

A periodic newsletter of the Town of Williamsburg

Town of Williamsburg Spring 2016



Annual Town Meeting, Monday, June 6th

Anne T. Dunphy School

1 Petticoat Hill Road, Williamsburg

Voters will be asked to consider 22 articles at the 2016 annual town meeting; a capital planning article for the design and restoration of the Meekins Library stairs, Fiscal Year 2017 budget articles to support government operations, materials for the Historic Dam Flood and Forest Trail, a handheld barcode scanner to track data at the Senior Center, pamphlets for the Agricultural Commission, a 40 yard roll-off box for the transfer station, redesign and upgrade of town's website, termination of two Brassworks Trust Funds and transfer of all remaining balances to the Stabilization Fund, amending the Government Bylaws to reduce the membership of the Council on Aging from nine to five, and two Zoning Bylaw amendment articles to remove the language of the temporary moratorium on Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, and to address minor changes in Sections 2, 6.21 and 18. A complete copy of the Town Meeting warrant articles including the proposed budget and Capital Plan for FY17 can be viewed by visiting the Town's website at www.burgy.org.

Participate in your government: attend Town Meeting at the Anne T. Dunphy School on Monday, June 6th beginning at 7:00p.m.

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Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 30th
1:00pm

Begin at the
Williamsburg Fire Station
march to the
Veterans' Memorial Park.

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



2015 Annual Town Report Dedication

The Williamsburg Board of Selectmen has dedicated the 2015 Annual Report to Nicholas Dines in recognition and honor of all his community work and volunteer service to the Town.

Annual Reports Available

The 2015 Annual Town Reports are available from the Town Clerk's office in Haydenville and the Meekins Library in Williamsburg. Copies of last year's report, 2014, (yellow cover) are also available, in case you didn't get one.



Williamsburg Cultural Council

In January, the Williamsburg Cultural Council awarded \$4,400 to local and regional individuals or organizations for cultural projects to benefit the community.

The recipients of grants for 2016 are:

- Williamsburg H.S. Drama Club's 50th anniversary show;
- Blanche Derby for "Wild Edible Plants in Your Yard" at Meekins;
- Hilltown Choral Society's holiday concert;
- "Concerts at 7" at Plainfield Congregational Church;
- John Root, "A Celebration of Song" at the Council on Aging;
- Hilltown Families Web site for "Learn Local, Play Local";
- Moti the Stilt-walking Clown for Chesterfield 4th of July parade;
- Ashfield Community Theater's Spring play;
- Pied Potter Hamelin for "The Magical Potter's Wheel" at Meekins May Faire;
- Hampshire Regional High School Spring Musical performance;
- The Art Salon at Snow Farm;
- Roger Tincknell for a community concert at Council on Aging;
- Berkshire Hills Music Academy's performance at Dunphy School;
- The Trustees of Reservations for "Bryant Day" in July;
- Amy Cyr for performances at Hampshire Regional, of Otha Day's "Drum to the Beat."

E-mail to BurgyCC@Yahoo.com for information about these events; to share suggestions for cultural events; or if you 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 for details.

Congratulations to all recipients!



Agricultural Commission News

Williamsburg Farm Guide

Attention farmers:

The Williamsburg Agricultural Commission is working on producing a brochure of all farm (and forestry) businesses in town. The brochure will include listings with farm name, contact person, address, phone, website, days/hours, products/services, etc., and a map that shows the location of working farms/ forestry operations in town. The brochure will be available around town and on our website.



If you have a farm business and are not already listed on our website and would like to be included in this brochure, please email your farm information to megptaylor@comcast.net or call Chairperson, Paul Zononi at 268-3544. To see a current listing of farms in Williamsburg, visit: burgyag.weebly.com/list-of-farms



Williamsburg Senior Center

Located at the Town Offices in Haydenville. Hours M-W 8:30 - 1:30 & TH 8:30 - 5:00
Now open later on Thursdays for increased availability and programming.

Help Us Plan for the Future!

