

# Town of Williamsburg Spring 2017

A periodic newsletter of the Town of Williamsburg



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## Special and Annual Town Meeting

Monday, June 5 at 6:45 pm

Anne T. Dunphy School, 1 Petticoat Hill Rd, Williamsburg

Voters will be asked to consider a special town meeting article to allow a firefighter to continue beyond the age of 65 and 29 annual town meeting articles; to pay prior fiscal year bills, Budget for Fiscal Year 2018 to support the government operations, to replace a police vehicle, to purchase and install a Fire Department turnout gear washer, to conduct a comprehensive study of topography, parcel data, right of way, and wetland boundaries for the Mill River Greenway and other town projects, to purchase a new compactor for the transfer station, to support setup of new payroll software, to remove and maintain town shade trees, to purchase tasers for the Police, to fund repairs on the John Deere backhoe, to change the Treasurer position from elected to appointed, to amend a prior article for the Meekins insulation project, to purchase land for conservation purposes, to create a general bylaw pertaining to

the renewal of licenses and permits, three zoning bylaw articles, relating to business drive-throughs, signs, and a temporary moratorium on the sale and distribution of marijuana, and an article relating to funding in elections, which was placed on the warrant by petition.

A complete copy of the Town Meeting warrant articles including the proposed budget and Capital Plan for FY18 can be viewed by visiting the Town's website at [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org).

**Participate in your government: Attend Town Meeting at the Anne T. Dunphy School on Monday, June 5th beginning at 6:45 pm.**

### Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm

Begin at the Williamsburg Fire Station and march to the Veterans' Memorial Park. The Hampshire Regional band will be present.

In case of rain, the ceremony will be held in the Dunphy School.

### 2016 Annual Town Report Dedication

The Williamsburg Board of Selectmen is pleased to dedicate the **2016 Annual Town Report** to **Norma Kellogg and David West** in recognition for their many contributions to the Williamsburg Community. The Town Reports are now available from the Town Clerk's office in Haydenville, and the Meekins Library in Williamsburg. Copies of last year's report, 2015, (blue cover) are also available, in case you didn't get one.

Congratulations to David West  
and Norma Kellogg!

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

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

*L-R: Denise Banister,  
David West,  
Norma Kellogg,  
Dave Mathers,  
Bill Sayre,  
Charlene Nardi*



# Public Safety Complex

Since the Facilities Master Planning Committee completed its report in December, utilizing a \$16,000 planning grant with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, the Williamsburg Public Safety Complex Committee (WPSCC) has moved ahead to implement the report's recommendations wherever possible. The report highlighted several areas that have provided the WPSCC with additional guidance on how and where to proceed. The primary recommendation was to preserve the Helen E. James building for town office and open space use, if possible. This has entailed a reevaluation of previous work done to ensure that we haven't overlooked any potential properties that might be utilized for the location of a safety complex. Below you will find excerpts from the report that highlight the two sites that we are continuing to investigate in more depth. This work will make sure we consider the best choices possible given the many issues involved in the project.

We are also paying close attention to recommendations in the report and from feedback that we have received to keep costs as low as possible while maintaining support for the departments' missions. We continue to explore alternative construction and purchasing methods and to reexamine the programming requirements of the departments' requests to keep these costs down. We will make every effort to follow the Capital Budget recommendations when it is established as recommended in the Facilities report.

The town can look forward to an open discussion forum and presentations at various events in town between now and a special town meeting in the fall to authorize the hiring of a designer. Please contact any of us for further information or for questions (<http://www.burgy.org/public-safety-complex-committee>), and come to the presentations to help us all achieve the best outcome.

Many thanks to those who have already contributed their thoughts and ideas on the project. They have been very helpful.

William Sayre for the Williamsburg Public Safety Complex Committee

## 16 Main Street (Helen E James School site)

### Pros:

- Town-owned property
- Large, relatively flat site
- Adequate water volume and pressure for sprinkler system
- Plans for building on site have already been developed by architects
- Good vehicular access with reasonable sight lines
- Plans, as drawn by DRA Architect, avoid flood plains

### Cons:

- Wetland and floodplain issues significantly reduce buildable area on site, which constrains options for building and site design. DRA Architects found that there is sufficient space to build on the site if the building reaches just up to the edge of the regulated floodplain.
- Orientation of HEJ building on site makes adding another building on that site difficult to fit in while retaining space for other uses (open space, greenway, etc.).
- Existing greenspace has high value. Williamsburg's last opportunity for a Town green.
- Site is very prominent and contributes to character of

Burgy center significantly. Building and site design may require a higher level of design than other locations in Town in order to not degrade the current appeal of the Town Center.

- Future Mill River Greenway crosses site. A very wide driveway (as shown in DRA drawings) conflicts with pedestrian and bicycle use of the area.



