

A periodic newsletter of the Town of Williamsburg

Town of Williamsburg Fall 2015



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Special Town Meeting, Monday, December 7, 2015

Anne T. Dunphy School
1 Petticoat Hill Road, Williamsburg

Voters will be asked to consider four articles at the special town meeting; one prior fiscal year article, authorization of a payment in lieu of taxes agreement for a solar installation in town, acceptance of the Haydenville Cemetery Association land and funds under the authority of the Williamsburg

Trust Fund And Cemetery Commission, and purchase of a pumper fire truck for the Fire Dept. A complete copy of the Town Meeting warrant articles can be viewed by visiting the Town's website at www.burgy.org.

Participate in your government: attend the Special Town Meeting at the Anne T. Dunphy School on Monday, December 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.



FREE Shredding Day in Williamsburg

Saturday, November 21, 2015
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, 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!

Valley Green
SHREDDING
"Your Neighbor, Your Partner in Document Security"

Highway Department Holiday Celebration

The Board of Selectmen and Highway Department invite all residents to attend the annual holiday celebration at the Williamsburg Highway garage on Thursday, December 24, 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.



Visit

www.burgy.org

for more
information about:

The Town
Committees,
Boards and
Departments
and much more!

Williamsburg Public Safety Complex Committee

The Williamsburg Public Safety Complex Committee was created by the Board of Selectmen in October of 2013 to help the town identify the future facility needs of the Fire, Police and Emergency Management Departments with a focus on what is practical, affordable and necessary; to identify possible locations for a safety complex; to determine a preliminary design of such a building; and to help identify possible funding sources.

On April 3, 2014, the Committee met with the Board and delivered their report and recommendation to proceed to the hiring of a professional design company to study the feasibility and options of a safety complex building. Subsequently the Town raised \$40,000 for that study at the Annual Town Meeting. The study is intended to determine the suitability of various site options, determine the scope of the project, and estimate all costs for completion. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was published and the Board subsequently hired Drummey Rosane Anderson, Inc. (DRA) to conduct the study.

Since the hiring of DRA, the Committee, with the architect's help and assistance, has been quite busy, meeting every month and completing tasks between meetings. During that time, the Committee has completed programmatic studies of the needs of the three departments, reviewed potential sites for the safety complex throughout the Haydenville/Williamsburg corridor, and created and reviewed flood zone maps for the studied areas. Our contract with DRA allows for three different studies of sites and to date we have completed two studies, both siting the complex on the James Building lot as no other locations were deemed suitable. We have met with Water/Sewer Commission Chair Bill Turner to evaluate the suitability of Route 9 water supplies, completed preliminary investigations into the tax rate effect for a baseline facility, coordinated our efforts with the Building Reuse Committee and have had many conversations with town residents and people

with expertise in this area. More recently we met with Williamsburg's "Finance Team", a gathering of about 20 people who are directly involved with the financial operation of the Town, to solicit their input on what range of costs could be considered affordable for the Town. We have also prepared a short video for public presentations describing the need for new facilities with the help of pro-bono work by David Thorpe.

In the coming months the Committee will continue work on our third study, which will focus on locating part of the safety complex activities within the first floor of the James Building. We will then present an interim report to the Board of Selectmen, outlining our suggestions for taking a Safety Complex project to completion. After our meeting with the Board, we are planning to host a number of conversations with groups and citizens throughout the town and conduct a larger open forum event to further solicit comments and input from residents. We are focused on collecting and incorporating all of the concerns and suggestions of the Town's residents into the final design.

The Committee would like to extend to all the opportunity to view the present facilities, meet with individual Committee members, attend our scheduled meetings and to ask questions of us on our progress. We always welcome any comments and assistance that might aid us in our project.

For contact information call 268-8400.

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 yours and your neighbors' property.

Winter Parking Ban

No overnight parking is allowed on any street between December 1 and March 31. Vehicles found in violation can be ticketed. Vehicles impeding snow removal could also potentially be towed. We thank everyone in advance for keeping our roads clear during the winter months.

Closed for the Holidays

Highway and Town Office Departments will be closed on the following days:

- November 26th & 27th
- December 25th
- January 1st

Also, some Town Departments may be closed on:

- November 25th
- December 24th
- December 31st

News from the Fire Department

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 are between the ages of 15 & 18 years old, lives in Williamsburg and has an interest in the fire department, please give us a call @ 413-268-7233. Trainings are held Tuesday evenings at one of our two stations. If you have any questions please give us a 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 would like to burn by going to www.hcburnpermits.com and 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](#).

