

Town of Williamsburg Fall 2014



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Local School Committee	2
Planning Board	2
Williamsburg School	3
Cultural Council	3
Hampshire Regional	4
NEASC Evaluation	5
Christmas Tree Pickup	5
Police Dept.	6
Highway Dept.	6
Chimney Fire Prevention	6
Smoke Detectors	7
Energy Committee	7
Veterans' Services	8
Keep Farming	8
Senior Center	9
Snow Removal	9
American Flags	10
Library	10
Mill River Greenway	11
Wmsb Children's Fund	12

Selectmen Vacancy/Special Election

Paul Dunphy resigned from the Williamsburg Board of Selectmen effective November 14, 2014, because of a serious medical challenge that is expected to require an extended hospital stay and an eight to ten month recovery. We wish him well.

In order to fill the vacancy the Town must hold a special election. The election will be held on February 2, 2015. A town caucus will be held on Monday, December 8, to nominate candidates for the ballot. If you are interested in running and would like more details on the process, please contact the Town Clerk at 413-268-8402 or townclerk@burgy.org.



Natural Gas

In response to a resident's petition requesting that a natural gas line be extended to Williamsburg, town officials met with the regional supplier, Columbia Gas of Massachusetts. Information from the meeting indicated that it is about a two to three year process and involves working with the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities and the gas company. Public meetings and hearings are required, as is a survey to determine if the existing gas line from Northampton could handle increased demand. The cost of this survey is estimated to be \$75,000, which would be borne by the town. All other costs of extending the line would be borne by potential gas customers. Before town officials even begin to explore this idea, they are interested in getting feedback on whether you feel this is worth pursuing and spending public funds on. You may provide feedback to the Board of Selectmen's office by contacting the Town Administrator, Charlene Nardi, at townadmin@burgy.org or 413-268-8418.

Highway Department Holiday Celebration

The Board of Selectmen and Highway Department invite all residents to attend the annual holiday celebration at the Williamsburg Highway garage on Wednesday, December 24, beginning at noon for a potluck lunch. This annual event is funded by contributions from employees, residents, and local businesses. Donations of food as well as funds are appreciated. We hope to see you there! Wishing you a safe, healthy and happy holiday season.



Visit
www.burgy.org
for more
information about:
The Town
Committees,
Boards and
Departments
and much more!

Local School Committee

What's in a name? For the new Williamsburg elementary school, everything!

On September 6, the Williamsburg community cut the ribbon on our new school—a beautiful, energy-efficient building filled with natural light, state of the art technology, and creative learning spaces. Inside and outside, our children are benefiting from an exciting and still-expanding curriculum, including foreign language, instrumental music, gardening (even in winter, in our brand new, community-constructed greenhouse), and an after-school enrichment program. As a community school, the facility will also serve as a meeting and recreational space for other community groups. And soon we will hang letters on the outside of the building and a plaque inside boasting the name of the remarkable educator for whom the school is named—Anne T. Dunphy.

As was widely publicized before the school opened, the School Committee was asked to consider alternative names for the new building. The mere suggestion of renaming the school raised the hackles of many community members. But despite the controversy, the School Committee committed itself to giving due consideration to other options, and though we ultimately and happily decided to maintain the Anne T. Dunphy name, the process of deliberation itself proved important, inspiring, and educational.

First, consideration of the school's name forced us to ask critical questions about our new school's identity, such as, "How do we honor our proud history while launching a bright path forward?" Second, the specter of a potential name-change inspired people in our community, including members of the Historical Society and the Select Board, as well as those who personally knew and loved Anne T. Dunphy, to teach the rest of us about Anne T. Dunphy herself—a respected leader in this small town at a time when women had just barely won the right to vote. Parents, children, teachers, and other community members learned that Ms. Dunphy was a graduate of Smith College, that she began her career as a teacher, rose to principal, and steered the school for decades before her retirement, and that this firm believer in the transformative power of education personally assisted many young people in Williamsburg to pursue an education beyond high school, even securing financial assistance for those who did not have the means to afford higher education. Third, the process allowed us to seek input from the

entire community about these important questions, and over 250 people responded to an open survey designed for this purpose.

