trustees of Reservations for Bryant Day; Hilltown Choral Society; Chesterfield 4th of July Assoc., Mime and Silent Entertainment; Hampshire Regional High PTSO, Community Musical; Pothole Pictures Film Series; Gregory Maichack, "How to Paint Pastels"; Steve Damon, "Music for Seniors"; Friends of Williamsburg Libraries, Hilltown Winter Concert Series; Ashfield Community Theater play production; Jackson Gillman, "A Family Cabaret"; Susan Farrell, "Singing with Susan"; The Valley Five, "Songs of the Master Composers"; John Root, "Edible Perennial Gardening and Landscaping"; Williamsburg Council on Aging, "Cross Generation Conversations"; Williamsburg Schools, "Recycled Rhythms Show"; Dance Generators, "Dance for All Ages"; Jacqueline Cooper, "Legacy of Rural Music, People, Place"; and Hilltown Community Development, Hilltown Spring Festival.

The next season for applications for grants will begin in the fall. Go to www.mass-culture.org for information.

We need new members!

E-mail us at BurgyCC@Yahoo.com if you're interested in joining or have any suggestions for cultural events.

Council on Aging News

SENIOR PICNIC at NASH HILL PLACE

Join us for dinner! Entertainment TBA. 5:00pm on Thursday, June 13th. Information about resources for seniors will be provided by TRIAD, the Williamsburg Council on Aging, and the Williamsburg Veterans' Agent.

Call to sign-up at 268-8407.



CPR Training

The Emergency Responders will host CPR training for all residents in Williamsburg and neighboring communities on Saturday, September 21st. Learn a skill that can absolutely make a difference in someone's life.

Mark your calendars and look for more details on this event later in the summer!

Board of Health News:

Transfer Station: The hours will not be changing this summer. They will remain 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Permits for Transfer Station use will be on sale starting mid-May at a cost of \$60 per household. New stickers must be purchased by July 1st.



Sharp Containers: As required by the Massachusetts Department of Health, needle boxes (sharp containers) are available at the Town Clerk's office or at the Transfer Station. When the container is full please bring it to the Transfer Station Manager, Kurt, for proper disposal

and to obtain a new container. There is no cost for this service. If you have been using a different container, please bring it to the Transfer Station for safe disposal and a proper container.

Wood Waste Capped Area: Every year the Board of Health is required to have the runoff water tested for its quality at the Wood Waste Capped Area. This is the area to the left of the current Transfer Station. The complete report is available at the Town Office but we are happy to announce that the runoff water quality is nearly at the level of drinking water and has been so for the past several years. The cost for this survey is \$3,000 yearly. Since there has been no change the Board is petitioning the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to be able to do this survey every other year.



Rain Barrels: will again be available for residents of Williamsburg and neighboring Hilltowns through the Great American Rainbarrel Company. You can go to their website www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com to order one at a cost of \$69 including shipping. The distribution will be at the Transfer Station on June 15th. Last year the company donated two barrels for the Town's use and they are currently being used by the Garden Beautification Project headed by Nick Dines.

Declared Federal Disasters:



Over the last several years we have had major weather incidents hit our area such as the January 2011 snowstorm, the August 2011 hurricane, the October 2011 snowstorm, and the February 2013 blizzard. All of these storms were declared federal disasters by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Williamsburg fortunately fared well in most of these incidents thanks to the response and work of the police, fire and highway departments. However, these declarations provide an important opportunity for municipalities in the declared disaster area to apply for 75% reimbursement of funds expended for immediate response, debris and/or snow removal and clean-up and repair work. The Town has taken advantage of this opportunity and for each storm has applied for and received financial reimbursement, just recently completing and submitting our submission for the February 2013 Blizzard.



News from the Foothills Health Agent

Pre-Rental Inspections Program:

How do I benefit?

Landlord benefits:

- ✓ Receive guidance on housing code requirements from public health professionals
- ✓ Documentation of the conditions of the rental unit at the beginning of the tenancy
- ✓ A tool that can be used against illegal rent withholding and tenant damage to the unit

Tenant benefits:

- ✓ Tenants are provided with safe, legal, and sanitary apartments
- ✓ Tenants are educated regarding their responsibilities and rights

Community benefits:

- ✓ Proper care and maintenance of residential properties
- ✓ Promotes healthy homes that protect children, seniors, and other occupants
- ✓ The legal and proper use of dwellings in accordance with zoning, building, and sanitary code requirements



Inspection

By requesting a pre-rental inspection you are allowing a member of the Board of Health or its Agent to conduct a full housing inspection. The inspection will be conducted in accordance with Chapter 111, sections 127A and 127B of the Massachusetts General Laws; 105 CMR 410.000: State Sanitary Code, Chapter II: Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation.