# Public Safety Complex

**45 Main Street  
(between Lashway lot & Elbow Room Coffee)**

**Pros:**

- Large, relatively flat site
- Burgy center location provides fast emergency response to most households
- Public safety complex as show in DRA 2.1 with double-loaded bays would fit within buildable area of site
- Public safety complex fits context better than one at the HEJ site. A pre-engineered building is similar to the character of adjacent buildings
- While expansive driveway would not be pedestrian or bicycle friendly, impact is less severe than the same driveway located in Burgy or Haydenville centers
- Leaves the HEJ site with maximum possibilities for reuse

**Cons:**

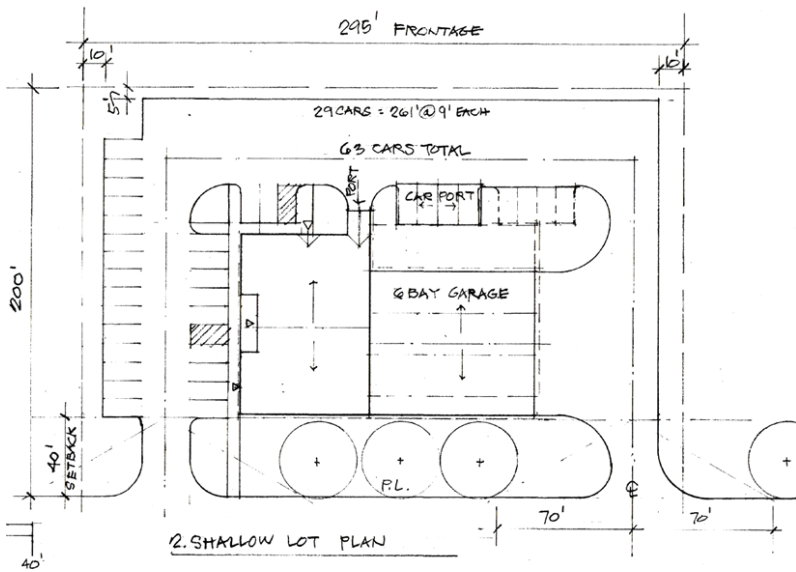
- It is unknown whether the site is available (*note: site is available*)
- Would likely require purchase which would increase cost of project
- Water supply is not adequate for sprinkler system. Requires water storage and booster. Adds cost to project.
- Floodplain and wetlands/river regulations restrict buildable area, but buildable area is adequate for public safety complex as shown in DRA 2.1, including double-loaded bays.
- Flooding on Route 9 both east and west of this site has happened in recent memory. This site could be marooned in a severe flood event.
- Removes prime commercial property from tax rolls.
- 45 Main St. could be expanded if 37 Main St. was also acquired.



37 & 45 MAIN ST  
WILLIAMSBURG, MA

Top Parcel Boundaries  
Sublot  
100 Year Flood Zone  
500 Year Flood Zone  
Wetlands  
Wetlands (100% & Open Water (200% Buffer)  
Wetlands (200% & Open Water (200% Buffer)  
Wetlands (200% & Open Water (200% Buffer)  
Wetlands (200% & Open Water (200% Buffer)

Absolute Scale: 1" = 40' 0"



N DINES, FASLA 2/20/17

## Williamsburg Firefighters Association News

The Williamsburg Firefighters Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The Association is made up of men and women who are current and past members of the Williamsburg Fire Department. The Association is behind many of the social events and fundraisers the department is involved in and supports the health and welfare of the firefighters and the Association members. Some of the community projects the Association has been a part of are the installing, maintaining and decorating the lamp posts and benches along the walkway in the center of town, hosting the rag shag parade on Halloween and cooking lunch during the local elementary school's field day event.

Until recently there were two associations, one for each station and each held different fundraising events, a tradition that went back to when each station was established. Recently both associations merged into one cohesive group. With the merger of the two associations, the treasury from the Haydenville Firefighters Association was voted to be used towards the purchase of a second, more modern thermal imager for approximately \$7,000. A thermal imager is a versatile tool for firefighters, assisting with scene size-up, victim search and rescue in low visibility and/or smoky situations, and expediting victim recovery. It is also used to locate hidden holes and other dangers, locate heat sources that are not normally visible, and to aid in night searches for missing or wanted parties.

The Association members meet once a month at a supper meeting to consider projects and expenditures to benefit the fire department and the town. They receive funds from interest on investment accounts, receipts from the meal at monthly meetings, donations from citizens and from the many fundraisers, including our annual rabies clinic at the end of March, Voluntary toll booth in October and our Christmas tree collection in December and January. The Association has also been the recipient of the Community Choice Grants from Florence Bank and Valley Gives Day. Being a non-profit 501(c)(3), allows those who donate funds to receive a tax advantage.

Roger Bisbee, Secretary  
Williamsburg Firefighters Association



## Police Department News

### Happy Spring Everyone,

The Police Department has been busy preparing for warmer weather. We have our radar trailer ready to hit the streets. Anyone who wishes to see this unit displayed in their neighborhoods can make a request by calling the Police Department. We remind motorists to drive carefully and watch for the many pedestrians and children walking in our town. The warmer weather allows us to open up our windows and get some fresh air into our homes. The Police Department would like to issue a friendly reminder to make sure you are securing your home when you are not there. Open windows make homes an easy target for break-ins. We have Police Officers on duty every day and remind folks to please **call 911 or the dispatch center at 413-586-1508** to report any suspicious activity. Time is of the essence when these things are happening and dispatch can immediately alert the Officer on duty to respond. This will ensure that the Officer can investigate the activity while it is still happening.