The Williamsburg Senior Center serves people from 60 to 100+ (a 40 year span!), and we also serve their families and caregivers. The number of people over 60 is growing rapidly! The interests of people close to 60 are very different from people who are closer to 80, and we are beginning to vision around how to be attractive and useful to this younger group of seniors. The Senior Center currently is in the Town Offices and more space will be needed going forward. Visioning will help decisions to be made about town buildings, community needs, etc., which will have an impact on aging services. We need you – current and future “aging” residents – to help us vision, plan and create a Senior Center you would like to use yourself! Get involved or call 268-8407 for information!

Outreach Services, Case Management & Community Connections

Fran Goebel, Outreach Coordinator, connects with elders who are isolated, homebound, or at risk and who cannot always access us on their own. She develops relationships and maintains connections with referral sources throughout the area. Along with the Outreach Team, made up of COA Advisory Board members and volunteers, Fran works to create action plans to address outreach needs for Williamsburg/Haydenville residents, getting information into the community and building partnerships to ensure that organizations will direct people to our services. Fran is available for walk-in consultations or by appointment. She can assess the needs of the senior, provide information and referrals, assist with advocacy, and connect clients to services and programs provided by local agencies. Often an isolated senior can benefit greatly by joining in our *Companion Program*, which matches a senior with a peer for regular social visits or local excursions into the community. Caregivers, family members and supportive friends are welcome to be part of these appointments and are encouraged to partner with us to build a support network to help the senior remain at home (*age in place*). Fran also helps support clients and their families during crises or hospital stays and through transitions to new living arrangements. We are always in need of volunteers for our Companion Program and medical rides program, which are free services to seniors in Williamsburg.

Do you know someone 60+ in the community who is in need? We invite you to be their advocate. Isolation and loneliness are not necessary and engaging in socialization is imperative to healthy aging. Call our Outreach Coordinator to ask about resources. It is important not to wait until a crisis occurs, as this is what ultimately may lead to their inability to age in place. All matters are treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Food, Glorious Food!

With fixed or lower incomes, many seniors find it hard to maintain proper nutrition. Food is expensive!

Restaurant meals are costly and often hard to get to. The Williamsburg Senior Center serves lunches four days a week, offering food and good company. *Monday Meals* are made at the center that morning by volunteers and may be soup, salad and/or entre along with bread donated by Bread Euphoria and dessert. Price is \$3 for this meal.

Luncheons Tuesdays-Thursdays we serve hot meals by Highland Valley Elder Services.

This is an all-inclusive meal that is essentially free. A suggested donation of \$2-3 is gratefully accepted and goes back into the program. Another great meal is *Dinner Wednesdays*, during the school year, by Smith Vocational H.S. Culinary Program. These quality meals are \$6 and can be delivered or picked up at the Senior Center. Call two days ahead to reserve any of these meals, 268-8407.



Notice: To get on or off the Newsletter mailing list, email sloomis@burgv.org, or call 268-8407 and leave your name and address. “Like” us on Facebook! <http://www.facebook.com/pages/WilliamsburgCouncil-on-Aging/>

Highway Department News

The 2014 – 2015 winter was very mild, although the few storms we did have made it a bit difficult to predict. All in all, the winter didn't require crews to be out doing a lot of plowing and sanding. Therefore, Highway Dept. members focused on marking and noting the GPS coordinates for mapping the water system. Route 9 and South Street were completed and they will continue to work on other roads as time allows. Crew members utilized cold patch on nice days to deal with the pot holes and road repairs as they wait for the opening of the asphalt plants which usually occurs in early May.

Briar Hill Road washed out during the late winter rain storms, requiring the crew to dig out the ditches and flush out the catch basins and pipes in order to restore proper water drainage. It was a time-consuming and laborious project.

It is expected that the Highway Department will be working on the water main on Fort Hill Road this year. It will be done in stages and once complete will allow the town to address some much needed road work in the future.

Road work will be occurring all summer with a focus on High Street, Ashfield Road, Briar Hill and a portion of South Street.



Woodland Trails Committee



The Woodland Trails Committee has an exciting new project coming up this year. Most town residents are aware of the 1874 flood disaster, which claimed 139 lives and devastated the villages of Williamsburg, Skinnerville, Haydenville and Leeds. The flood resulted from the failure of a dam which had been constructed by local mill owners three miles north of the Village of Williamsburg. The 600 million gallons of water that burst from the dam destroyed dozens of mills and houses and changed the appearance and the course of history of our town forever.