In the end, the decision to keep the Anne T. Dunphy name was easy. We are proud that our school bears the name of this strong, admirable, female leader who was a true educational pioneer, not just in Williamsburg but well beyond. We are committed to keeping her memory alive for our children and future generations. As part of this commitment, we are commissioning a permanent plaque to be installed in the school to help ensure her story endures. And we are dedicated to making sure that her vision of educational excellence lives and breathes every day in the classrooms and hallways of this amazing new school.

The Williamsburg School Committee



Planning Board

The Board reviewed a downsized array at the Diversified Construction Lashway Solar site. We held a hearing on the Marijuana Dispensaries bylaw, with no members of the public attending. The bylaw passed at Town Meeting. We met with the Shade Tree Committee to discuss hearings. We helped a homeowner decide what to do with a property line misunderstanding, and a business owner decide how to market his two parcels. We discussed two ANR (Approval Not Required under our subdivision regulations) applications, and approved one. We discussed how the Brassworks' major tenant leaving might impact the Town.

And we continued our discussion of updating and simplifying Site Plan Review regulations, our ongoing work this term. We'd love to have some help with this, and have room for two new members. Haydenville is under-represented on our board.

Jim Locke, Chairman

News from the Williamsburg School

We have had *such* an exciting start to the 2014-2015 year at the new Anne T. Dunphy School! After a busy summer during which staff worked feverishly to ensure the building was ready to welcome students, the first day arrived and we were able to celebrate as 155 students walked through the doors for the first time. We were so pleased that so many community members were able to tour the new Anne T. Dunphy building during our Community Open House Event. If you did not have the opportunity to attend, we hope you'll consider attending one of our public events throughout the year! We are proud of our facility and would love to show it off!

While we are settling into our space, we remain grateful to the many groups and organizations that supported us during our consolidation phase: the First Congregational Church of Williamsburg, the Williamsburg Grange, Meekins Library, the Williamsburg PTO, and the Williamsburg Highway Department. We are also very appreciative of the time School

Building Committee members spent working to make this building a reality.

The building project has provided our staff and students the opportunity to integrate exciting new technology into our curriculum~ interactive projectors, audio visual systems, laptops, and iPads will add to our strong technology and robotics curriculum. Another initiative on which our professional development will focus is the implementation of a new math program that is more closely aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Our school is also very excited to begin an instrumental music program for students in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. Students were so

excited to begin their lessons in mid-October. (We're not sure how excited parents will be after the practicing begins!)

Now that our staff and students are settled into the new building, we would ask that community members refrain from use of our site during the school day. Although we know that our building and play areas are an important resource for the entire community, safety and security concerns arise when community members walk through the playground space during the school day. We appreciate your understanding!

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 an exciting year in our new building!

~Stacey Jenkins, Principal



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 2014/2015, the Williamsburg Cultural Council was allocated a total of \$4,300 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. While the deadline for submitting applications for 2014/2015 was October 15, here are some of the recipients of the past season's grants:

Haydenville's Todd Lynch for his installation along the Mill River; Friends of Williamsburg Libraries for Hilltown Winter Concerts; Hilltown Choral Society; Meekins Summer Reading Program; Hampshire Regional High School musical; Williamsburg Elementary School school trip; and 3 presentations at the Council on Aging.

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.

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

Hampshire Regional Middle and High School

What's happening at HRHS? New Students! New Staff! New Programs!

The 2014-2015 school year is off to a great start at Hampshire Regional High School. On August 29, Hampshire opened its doors to new 7th graders for middle school orientation. Students were able to run through their schedule, meet all of their teachers, and try out their lockers before the rest of the student body arrived on September 2. Many students reported that this was a beneficial day for them to feel more comfortable in the new building.



The waterfall schedule is still in effect at Hampshire, meaning there is a seven-period schedule, but a six-period day. Students report that they like the longer classes and the break from a class every seventh school day. New this year is a new "Z" Day, where students have all seven periods in one day. Z days will happen at the end of each marking period as well as on Teacher Recommendation Day in the spring.

