

# Town of Williamsburg Fall 2016

A periodic newsletter of the Town of Williamsburg



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## Facilities Master Plan Committee

The town's Facilities Master Plan Committee is distributing an important survey to all residents. The information gained from the survey will help to inform decisions made by this committee regarding the siting of town facilities and future master planning for the town, overall.

Survey questions will cover a wide range of topics including how residents feel about

- Potential uses of town resources;
- Needs for economic development;
- Walkability and recreation needs;
- The future of town buildings;
- Taxes; and
- Municipal and Senior Services

Please take a moment to share your views and help shape how the town chooses to develop, as well as preserve its unique character. **We are hoping to get as many residents to complete this survey as possible. Deadline is November 15<sup>th</sup>.**

You may find this survey at locations around town or it can also be done online. The link can be found on the Williamsburg website, [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org), under Town News. Your individual survey responses will be kept confidential and not shared with anyone in town.

The survey should take about 10 – 12 minutes to complete and survey takers who add contact info will be entered into a raffle for items donated by local businesses. Winners will receive notification of their prizes in November.

If you would prefer a paper copy, please call the Town Administrator, Charlene, at 413-268-8418 or email her at [townadmin@burgy.org](mailto:townadmin@burgy.org)

Thank you for your time,

Facilities Master Plan Committee Members  
Jim Ayres, Bob Barker, Kim Boas, Mitch Cichy, Carol Conz, Nick Dines, Fred Goodhue, Charlene Nardi, and Eric Weber



## FREE Shredding Day in Williamsburg

Saturday, November 5, 2016,  
9 to Noon

Williamsburg Highway Garage  
24 R Main Street

All residents of Williamsburg and surrounding communities are welcome to bring documents that they would like to shred (up to three boxes per car). Protect your identity – shred confidential documents! Note: 3 Ring binders, large binder clips, vinyl, and plastics are not acceptable.

For questions call Charlene at 413-268-8418. This free public service is provided by Valley Green Shredding out of Westfield, Mass and hosted by the Town of Williamsburg!



"Your Neighbor, Your Partner in Document Security"

## Veterans' Day Ceremony Nov. 11 at 11 am

Veterans' Day Ceremony will be held on  
Friday, November 11, 2016 at 11:00 am  
at the

Williamsburg Center Veterans' Memorial.  
If it is raining the ceremony will move into  
the Anne T. Dunphy School.

Visit [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org)  
for more information  
about:

**Town Committees,  
Boards, Departments  
and much more!**

## Highway Department Christmas & Holiday Celebration

The Board of Selectmen and Highway Department invite all residents to attend the annual holiday celebration at the Williamsburg Highway garage on Friday, December 23, 2016, beginning at noon for a potluck lunch. This annual event is funded by contributions from employees, town officials, 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.



## Snow Clearing Around Fire Hydrants

Please consider adopting the fire hydrant in front of your house or along your street. By clearing the fire hydrants, the fire department has easy access to a water supply during an emergency. This action will help you protect your and your neighbors' property.

## 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 after the storm. Please be courteous to your neighbors who use the sidewalks in the village centers.

## Winter Parking Ban

No overnight parking is allowed on any street between December 1 and April 1. 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.

## Police Department

We live in a beautiful, fairly peaceful, and quiet town. This is in large part due to the work of the police department in addressing issues and crime in a professional and efficient way so many of us aren't aware and don't see what is being handled on a weekly and daily basis. And that is as it should be. However, like most communities, the possession and distribution of drugs are a constant problem. Heroin continues to be the driving force in the crime encountered by our police department. For example, in a recent arrest 40 bags of heroin and 30 bags of a counterfeit substance were confiscated. Sadly this is not an uncommon occurrence. Drug addiction often leads to breaking and entering, larceny and fraud related offences to pay for the addiction and the department deals with these issues continuously and in the same professional manner. Williamsburg is fortunate to have such a dedicated and effective Chief and team of officers.

~ Town Administrator

### Police Department News:

The department continues to respond to resident complaints about speed and unsafe driving by using a combination of the radar trailer and targeted enforcement. If you would like the trailer on your street or have concerns about speed, please contact the station at 268-7237.

Residents are reminded to lock their homes when away, even if you are gone just for the day. If you are going on vacation, you may notify and request security checks by the police department. The form is on the website at [www.burg.org](http://www.burg.org) under police department and downloadable forms. Also, **residents are asked to call 911, not the station phone number**, to report any suspicious activity in and around your home or the community.

In addition to enforcement tasks, the department strives to train on issues valuable to the community and provide outreach and educational opportunities.