The ruins of the failed dam still exist in the woods in the northern part of Williamsburg, but for a number of years there has been no access to the site for the general public. Now, adjacent landowners and the Northampton Water Department (which owns the site of the ruins) are collaborating with the Trails Committee to develop a new pedestrian trail to the ruins. The trail will also be used to tell the story of the 250 year old farm over which it will cross, as well as the history of Hilltown agriculture and forest management.

You can help. There is a mile of new trail to clear and construct, along with numerous footbridges, boardwalks, kiosks, interpretive signs, benches, erosion control measures and so on. The Trails Committee is hoping that the work can be done almost exclusively by volunteers from the community. The cost of materials will be covered by grants, vendor donations, a town meeting request, and contributions from local businesses and individuals.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the project, please contact us via our website at www.WilliamsburgWoodlandTrails.org/contact.html. Donations can be made to the Town of Williamsburg (memo line: Woodland Trails Committee) and mailed to P.O. Box 447, Haydenville, MA 01039. Donations can also be made directly, using a credit card, by using the link on the Trails Committee website. If you would like more information or have any questions, please contact John Hoogstraten at 268-7523 / jhoog@comcast.net or Paul Jahnige at 268-0108 / pjahnige@gmail.com.

We are very enthused about this project, and feel it will be a great addition to the Town's cultural, historic and recreational assets. Thank you!

Williamsburg Energy Committee

With the town's award of approximately \$143,000 in state Green Communities funds, here is an update of projects to use these funds:

- A level 2 Building Energy Audit for Meekins Library, funded with Green Communities funds, provided information on efficiency options for insulation, heating system improvements and building system controls. No projects have yet to be implemented, in part due to structural issues and the long paybacks for the efficiency measures.
- MJ Moran Heating and Cooling of Haydenville assisted the committee with defining heating system equipment and controls upgrades to the Town Offices. Whether the Town will proceed with these recommendations is dependent upon the continued use of the current site of the Town Offices.
- Guardian Energy Management Solutions conducted free energy audits (funded by National Grid) for the Town Offices and the Helen E. James building. The Town is proceeding with the weatherization measures recommended for the Town Offices in the coming months. Guardian also performed lighting audits of the Meekins, James building, and Town Offices to identify the savings of upgrading current fluorescent lighting to LED options. The committee is currently assessing these reports.

Since we have prioritized the use of the funds to improve energy efficiencies of town buildings, consideration of LED street lighting has been put on hold until the town has made decisions regarding the future use of the town buildings.

The Energy Committee will be attending upcoming public input meetings for the proposed Public Safety Complex to provide energy efficiency suggestions.

Go to www.masssave.com for information on savings on energy, and financial assistance with energy improvements for your home or business.



For those who are interested in finding out about community solar, there will be an information session on June 11 at the Town Offices' auditorium from 10 a.m. to Noon.

Businesses that provide solar electricity at a reduced rate from their own sources will be there to answer your questions as well as an Energy Committee representative to provide general information. Community solar is an opportunity for those who for one reason or another cannot have their own solar panels.

If you have questions about community solar, go to the town's Web site, www.burgy.org, to Boards and Committees/Energy Committee/Additional Links.

Williamsburg Historic Women

March was Women's History Month, and with the possible re-purposing of the Helen E. James School, it is important to remember the contributions of our town's historic women. The former Williamsburg High School had a state wide "Grade A" reputation as "The gem of small high schools of Massachusetts" and was a renowned model for educational and administrative excellence. No wonder, given the influence and intellectual heritage of Helen E. James, its benefactor, and Anne T. Dunphy, its principal.

Williamsburg Police Department

Happy Spring Everyone!

The Williamsburg Police Department has been extremely busy this past year. We welcomed a new officer to our staff. Aubrey Malo completed training and is working as a part-time officer. Officer Malo joins the current staff members who are: Chief Denise Wickland, Sergeant Jason Soukup, Corporal Michael Wayne, Officer Bryan Luszczki, Officer Jason Graham, and Officer Gregory Smith. These officers dedicate themselves to protecting our community. They handle everything from speeding complaints, accident investigations, breaking and entering and larceny reports, officer wanted calls, suspicious activity calls, medical calls, paperwork service, traffic enforcement, drug investigations, and arrests for a variety of criminal offenses.