Requesting an Inspection

The landlord or authorized agent may request a pre-rental inspection. This is different from a general complaint-based inspection. A pre-rental inspection must be conducted within 30 days of the start of a lease or within the first 30 days of occupancy. The cost is \$75 for a single unit; \$25 for each additional unit inspected on the same day.

Certificate of Fitness

When the inspection has been completed, an Inspection Report will be issued to the owner or property manager. A timeline will be given and a re-inspection may be required. Once the unit has been cleared the owner and tenant will receive a Certificate of Fitness. The certificate does not mean that a future call or complaint cannot be reported to the Board of Health or the Foothills Health District. It states that at the time of the inspection, the unit was fit for habitation and complied with Mass Housing Code standards.

To request a pre-rental inspection, please contact the Foothills Health District at (413) 268-8404.

Key Access in an Emergency

Key access to your home or business via the Knox Box system in the event of an emergency is authorized only for the use of the Fire Department. If you would like to set up key access to your home or business for the Police Department in the event of an emergency, please contact the Williamsburg Police Department at 268-7237 to make arrangements.



School Building Project



In January of this year, the Town put out an Invitation to Bid for a contract for the Anne T. Dunphy School Building construction project while the school administrators and staff and Highway Department worked diligently to completely empty out the building. In response to our invitation, nine bids were received, six of which were under budget. After careful review of the responses, the Town voted to award the contract to Enfield Builders, Inc., the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

The contract was signed in late March and control of the site was turned over to Enfield Builders, Inc.



Mobilization and work began soon afterward and is moving forward on schedule. It is anticipated that the work will be significantly completed in late spring of 2014 enabling the school children to occupy the building for the 2014-2015 school year.



A groundbreaking ceremony was held on May 8th to commemorate the beginning of construction. State and local officials, school administrators and staff, residents, families and children turned out to celebrate. While the rain sped up the presentation, it didn't dampen everyone's enthusiasm.

Summer Safety Tips from the Foothills Health Agent

It's getting to be that time of year when we want to spend more time outside enjoying the warm weather and all the activities that go along with warm days and cool nights. I'm sure you all remember the concerns we all had last year surrounding mosquitoes and the two primary diseases for which they are responsible – West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). These two diseases are turning mosquitoes from a simple annoyance into a serious public health concern. Both WNV and EEE are spread by mosquitoes, and as we all know, mosquitoes breed in standing water. There are over 50 different types of species of mosquitoes in Massachusetts, and there are two primary species that carry these two diseases. It's important that we eliminate as many areas that mosquitoes will breed as possible, now, before they get started for the season.

Please take a walk around your property and check for any areas of standing water or any containers that hold water. This includes old tires, swimming pools that aren't maintained (remember "kiddie" pools aren't treated with chemicals, usually), bird baths, and pet bowls. Check your gutters to be sure they aren't clogged and holding water. A small jar that holds water for 10 days will provide larval habitat for literally hundreds of mosquitoes.

Be proactive about protecting yourself from WNV and EEE.

For more information visit the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Website.



EMPG Grants

Title VI of the Stafford Act authorizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to make grants available to all 50 states for the purpose of providing a system of emergency preparedness for the protection of life and property in the United States. Every year for the last four years Denise Banister, Emergency Management Director, has applied and received the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG). These grants which range from \$2,000 to \$2,500 have allowed the Town to address many areas of emergency preparedness. The Town wired four Town buildings for installation of the generators, purchased radios for emergency communication within the schools, re-wired the sirens at the two Fire Stations, and purchased an ID printer to make our emergency personnel and town officials more easily identifiable by residents. The FY2012 grant was just awarded and will be used to purchase emergency signs and to provide a CPR class in the fall which will be open to all residents of Williamsburg and neighboring communities

Route 9 Construction

As you are now well aware, Mass Highway contracted for the entire portion of Route 9 in Williamsburg to be repaved. The contractor completed the milling and guardrail work and the Williamsburg Highway Department has switched out the water valves. Paving began on Monday, May 20th and is expected to be complete by the week of June 3rd.

