

Town of Williamsburg Fall 2017

A periodic newsletter of the Town of Williamsburg



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FREE SHREDDING DAY In Williamsburg Saturday, November 4, 9-11 AM

**Williamsburg Highway Garage
24 R Main Street**

Protect your identity – shred confidential documents! All residents of Williamsburg and surrounding communities are welcome to bring documents that they would like to shred (up to three boxes per person).

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"

Special Town Meeting

**Monday, October 16, at 7:00 pm
Anne T. Dunphy School
1 Petticoat Hill Road, Williamsburg**

Voters will be asked to consider four articles at the special town meeting on Monday, October 16, 2017, 7:00 pm at the Anne T. Dunphy School: to fund \$30,000 worth of pre-design services under the direction of an Owner's Project Manager for the public safety complex and programming reuse of the Helen E. James building, to fund \$45,000 to replace the current street lighting with LED lamps, to fund \$6,400 for the purchase, maintenance and conversion to a Cash Management system for the treasurer, and \$9,000 for purchasing and installing a larger fuel tank at the Highway Garage.

A complete copy of the Town Meeting warrant 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, October 16!



Highway Department Christmas/Holiday Celebration

The Board of Selectmen and Highway Department invite all residents to attend the annual holiday celebration at the Williamsburg Highway garage on Friday, December 22, 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:
**Town Committees,
Boards, Departments,
Events,
and much more!**



Veterans' Day Ceremony

Veterans' Day ceremony will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 11:00 am at the Williamsburg Center Veterans' Memorial.

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

Police Department News

SEE SOMETHING—SAY SOMETHING: REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Call 413-586-1508 or 911



The Williamsburg Police Department would like to take a moment to remind all residents to secure their homes and vehicles. Several area communities, including Williamsburg, have had a rash of break ins. Many times homes and vehicles that are locked are passed over for easier targets. We encourage everyone to keep doors and windows locked and to keep garage doors closed. In some communities suspects have entered homes while owners are in backyards. If anyone sees something suspicious please call 911 immediately so that police may get to the area while the activity is in progress. In some instances, when canvassing neighbors after a break-in we learn that a neighbor saw an unusual vehicle in the area. Although this information gathered after the fact is useful it is a reminder to call these things in as soon as you see them. If you have been a victim of a break-in or a theft, no matter the value of the items taken, please report this to the police department. Many times cases are linked and time lines can be put together when all information is gathered.

Public Safety Complex Report

Since our last report in April, the Public Safety Complex Committee has made some significant progress, most importantly by voting on July 12 to recommend that only the James School lot be considered for the location of the Public Safety Complex. This decision was the result of a year-long process of studying all of the options that were available to the town measured against a list of criteria developed by the committee. Those criteria were:

- Lot size: usable area
- Current use: available, owned by town or through purchase
- Acquisition cost: including site preparation, water and sewer availability, purchase price
- Location: response time, between the Pharmacy and Route 143, proximity to Route 9
- Topography: flood zones, positioned above the 500 year flood zone, slope, sight lines

On August 31, the Board of Selectmen convened a meeting of the Public Safety Complex Committee, Finance Committee, Capital Planning Committee, the Mill River Greenway Committee and the Community Development Advisory Committee to ask for input and support for locating the safety complex at the James site and for the design phase of the project. There was consensus among those gathered that this was the best choice given the complexities of the project and that the committees would meet and vote on their support for the article.

The Safety Complex Committee voted on September 13 to recommend that \$575,000 for the design phase of the project be approved at the Special Town Meeting on October 16. These funds would be used for developing the programming for the James lot as a whole and the design documents for the safety complex. Programming would include the location and interaction of the safety complex with the James building as a future Town Office.

Subsequent to that meeting, the nature of the Town Meeting article was changed by the Board of Selectmen from \$575,000 for the design phase to \$30,000 for the first step of hiring an Owner's Project Manager (OPM). Dividing the design phase into two separate steps (OPM then architect) will allow another opportunity for the citizenry of Williamsburg to become involved in the decision-making process for location, budget and programming for this project. Following the OPM process, which will include a public input phase, the town will then be asked to approve funds for the design phase of the project.