In 2015 the Williamsburg Police handled approximately 1,481 calls that came in through our dispatch center. We also handled an additional 814 walk in / call in reports. There were 53 accidents handled by the Department and 95 arrests were made. We have seen an increase in opiate abuse in Town and our department has arrested several individuals on heroin distribution charges. We work hard to keep our residents and their guests safe as we combat this growing problem. The Police Department has a permanent drug collection box in which we collect all unused or expired medications, vitamins, pet medications, and over the counter medications, no questions asked. This box is accessible Monday and Wednesday evenings between 5pm and 9pm or by making an appointment at another time during the week.

With the warm weather upon us we will be displaying our radar trailer around Town. Any residents with concerns of speeding or requests to see the radar trailer on a particular street may contact our station at 413-268-7237. The Police Department would also like to remind residents about home safety. With warmer temperatures we often keep our windows open. We kindly remind everyone that this can leave their home's vulnerable to break-ins. We urge anyone to call 911 if they see any type of suspicious activity.

The Police Department was awarded two grants recently. One is for pedestrian / bicycle safety, which provides funding and equipment to the department to enforce pedestrian and crosswalk enforcement as well as bicycle safety and enforcement. The other grant is a Child Passenger Seat Grant, which provided funding for the department to purchase new car seats and booster seats which are issued to families in need. Chief Denise Wickland and Officer Jason Graham are Certified Child Seat Installation Technicians and will check and install any car seat free of charge. This service is available to both residents and non-residents. To schedule an inspection or installation individuals can call the station at 413-268-7237.

Free Shredding Day
Planned for Fall 2016
Stay tuned!



Transfer Station Stickers Sales

Summer hours 9am to 4pm, Wed and Sat.

Stickers will be sold on Wednesdays & Saturdays beginning in mid-May at the Transfer Station.

NEW price \$75/year. Seniors, 70 years or older as of 1/1/16, the cost is \$50

New stickers must be bought by July 1, 2016.
Please recycle!



Town Employees

Town Government is successful and efficient because of its employees and our appointed and elected officials. We would like to take a moment to thank all these wonderful people for the time and energy they put in to keep town government efficient and effective. They are folks that keep our roads open in all weather conditions, uphold the law and keep us safe, protect our homes and come out in emergencies, educate our children, and do all the administrative tasks needed for town government. The Board of Selectmen appreciates all that they do!

Department Hours and Contact Information:

Assessors: Tues. 9 to 11, Tues Eve 7 to 8	assessors@burgy.org	268-8403
Board of Selectmen (Admin Asst.): Mon., Thurs. 10 to 2, Wed 10 to 1	selectmen@burgy.org	268-8400
Council on Aging: Mon. – Thurs. 8:30 to 5	coa@burgy.org	268-8407
Fire Dept.: No regular office hours - On Call	jason.connell@williamsburgfire.com	268-7233
Highway Dept.: Mon. – Fri. 7 to 3:30	burgyhighway@burgy.org	268-8405
Police Dept.: Mon. & Wed. evenings 5 to 9 All other days and evenings by appointment	wicklandd@williamsburgpd.org or luszczkib@williamsburgpd.org	268-7237
Town Administrator: Mon. – Thurs. 9 to 3	townadmin@burgy.org	268-8418
Town Clerk: Mon. & Tues. 8:30 to 3:30, Thurs. 9 to 2 Check the website for evening hours	townclerk@burgy.org	268-8402
Town Collector: Mon. – Thurs. 8:30 to 3	towncollector@burgy.org	268-8401

Meeting schedules may be found at: www.burgy.org

Board of Health

With spring in full bloom, maple tree tapping done and greening lawns and gardens, the Board of Health wants you to think about two other topics:

1. Bird Migration

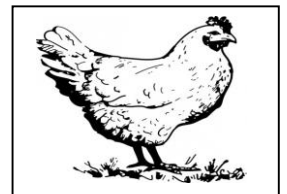
It is possible that the migration of birds may spread the highly pathogenic Avian Influenza virus to chickens. If you have a flock at home, you may be interested to read about this virus on two internet links:

- a) FAQ on the Dept. of Public Health web site:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/cdc/flu/avian-faq.pdf>

- b) For backyard chicken owners who want to learn about safety tips:

healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov.