Hampshire Regional is hosting two exchange students this year. Our 11th grade student is from Brazil. She is taking courses such as Sociology, Video Production, Economics, Global Relations, Algebra, Great American Writers, and Stress Reduction. Our 12th grade student is from Switzerland. He is taking courses such as Human Oppression, Competitive Games, Art Foundations, Forensics, US History II and Sociology. Both students have made some new friends and have made nice connections to the Hampshire community.

Along with new students, Hampshire has quite a few new staff this year. New teachers include Liz Dwyer and Tara Winters, additions to our special education department,

Taidgh Buckley in High School Chemistry, Mariano de meer Alonso and Sarah Buckley in our Foreign Language Department, and Allie Furman and Jami Ricard in the middle school. Mike Furey and Leslie Robillard are in the high school guidance office and Christine Murphy is the new Interim Middle School Assistant Principal. We are excited about our additions to our learning community.



Hampshire Regional has new programs to offer students this year. For the first time, students can take Advanced Placement Spanish and French and access our language lab in the library. The life skills program has also expanded to include an adaptive Physical Education course, a college access option and new staff to support students. Our 10th grade advisory program is offering students the opportunity to focus on community service interests and start student-run projects.



We are looking forward to working with our students, continuing our NEASC Self-Study, and collaborating together this year!

NEASC Evaluation Approaching for Hampshire Regional

Hampshire Regional is approaching its decennial evaluation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Accreditation of Hampshire Regional by NEASC assures that your tax money is supporting a school community that has been judged worthwhile by an outside team of evaluators. The reputation of the community strongly benefits from having an accredited local high school. It is similar to membership in a professional organization such as the American Bar Association or the American Medical Association.

NEASC accreditation requires a comprehensive analysis of all aspects of the school, including core values and learning expectations, curriculum, instruction, assessment, school culture, leadership, school resources, and community resources. Everyone in the school community will participate in the evaluation process to provide NEASC with a thorough picture of the programs, structures, and values.

The process includes a year-long self study where the learning community analyzes its own programs. During this year, the staff is tasked with writing a 100-

page report to document that the standards are being met. For Hampshire, this is the 2014-2015 school year.

The 2015-2016 school year includes a visit from the NEASC Evaluation Committee. They interview students, staff, and community members, make observations about the school, and analyze the report submitted by the staff. Based on their findings, they complete a report and submit it to NEASC. NEASC reviews the reports and takes action based on the Evaluation Committee's findings.

Because the Hampshire Regional learning community will be going through the self study next school year, we have a number of half days planned for students so staff can complete the rigorous and engaging analysis. At times, we will be asking for your feedback and input to include in our report. We will also be publishing press releases to inform the community about our progress.

Thank you in advance for your participation and your patience as we go through this important evaluation!

Kristen Smidy, Interim Principal

Christmas Tree Collection

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. 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.

On Saturday January 17, 2014, between 11am and 1pm we will be burning all the collected Christmas Trees in a large bonfire at the Williamsburg Fire Training Center on Mountain St., next to the Town Recycling Center. Refreshments will be available along with fire department equipment on display. Please dress for the weather.

Pickup Dates & Times

Tuesday, December 30, between 5pm & 7pm

Saturday, January 3, time TBD

Tuesday, January 6, between 5pm & 7pm

Thursday, January 8, between 5pm & 7pm

Saturday, January 10, time TBD

Tuesday, January 13, between 5pm & 7pm

Thursday, January 15, between 5pm & 7pm

Saturday, January 17, between 9am & 11am



Police Department News

The Williamsburg Police Department wishes to remind all residents that it is not legal to park within 20 feet of any intersection or within 10 feet of a fire hydrant. Also there is no overnight parking on any street between December 1 and March 31. Vehicles found in violation can be ticketed. Vehicles impeding snow removal could also potentially be towed. We thank everyone in advance for keeping our roads clear during the winter months.