Last year we had a second Officer complete his certification for Child Passenger Seat Technician. Officer Jason Graham is now certified along with Chief Denise Wickland to inspect and install infant seats, child seats, and booster seats. This is a free service that we offer all residents of Williamsburg and surrounding communities. Parents,

grandparents, nannies, or whoever will be transporting a child is urged to have the child's seat checked. Appointments for checks can be made by calling the Police Department. The correct seat with proper installation can prevent injury during a crash.

The last couple of years have been the most deadly for Law Enforcement Officers across the Nation. With threats to Officers being an everyday occurrence, the Police Department has requested an article be placed on the Town Meeting Warrant to seek funding to purchase tasers for the Officers to carry while on duty. These electrical weapons will benefit the public we serve, the Town of Williamsburg, and the officers themselves through reduced risk of injury and lessened liability. Tasers are another tool officers can use to place violent subjects in custody who may be a threat to themselves or others or who may have already caused harm. Tasers add a tool that can bridge the gap between the other tools on our belt and give us another non-lethal option. Our Police Officers work alone and are not guaranteed timely back-up.

**To reach the Police Department call 413-268-7237**

**24 hour Dispatch is 413-586-1508**

**And of course in an emergency, please call 911**

## Highway Department News

Hello. My name is Jen Westlake. I have worked for the Williamsburg Highway Department since 2012. I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity. I love my job!

The Williamsburg Highway crew began the plowing season at a Snow and Ice Seminar put on by Baystate Roads. It was a good opportunity to learn new techniques and be reminded of things we have experienced before. We did a lot more sanding and plowing this year compared to last year. I am sure you saw us around during the storms.

Thank you to all the people who bring food to the highway department break room during storms! We all do our best to keep your roads clear. Occasionally, it is difficult to leave our route to take regular breaks, especially if the snow is coming fast. It is nice to stop at the shop for fuel and sand, and be able to grab a snack to take along. When we are not dealing with a storm, you might see us chipping brush from fallen trees, digging out frozen or plugged drainage, packing dump boxes or giving a hand to any of the other town departments.

Our roles are many. When you don't see us, we are generally in the shop doing more involved truck and equipment maintenance or repair (basically getting stuff ready for the next storm or the summer season). This winter the paver, roller, sweeper and the mowing tractor got some much needed attention and the retired fire truck is being remodeled for its new role for the highway crew. We are grateful that the long hard winter is over and we came out of it safely.

Not all the Western Mass highway departments can say that, unfortunately. Longmeadow lost a long time (23 year) member of their crew, Warren Cowles, in the big storm on March 14th. Sometimes we forget the danger for all the road maintenance people, even seasoned workers. Even fewer people realize the sacrifice made by their families who wait at home. On March 24th, Chris Tazunk and I were honored to represent Williamsburg and be part of Mr. Cowles' funeral procession made up of DPW trucks



from all over MA, and at least 2 other states. Mr. Cowles' superintendent stated that it was short notice and they were overwhelmed by the turnout. The 490 trucks that showed up were testimony to Mr. Cowles' work ethic, as well as the connection of highway workers to each other. Our prayers for comfort go out to the Cowles family as they deal with this loss.

Spring has sprung, and with that comes flag season. This has become my pet project. Bill Turner and I have spent the past few summers trying to find the best set up for a reasonable price. Unfortunately, the flags have dwindled to a mere few compared to the 166 that flew along Route 9 in the past. The flags are not a line item in the town budget and therefore we have done the best we can with the wonderful donations from residents and former residents over the past years. Thanks to the ongoing generous support from the Williamsburg General Store and the very large and generous donation from MJ Moran Inc. to cover the balance, we will be able to again hang all 166 flags for Memorial Day this year!

However, I want to note that the cost for maintaining this honorable endeavor is expensive. It costs approximately \$20 per flag set-up. This includes the pole, flag, bracket and all the hardware to put it together. Future donations will be used to replace individual pieces as needed. Even small donations are extremely appreciated. We are now using longer poles so the flags are not shredded by the rough surface of the telephone poles. If there is a flag hanging near your home, please keep your garden shrubs trimmed back so the flags do not catch on those. The weather is the worst culprit when it comes to destroying the flags. Rain with a little wind can bend the poles, break the brackets, loosen screws and even tear the flags. We try to get them up and down in a timely fashion, but if you notice a flag down please pick it up and leave it in the entrance to Bill's office at the Highway Garage. Just a reminder that if you see us out hanging flags or taking them down please don't park close to a telephone pole with a bracket. It makes for a much faster process if we can get to the poles with the pickup. And be very careful driving near this pickup while we are working. Thank you in advance to all of you who choose to help. Donations can be submitted to the Board of Selectmen's office.

So as we move into the summer season, you will see us patching potholes (the blacktop plants will reopen soon), preparing for the final layer of blacktop on High Street, resuming work to the water system on South Main Street and Fort Hill Road, cutting brush, cleaning drainage ditches, mowing, sweeping winter sand off the roads, more GPS collecting of water and sewer information, replacing signs, assisting other departments and committees, as needed—and the list goes on! This job provides plenty of variety and every day is a surprise, which is why I love it. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve your town.