The department participated in a year-long Pedestrian Safety Grant sponsored by the Executive Office of Public Safety's Highway Safety Division. Officers were tasked with enforcement and education of motorists in areas with high pedestrian traffic such as crosswalks. Additional grant funds were used to purchase safety items such as pedestrian safety signs for crosswalk areas. Pedestrian signs require MassDOT approval for placement and may not be used in the winter. Residents will see the new signs come spring. The department participated in Child Passenger Safety Seat training and is available by appointment to assist parents in getting their safety seat correctly installed.

Annually, the department participates and hosts the Drug Take Back Day in which residents can drop off over-the-counter and prescription medications with no questions asked. This is a great opportunity to remove unwanted and unneeded drugs from your home in a safe manner. There is also a year-round Dropbox at the Police Station which can be accessed when the station is open.

Community relations are extremely important to the department and they strengthen the community. The department is looking to start a "Coffee with a Cop" program. The idea is to establish an opportunity for residents to sit informally with officers in order to have a relaxed and constructive conversation about law enforcement in the community. More details to come on this program when the details are worked out.

## Senior & Veterans' Tax Relief Programs

The Town's ongoing Senior and Veterans' Volunteer Tax Relief Programs (also called Senior and Veterans' Work-Off Programs) are still accepting applications. (Deadline was October 1 but there is room, especially in the Veterans' program.) People can do work for the Town and earn a reduction in property tax, up to \$1000 per household per year.

For the **Senior** program the person must be at least 60 years old but **there is no longer an income limit**; any senior is eligible but some preference is given to people whose household income is \$30,143 or less. The **Veterans** program is open to **all veterans with no income or age limits**.

For **both programs**, an approved substitute may do the work for someone physically unable to work. Note that the amount earned is considered taxable income by the Federal Government, and this may affect eligibility for income-based programs. Applications are available from the Selectmen's Administrative Assistant (268-8400) or online ([www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org)).

## Board of Health

The Transfer Station is now accepting Styrofoam for recycling. The material must be the solid white bulky type (used in packing). No peanuts and no food containers, coffee cups etc. The material is being stored in the container with the electronics until it is brought to a special recycling facility. Please see the attendants for any questions.

### Upgrade to recycling area:

The board has ordered a new bottle/plastics recycling container as the old one (owned by the HRMC) is being taken out of circulation due to its poor condition. To complete this project, the stairs and platform are also being upgraded to make it safer and more convenient for residents (fewer steps). We expect this work to be completed before December.

## Closed for the Holidays

Highway and Town Office Departments will be closed on the following days. Please note that Town Office Departments are always closed on Fridays.

- Wednesday, November 23 (Town Office only)
- Thursday, November 24
- Friday, November 25
- Monday, December 26
- Monday, January 2

## Town Clerk

The Town of Williamsburg is pleased to announce that Town Clerk Brenda Lessard received a Gold Medal in the Election Modernization Coalition's Early Voting Challenge. Ms. Lessard received this award for achieving best practices and providing substantial early voting opportunities including evenings and weekend hours. This is the first year of this new law, and establishing procedures and implementing them to be in compliance in such a short time would be an accomplishment. Our Town Clerk exceeded those expectations. Williamsburg was among 30 Massachusetts Communities to receive the gold award and over 100 communities being awarded the silver. Kudos to Brenda, and a big thank you for all her work on behalf of the Town of Williamsburg and its voters!



### Town Clerk News:

**Federal and State election** is Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Williamsburg Town Office in the village of Haydenville. If you didn't 'early vote', come and exercise your right! **Vote!**

**Street Listing forms** will be mailed to all households at the end of the calendar year. Please review, make changes and return to the Town Clerk's Office. While you can't change your voting status or your party on the form, not returning it could adversely affect your voting status. Any questions, call 268-8402! You may return your form by mail or by dropping it in the Town Clerk's Office. It's easy and important.

**Dogs:** Don't forget if you have a dog they must be registered if they are 6 months or older. Annual registration begins in February.

## Fire Department News



### Smoke and CO Alarms

The Williamsburg Fire Department would like to remind everyone that Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors have a 10 year life span. If your detectors are 10 years old or older, or if you do not know how old they are, they should be replaced. It is recommended that all detectors be tested at least monthly and the batteries replaced twice a year.

### Junior Firefighters Wanted

We are currently looking to fill the ranks of our Junior Firefighter Members. If you or someone you know is between the ages of 15 & 18 years old, lives in Williamsburg and has an interest in the fire department, please give us a call at 413-268-7233. Trainings are held Tuesday evenings at one of our two stations. If you have any questions please call or stop by and speak to us.