Prior to the Special Town Meeting there will be a public forum on Tuesday, Oct. 10, at the Town Offices to help answer questions relating to this process. We hope that all who have questions, concerns and who want to become involved in the process will attend.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like more information, please contact any one of the committee members:

- William Sayre, Chair, Selectman
- Denise Banister, Selectman
- Dan Banister, Firefighter
- Jason Connell, Chief, Fire Dept.
- Louis Hasbrouck, Town Building Inspector
- Dick Kisloski, Chair, Capital Planning Committee
- Don Lawton, Chief, retired, Fire Dept.
- Daryl Springman, Deputy Chief, Fire Dept.
- Michael Wayne, Officer, Police Dept.
- Denise Wickland, Chief, Police Dept.



Conservation Commission

We have all heard about the value of wetlands. They absorb rain and snowmelt waters, releasing them slowly over time and preventing flood catastrophes. Wetlands act as filters, capturing contaminants and cleansing water. Wetlands also harbor the young of various species, acting as nurseries for fish, insects, and amphibians, and provide food and shelter for migrating waterfowl.

The Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act was enacted to make certain that our wetlands will exist now and in the future to shelter and protect all of us who live here. The state has given Conservation Commissions the responsibility for locally administering the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

Under the state's regulations, work proposed to be done in a riverfront or wetland area requires a permit from the Conservation Commission. An easy way to think about it is that there are three basic levels of permit paperwork, and the three vary depending on the type or severity of impacts proposed or likely to occur to wetland resources.

Commissioners can help with information on the permitting process and guide applicants through paperwork. They can help clarify the kinds of materials needed to support a project proposal. Commissioners will visit the site of proposed work to see the situation on the ground. The Commission will verify the work of others, such as surveyors and wetland consultants.

What the Williamsburg Conservation Commission cannot do is advise people on whether or not to buy a piece of property, or advise whether a lot is buildable; that is work for a professional consultant.

The Conservation Commission's job is to review the permit materials and any work performed by experienced consultants and make a determination as to whether a proposed project meets the standards set by the Wetlands Protection Act. In performing this work, the Commission is answerable to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and must follow its guidelines and procedures.

The Williamsburg Conservation Commission welcomes working with residents to ensure that your projects are done without any harm to the water resources or wetlands on or bordering your lands. More information is available at <https://www.burgy.org/conservation-commission>.



Vacancies in Town Positions 2017

Appointed Officials:

Agricultural Commission, alternate (1 year)
Capital Planning Committee (3 years, 2020)
Community Development Advisory Committee (3 years, 2018)
Council on Aging Advisory Board (3 years, 2018)
Conservation Commission secretary (part-time paid staff)
Historical Commission (3 years, 2020)
Open Space and Recreation Commission (1 year)
Public Safety Complex Committee (1 year)
Tree Warden (1 year)
Veterans' Memorial Committee (1 year)
Zoning Board of Appeals, alternate (1 year)

Elected Officials:

Local School Committee (3 years, 2019)
Regional School Committee (3 years, 2018)
Water & Sewer Commission (3 years, 2020)

If you are interested, get in touch with Town Administrator, Charlene Nardi, 413-268-8418 or townadmin@burgy.org.

Senior & Veterans' Tax Relief Programs

The Town's ongoing Senior and Veterans' Volunteer Tax Relief Programs (also called Senior and Veterans' Work-Off Programs) may still be accepting applications. (The Deadline was October 1 but there may be room, especially in the Veterans' program.) People can do work for the Town and earn a reduction in property tax, up to \$1500 per household per year.

For the **Senior** program the person must be at least 60 years old; any senior is eligible but some preference is given to people whose household income is \$30,233 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. Also note that these programs are totally separate from the Senior and Veteran Tax Exemptions. Applications are available from the Selectmen's Administrative Assistant (268-8400) or online (www.burgy.org).



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 watershed property. Please take care of town property!

Highway Department News

Can you believe autumn is already upon us? It was a beautiful summer and the Highway Department has been busy. We have been working short-staffed for the majority of the construction season due to illness, injury and vacations, but we recently added a temporary employee. Welcome to Dan Banister who has been an extremely big help and a pleasure to work with.