The speed display trailer was in high demand and many residents requested that the trailer be placed in certain areas. It has been very effective in slowing drivers down and reminding them of the actual speed limits for the areas they travel within town. If you would like to see the trailer placed in a certain location within town, please call 413-268-7237. The trailer gets stored as of the first snow storm but will return come spring.

The department was awarded a grant to purchase new child car seats and to make them available to families in need. If you or someone you know has a need for a child car seat, please contact the office. We also have two certified child seat technicians that can inspect and install your car seats free of charge. We are here to help keep you and your family safe.

Highway Department News

The Highway Department is wrapping up roadwork for this season and getting ready for the arrival of snow. During the winter season we do our best to keep the roads as clear and safe as possible. All main roads are taken care of first, then the crew moves on to secondary roads with less traffic. The only exception is when school buses are running during a storm, and then our focus is to get the buses through their routes as safely as possible. During and after a storm, plowing continues until the roads are as clean as we are able to get them. If there is snow or slush on the road, following the end of a storm or between storms, we will continue to clear it, pushing it to the edge of the road and possibly into the entry to your driveway, even if you have already finished cleaning your driveway. If you have any questions please call 413-268-8405. Sand is available for town residents in the bin in the parking area entrance to the Highway Department.

Preventing Chimney Fires

More and more people are burning with firewood in recent years due to the increased cost of heating fuels. With this increase come inherent dangers, unless proper care and maintenance are followed.

- Only burn seasoned or dried out wood – wood that is completely dry will sound hollow when hit against another piece of wood, it will be dark in color and may have cracks in the ends. It takes about 6 months for wood to be ready to burn.
- Start fires with clean newspaper or dry kindling – gasoline or kerosene should never be used to start a fire.
- Never burn cardboard boxes, wrapping paper or your Christmas tree.
- Burn large logs, rather than many smaller logs, when possible.
- Get regular chimney inspections and cleanings to remove the excess creosote from the chimney walls and ensure safe burning.

Chimney fires may sound like a freight train or a roaring airplane in your chimney, or may not even make a sound. The fires tend to burn at very high temperatures and can potentially cause damage to your chimney and easily catch flammable parts of your home on fire as well.

If a chimney fire happens at your residence, as with any other type of fire, the first step that should always be taken is to get everyone out of harm's way and call 911 for the fire department. After everyone is safe and assuming the situation permits without putting yourself in danger, you can first try to cut off the air supply leading to the chimney. To do this, close the damper on the chimney or any other pipes to attempt to smother the fire this way. Then close the glass doors or any other fire grate and leave the home. Once the fire is completely put out, it is best to monitor the wall temperature of any surrounding walls for the next few hours to ensure that no other part of the home catches on fire.

The danger with chimney fires, even after they have been put out, is that if it happened once, it will most likely happen again if no further measures are taken. For this reason, after one of these fires has taken place, it is important to call a chimney professional right away to determine the cause of the fire.

Smoke Detectors

The widespread use of smoke detectors in homes has resulted in significant reductions of injuries and deaths from house fires. You can cut the chance that you or someone that you love will die in a house fire simply by installing these inexpensive devices in your home. However, the only smoke detector that can help you survive is the one that is properly functioning. Like all electronic devices, they can fail. The only way to be sure that your smoke alarm will work when you need it is to test it periodically.



ENERGY COMMITTEE

In October 2013, the town's Energy Committee began working with solar coach volunteers Marcianna Caplis and John MacLachlan. We developed a Solarize Mass group proposal with the towns of Whately and Chesterfield. The proposal was successful, and Mass Clean Energy Center (Mass CEC) announced Solarize Williamsburg-Whately-Chesterfield as a participant in the spring 2014 round of Solarize Mass.

The town's municipal representative, Kim Boas, and co-solar coach, John MacLachlan, participated, along with their counterparts from the two other towns and Mass CEC personnel, in reviewing bids from potential installers. After a second round that included interviewing the top three candidates, the selection team chose RGS Energy as the installer for Solarize Williamsburg-Whately-Chesterfield.