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 they are creating a nuisance smoke condition the fire will be extinguished.

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 residence 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 by-law by the Town Meeting.

Senior & Veterans' Tax Relief Programs

The Town's ongoing Senior and Veterans' Volunteer Tax Relief Programs (also called Senior and Veterans' Work-Off Programs) is accepting applications. (Deadline was October 8 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).

Williamsburg Cultural Council

The Williamsburg Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

For 2015/2016, the Williamsburg Cultural Council was allocated a total of \$4,400 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for grants to individuals or organizations for cultural projects that benefit the community. Projects eligible for grants may be in the arts, humanities, or interpretive sciences. While the deadline for submitting applications for 2015/2016 was October 15, here are some of the recipients of the past season's grants:

Williamsburg Historical Society for displays of historic photos of Haydenville and Williamsburg; Todd Lynch and Nikki Gardner for Flotsam Weirs II on the grounds of the Meekins Library; Susan Farrell for a vocal performance at Linda Manor; Puppet show for the Meekins Summer Reading Program; Hampshire Regional High School

musical and a field trip; Aimee Gelinas for a walk/talk on beech trees; and a storyteller presentation for the Council on Aging.

For more information on the Williamsburg Cultural Council, visit the council's web site at <https://www.mass-culture.org/Williamsburg> or e-mail BurgyCC@yahoo.com.



Planning Board

The Planning Board has been discussing two large projects in town that fall under Site Plan Review status. The first was the CRD Metalworks application for its manufacturing business on Hyde Hill Road. After lots of input and discussion, and a twice-continued joint hearing with the ZBA, we concluded the business was not permitted at its current scale and use. That decision is being appealed.

We evaluated and made our report to the Zoning Board on an application by Sao Joao Realty, LLC to rebuild the former Berkshire Bank property at 142 Main St., Haydenville as a Dunkin Donuts restaurant with drive-through. This proposal has raised strong feelings among neighbors and townspeople and I'm sure the outcome will be closely watched.

We welcomed Steve Romanowski of Haydenville as a new member recently, and could use another member or two for diversity and to meet our quorums. It's an opportunity to get in on how the zoning rules of the town are put together, and see how new projects come along the pipeline. You can get in touch through the Planning Board link at Burgy.org.

Collector's Corner

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer. Time sure has flown by and almost half the year is gone already! The Town's financial team and Board of Assessors worked for months with the state to process everything to set the FY2016 tax rate set. The new rate is \$18.75/thousand. As you know, FY2016 began on July 1, 2015. Preliminary real estate tax bills (based on last year's tax amounts) were sent with payments due August 3 and November 2, 2015. The actual tax bills based on the new rate will be sent with payments due February 1 and May 1, 2016.

Payments can be brought to my office, mailed, or paid on the town website at www.burgy.org. Look for the Unipay logo and follow the prompts. There are several on the website.

What you may not be aware of is that I am able to accept partial payments on both real estate and water/sewer bills. These taxes can be a big bite of your budget and if not escrowed with your mortgage can get away from you and then you have the full amount due all of a sudden. I am happy to accept payments in any amount as often as you want to make them. It doesn't even have to be any regular payment. I have some who send checks in monthly and some who send payments weekly and some who make payments whenever they have a windfall from overtime or some other source. The goal of course is to have the payment made in full by the quarterly due date so that interest will not accrue. Please note, however, that excise taxes for motor vehicles must be paid in full

in one payment by the due date as per state guidelines.

When you are making any payment, please be sure to include a copy of your bill for reference in posting your payment. It can be difficult to understand what you are trying to pay if the property is in your partner's name which differs from yours or if you haven't changed your maiden name on your deed, for example.

Also, if you are using your own personal bank to make payments online, please understand that your payments are sent to a third party who processes a paper check and then it is mailed to my office (with no copy of your bill). My office cannot be responsible for the mail service or this third party getting your payment to my office in a timely way. If the town website is used for payment, the payment is processed electronically and available to me the same day. If you are taking it from your checking account, the charge is only \$0.25 – cheaper than a stamp, and debit and credit cards are also accepted. Once the transaction is put "into your cart" the additional fee charged by the processing bank will show. If you choose at that time not to complete the transaction, you can easily cancel it and make your payment another way.