### Burning Season

Burning Season starts January 15 and will run through May 1. Burning hours are from 10am to 4pm. A permit is required from the Fire Department prior to any burning. Permits can be obtained the day you want to burn at [www.hcburnpermits.com](http://www.hcburnpermits.com) by filling out the form or calling (413) 340-1114. Burn permits are only issued when approved air quality is acceptable. Air quality can be checked by going to the [Mass DEP webpage](http://www.mass.gov).



### Rapid Entry Key System

The Williamsburg Fire Department would like to remind everyone of the following bylaw regarding entry key systems for any structure or property which is protected with a fire alarm system with automatic notification. If you have a fire alarm system with automatic notification and do not have a fire department key box, please contact the Fire Department to make arrangements for one. Also there are a limited number of key boxes available to seniors and or disabled residents for little or no cost.

#### Fire Department Safety Regulations - Rapid Entry Key System:

##### I.) Definitions

- a. Fire Chief: Williamsburg Fire Chief or his designee
- b. Fire Department: Williamsburg Fire Department
- c. Fire Alarm System: Fire, heat or smoke detection system with automatic notification of the Williamsburg Fire Department or notification to the Williamsburg Fire Department through a third party notification service.
- d. Rapid Entry Key System: Rapid entry key system, which will include an exterior, secure key box and may include an interior secure key safe.

##### II.) Key System Requirements

- a. The owner of any structure or property which is protected with a fire alarm system with automatic notification of the Williamsburg Fire Department shall install a rapid entry key system for fire department use. The key box shall contain keys for the main entry, all areas covered by the fire detection system, hazardous areas, mechanical areas and any other areas required by the Fire Chief.
- b. The rapid entry key system shall be of a type approved by the Fire Chief. Installation shall be in a location approved by the Fire Chief.

A rapid entry key system shall be in place at the time of installation of any fire alarm system with automatic notification of the fire department, at the time any existing system is updated with automatic notification of the fire department or within one year of the adoption of this bylaw by the Town Meeting.



## Outdoor Fire Pits, Outdoor Fireplaces and Chimineas

With the introduction of widely available inexpensive outdoor fireplaces, illegal outside fires have become a statewide problem. State laws and regulations allow a reasonable outside fire without a permit only if the fire is used primarily for cooking. The person in control of the fire must be over eighteen years old and the fire is required to be set upon sandy or rocky soil, free from vegetation, enclosed within rocks, metal or noncombustible material and be located more than 75 feet from a building. Clean fire wood must also be used; no construction or treated material will be permitted.

Frequently outdoor fireplaces are used too close to a building and or the primary use of the fire is for viewing purposes. Usually these fires are kept burning for several hours and in addition to the fire hazard, they can create a nuisance smoke condition for neighbors.



When we receive a complaint about an outside fire, the fire department will investigate. If an outside fire is found to be too close to a building or it is creating a nuisance smoke condition the fire will be extinguished.

## Town Vacancies:

Town Government operates efficiently and effectively due to the dedication and commitment of its elected and appointed officials. Therefore, it is important to keep positions filled as they become available. Please consider donating your time and skills to one of the positions below. Contact the Town Administrator at 268-8418 or [townadmin@burgy.org](mailto:townadmin@burgy.org) to find out the process for volunteering!

- Agricultural Commission, Alternate
- Open Space Commission
- Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Alternate
- Pioneer Valley Region Joint Transportation Committee, Alternate
- Pioneer Valley Transportation Authority Representative
- Planning Board
- Recreation Commission – (elected)
- Shade Tree Committee
- Woodland Trails

## Mill River Greenway

### Getting Beyond the Planning Stage: Real Progress on the Mill River Greenway!

In 2015, the Mill River Greenway committee was awarded a \$48,000 grant from the MA DCR's Recreational Trails Program. About half the grant has been spent on engineering studies, survey work, and drainage improvements along the Mass Central Rail Trail extending up from Leeds. This fall, we are contributing the remainder of the grant, \$26,200, to support the Williamsburg Highway Department's work to improve pedestrian safety in Haydenville's South Main Street neighborhood, which will serve as the connector from the Mass Central Rail Trail to the future Williamsburg Mill River Greenway. Our committee's mission is to create a non-motorized path connecting Haydenville to Williamsburg following the course of the Mill River.

The work has already begun, with sidewalk repairs and extension at the South Main—Bridge Street intersection, and extending up toward Walpole Road. The sidewalk will also be repaired going east toward Fort Hill Road, replacing the existing deteriorated asphalt with curbed concrete. This is in direct response to feedback from the community forum our committee hosted in April.