At the close of the program, the count of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems in Williamsburg under the Solarize Mass program was: 46 solar PV systems & 298.35 Kw of generating capacity.

The final results for all three towns: 85 solar PV systems & 589.18 Kw of generating capacity.

We are pleased to report that 5 percent of Williamsburg's owner-occupied households participated in the Solarize Mass program, through Solarize Williamsburg-Whately-Chesterfield, and will be generating solar electricity.

<u>Williamsburg PV Systems</u>	<u>per year</u>	<u>after year 10</u>
Electricity generated per year, kWh	356,083	3,481,771
\$ Value of electricity	\$54,837	\$642,718
Average per household	\$1,192	\$13,972
SREC sales	\$81,901	\$681,342
Average per household	\$1,780	\$14,812
Carbon offset:		
Carbon dioxide emissions, tons	271	2,646
Equivalent to:		
Passenger vehicles, yearly	51.7	505
Equivalent miles driven per year	584,613	5,716,330
Pounds of coal	263,735	2,578,796

The PV systems Williamsburg residents installed will generate over 350,000 Kwh each year, saving residents \$54,847 a year. The systems will generate \$81,901 of SRECs next year and about \$681,342 by year 10. An SREC (solar renewable energy certificate) is a "green" attribute of electricity generated from renewable sources. Massachusetts requires utilities to purchase a certain amount of their electricity from renewable energy sources, and instead of installing the solar PV systems themselves, they opt to purchase the green attribute from private and publically owned systems in the form of SRECs. SRECs provide a separate revenue source for the PV system owner from the actual electricity generated.

The Energy Committee recommended and the Select Board approved the use of Green Community grant funds to hire a contractor to conduct a much needed energy audit of the Meekins Library.

Central Hampshire Veterans' Services

We are seeking veterans who are interested in joining the "Hilltown Veterans' Council". Currently, the main function of the Hill Town Veterans' Council is to help with the coordination of veteran holiday events. Any veteran who resides within the Central Hampshire Veterans' Services district is eligible to join. I'm encouraging all veterans from Burgoyne to Middlefield to step up and join the council so that we can expand our "veterans' community" support capabilities. If you are interested, please come see me during my regularly scheduled hours or call 413-587-1299.

As always, my door is open to all veterans. I am available on Mondays from 11:30 to 1:30 in the Haydenville Town Offices on the 2nd floor. Let me help you with your VA claim, Financial Assistance (M.G.L. Ch.115), Fuel Assistance Application, Health Benefits, Bonus Application, Honor Flight Application (applies to WWII veterans), and so much more. Here are the upcoming dates that I will be available at the town offices:

Monday, Dec 1, 11:30 – 1:30pm
 Monday, Dec. 8, 11:30 – 1:30pm
 Monday, Dec 15, 11:30 – 1:30pm
 Tuesday, Dec 16th, 6:00pm – 8:00pm
 Monday, Dec 22nd, 11:30 – 1:30pm
 Monday, Dec 29th, 11:30 – 1:30pm

If you are planning on applying for a benefit or service and you would like our assistance, it is helpful if you call our Northampton office at 413-587-1299. This way Steve Connor, Rebecca Twinning, or I can give you the information that you will need for your appointment.

-By Tom Geryk, Veterans' Service Officer

New Veterans' Volunteer Tax Relief Program

The Town has just established a new Veterans' Volunteer Tax Relief Program (sometimes called Veterans' Work-Off Program) – veterans can do work for the Town and earn a reduction in property tax, up to \$1000 per household per year. If the person is physically unable to work, someone else can do the work instead. This is open to all veterans; there are no income or age limits. Note that the amount earned is considered to be taxable income by the Federal Government for income tax purposes, and this may also affect eligibility for programs that look at income. The application form is available from the Selectmen's Administrative Assistant (268-8400) or online. (Please ignore the October deadline but apply soon.)