**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

By the time you are reading this April showers will have gone by and Spring will be here in full color. We are now at the end of another fiscal tax year and real estate taxes have now had all four quarterly payments due and payable, annual motor vehicle excise taxes have been billed and paid and the spring water/sewer bills have gone out and been paid.

The **preliminary real estate taxes for FY2018**, based on last year's taxes, will be in the mail to you no later than July 1, 2017 and will have payment coupons for both the August 1 and November 1 payments. You are welcome to pay both at once if you choose to or you can make partial payments, but please note that interest will accrue if each installment is not paid in full by the due date.

**Payments can be mailed** to me at P. O. Box 488, Haydenville, MA 01039 (this information is listed on the bills); paid online at the town website at [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org) or brought to the town office. If you need a receipt of your payment, please bring the entire bill with you so I can receipt your copy.

**For those of you paying online through your own banking institution...**Please be sure that when you set your information up you put "Haydenville, MA 01039" and NOT "Williamsburg 01096". This delays the payment getting to me, if I get it at all. Also please be aware that the check payments need to be received in my office by the due dates – postmarks are not accepted. These online

payments from your bank are sometimes received 3—4 weeks past the due dates.

**Payments made through the town website** are entered electronically and are date and time stamped when you make them. You will receive a confirmation number for your records. There is only a \$0.25 charge to make a payment from your account. You can also **pay online using your credit card**, but you will be charged a fee based on the amount of your transaction. You will have the option to see how much the fee is before confirming the transaction. If you change your mind about paying by credit card you will then have the option to cancel the transaction.

**Please be sure the correct bill numbers and owner name are on your payments so that I can easily identify where to post your payments!** I often receive payments that have the wrong bill numbers or no identifying information at all. For those of you who have different last names, please put both names on your correspondence.

**If you have address or name changes for motor vehicle excise bills**, you must contact the Registry of Motor Vehicles. I do not have access to their records and they generate the excise bills. Questions about the valuations, etc., should also be directed to the RMV.

Enjoy your summer and stay safe!  
Bonnie Roberge, Town Collector

## Conservation Commission News

Did you know that Williamsburg has at least 15 brooks in addition to a dozen ponds, two reservoirs, and numerous vernal pools? They are located in open lands as well as residential areas, and can flow through fields or forests. The Mill River – with its east and west branches – flows from higher elevations in Conway and Goshen and is inhabited by wildlife such as mergansers, salamanders, herons, and brook trout.

Williamsburg is fortunate to have an abundance of water resources, and the Conservation Commission wants to help our residents to get to know and identify the rivers, streams, and many varied wetlands throughout our town and at our borders.

Wetlands are wet lands! They are on every continent – in areas where water covers or is present at or near the surface of the soil, either throughout the entire year or at varying time periods during the year. Wetlands can be found on floodplains along rivers, streams, and brooks; along the margins of lakes or ponds; and in low-lying areas such as swamps and marshes. All of

these serve to:

- Protect and improve water quality
- Provide fish and wildlife habitat
- Filter and recharge groundwater, protecting drinking water
- Store floodwaters (an acre of wet land can store between 1 million and 1.5 million gallons of flood-water)
- Maintain surface water flow during dry periods



We hope you'll join us in our job to protect and preserve Williamsburg's resources. Please contact the Conservation Commission should you have any questions about proposed home projects near water or wetlands. Our email address is **conservation@burgy.org**, and our monthly meetings are on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Town Offices. We're also on the town website, **www.burgy.org**, under Boards and Committees.

## Cultural Council News

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

The recipients of grants for 2017 are:

The O-Tones for their show at the Grange in March; the Williamsburg Woodland Trails for assistance with the cost of the design and printing of a guide brochure for the new trail to the site of the Mill River dam and reservoir; Dunphy school 5<sup>th</sup> grade trip to a display of the Acorn People; Ed the Wizard for the Reading is Magic program at the Dunphy School in March, and for magic performance at the Meekins' May Day Faire; Playful Earth Productions for demonstrations at Machine Engineering Night at the Dunphy School; Hilltown Choral Society holiday concert held at Williamsburg Congregational Church; Williamsburg Council on Aging for their ongoing "Cross Generation

Conversations" to be recorded at "A Day at the Dump"; Hampshire Regional High School for the Spring musical; John Porcino, storyteller and musician, for a performance at the Williamsburg Senior Center in December; joint program for middle and high school students, "Life in a Changing Climate", with the Hampshire Regional School District and Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary; and Tamarack Hollow Nature Center's presentation on plants, trees, and wildlife of the West Branch of the Mill River this spring or summer at Meekins.

E-mail us at [BurgyCC@Yahoo.com](mailto:BurgyCC@Yahoo.com) if need any information about these events; have any suggestions for cultural events; or would like to join our Council.

The next season to submit applications for grants will begin in the fall. Go to [www.mass-culture.org](http://www.mass-culture.org) for information.