The Highway Department will also be making improvements to two South Main Street intersections. Bridge Street will get a curbed traffic island and improved signage and crosswalks. Fort Hill Road will have the weedy island eliminated and moderate changes made to grade and alignment. At Fort Hill Road, these are interim steps to improve safety while we continue to seek solutions (and funding) to significant existing problems with visibility, drainage, lack of sidewalk, and retaining wall deterioration.

Finally, the Town will be reducing erosion and safety concerns at the "dismount" from the Mass Central Rail Trail to South Main Street (fondly referred to as the "goat path"). The Highway Department will be modifying the grade of the sloped trail, and installing drainage to direct runoff away from the Mill River. Although we do not yet have the funds for a permanent solution (such as the boardwalk and asphalt options detailed at the forum), we are very pleased to be able to improve upon the very degraded current state of the trail, making it safer and more ecologically sound.

As always, our committee welcomes your questions and input, which can be directed to MRGC Chair, Gaby Immerman via email at [gimmerma@smith.edu](mailto:gimmerma@smith.edu).

## Poop Scoop Reminder

When walking your pet on any public property you must pick up after it. This includes the sidewalk areas, the school yard, town building grounds, and the water shed property. Please take care of town property!



## Collector's Corner

### Greetings from the Collector's Office!

How quickly time passes...we are almost at the end of another calendar year and almost halfway through another fiscal year. Yikes! The Assessors and Financial Team have been hard at work doing all the necessary things to set the tax rate. Bills will go in the mail by January 1<sup>st</sup>, with payments due February 1<sup>st</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. You are welcome to pay both quarters by February 1<sup>st</sup> if you choose to. You can also make partial payments on the quarterly installments in any amount, any time. Just understand that any balance due after the due date of the installment will accrue interest.

If you have changed your mailing address, please let the Collector/Assessors know for real estate bills and water/sewer bills. Since the Registry of Motor Vehicles generates the motor vehicle excise tax bills, you must notify the Registry of your address changes. Your insurance company may also be able to help you with this but the town does not have access to the Registry records to change any information.

Big changes in water and sewer billing! We have approximately 640 user accounts. At this time, we have only a dozen accounts that have not yet been changed over to the new electronic read meters, several of which are scheduled to be changed in the next week or two. If you are one of the few remaining who do not have the new meters, PLEASE contact Bill Turner at (413) 268-8405 to get this scheduled. ALL water/sewer users are required to change to the new meters. Most of those who have only sewer usage have found their bills to be less than the flat rate charge has been. And several water users have already discovered that the new meters help to find water leaks or an appliance malfunction and thus saving you money.

I am also in the process of updating and changing the software used to bill water and sewer usage. You will notice the bills will look a little different but will still have past usage information included for your reference. The software will be the same as is used for the real estate, personal

property and motor vehicle excise billings. The updating will allow my information to interface better with other town departments and will save approximately 75% of the current software support amount now being paid for utility billing. THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN THE RATE BEING CHARGED FOR WATER OR SEWER USAGE with the updated billing unless you are one of the accounts that has not changed to the new meters. Also, I will be doing a "double billing file" for this fall reading, one with the old software and one with the new so that I can be sure the information has transferred properly.

My office hours are listed on the bills and remain Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Payments can be made online at [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org) – Avoid the lines at my window, and the charge is only \$0.25 (cheaper than a stamp). You may also mail it to P O Box 488, Haydenville or at the town offices. Due to training/meetings and other postal and banking errands, personal and vacation time, I may not be in the office. If this occurs, there is a payment box on the wall outside my office where you can leave checks, or payments can be left with the Town Clerk or Town Administrator.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are making payments through your own bank online, your payment is sent to a third party who actually generates a paper check which is then mailed to me. The payment MUST be received in my office by the due date or interest/charges will accrue. I have not found the postal service to be all that reliable with timely receipt of these payments now that the mail has to be sent to Hartford for processing before being sent back to Williamsburg for delivery.

If you have questions at any time, please do not hesitate to call my office at (413) 268-8401. I'm here to work with you to make it as easy as possible to make your payments.

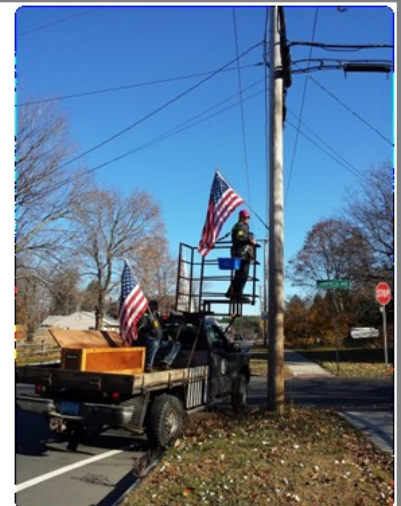
**Happy Holidays and wishes for a safe, warm winter to all!**

## American Flags

The Town continues to request donations for the flags that adorn Route 9 during the holidays. We have about 140 flags and we are working towards having enough to connect the two villages.