Excise tax bills are generated by the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles from information you provide to them when you get your driver's license and register your vehicle. I do not have access to their records. If you need to update your mailing address, you must contact the RMV yourself.

American Flags

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

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



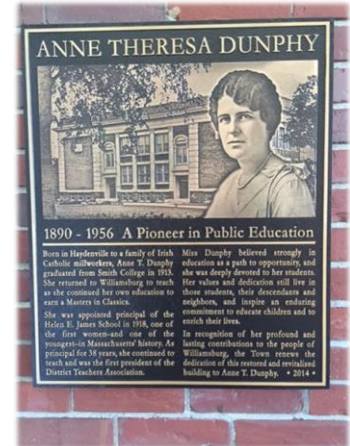
News from the Williamsburg School

The 2015-2016 school year headed off to a smooth start in late August with 165 students entering our shiny halls! It was a great feeling to start our second year in the newly renovated building.

The instrumental music and after school enrichment programs we started last year are up and running again. This year, we are excited to add Spanish classes to our students' schedules!

Save the date! March 11th and 12th will be our next school musical! Last year's inaugural event was a hit, selling out two performances! This year we'll be performing Dear Edwina, the story of a plucky 13-year old advice columnist who engages her neighborhood friends in "Advice-a-palooza!"

If you have not visited the school in the past few months, be sure to stop by and admire the new Anne T. Dunphy plaque outside our front door. This plaque was



made possible by members of the Williamsburg School Committee and by generous donors from throughout the community. It is quite stunning and we are proud that it welcomes each visitor to our school.

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 in our new building!

~Stacey Jenkins
Williamsburg School, Principal

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 in town. The brochure will be available around town and also available 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: burgygag.weebly.com/list-of-farms



Hemenway Hill Farm



Hampshire Regional High School

The Hampshire Regional Faculty and Staff are excited to start a new school year.

NEW STAFF

Hampshire welcomes some new educators to our staff this year.

- Matthew Collins, Middle School Assistant Principal, is excited to join the faculty from JFK Middle School where he was the Assistant Principal for the Middle School and administrator in charge of Special Education. He was a Special Education teacher in the Westfield Public Schools before going into school leadership and administration.
- Edwin Scagel (high school), Christy Parent (middle school) and Michelle Tola (high school) are joining the teaching staff in the special education department.
- Cyla O'Connor replaced Jenny Livingstone as a high school math teacher.
- Dan Korpita, HRHS' golf coach, is joining our Wellness Department as a physical education teacher and health teacher.
- Kirsti Wiemokly is teaching in both the English and the History Department.
- Karen Milch is the school's Evaluation Team Leader.
- In addition to the new staff, Mrs. Jaworowski is teaching art full time this year and our ELL teacher, Ms. Kornbluth, is here for an additional hour every day.

NEASC VISIT

This year, Hampshire Regional will host our decennial evaluation site visit from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). NEASC accreditation is required to ensure that our school is considered on par with other schools in the country. The reputation of the community strongly benefits from having an accredited local high school. NEASC accreditation requires a comprehensive analysis of all aspects of the school including core values and learning expectations, curriculum, instruction, assessment, school culture, and leadership, school resources, and community resources.

The NEASC Evaluation Committee will be visiting Hampshire Regional **May 1 through 4 in 2016**. They interview students, staff, and community members, make observations about the school, and analyze the report submitted by the staff. Based on their findings, they determine whether or not the school has met the expectations to be accredited.

We look forward to our site visit and hope you will consider participating in this worthwhile evaluation by being available for interviews and welcoming the committee to our community. If you are interested, please contact Principal Smidy by emailing ksmidy@hr-k12.org.

NEW TRACK

This summer, Hampshire Regional installed a new track. The track was worn to the point of not being safe in many areas, so athletes and community members are pleased to have the new surface. Please keep in mind the following guidelines when using the track:

- No pets are allowed on the track at any time. Service animals are acceptable.
- Roller blades, bikes, skateboards, or other wheeled vehicles (excluding wheelchairs) are not allowed on the track. Wheels ruin the track surface quickly, so it is not acceptable to have these on the surface.
- Athletes are asked to remove their cleats when crossing the track surface.
- Joggers are asked to please use the outside three lanes when using the track.

The track is a wonderful resource for our community and school. If an individual is using the track improperly or the school needs the track for an event, he/she will be respectfully asked to leave. Thank you for helping HRHS keep our grounds in working order for our athletes and community.

OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY

Hampshire Regional continues to grow programs and extracurricular opportunities for our students and staff. Students can take courses such as AP Chemistry, Human Oppression, Graphic Design, Personal Finance, US History Survey, and Personal Fitness. A Debate Team is off the ground this year, as well as a new Wellness Club and Middle School Student Council. Teachers are focusing professional development on content rich topics and are also participating in a series of six workshops on *Teaching All Students*. Hampshire's MCAS scores are in the double digits above the state average in science, and all subjects of all grades saw growth this year.

If you are interested in visiting our school or hearing more about the great things happening at Hampshire, please reach out to Luanne Clark, Office Manager, to schedule an appointment to spend some time at HRHS.

From the Town Clerk's Office

Online Voter Registration Now Available

The Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin has announced that online voter registration is available in the Commonwealth through the portal launched by his office. This important advancement will make registration easier and more convenient as well as cut costs relating to the printing of voter registration forms.

Massachusetts citizens can apply online by visiting Secretary Galvin's website at www.sec.state.ma.us and clicking the "Massachusetts Register to Vote Online" button to access the online application system. Any Massachusetts citizen who has a valid identification card issued by the Registry of Motor Vehicles will be able to use the online system to apply to register to vote, update their address or change their party enrollment.

Massachusetts citizens who do not have identification issued by the Registry of Motor Vehicles can still complete an application online which they can print, sign and mail or hand-deliver to their local election official.

With the Presidential Primary only 4 months away on March 1st, 2016, now is the time to visit Secretary Galvin's website:

www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch

to check your voter registration status and make any updates as necessary. This will be a very busy upcoming election year, so make sure you register!

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 within the town village and center.

The Highway Department welcomes Chris Tautznik who was hired in August to replace Nolan Rice who moved out of state.

The Highway Department started the warm weather season doing an extensive amount of patching town-wide potholes. The upper end of Hemenway Road, Conway Road and Judd Lane were top-coated with 1½ inches of blacktop. Chesterfield Road and the lower part of Hyde Hill Road, the first section of Village Hill and most of Ashfield Road were crack-sealed. About 400 tons of blacktop from Mass DOT was put on Mountain Street to try to hold the road together for another year.



Highway Happenings



We are preparing for the winter season. We appreciate it if everyone adheres to the winter parking ban so that we are able to plow and sand the roads and make them safe for everyone who uses them. If you have questions or concerns about the roads, please call the Highway Department at 268-8405.

Water/Sewer Commission

Most of you know by now that the Water and Sewer Commission is in the process of converting all of the water and sewer usage meters over to new state-of-the-art Neptune meters that are radio-read meters. These are an improvement for several reasons. As a Commissioner drives by, the meter is “woken up” just long enough to transmit the usage reading to a handheld unit in the vehicle and then “goes back to sleep” until the next reading is taken. The Commissioners no longer have to walk to each residence and touch a reading unit to the reader pad attached to the side of the house, read the number and then transcribe the number into a book which then has to be entered into a computer to be calculated. Snow, ice, rain, brush piles, stacked wood, trash barrels, and removed or broken wires from readers will no longer be an issue. The information is taken directly from the reader to the software used for billing. The whole process is now much more streamlined, efficient, and less subject to error.

The new meters will be helpful in other ways as well. For instance, if a high reading is obtained, you can have a Commissioner come out and get a more detailed report directly from the meter, which tells them of “abnormal usage” over the last 90 days and the amount of water used, along with the day and time it spiked in usage. This is helpful to you in pinpointing leaks or malfunctioning appliances.

Currently just over half of the water and sewer accounts have been switched to the new meters. If you currently have sewer usage only but have not had your meter installed, please contact the Commission immediately. The Commission has voted to double the flat rate fees for those that do not. This double rate penalty will continue until a meter is installed, at your expense, by a licensed plumber. Meters are supplied by the Commission.

While the Commission has been trying to change the meters somewhat by street, it is many times difficult to catch people at home during normal business hours to change the existing meter. The Commission is willing to set up a time with you in the evening or on the weekend. It generally only takes between ten minutes to half an hour to complete the change provided there are no issues with older plumbing and shut off valves. You can call 268-8430 and leave a message to have a time set up to change the meter. There is no cost to you either for the meter or the change to a new meter unless a licensed plumber is necessary for some reason.