## **"A DAY AT THE DUMP" Filming Project: Please Come and Add Your Voice!** **July 1st, 2017 at the Williamsburg Transfer Station (10 am-noon)**

The Williamsburg Senior Center/Council on Aging and the Meekins Library will join together again this year to create another film for the town's Living Archives Program. It will be the fourth recording, and a new approach, to our "Cross Generation Conversations" project, which captures and documents the life and spirit of Williamsburg and Haydenville at this time in our history. The A DAY AT THE DUMP film will focus on recording townspeople actively engaged in the real-life activities of their life here. At the Transfer Station, one of our town's informal, but most important meeting places, we will ask people of all ages who want to participate, to share at least one thing important to them about our town, to create a montage of faces and voices of the town.

Special thanks to the Transfer Station for welcoming us. Tom Adams from Reelife Productions will do the filming. Over the years, funding for this ongoing project has been made possible through the generosity of the Williamsburg Cultural Council, Williamsburg COA, the Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries, the Williamsburg Historical Society, the Williamsburg Lions Club, the Anne T. Dunphy PTO, and citizen donors. Please stop by the Transfer Station to be part of this wonderful film. The final product will be available for viewing at the Meekins Library and will be shown at the town picnic in September, together with excerpts from the first three Cross Generation Conversations. For more information or to donate to this project contact Marie Westburg, [coa@burgy.org](mailto:coa@burgy.org) or Daria D'Arienzo, [ddariento@me.com](mailto:ddariento@me.com).

## Our Town Picnic

**Save the Date! Saturday, Sept 9th 12-4 pm, Williamsburg Center, Rain or Shine!**

The town is hosting a community picnic with hamburgers/hot dogs, live music and fun activities for all ages. Bring a side dish and the whole family for field day activities, tour the Historical Society's collection at the Old Town Hall, check out what's happening with the Commons Group in the Helen E. James building and see the Grange Fair Exhibit! Town committees and community groups will showcase their projects to the public. Town businesses are invited to contribute materials to showcase their businesses at a local business information table and/or sponsor food or activities for the event.

Questions, or to get involved in this community wide event please contact:

Town Picnic Planning Committee Members: Marie Westburg at [coa@burgy.org](mailto:coa@burgy.org) (Volunteers/Info Table Spots); Tom Adams at [tomadams@gmail.com](mailto:tomadams@gmail.com) (Donations/Event Sponsors).

## Town Center Demonstration Day in Williamsburg

The Town of Williamsburg, in partnership with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, will organize Burgy Revelation Day, a one-day event that will demonstrate through temporary infrastructure improvements how Williamsburg Center can become a more walkable, vibrant place. The event will demonstrate potential greenspace and Complete Streets improvements. This project is funded through a grant from Healthy Hampshire. **The event will coincide with the Town Picnic on Sept. 9th, 2017.** People interested in volunteering or making donations to this project should contact Marie Westburg at [coa@burgy.org](mailto:coa@burgy.org).

# Williamsburg Senior Center News

## New Hours at the Senior Center

In order to serve more of the needs of the growing 60+ population in Williamsburg / Haydenville, we are expanding our programs and hours. We have added new classes and new hours. The Senior Center will be open **Mondays & Wednesdays, 8:30-1:30** and **Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30-7:00**.

To get our **Living Well Newsletter** electronically or by mail, email [sloomis@burgy.org](mailto:sloomis@burgy.org) or call **268-8407**.

Visit our website: <http://www.burgy.org/senior-center>  
Find us on Facebook: **Williamsburg Senior Center**  
Phone: **413-268-8407**

**Intergenerational Programs:** starting this fall, opportunities will be offered for seniors to engage in a planned activity, event, or ongoing position as a volunteer with the local school kids. This winter, we began a pilot pen pal project with the 6th graders. It has been enriching for both kids and the seniors involved. Call for information about different options being planned and how to sign up.

**Intergenerational Bag Sew:** Help reduce plastic bag use in Williamsburg! We are making bags for use at Meekins Library, local businesses and food pantries. No experience necessary. Kids welcome with an adult. Tuesdays 4-6, all materials provided.

**Healthy Cooking Classes:** Interested in learning to make new, healthy recipes and try new foods? Join us for one or all of our plant-based cooking classes. Twice a month we will explore key nutritional concepts and put them to practice while cooking together. Classes meet first Thursdays at 1-3 pm and third Thursdays at 5-7 pm. \$8 materials fee per class. Taught by Alexandra Mello.

**Men's Group:** Join the Men's Group on the third Thursday of each month. The group of "experienced" men gets together at 8 am at the Williamsburg Snack Bar. Stop by if you're interested in enjoying good company and share your ideas for future guest speakers or trips.

## Fitness Classes:

We offer several options to help you stay in shape:

- **Yoga for You**, Intermediate level, Tuesdays, 6 pm
- **Modern/Contemporary Dance**, Wednesdays, 10 am
- **Tai Chi**, Thursdays, 9:30 am
- **Gentle Chair Yoga**, Thursdays, 10:45 am
- **Healthy Bones & Balance**, Thursdays, 4 pm

**Basic Computer Classes** with Alan Estes on Tuesdays & Thursdays 6-7 pm. Get your computer questions answered. Classes limited to 3 participants. Call to sign up.

**Health:** Keep on top of your health with a free Blood Pressure Clinic on second Thursdays at 11:30. Our foot-care nurse, Oni, comes every 4th Wednesday, and the podiatrist, Dr. Coby, comes on the second Wednesday of every other month.