We continue to purchase better replacement flags, upgraded brackets and longer poles so that the units last and the flags can hang longer. Thank you to those who have already donated to the flag fund! If you would like to donate, please send donations to:

**Town of Williamsburg, Flag Donations  
P.O. Box 447  
Haydenville, MA 01039**



## Anne T. Dunphy School News

Our 2016-2017 school year is off and running at the Anne T. Dunphy School. It has been a busy fall with many exciting activities. Our year started with a "bang" when the Anne T. Dunphy School's bus won the first **School Bus Demolition Derby** at the Three County Fair! Ms. Dias, our art teacher, and a group of sixth graders did an incredible job decorating a bus provided by the fair. On the day of the derby, James Bacon drove our bus to victory! Our bus won the award for the best decorated school bus, as well as being proclaimed the winner of the entire demolition derby! A monetary award accompanied the two trophies we received.

We were also graced with two additional awards at the start of this school year! We were thrilled to receive news that **John Heffernan**, our technology teacher, and **Karen Schweitzer**, a classroom teacher, were recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). This is a national award, and it is only presented to two elementary teachers in the entire state! John and Karen traveled to Washington DC this fall to receive their awards. We are so proud of their accomplishments, and so grateful that the children in our school community are able to experience the contributions these two educators bring to our school.

**Save the date! March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>** will be our next school musical! The performances for the past two years have been a hit ~ selling out two performances each year! This year we'll be taking on the challenge of performing Disney's **Beauty and the Beast!** Auditions will happen in mid-November. We hope you'll plan to join us at one of our shows!

This fall, our staff has been focusing on implementation of the **new science standards**, spending professional development time working with teachers from across the district to develop authentic and meaningful hands-on science units.

Our fall has been full of other exciting and educational events for our students, such as **field trips** to the Eric Carle Museum of Picturebook Art, the Beneski Museum of Natural History, the Smith College Art Museum, the Chester Stone Arch Bridges, and a fall apple-picking experience at a local orchard. These field trips are often made possible by parent volunteers, or through funds provided by the Williamsburg Trust.

We know that developing successful students requires more than what happens inside the classroom doors! To further support our students, we were excited to initiate a school breakfast program at Anne T. Dunphy this fall. Now, students will have the option of eating a healthy breakfast at school to start their day off right! Many of our families also took advantage of the mobile dentist program hosted by the school, which provided preventative dental care to many students right at school. Knowing that the health of the adults in our school is important, too, the school hosted a flu clinic for school staff and all other town employees.

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, as well as the support from many other town departments! We are looking forward to another exciting year!



~Stacey Jenkins  
Williamsburg Schools, Principal



## Hampshire Regional High School

### New Staff

We have a number of new staff members at Hampshire. It is exciting to welcome them to our community. John Plourd, an HRHS graduate and Wellness Program Leader, accepted the position as Director of Student Activities. He will be in charge of the HRHS Athletic Program as well as coordinate extracurricular programs for students and the advisory program. Kari Manning replaces Ann Trytko who retired in June as a PE teacher. Steve Croft also joins the Wellness department.

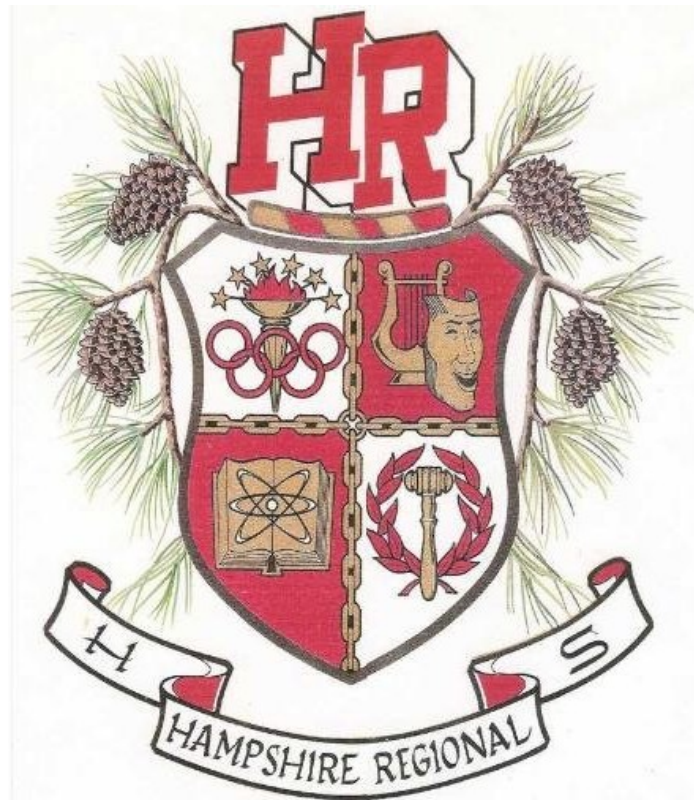
Stacy Benham is taking over for Dale Nicodemi in the math department upon her retirement in November. Chris Nadeau is a new middle school special education teacher. Erin Mohan-Moore also joins the high school special education staff. Nayra Alonso Sanchez replaces Ginger Elliott who retired at the end of the school year. Sonia Jimenez and Haley Richard are new Spanish teachers at HRHS. We welcome chemistry teacher Keith Wright, Sarah Wollschlager to high school guidance, and Danielle Martineau as a new School Adjustment Counselor, who will be here three days a week. Ellen Doyle will be the new English Language Learner teacher, Stephanie Faas will be at Hampshire three days a week as a nurse, and Dawn Young will be a new paraprofessional. Finally, in the maintenance department Mike Jurkowski is the new head custodian and Bill Liptak is the new night custodian.