Do you know where your town water comes from? Off South Street, on Roger Bisbee Way, is the town well house. Further up behind on the hill are two very large retention tanks that each hold 381 thousand gallons of water from the well. They are 31 feet high and 41 feet in diameter. Recently, as part of routine maintenance to these tanks, they were drained one at a time, inspected, and cleaned and also had anodes replaced inside the tanks. We are quite happy to report that the inspections showed our tanks to be in very good shape and “surprisingly” clean with little to no sludge buildup.



Recently the Commissioners have found vandalism and witnessed trespass on the property, including people walking dogs. Remember that this sensitive land protects the town’s source of water, and thus hiking, exercising animals, or other recreation is prohibited. Please use the many other areas in town set aside for such recreation.

Tips to conserve water:

- Take 5 minute showers
- Run dishwasher only when fully loaded
- Do full loads of laundry
- Check toilets and sinks for leaks
- Turn off water after you have wet your toothbrush
- Rinse your razor in the sink
- Don’t leave water running when rinsing dishes

Meekins Library

New Logo

Let's start with our new logo! Beautifully created by local graphic artist Rick Murnane, it perfectly blends the essence of our two communities – Williamsburg and Haydenville – through the image of the two maple trees connected by the river. In the background notice the hill towns, represented very subtly in the outline of an open book. It really pops on both paper and the web! Look for it on all flyers, communication, and correspondence from now on!



Children's Programs

Here is some of the exciting new children's programming with our 'Kmit' Librarian, Susan Cornell.

- ❖ **1st Tuesday** of the month
Lego Club 3:30 - 4:30 pm
 For school aged kids K-5, but as always, everyone is welcome. Build, experiment, and create by yourself, at your own pace, or with a partner. We are always looking for Lego donations to add to our supply!
- ❖ **2nd Tuesday** of the month
Baby and Me Tummy Time 1:00 - 1:45 pm
 Babies and their grownups will be exposed to language, books, music, movement, songs, fingerplay and playful activities in a positive and supportive atmosphere. It's a great way to introduce young children to the library to begin a lifetime of regular library visits and to help children develop into lifelong library users.
- ❖ **3rd Tuesday** of the month
Supersonic Explosive Unicorns - Tween Book Club 4:00 - 5:00 pm
 Kids vote on which book they will read and discuss, snacks included!
- ❖ **Last Saturday** of the month
STEAMCRAFTS at the Meekins Library
 Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics
 An amalgamation of the acronym = fun crafts related to **STEAM!**
- ❖ **Every Wednesday at 10:30**
 Story hour with Rochelle Wildfong

We are looking forward to a **Doctor Who Party sometime in 2016** - It is most definitely wise to begin thinking of costume ideas now!

Adult Programs

- ❖ September 30 - **June Millington** Book Talk from autobiography, *Land of a Thousand Bridges* 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ Burgy Bookshare meets roughly once a month on a Sunday evening at 7pm. It is a very open and casually organized group. The books are chosen by attendees and e-mail list respondents. Contact Michele Morales at Meekins Library 413-268-7472 for more information.
- ❖ Knitting group – The Yarn Spinners is an open gathering of folks for stitching and spinning yarns. Join this friendly community the second Sunday of the month at 3pm.

Art exhibitors in the Neil Hammer Gallery

November - Nancy Dickinson - Acorn People

December - Randy Deihl - Paintings

January - Gary Fiske-White – Pastels and oils

March - Barbara Walker - Pastel Oil Drawings - "A Place of Magic - Village Hill Rd"

"Libraries are anchor places. Libraries have been standing in our towns, serving citizens, for as long as any of us can remember. Here is what the Pew Internet project learned about how people think of their libraries, in serious, democratic ways:

95 percent of Americans ages 16 and older agree that the materials and resources available at public libraries play an important role in giving everyone a chance to succeed;

95 percent say that public libraries are important because they promote literacy and a love of reading;

94 percent say that having a public library improves the quality of life in a community;

81 percent say that public libraries provide many services people would have a hard time finding elsewhere."

From: <http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2014/11/field-trips-to-americas-public-libraries/382914/>

Please come in and see what all the excitement is about!

Council on Aging

Flu Shot Clinic

Hilltown Community Health Center is sponsoring a flu clinic at the Williamsburg Town Office on Wednesday, November 18th, 12:15-2:15 pm. Anyone 19 years and up is welcome to participate. Please bring your insurance cards. For questions, call 268-8407.