2. Mosquito control.

Mosquito control is something that everyone can help with. Mosquitos can carry a number of disease-causing viruses, including West Nile Virus (WNV), Zika and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). The chance of contracting these viruses in Western Massachusetts is very low; for Zika, the chance is nearly zero. Massachusetts carries out statewide testing for WNV and EEE. The northern range of the Zika-carrying mosquito falls in Connecticut, but with climate change it will shift north in coming years. Read more at:

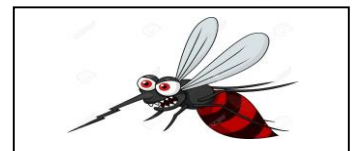
<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/cdc/arbovirus/faq-mosquitoes-ma.pdf>

The two best ways to protect yourself and family members from mosquitoes are:

- a) Wear effective repellent and protective clothing;

- b) Eliminate any standing water in your yard, especially small things that collect rainwater, like old tires.

Change birdbaths every few days. Some mosquitoes love that warm little puddle. Others go for bigger bodies of water, like swamps. Hopefully we can avoid more toxic ways to control them, like spraying.



Collector's Corner

Happy Spring everyone ☺

We've made it through another winter and warmer, longer days are here! FY2016 will close on June 30th for the Town of Williamsburg. Fourth quarter installments for real estate taxes were payable by May 2, 2016.

Did you know you can pay online at www.burgy.org? Bank account information or charge card information is provided by you into the secured payment system to make your payment electronically. There are no mail issues or trips to the town office to worry about if you pay online. If you weren't aware, mail deposited in Williamsburg or Haydenville now goes from there to Hartford, CT to be processed and then sent back to the town for delivery. This process unfortunately takes much longer than before and could possibly delay receipt of your payment depending on when you dropped it off in the post office. Please note that payments are due in my office by the due date – postmarks are not accepted and I can't be held responsible for the delays in the mail system. Also keep in mind that if you are paying online through your personal bank, they outsource the payments to another party who generate a paper check that is then mailed to me, so again please make sure you build in the mail processing time so I get it by the due date.

Also, make sure to include the bill # and/or type of tax you are paying with your payment so I can post the payment appropriately and timely.

Are you having difficulty paying your tax bill? I am happy to accept partial payments more frequently – anytime, in any amount – to lessen the blow of the large quarterly payments. I understand that life gets in the way sometimes. Rather than avoid the uncomfortable issue, please call me or stop in. I'm here to help you. And PLEASE do not feel like you should apologize for a late payment. Life is busy and we have all been there for one reason or another at some point and "better late than never". ☺ Let's work together to resolve it.

Do you need to update your mailing address? For real estate taxes or water/sewer bills, please notify me at P O Box 488, Haydenville or 268-8401. **For excise tax bills, you must notify the Registry of Motor Vehicles for any address changes.** This can be done online by visiting www.massrmv.com or by going to a Registry branch office. The Registry generates the excise bills and I do not have access to their records and cannot make any changes.

Thank you to all of you for helping me through another successful fiscal year.

Mill River Greenway Committee

The Williamsburg Mill River Greenway Committee continues to progress towards our goal of creating a multipurpose greenway along the Mill River. Notable points so far in 2016:

- Nick Dines reported back from a meeting with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, regarding our ongoing coordination with them on the Route 9 section of the Greenway. Nick noted that the changing costs of bridges means we should bring back into consideration the possibility of following Route 9 through the "pinch point" curve near the Brassworks. This will be added to the options that would currently take the Greenway through the area on the other side of the river from the Brassworks.
- The Committee has been working with Smith College engineering students on a preliminary design for the "dismount" area between the railbed near the Northampton border to South Main Street. The Committee met with two of the students at our March meeting, who shared their work so far, answered our questions, and took notes on our suggestions. They will be presenting more detailed designs to us by the end of their semester.
- The Greenway Committee hosted a Community Forum on Saturday, April 9th, to update town residents on the status of the project, answer questions, and gather feedback. It was very well attended, and we received lots of terrific feedback from town residents.