### School Resource Officer

Hampshire Regional towns approved the addition of a School Resource Officer (SRO) for 8 hours per week. The SRO's goals are to promote collaboration, build positive relationships with students and staff and proactively increase safety within our school community. Although we have always kept student safety as our top priority, this partnership will support this initiative and continue to keep our community secure.

**Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching** were awarded to John Heffernan and Karen Schweitzer at Anne T. Dunphy in Williamsburg and Keith Wright at HRHS. The PAEMST program, administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, recognizes outstanding teachers for their contributions to the teaching and learning of mathematics and science. Each awardee has received a citation signed by President Obama and a \$10,000 award from NSF. Awardees traveled to Washington, DC, for an awards ceremony.

**HRHS seniors Lindsay Abel (Southampton) and Anthony Nardi (Williamsburg)** assisted COA members at the Northern Hilltown Consortium Intergenerational Community Fair held at New Hingham School on October 22, 2016.





## Highway Happenings

The Highway Department started the warm weather season working on roads. Drainage work was done on Briar Hill Road. Hyde Hill and Lawton Hill Roads were chip sealed, and Ashfield Road was microsurfaced. On South Main Street, the department completed sidewalk work and continues to work on the water line. High Street and Bridge Street are getting attention as well. The crew has been working in coordination with a contractor, grinding asphalt, rolling and preparing both roads for paving. In addition to the new surfacing, Bridge Street will be widened by five feet and a new sidewalk added. The Town is working with the Dunkin' Donuts owner to achieve those Bridge Street upgrades. The department will also be working with the Mill River Greenway Committee to achieve improvements on the dismount from the Leeds bike trail to South Main Street.

In addition to the road projects, the department continues to do water and sewer work, attends to the maintenance and repair of the town trucks and conducts maintenance tasks on the fire trucks. Crews also continue to support town department requests for assistance and participate in town initiatives such as shredding day. The department also contracted out the repainting of the Route 9 parking spaces and pedestrian cross walks with cross hatching to stand out better.

Winter season is coming and the prediction is more snow and colder temperatures than last year. The crew will be making sure all vehicles and plows are ready for the first flake. Residents are asked to adhere to the parking ban so that crew members can efficiently and safely plow and sand the roads. You may also want to protect your mailbox if it is within 3 feet of the side of the road. Plows move to the very edge of the road and heavy snow can do extensive damage. Below are some other winter tips.

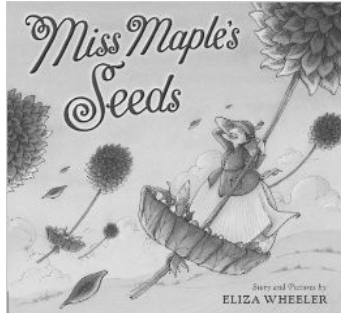
- Do NOT let children play in or near the street during or after a snow storm. Plowing occurs to the very edge of the road. And while large snow piles are fun for children to play on, large vehicles, poor visibility, and poor road conditions make that a dangerous combination.
- Pile snow to the right of the driveway (as you face the street) to reduce the potential of having it redeposited at the driveway opening when the plow passes.
- When clearing driveways, snow should be kept on the owner's property. Snow should not be deposited onto the street or sidewalk, or across the street onto someone else's property.
- To avoid having to do the job twice, shovel your driveway or sidewalk after the storm has passed and the street has been cleared.
- Prevent street flooding by clearing catch basins near your home to allow rain or melting snow to enter the drainage system.
- Consult a physician before shoveling snow.
- To protect the safety of you and your neighbors, shovel and clear fire hydrants of snow in your neighborhood.
- It is strongly advised if you live on a hilly road to have snow or studded snow tires on your vehicle. While the crew does its best to keep roads clear of snow and ice, we don't have enough members to work around the clock. Therefore, you can't count on every moment of every day that the roads will be clear and dry.