Keep Farming in the Hilltowns

Hilltown CDC has received a USDA grant to support agriculture with "Keep Farming in the Hilltowns" in a 7-town region that includes Williamsburg. Guidance to this community based planning process over the next year will be provided by local Land Use Planning Consultant Melissa Adams, who has worked with Massachusetts farmers at MDAR for more than ten years and helped implement a similar program recently in Berkshire County.

"Keep Farming in the Hilltowns" will engage the community to develop a plan of action with strategies to strengthen the regional food system. Volunteers will develop an inventory of farms in the region and survey residents, stores and institutions to determine the level of demand for local food and the kind of infrastructure that is needed to support local farms. If you are interested in learning more about the project, and how you can get involved, please contact Melissa Adams at melissadams4@comcast.net or 268-8269.

"Keep Farming in the Hilltowns" is based on a method of engaging the community to help save farming that was developed by Glynwood, located in the Hudson Valley. For more information about Glynwood's Keep Farming Program, see www.glynwood.org/programs/keep-farming. Federal funds for "Keep Farming in the Hilltowns" are from the Local Food Promotion Program of the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

News from the Senior Center

Come on Down to the Williamsburg Senior Center, Where it's All Happening!

If you are 60 +, you are eligible for our Senior Center programs and offerings. Not 60 yet? Many of our offerings are intergenerational and also open to adults of all ages. You may be surprised to see that we are not a bunch of old folks in rocking chairs – there is a lot going on here and in locations around town! Come and meet your neighbors, learn new things and take advantage of our services!

Some programs offered by the Williamsburg Senior Center are:

NUTRITION

- Congregate Luncheon 3x weekly
- Free Breakfast Program
- Monthly Bread & Soup Luncheon/To-go
- Smith Voc. Take-Home-Dinner Program (during school year) delivered or to-go
- Brown Bag Program (monthly grocery distribution)
- Senior Van trips for grocery shopping
- Pantry, open M-TH
- Cooking Groups
- Gardening

WELLNESS

- Osteo Exercise Class
- Intergenerational Yoga Class
- T'ai Chi Classes
- Easy Walking in Auditorium
- Silent Meditation Group

RECREATION

- Game Groups (puzzles, cards, bingo, scrabble)
- Cake & Crafts, Crafts & Snacks
- Entertainment: local performers, school groups, Cultural Council Funding recipients etc.

SERVICES

- Outreach (Home Visits, Case Management)
Help w/Entitlement Applications (*Fuel Assistance, Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, Utility Discounts, etc.*)

- Insurance Navigation Help: S.H.I.N.E
- Companion Program (visits/assistance to home bound seniors)
- Medical Ride (Free Service)
- Podiatry Clinic, every other month
- Blood Pressure Clinic
- Veterans' Services
- Monthly Newsletter
- Volunteer Opportunities
- AND Much More...

For information or to sign up for any of these programs, call 268-8407.

Check us out! Follow us on our blog at
www.williamsburgcoa.blogspot.com

"Like" us on
www.facebook.com/pages/Williamsburg-Council-on-Aging

The Council on Aging Advisory Board is looking for members. If you are interested in being a voice for elder needs, you may be able to help us out. All ages welcome. 2+ hours per month commitment. Call Marie Westburg at 268-8410.

We need more medical drivers! One of our most important services is Medical Rides for seniors. Would you like to become a driver and help get your neighbors to their appointments? Drivers earn \$15-30 per appointment. We are looking for dependable drivers, 21 and over, with their own car and up-to-date driver's license/insurance/registration to apply. All drivers are CORI checked. Please call 268-8407 to apply.

It is estimated that in this country an elder is abused by a family member every 4 minutes!

To Report Elder Abuse or get counseling help for physical abuse, financial abuse and/or neglect call:

The National Elder Abuse Hotline 1-800-322-0551

Locally, call the elder service agency for Hampshire County residents:

HIGHLAND VALLEY ELDER SERVICES
413-586-2000

Snow Removal Reminder

The Town Bylaws require that all sidewalks must be cleared after a storm. The tenant, occupant, owner, or person having care of a property abutting upon any highway or town way is responsible for clearing the sidewalk within 24 hours of the storm. Please be courteous to your neighbors who use the sidewalks within the town village and center.