(continued on Page 9)

Mill River Greenway Committee

(continued from page 8)

Upcoming plans:

- Based on the feedback from town residents at the Community Forum, we will narrow down the options for the route and arrange for more detailed studies as needed.
- As part of our coordination with MassDOT, we will be putting together and submitting a Project Initiation Form. This will be a significant milestone in our work with them.
- We will continue discussions with the owners of properties behind the Brassworks.

The Mill River Greenway Committee meets at 7pm on the first Thursday of each month, at the Town Offices. We encourage your participation!

Williamsburg Libraries



Collaboration with Hilltown Land Trust: Exploring the natural world with Hilltown Land Trust and Meekins Library, we celebrate the land we love through art, literature, and food!

We began with a *Book Share* on February 17th. We shared our favorite books and authors on nature and land. Next was *Nature Out Loud: Poetry Reading & Gathering* on March 10th. We celebrated together and read out loud our favorite nature poems. *Wild Edibles with Blanche Derby* was sponsored by the Williamsburg Cultural Council, a local section of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, on April 20th. We celebrated Earth Day and learned about black locust flowers, cattail buds, and stinging nettles. Then, on May 7th we built fairy houses with natural materials at Hilltown Land Trust's beautiful Bradley Sanctuary, as part of Meekins' May Faire Celebration, another activity sponsored by the Williamsburg Cultural Council.



Reading to Dogs through the Paws to Read Program: The use of trained therapy dogs in reading programs can result in children who feel comfortable reading out loud, read more often, attempt more difficult books, and actually look forward to reading. As children improve their literacy skills, they're not just learning how to read, they're learning to love to read!

The Bright Spot Reading Buddy Program is designed to help readers on all levels. All children benefit from reading aloud to practice their fluency and further strengthen their confidence in reading. The canine

reading buddy provides a gentle, non-threatening, comforting listener.

Sign up for a 20 minute session on the first Thursday of the month between 3:15-4:15 PM with canine reading buddy, Scout. Scout and his handler, Meg, are a certified therapy dog team through the

Bright Spot Reading Buddy Program (www.bright-spot.org). Children bring a book or two to read while caregiver remains on-site. *For children in grades K-6.*

Preregistration required - email megptaylor@comcast.net



Summer Reading: The Summer Reading kick-off party will be Saturday, June 25 from 1-2. Roger Tincknell will perform children's multi-cultural songs and singing games! Have your kids sign up for Summer Reading – they keep their reading skills up, learn, escape, and win prizes!

Kmit Children's Programming Librarian: Sue Cornell will continue her ever popular Lego Club, Teen/Tween book club, STEAMcraft drop in science craft and more! She is developing a "Passport" program where different countries will be featured. Check out our website at <http://www.meekins-library.org> and look under the "Events & Activities" tab to learn what programs we have planned!

News from Hampshire Regional High School

Hampshire Regional High School continues to strive for academic excellence and a sense of belonging to all students in the spring of 2016.

After completing a thorough analysis of our bus routes, the school committee approved the consolidation of two busses while still getting students to school on time in a safe manner. Due to the nature of the transportation contract, we were able to move the savings from the reduction in a bus to reinstate the after school bus that was lost over a decade ago, after multiple requests from families in the district. Two late busses are offered on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 4pm to all students, dropping off at Norris Elementary School in Southampton, Anne T. Dunphy Elementary School in Williamsburg, and New Hingham Regional Elementary School in Chesterfield. At no additional cost to towns, after school academic help, after school extracurricular clubs, and athletic opportunities are now available to students who previously could not participate because of transportation issues. The entire learning community is thrilled about this new opportunity for students.

With support from families in Williamsburg, Hampshire Regional High School was awarded \$1334 from Florence Bank as a recipient of one of their Customers' Choice Community Grants. The money will be used to support students' extracurricular organizations directly that would not be otherwise funded. We appreciate the support from the community that helped us obtain these funds as we continue to push for as many opportunities as possible to engage students in our learning community.



Each year, Hampshire Regional has the opportunity to honor one teacher with the Grinspoon Teacher of Excellence award.