**Companion Program:** Would you like someone to visit, accompany you on errands, go on a walk or go out to lunch with you? If you feel isolated or need a bit of help staying connected to your community, please call us to inquire about our Companion Program for seniors. We will match you up with someone for 1-2 hours a week. If you'd like to be a companion, let us know, too!

**Nutrition Programs:** A variety of meals are provided for older adults Monday through Thursday!

- **Monday Meals** are prepared in our Café kitchen, using the freshest ingredients. Eat in, pick up, or have them delivered! \$3 per meal.
- **Tuesday-Thursday Luncheons** at 11:45 are provided by Highland Valley Elder Services. Pre-register two days prior please, free but donations welcome.
- **Take-Home Dinners** from Smith Vocational School's culinary department—every Wednesday you can get a restaurant-quality meal delivered to your door for \$6.25.
- **Brown Bag Program** provides supplemental groceries to qualified folks monthly—stop by to see if you qualify. There are options to suit everyone!

## Services:

- **Veterans' Service Officer**, Tom Geryk, answers your questions about veterans' benefits and other issues on Mondays, 2-4 pm.
- **SHINE representative** Wayne Glaser can help sort out your insurance issues by appointment in the office or at your home. Tuesdays, 11-2
- **Options Counseling:** 1 on 1 unbiased support in making informed choices about services and resources that will facilitate your independence in the setting of your choice. Personalized referrals and assistance in planning for short- and long term needs, in home supports, transportation, etc. It's never too early to learn what all the options are! Call for an appointment or to arrange a home visit or conversation via phone or email.
- **Benefits Counseling** appointments available (also as home visits), for seniors and low income people wishing to apply for Fuel Assistance, SNAP, the Brown Bag Program and more.

## Paid and Unpaid Volunteer Opportunities

The Senior Center has a limited budget and relies on volunteers to offer a wide variety of programs and services. We always need volunteers for PR tasks, cooking, gardening, teaching workshops and for transportation needs for non-driving residents. Do you have 1-2 hours a week or a special activity or skill you want to share? Stop by to create a volunteer position that will be fulfilling for you!

## Volunteers with Expertise in Planning:

The Williamsburg Senior Center is looking for a volunteer with experience in Strategic Planning to help plan for the future. Please contact Marie Westburg at [coa@burgy.org](mailto:coa@burgy.org) if you can help!



## Transfer Station News:

### Board of Health Establishes 50% Recycling Goal

The Board of Health (BOH) has established a 50% recycling goal with the intent of increasing quantity and improving the quality of the materials being recycled at the transfer station. In 2016 the Town had a recycling rate of 33.2%.

Most residents are conscientious about recycling and believe that they are properly recycling. The BOH encourages you to be aware of recycling's "Most Unwanted". Bagging recycling in plastic bags is one of the most common problems at the Springfield Municipal Recycling Facility (MRF).

Residents are reminded to keep these items out of your recycling bin:

- No plastic bags in with recycling – they bind up sorting material at the MRF
- No placement of recycling in plastic bags
- No cords or wrapping items – these shut down MRF rollers
- No loose shredded paper – place shredded paper in paper bags
- Keep non-recyclable plastics out of the MRF container. Samples:
  - Styrofoam – see attendant for special collection area
  - Pellet bags – see attendant for special collection area
  - No plastic cups – place with household trash
  - No plastic containers that contained a hazardous material – e.g., windshield washer fluid, bleach, nail polish, motor oil, etc.
- No wet-strength paper – soda and beer sleeves and paper items from the frozen food section of the grocery store are reinforced with plastic to prevent them from collapsing when wet. These cannot be recycled into paper.
- No food waste in containers – Please rinse. Clean pizza boxes — okay. Pizza in the box is not!
- No scrap metal – it damages recycling equipment. Place in metal bin.
- No ceramics, drinking glasses, canning jars
- No fluorescent light bulbs or CRTs – see attendant for special collection area. Mercury bulbs that are broken have had the mercury released. Place broken bulb in with your household trash.

In addition to properly recycling, the BOH encourages residents to be mindful to REDUCE waste and to do all that you can to RE-USE products or re-purpose them.

To help reduce your food waste, the BOH continues to provide Town residents with Earth Machine Compost Bins. The Town offers the bins for \$25 (retail \$99). To place your order, call or email the HRMC Administrator with your name, street address, (mailing address, if different) and phone number. Email: [hrcm@hrcm-ma.org](mailto:hrcm@hrcm-ma.org); phone: 413-685-5498.

When in doubt – give the attendants a shout! They are glad to answer your recycling questions.

### Town Clerk News

Did you know the Williamsburg Town Clerk is on Facebook? The link to her page is at [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org) on the Town Clerk's page. "Like" the page for information regarding voting, dog licensing, or just general information that is good to know.

The Town Clerk is also seeking some additions to her poll worker list. If you have an interest in helping out and have availability during the day on Mondays or Tuesdays, please give her a call or visit her in her office. It is a good way to "meet" your neighbors and help out the community.