U.S. Veterans Convoy



A special thanks to all who came out on May 11th to welcome home the U.S. Veterans who served in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. The convoy made its way from Pelham to Cummington and veterans were overwhelmed by the number of people in Williamsburg who showed their support by cheering and waving. One veteran reported that when he initially returned he wasn't welcomed home and therefore Saturday's event was very important and emotionally for him. Thank you for making a difference and representing the spirit of Williamsburg so well.



Williamsburg TRIAD / Police / Fire Departments

"What's Your Number?"

Do you have your number on your home so that police, fire, or EMS (Ambulance) responders can find you quickly? These responders know where every street is but they don't know which house is yours. Emergency dispatchers, via E911, have your address on a display screen when you telephone 911; however, valuable time is lost if emergency response crews can't easily see your house number to determine which house is yours. Large, easily visible street numbers that can be seen from the street in either direction will help. Remember every second counts and minutes can save lives and properties. Can your number be seen easily in the dark?

Williamsburg TRIAD, Police and Fire Departments are cooperating in installing house number signs. These signs meet Massachusetts General Law requirements with regard to house numbering on the street. They are two-sided signs that display four-inch highly reflective numbers attached to five foot high metal stakes, which will be installed near your driveway / walkway where it will be visible

from the street. They will assist emergency response crews in finding your home easily in a time of need.



There is no charge for participation in this project. However, a donation of \$5.00 to the Williamsburg TRIAD would be greatly appreciated and will keep this program going. Thank you from the Williamsburg TRIAD, Williamsburg Police Department, and Williamsburg Fire Department.

To request your street house number sign, please call Larry West 268-3315 or the Williamsburg Police Department 413-268-7237.

Highway Department News



By the vote of Town Meeting to increase the Highway Labor line, Highway Superintendent Bill Turner hired a new employee, Nolan Rice, in November 2012. Nolan has proven to be an excellent addition to the Highway crew.

With the arrival of warm weather, the Highway anticipates working on the following projects.

Sidewalks:

- South Main Street beginning at the bridge on Bridge St.
- South Street beside the Helen E. James School.

Road Reconstruction:

- Hemenway Road from Briar Hill to Ashfield Road
- Judd Lane
- Corner on Adams Road

Drainage Work:

- Conway Road



News from the Williamsburg Libraries

The Williamsburg Board of Library Trustees, Staff and Community Advisory Group have begun a new planning process for the Meekins and Haydenville Libraries. The planning process, required by the state, is expected to continue through September. The Advisory Committee, focus groups, and a town-wide survey will assist the Library Board in establishing goals for the Williamsburg Libraries for the next 3-5 years. The Board looks forward to hearing from all community members. Surveys will be available in paper format as well as online at www.meekins-library.org. Look for the survey this summer.



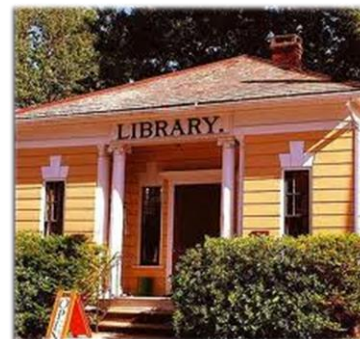
This spring/summer in the Hawks~Hayden Community Room and Neil Hammer Gallery at Meekins:

- May All month - Teen Photography Exhibit- "Places We Live, Play, and Learn" a photography exhibit by Western Mass Youth Photographers
- June All month - Nancy Hill- Oils - Reception Sunday June 2nd at 2:00 pm – Nancy Hill lives and paints in the Pioneer Valley. Hill studied at local schools, she is a Smith College Alumna and holds a degree in painting and art education from the University of Massachusetts. Her work is represented by the Michelson Galleries.
http://www.rmichelson.com/Artist_Pages/Hill/Nancy-Hill.html
- June 2nd-28th Kindergarten Publishing Display Bacon Rotunda; On Friday, June 7 from 5 to 7 pm an open-to-the-public book party will be held for the writers, illustrators, and publishers of Cider Press and Wizard Press. Cider Press is a nonfiction publishing company devoted to North American history and is run and staffed by Mrs. M.J. Long's 1st grade at Helen E. James. Wizard Press is a general publishing company specializing in books that are fun for all ages to read and it is run and staffed by Mrs. Robin Foley's kindergarten class, also at Helen E. James. Ms. Katie Joyce's 4th grade contributed stories to Wizard Press. Both presses are part of the publishing