Join us for Monday Meals!

The Senior Center now serves meals on Mondays! We will have soup twice a month and another type of lunch in between. That may be quiche, casseroles, sandwiches, salads, or ??? We will try to have a menu for you, but it may be hard to do that, as we depend on what is available through Brown Bag, Bread Euphoria and other sources. We will do our best to make a nice, inexpensive meal for you. Prices will be \$3 per meal and we'll be able to package them for delivery & pick-up. Call 268-8407 for info and your reservation.

Dedicated Volunteer Needed

for Senior Center Meal Programs

The Senior Center has a very limited budget for paid staff hours to run our many food programs. We need someone who could come regularly for 1-4 days a week (primarily between 9-12:30) to assist us with cooking, serving, cleaning up, etc. A small stipend may be available, or residents who volunteer may qualify to receive credit for their time towards a reduction on their property taxes through the Tax-Work-off program. For info call Marie Westburg at 268-8407.

Healthy Bones and Balance Program

Thursdays 4-5 pm - Free!

Fun, low impact exercise designed to increase participants' strength, mobility, flexibility and balance! Please call 268-8407 to register. Paperwork will be sent to you prior to your first class.

Note: Participants who attend prior to submitting the medical clearance form are welcome but will not be able to use free weights.

This on-going class is free and you can join anytime. Not the right time of day for you? Tell us your preferences, as we will be adding other times soon!

Remember to try the PVTa SHOPPING VAN!

If you are 60 or older or you are a veteran of any age, you are eligible to ride the Shopping Van on Tuesdays. Take a chance and take a ride, an easy way to get to Northampton and do your shopping, especially during the winter weather. Leave the driving to the professionals!

Round trip fares are just \$2. Subsidized half-fare tickets are available, just tell us you want one when you schedule your ride. The van is handicap accessible. Make your reservation by

Monday morning for Tuesday's ride. Call us at 268-8407 to schedule your trip.

Medicare Open Enrollment!

If you have a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or a Medicare Advantage Plan (HMO or PPO), you should receive a notice from your plan by the end of September. That notice outlines changes to be made to your plan for 2016; it is important to review, understand and save this information!

During Medicare Open Enrollment, from October 15th to December 7th, you will be able to change your plan for next year. If you would like help understanding your upcoming changes and options, a trained SHINE counselor is available to offer FREE and CONFIDENTIAL counseling on all Medicare and related health insurance programs. Learn more about how SHINE can help you; call your local senior center now!

The Senior Center Thanks You for Your Generous Donations!

Your donations to the Williamsburg Senior Center are used for programming, including the Companion Program, which provides weekly visits to homebound elders, many of whom would be isolated without our help. Recent donations also enabled us to purchase a large-screen TV and companion computer that will be used by the Senior Center and the other town departments. Note: The closing of Berkshire Bank in Haydenville prompted us to open a new bank account. All checks that come to the Senior Center now must be written to the TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG.



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MILL RIVER GREENWAY COMMITTEE

The Mill River Greenway Committee is pleased to report on our ongoing progress toward a multipurpose greenway along the Mill River, linking the villages of Haydenville and Williamsburg.

Since our last report, much of our attention has been on the Brassworks area. That section of the Mill River corridor may be the most complicated – and most promising – part of the Greenway. Working with the property owners and with Dodson & Flinker, a local engineering firm, we are getting a much better idea of the possibilities and look forward to learning even more. Dodson & Flinker's initial study is being funded out of the Brassworks Reuse fund, and a draft of that study will soon be available. The Greenway Committee will be hosting a community forum early next year (date TBD) to present this study and fill everybody in on where things stand generally with the project.

For the section of the Greenway that will eventually run along Route 9, we are continuing to coordinate with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation in their early planning stages for major highway work they will do several years from now. A Project Need Form has been submitted to the MassDOT, and we anticipate that we will be able to submit a Project Initiation Form by early spring.

We have also been coordinating with Northampton as they extend the MassCentral Rail Trail from Leeds, taking advantage of their ongoing work to include getting some preliminary work done on the old rail bed on our side of the town line. This was paid for out of the DCR Recreational Trails Program grant that we received last fall. A team of Smith College Design Clinic students are working on a design for the "dismount" area from the old rail bed to South Main Street. They will be presenting reports on their work in December and at the end of their school year.

The Mill River Greenway Committee meets the first Thursday of every month, and we welcome your participation in this exciting project!