The Clerk is starting her Monday evening hours again. She takes a break over the winter months but is now available from 5:30pm until 7pm on Mondays. This is in addition to her usual daytime hours. These hours will

remain in effect until after January 1<sup>st</sup>. Be aware that she may not be available during vacations, illness, town meetings or elections.



Hilltown Resources Management Cooperative

**HRMC Advises Donate, Don't Judge  
Clothing and Textiles: Recovery and Reuse**

**Did you know that 95% of all textiles could be  
recovered, recycled or reused?**

Textiles and clothing are a valuable resource — Don't put textiles in your trash! Instead, place them in the Salvation Army Drop Box!

**See website for more information: [www.burgy.org](http://www.burgy.org)**

## News from Anne T. Dunphy School

The school days in the 2016-2017 school year are quickly dwindling at the Anne T. Dunphy School! With the spring break behind us, we are approaching the time of year that is filled with celebrations of accomplishments, and field trips that culminate units of study ~ a busy and exciting time of year!

This March, the Anne T. Dunphy School held our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual musical, *Beauty & the Beast*. Once again, the community was incredibly supportive of the work of our students, selling out both performances again this year! As our very dedicated production/direction crew moves on, we are hopeful that the school can continue to provide this fantastic opportunity for our students. It will certainly take a group of dedicated volunteers! If you are interested in being part of a team to help continue this new tradition in our school community, please contact the school. We will be gathering a group of interested folks in the near future.

Throughout the winter, the Anne T. Dunphy School building was a busy place. Aside from the busy school days, the Williamsburg Recreation Department utilized the building to provide an active basketball program for both girls and boys from 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. More than 36 basketball games were held in the Earl Tonet Gymnasium in addition to many weekly practices and other adult community sports groups.



*Students enjoy recess fun on a sunny spring day.*

Each Friday, from 10:00-11:30, our school hosts a weekly playgroup for any area children ages 0-5. This playgroup is funded by the Hampshire Regional Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant, and is typically led by our preschool teacher, Lucy Gertz. We welcome all area families with young children to drop in. On Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, there will be a special presentation by the Enchanted Circle Theatre!

Our Kindergarten Visitation was held on May 12<sup>th</sup>. While we use the most recent census information for our mailings, we realize that some families may have been missed. If you have a child who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2017, please contact the school at 268-8421 for information about how to register for kindergarten.

As we near the end of this school year, we are preparing to say farewell to several long-time members of our staff. After dedicating a combined **119 years of service** to the Williamsburg school communities, Johanna Korpita, Mary Jane Long, Nancy Millette, and Amelia Wright will be heading off to enjoy their well-deserved retirements! Longtime support staff Nancy Forster and Susan Milsom will also be retiring after spending many years supporting the students of Williamsburg. **The school will be hosting a community reception to honor these teachers on Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> from 2—4 pm**, with a short program beginning at 2:00, and a drop in reception to follow until 4:00.



*First graders enjoy reading to their newly hatched chicks!*

We continue to feel so grateful for our wonderful facility, and are so pleased at the ease with which we can open our school to our families, and to the larger community, for many events throughout the year. We are so appreciative of our supportive Williamsburg and Haydenville communities!

Stacey Jenkins, Principal

## Hampshire Regional News and Events

As always, this spring is quite busy for students and staff at Hampshire Regional High School! Students are in the midst of course selection for the next school year, and there is a buzz about some of the potential offerings. Courses such as Exploring Computer Science, Advanced Placement Computer Science, and Advanced Placement Statistics have students excited to jump in to 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. Staff continue to work hard to be able to offer these cutting edge courses and attend numerous professional development opportunities so our students have the most up to date information. By keeping the class offering interesting and relevant, students stay engaged and have a better idea of their career options upon completing high school.

One hundred twenty seniors are gearing up for their last few weeks at Hampshire. Although students are excited to go on to colleges such as UMass Amherst, Roger Williams, Endicott College, Keene State, URI, HCC, or go into the workforce, all have expressed gratitude for their time at Hampshire. Senior week begins on May 30 and graduation will be held at John M. Greene Hall in Northampton on June 2.

Learning will continue for some students beyond the classroom in late June as they travel to the Galapagos Islands! Teacher Alexandra Furman organized the trip, and students have been fundraising and gearing up for their experience. All are thrilled to have this opportunity and we are excited to hear about everything they learn when they return.

Hampshire faculty and staff continue to work hard to offer a number of strong academic and extracurricular opportunities for all of our students. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions about our wonderful learning community!

Kristen Smidy, Principal

## Meekins Library

As you may have noticed, we have a lot of work being done on the physical library these days! Windows in the original building were painted last fall as were water stains from previous leaks. The front steps in the original building, needing significant repair and rebuilding, are finally underway with an extensive historical preservation project...oh my! Our newest project, a collaboration by the team of Dines and Childs, was to install a hand rail by the main entrance stairway, and a safety rail on the back patio. Thank you gentlemen – it looks great! We seem to be in a permanent state of “construction zone!”



Before you know it, summer vacation will be here, and that means **Summer Reading** at the library as well. Rae Griffiths, of Teaching Creatures, will hold a one hour program on **Animals and their Habitats on Saturday, June 17, 2017, from 10:30 – 11:30**, to kick off our summer fun! Be sure to come in that day to sign up and get your reading logs. Summer reading at the library helps to prevent “summer reading slide,” when many children, especially struggling readers, forget some of what they've learned or slip out of practice during the summer months. We try to motivate students to continue reading throughout the summer by offering prizes and programs.