**If you have questions or concerns about the roads, please call the Highway Department at 268-8405.**



## Meekins Library

We would like you to join us in welcoming Wendy Peppercorn as our new Kmit Children's Programming Librarian. Wendy will be replacing Sue Cornell, who moved to a full-time job in Northampton. Wendy has twenty years' experience as a children's programming librarian and she lives right here in Williamsburg! Please come in and say "hi!" She will keep you posted as to the wonderful activities she is planning!



Come see our autumn Story Walk™ along the scenic river fence featuring a page-by-page display from "Miss Maple's Seeds," a gorgeous picture book which introduces the kind, nature-loving Miss Maple, who celebrates the miracle in each seed. Miss Maple gathers lost seeds that haven't yet found a place to sprout. She takes them on field trips to explore places to grow. In her cozy maple tree house, she nurtures them; keeping them safe and warm until it's time for them to find roots of their own, and grow into the magnificent plants they're destined to become. Eliza Wheeler's luminous paintings feature gorgeous landscapes, lush foliage and charming details. Her tender story celebrates the potential found in each seed—since even the grandest tree and most brilliant flower had to grow from the smallest of seeds.

We are proud to announce that Meekins Library and storyteller Tim Van Egmond have received a MASSHUMANITIES grant! FAMILY ADVENTURES IN READING (FAIR) brings children 6-10 and their caregivers together to enjoy outstanding and thought-provoking picture books. Books that families will be able to take home to keep are scholar-chosen for literary and artistic qualities as well as for their engagement with humanities themes. The grant's theme is "Community" which draws on a variety of cultural traditions found in contemporary American and global communities. The six weekly Saturday sessions will start October 15 and end on November 19.

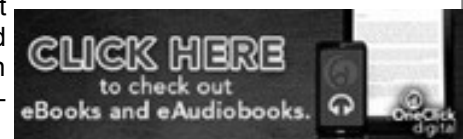


Our own Rochelle Wildfong has recently published her first book of poetry, titled "Just Ask." Naturally, we have the book in our collection – come in and take it out! She also holds a poetry group which meets here the first Thursday of each month.

Speaking of groups that meet here each month, check out our friendly knitting circle, Yarn Spinners, which meets the second Sunday of each month. Local author Ellen Wittlinger gave a great book talk about her new young adult book, "Local Girl Swept Away," on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

I don't know if you have seen our new professional hanging system that a very generous donor gave to the Neil Hammer Gallery, but what a difference it has made to the exhibits and to the ease of hanging for the artists! Speaking of artists, our upcoming schedule includes Patricia Belanger, Miriam Kaye, Graves Farm photos, Barbara & Tom Rudzik, Brendon Connors, Kim Wachtel, Gloria Black, and more!

Come in and check out our new read-a-longs from Recorded Books. Support students' literacy skills through read-alongs which are set containing a book and an audio book. These tools help students expand their reading comprehension and listening skills. Check out our E-Resources that provide you with downloadable e-books and e-audios for free on our website! <http://www.meekins-library.org>



### **From the Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries**

Crisp fall days and chilly winter nights to come mean it's time to stock up on books for the season ahead! Luckily the Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries annual "Biggest Book Sale in the Hilltowns" happens every Columbus Day weekend. This year's event brought hundreds of people to our town center to support the library and get some great bargains as well. The Friends have had a busy spring and summer. Our Farm and Garden Tour in July was a great success and we also participated in Mayfaire at the Meekins and supported the Summer Reading Program for children and adults. The Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries continues to support the mission of our local library by organizing programming, financing the museum pass program, funding improvements to the library garden and finding many other ways to make the Meekins a welcoming space for everyone.

In the fall and winter we are planning many events to bring the community, families and people of all ages into the library. There will be some great movie nights coming up, including a showing of Finding Dory. As the weather cools down remember to check out those museum passes at the circulation desk. We also invite you to look at the Meekins' website and the Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries Facebook page to get involved and find out about upcoming events. All of our meetings — on the second Monday of the month at 7pm at the Meekins — are open to the entire community. Please consider joining us in supporting and enriching our terrific local library.