American Flags

The Town is asking for donations to purchase replacement flags and upgraded brackets for along Rte. 9. Many people have commented on how wonderful it is to see the flags flying longer along Rte. 9 in the two villages during and between the holidays; however, the longer length of time does take a toll on the flags. Some flags are in desperate need of replacement because of this. It is our hope that, with the new brackets which will allow the flags to go around on the pole, there will be less wear and tear. The Town will also be looking at trying to extend the number of flags along Rte. 9 as money allows.

Please send donations to: Town of Williamsburg, Flag Donations, P.O. Box 447, Haydenville, MA 01039

Library News

Well, it's been a whirlwind three months since I started as your new library director and I can't believe how fast that time has gone by! Williamsburg is the warmest and most welcoming community I've ever had the pleasure of experiencing. This is a unique and special community!

Did you know that besides being the public library for Williamsburg and Haydenville, we also are the School Library for the Anne T. Dunphy School? We supply books and curriculum-related materials to the teachers at the school. We welcome 5 class visits a week at the library, Tuesdays and Thursdays before we open to the public.

Did you know that we now have two adult book groups? Our new historical fiction group, "Another Time", meets on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. Our other book group, "Burgy Bookshare," meets one Sunday evening a month at 7pm. Check with the library for exact dates. Copies of the books for both book groups will be available at the front desk of the Library.

Did you know we also offer a knitting and stitchery group called "The Yarn Spinners" which meets the second Sunday of every month at 3pm?

Did you know that we feature exhibits of local artists each month in our Hawks-Hayden Community Room? During October we featured artist Sue Goulet's original paintings and prints of Classic Hollywood movie stars called "You Must Remember This." Sue is originally from Williamsburg and is a valued volunteer here at the library.

We continue to offer several programs for children here at Meekins:

We host a pre-school story hour every Wednesday morning at 10:30. Parents and children (from baby – eight) can join Victoria Loud here at Meekins the first and third Monday of the month at 10am. This program is sponsored by the Hampshire Regional Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant.

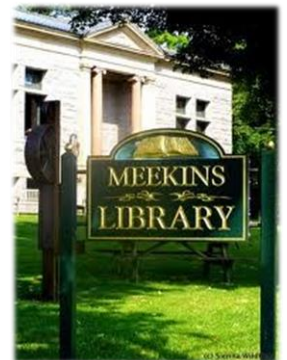
Join Lui Collins here on Thursdays for her popular music classes, Upside Up, for pre-schoolers. There are four classes each Thursday. Please contact Lui at 413-628-0197 for more information.

Please check out our website at <http://www.meekins-library.org> for up-to-date info on events at the libraries. By November you should see our brand new website! Very exciting!

There are so many people I would like to thank for their invaluable help. I can't thank them all but I can send out a collective "thank you" to all of you who put your time and energy into making these libraries such valuable community assets. Thanks also to FamilyFun magazine for their donation of hundreds of brand new childrens' books and audios.

The Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries held its book sale during the Columbus Day weekend. It was a great success! Thanks to everyone who came and many thanks to those volunteers who worked so hard to set it up!

On December 10, the Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries will be asking for donations through Valley Gives. When a donor comes to the Valley Gives website and makes a gift to his or her favorite nonprofits between 12:01 AM and 11:59 PM on December 10, that gift will be added up along with all the thousands of other gifts being made to nonprofits in western Massachusetts throughout the day. At the end of 24 hours, the nonprofits that have the most unique donors will be rewarded with special grants from a prize pool which consists of up to \$225,000 in awards.



Throughout the day, donors will be randomly chosen and their gift will be amplified with a "Golden Ticket," adding anywhere from \$500 to \$1,000 to support their favorite nonprofit. More than 140 nonprofits will receive this bonus. Please help the Friends by donating on December 10!