program begun last year by Williamsburg residents Jen Marshall, of Random House, Inc., and Sarah Palmer, a noted historian's research assistant. We hope you will come to see the absolutely incredible work done by this year's writers, authors, and publishers. Celebratory refreshments will be served.

- DIG INTO READING!!! Summer Reading Kick-Off - ALL AGES SIGN UP! Saturday, June 22nd at 12:30. Program begins 1:00 – 2:30 with the Stand Up Chameleon--- Jackson Gillman! And..... our annual make your own super-sundae! Fun for all ages, Kids, Teens, Grown-ups --Kick off- a summer of great reading fun, prizes, and surprises with your friends and neighbors at Meekins www.jacksongillman.com The Williamsburg Summer Reading program is funded by the Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries and other generous community sponsors.
- July- All month- Gloria Black- Watercolors and Poetry
- ALL SUMMER LONG:
Children will... "Dig Into Reading!"
Teens will read... "Beneath the Surface"
Adults will enjoy... "Groundbreaking Reads"

Both libraries offer free WI-FI 24/7. Contact us at www.meekins-library.org, (413) 268-7472. See you at the Library!



Hold your small group meetings at the lovely Haydenville Library or for larger groups at the Meekins Library.

Sound the Alarm! Chief Lawton has Retired!

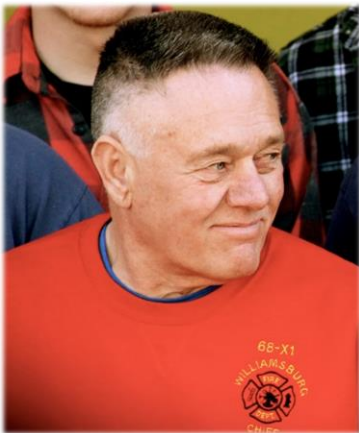


Fire fighters are incredibly selfless individuals. They answer the call no matter the time of day and risk their lives to protect people and property in their own and neighboring communities. Each member of the department watches the other's back to make sure everyone comes home safe. They do all of this not for the small compensation they receive, but to make a difference and to be a part of this large tight-knit family.

Commitment, dedication, honor and pride are words that best describe them. It was this family that Williamsburg Fire Chief



Lawton joined at the age of 18 and dedicated the last 47 years to. He has seen many changes during that time which has brought advancement in firefighting technology, and a need for more trained and skilled fire fighters. As a fire fighter he lived up to the challenges and brought improvements to the Williamsburg department during his last 13 years as Chief. What hasn't changed is the family bond between its members and their families. His wife of 44 years, Jackie, and his three daughters Kathy, Jessica and Pam were also committed to the department. While sacrificing many holidays and other moments together, the family speaks with pride of his involvement and accomplishments within the department.



Chief Lawton officially retired at the end of April. His contributions made a difference in many people's lives and he has left his mark on the Town of Williamsburg. His ability to get S.A.F.E. grants and educate our youth and therefore our Williamsburg residents in fire prevention has reduced the number of fires in town. He is a familiar face in Town among adults and children. The Town has been fortunate to have his expertise, time and service for so many years. Although we know he will wage an internal battle with himself when he hears that tone, we hope he stays put and takes the time he earned to enjoy moments with his wife, daughters and eight grandchildren. Thank you, Chief Lawton, for all that you accomplished in the name of Williamsburg.

A retirement party in his honor will be held on Saturday, June 22nd at Turner's Pavilion on Lawton Hill Road. Tickets are \$25/person and may be purchased at the Williamsburg Snack Bar, the Williamsburg Pharmacy or by sending a check made payable to the Williamsburg Fire Fighter's Association to:

Williamsburg Town Administrator
PO Box 447
Haydenville, MA 01039-0447



Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 22, 2013!

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

**Photos Courtesy of:
Folktegrapy by Tom
Country Journal
Heidi Johnson
Williamsburg and school
community members**