-- Becky Houlihan, President of the Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries

**From the Board of Library Trustees--**

**Progress on Repairs to Meekins Library Historic Entry**

Last April two large facing stones on the right sidewall of the historic Meekins Library entrance came loose and fell off, fortunately at a time when no one was on the steps. The entrance was immediately closed to protect patrons and shield the sidewalls from further damage. At the same time, the trustees and town building supervisor began talking with architects and masonry contractors about how to repair the sidewalls as quickly as possible.

At this year's annual town meeting, the trustees requested and received \$40,000 from the town to complete the repair project. Since Meekins Library has been designated a historic structure by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), the repairs must be done in a way that reflects the historic nature of the building. This adds to the cost of the project, but happily MHC also responded to our request for emergency funding with a \$15,000 matching grant. As a result, the final cost to the town will be reduced by that amount.

Once funding was approved, the town hired Austin Design, an architectural firm with expertise in historic design, to oversee the project and put the job out to bid. Bidding ended September 23rd, with 8 masonry contractors submitting bids. Those bids were evaluated by the architects, town building supervisor, and trustees, with an award to Champlain Masonry, Inc. The project will begin this fall and be completed in Spring, so patrons can once again enjoy using the library's beautiful historic entrance.

— Pat Billingsley, Chair, Board of Trustees of the Williamsburg Libraries

**Williamsburg Senior Center**

**Did You Know?**

**At the Williamsburg Senior Center**

- We provide free medical rides for appointments
- We deliver homemade meals and hold luncheons 4x weekly
- We coordinate carpools for non-driving seniors
- We match seniors with peers for errands/exercise/ social connection
- Offer 4 different Fitness Classes (days and evenings) for adults and seniors
- We sponsor outings to local destinations
- We hold free cultural entertainment events
- We have regular guest speakers and educational workshops
- We utilize volunteers for many needs and you can get a tax reduction for your volunteer hours through the Senior and Veterans' Volunteer Tax Relief Programs

**Senior Center Fundraiser**

Stop by on **Election day, November 8th** for a selection of baked goods, gifts and raffle items including gift baskets! Free coffee donated by Elbow Room Coffee!

**Beginner Computer Classes**

Tuesday Evenings @ 6 PM  
Call to register, as class sizes are small. 268-8407

**Fitness Classes**

**Healthy Bones & Balance**, Mondays 10am & Thurs 4pm  
**Yoga for You-Adult Yoga**, Tuesdays 6pm  
**T'ai Chi Classes**, Thursdays 9:30am  
**Gentle Chair Yoga**, Thursdays, 10:45am  
Call to join! 268-8407

**Veterans' Service Officer**, Mondays 2-4pm

**SHINE Representative**, Tuesdays, 11am - 2pm

**Free Flu Shot Clinic**

with Hope Nurse, Robin LaFerriere  
Williamsburg Senior Center Café  
November 10th, 11:30 - 1:00

**Senior Center Seeks Volunteer Drivers**

Carpoolers to drive folks to Senior Center for lunch and events, and help with the Trip Program. Call 268-8407 to find out more!

**Need a Companion?**

Our Companion Program is now helping many of your neighbors in various ways. If you'd like to have a companion to visit, help you do errands, go shopping, or more—call the Senior Center at 268-8407.



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## Green Communities Update



The Town Offices and the Meekins Library both have new energy efficient equipment thanks to the \$142,975 in Green Communities funds received from the state Division of Energy Resources in 2013.

A new hot water boiler was installed in the Town Offices to replace a steam boiler that was found to have failed during annual maintenance in July. With a tight time line to get a new system installed and operating before cooler weather, the Town used a fast track implementation approach to get the equipment installed and was able to begin heating the building with the new system on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The project included two high efficiency propane boilers, room temperature controls and a hot water pump which incorporates a variable speed drive to control water flow based upon need. The project cost \$123,000 and will have an annual operating savings of \$9,000.

The existing fluorescent lighting in the Meekins Library was replaced throughout with high efficiency LED lamps. The lighting retrofit project was implemented due to the Library experiencing a high rate of lamp ballast failures and declining light levels in a number of areas. In order to address these issues a total re-lamping of all fixtures with new fluorescent lamps, as well as addressing the ballast failures was needed. LED replacement lamp technology offers a resolution to both issues. LEDs have developed rapidly over the past two years and now the old fluorescent lamps are simply removed and the new LED lamps are installed, without the need to disconnect existing ballasts or wire new starters for the LED lamps. LEDs have a 20 year life which will reduce maintenance costs. The project cost \$12,948 and has an annual savings of \$536. The project has enabled the Library to reestablish the necessary lighting levels.

With the completion of these projects, the Town has expended its initial Green Community grant and is eligible to apply for additional grant funds through the competitive grant process.