Also, the Florence Savings Bank is holding its Customers' Choice Community Grants, which allows customers of FSB to vote for their favorite local nonprofit to receive a share of \$75,000. Any qualifying nonprofit organization that receives more than 1% of the total vote will receive a proportional share of the funds. In order to qualify, the organization must be a 501(c)(3) or equivalent and agree to spend the donated funds on local needs. So please go to their website at <http://www.florencesavings.com/about-us/customer-choice-community-grants.html> and vote for the Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries!

Katie Krol, Library Director

Mill River Greenway

The Williamsburg Mill River Greenway Committee has been busy, moving steadily toward our long-term goal of establishing a multipurpose greenway between the villages of Haydenville and Williamsburg. Recently, we have been awarded a \$48,000 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Recreational Trails Program (RTP).

RTP grants fund on-the-ground trail building activities including trail construction, maintenance, and engineering. This is one of the first such grants awarded to the Town of Williamsburg. Towns can reapply to the program annually as projects move forward.

Current plans envision a trail that begins on South Main Street in Haydenville, crosses the Brassworks Mill Pond area, then runs along the Route 9 road bed into downtown Williamsburg. The project will take advantage of the MA Department of Transportation's scheduled rebuilding/maintenance of Route 9 in the next 8-10 years, which will allow the crown of the road to be moved away from the river and leave ample space for a dedicated trail separated by a landscaped curb from the main roadway.

Williamsburg's Greenway planning is also well-timed to take into account Northampton's spring 2015 project extending the MassCentral Rail Trail another 1000 feet from Leeds up toward the Williamsburg town line. The 2014 joint purchase by Williamsburg and Northampton of an easement leading from the rail bed to the foot of South Main Street in Haydenville will allow trail users to descend from the old rail bed onto the public roadway. In light of this, the Williamsburg Mill River Greenway Committee was asked by the Select Board to plan for increased pedestrian and bicycle traffic on South Main Street.



As a start to that planning, the Greenway Committee met last spring with residents of the South Main Street neighborhood, who alerted us to existing concerns about traffic speed, lack of visibility and signage, and surface water problems at the foot of South Main Street. The Greenway Committee's expectation and intent is that our efforts will help bring attention and resources to these issues and result in a safer and more pleasant South Main Street for everybody.

The Williamsburg Mill River Greenway Committee intends to use some of the Recreational Trails Program grant funds to begin to address those concerns, laying the groundwork for improvements. Some of the funds may also be directed toward initial engineering, erosion control, and grading improvements at the junction of the rail bed and the new easement.

The Mill River Greenway Committee has open seats! If you're excited about the possibility of connecting the villages of Haydenville and Williamsburg with a multipurpose greenway, join us and help make it happen!



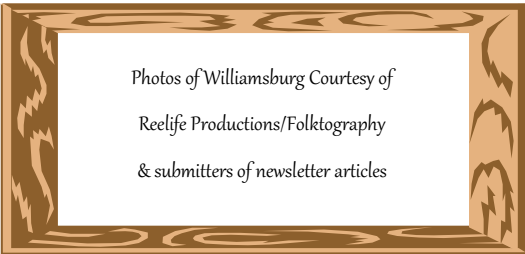
TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG
141 MAIN STREET
PO BOX 447
HAYDENVILLE, MA 01039

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

POSTAL CUSTOMER

WILLIAMSBURG CHILDREN'S FUND

The Williamsburg Children's Fund was established in 2009 to provide gifts to children who may otherwise not receive them. It has become a holiday tradition, and is a wonderful way to give locally. Sabrina Willard and the Williamsburg Fire Dept. Auxiliary are again asking for your support in providing donations in the form of new unwrapped gifts, financial contributions, and/or your time. Donation cans will be placed around town in local businesses, checks should be made payable to the Williamsburg Fire Dept. Auxiliary. You may also mail donations to the Williamsburg Children's Fund, c/o Sabrina Willard, P.O. Box 1054, Williamsburg, MA 01096. For more details on the program, where to bring your donations, or other ways you may help, please call (413) 340-1280.



*Photos of Williamsburg Courtesy of
Reelife Productions/Folktography
& submitters of newsletter articles*