We began the summer season hanging 166 flags for Memorial Day Weekend. They really looked great! Thank you again for the donations. Six new flag set-ups were added to our route. Thank you to Ms. Breen for that generous donation! We did lose a few of our flags due to weather and age, but with your help, we can get things back in order for next summer. Again, I need to reiterate that the flags are not a line item in the budget and depend on donations from businesses and residents. It costs approximately \$20 per flag set-up, which includes the pole, flag, bracket and all the hardware to put it together. Your help can keep our flags looking great.

High Street was finished in early spring. We did all the prep work in time for Warner Brothers to put it on their schedule as soon as the asphalt plants opened. We finished the roadside with loam and grass seed. Now that it has had the summer to mellow it really looks pretty.

We have had the opportunity to lease a number of different rubber tired excavators this summer—"test driving" to see what machine might meet our needs for possible purchase in the future. We were able to test an excavator to use for water service work, cleaning ditches, patching roads, etc. An excavator makes a big difference in time in every instance. It is less frustrating for the operator at job sites because it maneuvers in a smaller area without constant re-setup like the bucket loader/backhoe. It takes up less space because of how it works, which keeps us out of the road and out of the way of traffic in a lot of cases. The rubber tires allow us to drive it to the job site so there is no need to trailer it. Speaking from experience, these machines were a lifesaver, especially working short-staffed. One excavator and two trucks can clean ditches more efficiently than two backhoes and two trucks. The finished job looks nicer too.

We have spent a lot of time on Petticoat Hill Road this summer preparing for chip seal in the future. We modified the catch basins, cleaned the drainage ditches and have



been shimming and patching with blacktop. Quite a bit done, a bit left to do but good preparation is the key to every good job.

Every year we spend some time updating sidewalks. This year the sidewalk at Route 9 and South Street was done. It was finished and the grass was growing in time for the town picnic, which was nice. At the moment, we are in the process of adding the curbing to the South Main Street sidewalks we updated last year. This will provide a safety buffer between the people walking and the traffic on the road. When the curbing is in we will finish with loam and grass seed. It will look great when it is complete.



The salt shed received some much needed repair recently. The entrance roof was repaired and re-shingled. A dormer was removed and that area was shingled. Other small areas that were leaking were re-shingled as well. Now our salt and sand will be protected from the coming winter weather. That being said, I know no one, except me, even wants to think about winter; however, it will come and now is the time to prepare. There are some great preparation tips and reminders on the website at www.burgy.org (click on Departments then Highway Department then Storm Information Center). We want everyone to have a safe and enjoyable winter season.

In between the big jobs, we take care of the regular responsibilities of the highway business. Early in the season, Donald Turner swept all the sand from the roads left by last winter's road maintenance. The drainage ditches on Route 143 were cleaned, as well as some on Nash Hill Road. Pete Banister, Bill Turner and I are making our way around the town with mowers. Potholes continue to be filled and some big patches were done with the paver in various places such as Briar Hill Road and Old Goshen Road. A number of new street signs have been installed. Water services have been turned off and on as residents make repairs to their plumbing. Fallen trees have been removed from roads. Quite a bit of brush was removed from the cemetery on Village Hill. We have been at the service of any department that is in need of our help. And of course, there is always truck and equipment maintenance and repair.

Every day is an adventure. I love my job and I thank you for continuing to allow me to serve the Town of Williamsburg.

Jennifer Westlake

The Mill River Greenway Project

The Williamsburg Mill River Greenway project got its biggest boost yet with the awarding of \$65,000 at Town Meeting to create the Master Route 9 Corridor Survey, which will provide the necessary data to design both the Greenway and the new Public Safety Complex. In addition to providing the funds, the award was a show of confidence and support from the citizens of Williamsburg for the Greenway, which is scheduled to break ground in 2025.

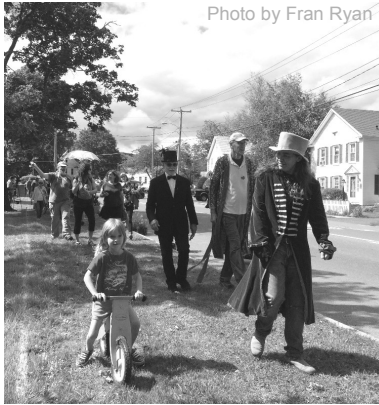


Photo by Fran Ryan

a \$47,250 grant from the DCR Recreational Trails Program. This will enable the completion of the trail surface connecting Haydenville to Northampton on the Mass Central Rail Trail, and continued improvements to the South Main Connector which will create a safe route from the trail dismount up South Main Street to the Haydenville Library. From there, the Greenway will eventually run up Route 9 to the Helen E. James site.