We held a book talk on April 8, featuring Maine Teacher of the Year finalist and Thornton Academy faculty member **David Arenstam**. He has just published his debut novel, “**Homecoming: A Soldier's Story of Loyalty, Courage, and Redemption.**” Two weeks after its publication, Arenstam's novel was nominated for the 2017 William E. Colby award for emerging writers of military fiction or nonfiction. Arenstam, from Saco, completed the historical novel based on interviews and news stories written about **Russell Warriner, a 68-year-old Vietnam veteran and Williamsburg native.**

**National Poetry Month** brought out a large group to share their favorite poetry. Rochelle Wildfong's Poetry Group meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.



The Meekins Library hosted an **HRMC Compost Display** on Earth Day, April 22. Information was available to learn to turn your spoils into soil. The Earth Machine Compost Bin was on display, with the HRMC Administrator, Kathleen Casey, on site to answer questions and to take bin orders. Don't have a yard or outdoor space for composting? Not a problem – information on Vermicomposting (indoor composting with earthworms) is also available. The display provided useful information for you to get started converting your kitchen scraps and yard waste into rich soil, and for diverting the estimated 25% of organic material that is typically disposed of in your weekly trash. Contact Kathleen if interested in acquiring a composting bin at Kathleen A. Casey, HRMC Administrator, Home Office: 413-268-9230.

We also featured an **Earth Day Buzz!** On April 22, we held a drop in Craft and Science time where many kids Buzzed on in to learn how important bees are in saving our wildlife and helping the earth! They participated in lots of fun activities including designing their own recyclable planter and planting a pollinator plant they could grow at home!



**May Faire Fairy Festival, May 6, 2017:** We welcomed spring at Meekins Library, with our biggest event of the year! Who was here? **Ed the Wizard** (sponsored by Williamsburg Cultural Council) and his unique style of walk around magic, reappeared at the annual May Faire Fairy Festival inspired by the book series “Harry Potter.” Ed the Wizard weaves together the importance of building and maintaining one's reading skills with his interactive magic performance. **Mary Jo Maichack** (sponsored by the Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries), a minstrel, singer, and storyteller who has told tales, sung, and led programs in Europe, performed “Minstrel's Revels.” **Mill River Madrigal Singers**, a talented group of local singers, performed medieval themed songs. We made fairy houses, magic wands, head wreaths, calligraphy, and more. We shared food, activities, and enchantment, both inside and out, to celebrate spring!



**Annual Fund Update: As of this writing (late April), we are at 90% of our goal for the Annual Fund. Thank you!** Your tax-deductible donation helps us fund essential parts of the libraries' **annual operating budget** that are only minimally covered by the town appropriation. We especially rely on your gifts to support the state-mandated purchase of new materials, including fiction and non-fiction books, magazines, newspapers, audiobooks, DVDs, e-books, and downloadable videos.

**The Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries** received \$3,448 from the Florence Bank Customer's Choice Awards! Thanks to everyone who voted for them!



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## **WILLIAMSBURG MILL RIVER GREENWAY PROJECT APPROVED**

### **Report on the April 30th Community Forum**

When Route 9 in Williamsburg comes up for its scheduled rebuild in about 8 years, the Mill River Greenway will be incorporated into the design. A ten-foot wide shared use path running along the river side of the road and separated from car traffic by a landscaped curb will connect the village centers of Haydenville and Williamsburg, putting Williamsburg on the Mass Central Rail Trail system.

The Village of Haydenville joined the Rail Trail system this winter with a project to regrade, pave, and add guard rails to the trail "dismount" about 1.5 miles west of Leeds village, bringing trail users safely out to South Main Street in Haydenville. That work was completed by the Williamsburg Highway Department, with funding support from the MA DCR Recreational Trails Grant program.

When completed, the Williamsburg Mill River Greenway will share the road up South Main Street to the Haydenville Library, then run along the river side of Route 9 within the public right-of-way for 2 miles up to the Helen E. James building in Williamsburg center. Beyond its benefits to walkers and bikers, the Mill River Greenway will promote the ecological health, economic development, recreational opportunities, and historical features of the Williamsburg Mill River corridor.

Last month, Williamsburg received the formal letter from MA DOT assigning a Project Number, and declaring the Greenway project eligible for State and Federal transportation funding. These decisions are made by the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as part of their annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) planning. The members of the MPO include the MA DOT Office of Transportation Planning, the Highway Division, the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, and local representatives.

This important milestone is thanks to the diligent efforts of the Williamsburg Mill River Greenway Committee over the last five years, and especially the design and planning expertise of Nick Dines, a retired Landscape Architect and UMass professor who has donated countless hours of pro bono services to the process.

About 50 community members attended a Public Forum on Sunday, April 30, to see sketches and maps, gain an understanding of the funding requirements and grant opportunities, ask questions, and give feedback. The slide presentation presented at the forum is available on the Committee's website at <http://www.burgy.org/mill-river-greenway-committee>.