Kim Bush
Grinspoon Teacher of Excellence

High school English teacher Kim Bush was selected as this year's recipient. Mrs. Bush has been teaching at HRHS for over 20 years and serves our community in a number of different roles, including former cheerleading coach, class advisor, student council advisor, and NEASC Standards Chairperson. She is a thoughtful and dynamic educator who is focused on ensuring that all her students grow and learn in her classroom. If you see Kim around town, feel free to congratulate her on this special accolade.

With the help of caring faculty and staff, students are working tirelessly at HRHS in their coursework. Because of their exemplary performance on AP Tests, Hampshire Regional was once again named as an AP Honor Roll School by the College Board for the third year in a row. This achievement is a nice feather in our cap, but it represents a small portion of the rich learning that takes place at HRHS. If you are able to peek into classrooms, you will see students engaging in inquiry-based learning, asking thoughtful questions, and collaborating with their peers in a variety of ways. The class of 2016 will end their journey with Hampshire Regional on June 3 at John M. Greene Hall at their commencement ceremony, but the lessons learned in and out of their classrooms during their time at HRHS will provide them with the necessary skills and competencies to be contributing members of our community for years to come.

From the Williamsburg School

The school year is quickly moving along at the Anne T. Dunphy School! With the mild winter, the year seemed to go even faster than usual! I think we were only able to use our sleds **one** time this year on our fabulous sledding hill! Now we are approaching the time of year that is often filled with celebrations of accomplishments, and field trips that culminate units of study ~ it's a busy and exciting time of year!

Throughout the winter, we were able to make use of our greenhouse with winter gardening classes. Even on a chilly late-winter day, the greenhouse was a warm and inviting place to plant seeds! We had an early April harvest of lettuce that found its way into our school lunches that very week! The greenhouse has been a wonderful way to extend our gardening program through the whole year.

In March, we were proud to hold the 2nd annual musical, *Dear Edwina, Jr.*! We felt incredibly supported by the community, with two full houses once again this year! The students showed such dedication, committing to several months of rehearsals and lots of hard work. We were so proud of all of them! A huge thanks to the staff members heading up this production ~ Nancy Millette, Johanna Korpita, MJ Long, and Amelia Wright. Stay tuned in the fall to find out what next year's show will be!

In April, our students had the opportunity to work with Julia Thacker, a creative writer and poet from Cambridge. Ms. Thacker visited our school for six days as an artist-in-residence, helping students to create their own poetic works. This experience was funded through a Massachusetts Cultural Council STARS grant.

As we near the end of this school year, we are preparing to say farewell to a longtime educator in the Williamsburg Schools. In June, Mrs. Diana Braman will retire ~ after **three decades** of educating and caring for children of Williamsburg. Because of her interest in and reverence for history, students leave our third grade with a connection to and appreciation of Williamsburg's past. And what child doesn't remember the first teacher to introduce him/her to cursive handwriting? Later this spring, please watch for information about how former students and families might acknowledge Mrs. Braman's retirement. We thank Diana Braman for her years of dedication to our school community! Her contributions will be missed!

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!

Williamsburg Public Safety Complex

The Williamsburg Public Safety Complex Committee has continued to meet monthly, working to find the best solutions for siting, designing and funding the public safety infrastructure needs for the Town of Williamsburg.

We have recently completed an architectural feasibility study with Drummey, Rosane, Anderson Inc. That study has produced three initial designs and a few additional variations that we are now considering for further development.

To aid us in that process, the committee has been meeting with as many small groups in our town as we can manage to seek input and comments on our progress to date. If you haven't had a chance to participate in one of these meetings, please contact us so we can schedule a presentation and include your thoughts and ideas.

The presentation includes a short video on why we need a new safety complex, the architectural drawings and plans produced by DRA, and a couple of handouts with FAQ's and price estimates.

Sometime this summer we will have one final informational meeting with the public at large to describe our proposal, distilled from the information that we have gathered. This will give everyone a chance to bring their ideas and comments to the process.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the Town Administrator at 268-8418 and she will put you in touch with one of the committee members.

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

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One of several design proposals for the Public Safety Complex – See page 11 for update.