At Burgy's Revelation Day and Town Picnic on September 9, the committee staged a ribbon cutting and led a parade—complete with top hats, kids on bikes, and hundreds of townsfolk—for a short walk down a simulation of the Greenway running along the length of the James site. Committee members spent the afternoon at our information tent answering questions, handing out stickers and brochures, and soaking up enthusiasm for this exciting and transformative project.

Building on its strong record of bringing funds into Williamsburg, in September the Greenway Committee was awarded

The Greenway Committee will spend the next few months fundraising to match the funds awarded at Town Meeting, to use the survey as the basis for a Preconstruction Design Development Study. We hope to raise \$70,000 through a combination of grants, state transportation bond funds, and donations from local businesses and individuals. All donations (made out to Town of Williamsburg) are fully tax-deductible. Please email the committee at millrivergreenway@burgy.org to sign up for email updates and find out how you can help make the Greenway happen!

Revelation Day Demonstration: A BIG SUCCESS!

Burgy Revelation Day was a one-day event held on September 9, 2017. that featured demonstrations of four Williamsburg village center improvement projects: a new pocket park (The Tea Garden); a 100 foot section of the Mill River Greenway; the footprint of a design for a new Public Safety Complex; and an open house at the Commons Coworking. Discussion areas for the Mill River Greenway, the Public Safety Complex/Town Facilities and the Commons were filled with presentation boards, maps, drawings, etc., and provided opportunities for town residents to learn what is happening and to provide feedback. The event was held in conjunction with the Town Picnic, several open houses, and the Grange Fair. The combined events drew more than one-fifth of Williamsburg's residents, generated a lot of enthusiasm and broadened public understanding of key village center planning topics.

The Revelation Day Report as well as informational materials from the demonstration will be on display at Meekins Library, from Oct. 21st thru Nov.4th, 2017. You can also read the Revelation Day Report on the town website at: <https://www.burgy.org/home/news/burgy-revelation-day-september-9-2017>. Funding was provided for this project by Healthy Hampshire.

Special thanks to all the committee members and volunteers who helped make this event a success!

- Dillon Sussman from PVPC (Project Manager)
- Nick Dines and Gaby Immerman, Mill River Greenway Committee
- Dave Chase (Volunteer Coordinator), Commons Coworking
- Marie Westburg (Asst. Project Manager), Williamsburg Senior Center
- Bill Sayre, Public Safety Complex Committee
- Tom Adams (Videographer), Reelife Documentary Productions



It's Time for Season 3 of our Community Ice Rink!

The ice rink has been very successful for the last two years. In order to do it again, we need to raise \$2,000 for the purchase of a liner that will be big enough to cut in half and use for two seasons. Some funding is also needed to have another event like last year's Fire & Ice event, which drew in over 150 people for a bonfire, ice capades with prizes and a community potluck supper at the Grange Hall. You can donate at the Go Fund Me site: <https://www.gofundme.com/Williamsburgicerink>. **Please tell your friends and neighbors about this campaign!**

Help Build It: October 28th, 9-1 at the Helen E. James lawn. Bring your cordless drill and work gloves. Watch for announcements on our FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/BurgyIceRink/>. **Sign up for our volunteer notices at:** <https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en#!forum/williamsburg-ice-rink-volunteers>.

Thanks, we appreciate your help and hope to see you at the Community Ice Rink!

THE WILLIAMSBURG TOWN PICNIC WAS A BIG SUCCESS!

It was a fun-filled day for the whole community, with activities, food, music and civic engagement.
THANK YOU to all the volunteers, sponsors and groups who made it possible!

LOCAL BUSINESS SPONSORS:

Bread Euphoria Bakery
Brewmasters Tavern
Cichy's Garage
Elbow Room Coffee
Florence Bank
Fox Crossing Bed & Breakfast
J&J and Son
Keane Kendal Benches
Local Burgy
Lashway Forest Products
Main Street Package Store
MJ Moran Inc.
Reelife Productions
Scotties
Williamsburg Market
Williamsburg General Store
Village Green Nursery
Wanczyk Nursery
Williamsburg Snack Bar
Williamsburg Pharmacy
Worthington Auto
Zononi Lawn & Landscaping

COMMUNITY GROUPS:

Boy Scouts
Commons Co-working Group
Friends of Williamsburg Libraries
Hampshire County Jail
Healthy Hampshire
HRHS Students
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Police Association
Williamsburg Police & Fire
T.R.I.A.D.
Williamsburg Field Hockey Team
Williamsburg Highway Department
Williamsburg Lions Club

PICNIC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

Marie Westburg
Tom Adams
Denise Banister
Lisa Bertoldi
Daria D'Arienzo
Charlene Nardi
Bill Sayre
Denise Wickland

The 2018 Williamsburg Community Picnic will be held Sept 8th, 2018.

Donations for this event can be sent to:
**Town of Williamsburg, PO Box 447
Haydenville, MA 01039
Attn: Town Picnic**

We are seeking chairpersons to coordinate & volunteers for the picnic planning committee which will meet starting in January. Please contact Charlene at 268-8418.



Energy Committee

META Grant Awarded

The Town has received a grant of \$12,500 from the Green Communities Division's Massachusetts Energy Technical Assistance program to evaluate the capped wood waste site next to the transfer station and a portion of the Water Department's land on the east side of Roger Bisbee Way for small-scale, community solar sites; and to develop an RFP to put these sites out to bid for potential developers.

The concept of community solar typically entails local participants and developers building projects in the same town or at least closer to the participants than typical large scale solar projects. From the Energy Committee's assessment, the site by the Transfer Station could support a 250 kilowatt project. The Water Department land being considered has more potential constraints and the primary objective is to determine if it is suitable for solar. Any project developed there would likely be smaller than the transfer station site project. The Energy Committee will be leading this effort.

Town Wide Electricity Aggregation

The Town has partnered with Colonial Power to aggregate all residential and commercial electric load in Williamsburg for the purpose of procuring the energy (electricity) portion of their electric bill. Under deregulation of the electric supply, consumers are allowed to seek lower-priced options. Large businesses and industry have done so but residential consumers do not typically purchase their electricity from suppliers other than their electric company.

The Town, along with a number of other towns and cities, looked at pricing and contract terms from multiple suppliers. Williamsburg decided to go with an 18-month contract of 100% green wind power for \$0.113 / kilowatt-hour. The winter National Grid rate has been set to \$0.126 /kilowatt-hour. All town residents and businesses currently on basic service will receive a notification letter explaining what the aggregation is about. All residents are in the aggregation unless they opt-out. Residents can opt-out or in at any time either during the initial process or in the future. While the electricity market is difficult to predict, our hope is that everyone will save a little on their electric bill throughout the term of our current contract which starts in November.

Street Lights – LED Retrofit Project: The Town is participating in an LED retrofit program run through the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) and funded by the Green Communities Division of the Division of Energy Resources. Our current street lighting is provided under a special electric tariff from National Grid, where the Town owns the lights and National Grid provides the maintenance. The current lights are known as High Pressure Sodium (HPS), and replacing them with LED lights reduces energy use by at least 50% which is estimated to save the Town about \$7,000 annually. It's a reimbursement grant, meaning the Town will need to approve funding the entire project at the upcoming town meeting. The grant and the utility rebate will fund a little over \$16,000 of the expected project cost. Annual savings in electrical cost will be \$7,000 which will pay back the remainder of the cost in four years.

Williamsburg Senior Center News

Check Out the Williamsburg Senior Center!

Serving the needs of the growing 60 plus population in the Town Office Building, 141 Main Street, Haydenville.

Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 8:30-1:30 and Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30-7:00.

Phone: 413-268-8407

Visit our website: <http://www.burgy.org/senior-center>

Find us on Facebook: **Williamsburg Senior Center**

To get our **Living Well Newsletter** electronically or by mail, call or email sloomis@burgy.org

Basic Computer Classes with Alan Estes on Tuesdays & Thursday 6-7. 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. See our **Foot-care nurse** (\$30 office, \$40 home visit) or the **Podiatrist** (billed to Medicare). Call for appointments.

Companion Program: Are you bored at home? Want to get out and meet interesting people but don't drive anymore? Get out with a peer for some social time, meals, errands and fun activities in the community. Call us! If you'd like to BE a companion, give us a call too! The program pays a small stipend per visit.

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 for seniors.

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.

Special 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 independent living in the setting of your choice. Personalized referrals and help planning for short- and long-term needs, in-home supports, transportation, etc. Call for an appointment or to arrange a home visit or conversation via phone or email.

Benefits Counseling appointments available (or 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! Please contact Marie Westburg at coa@burgy.org if you can help!

We have many new opportunities for intergenerational connections:

Intergenerational Enrichment Workshops: The Anne T. Dunphy Elementary School is offering 6-week workshops for seniors to engage in with a student partner. There are various offerings every six weeks (e.g., Chess, Ukulele, Art and Yoga going on now). Financial aid is available through the school and the Senior Center.

Intergenerational Pen-pal Project: Last year's Intergen Pen Pal Program was fun and rewarding for the Dunphy 6th graders and seniors alike. If you sign up, you'll correspond with a student for a short time. There will be chances to meet and get to know the student, exchanging ideas, stories, encouragement and friendship! It was so encouraging to see the bonding that took place between the generations! If you'd like to participate please let us know as soon as possible at 268-8407.

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 or they can register and bus from A.T. Dunphy School. Tuesdays 3:15-5:15, all materials provided. Light refreshments served.

Healthy Cooking Classes: Interested in learning to make new, healthy recipes and trying new foods? Call to get on the list for our upcoming plant-based cooking classes. We will explore key nutritional concepts and put them to practice while cooking together. Classes will be scheduled for best times of participants but generally have happened Thursdays 1-3 pm or 5-7 pm. Small materials fee per class.

Men's Breakfast: Join a group of local men on the third Thursday of each month. The "experienced" men get 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 meetings (guest speakers, trips, etc.)

Fitness Classes: (Free and low fee classes, Financial Aid available to those who qualify)

We offer 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
- **Feldenkrais Movement**, Thursdays, 6 pm-starts in Nov.

News from Anne T. Dunphy School

Our 2017-2018 school year is off to a great start. We are excited to welcome many new staff and students to our special school community. In the days before the official start of school, we look forward to opening our doors for events to help our students and families prepare for the new year. On August 28th, we welcomed our incoming kindergarten students and their families to our "Kindergarten Round Up" during which the kindergarteners have the opportunity to play with their new classmates, meet some special school staff, and take a ride on a school bus. Then, on August 29th, we opened the doors up again to welcome *all* of our students and families for our "Sneak-a-Peek," a chance for kids to see their new classrooms, meet their teachers, and take care of some of the back to school jitters.



In September, we were pleased to accept the gift of a "Buddy Bench" from Connor Strong, a local Boy Scout working toward his Eagle Scout award. As part of his Eagle Scout project, Connor planned and built three Buddy Benches for local elementary schools. Upon the completion of his project, and after communication with each principal, Connor presented the Buddy Bench and the concept behind it to the entire school community. The beautiful wooden bench on our playground is a place on which students can sit during recess if they don't have a recess friend or game to play. When other students see someone sitting on the Buddy Bench, they know their job is to check in and help out!



Our school community continues to enjoy making connections within our school during our monthly All School Gatherings. In September, our sixth graders led us in some activities to acknowledge Interna-

tional Peace Day. Older students worked with younger "buddies" to create beautiful hummingbirds throughout our school.

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

Once again, our fantastic school garden program entered several impressive pieces into the Williamsburg Grange Fair. The 3rd graders' carrots received the State Award!

The staff and students continue to benefit from this very supportive community. We so appreciate the time that our parent volunteers, PTO, School Committee, and School Council members graciously provide to enhance our students' school experience, as well as the support from many other town departments! We are looking forward to another exciting year!

~Stacey Jenkins
Williamsburg Schools, Principal



The 3rd graders' carrots received the State Grange Award!



Things to Remember

Have you moved or has your mailing address changed? If you have a P.O. Box, we need your number!

- Contact the Town Clerk at 268-8402 to find out how to update our voter registration records.
- Contact the Registry of Motor Vehicles to update their records. This is the only way to make sure your motor vehicle excise bill gets mailed to the correct address (the town has no access to the RMV records).
- Contact the Board of Assessors at 268-8403 to update your real estate and/or personal property tax billing address.
- Contact the Collector at 268-8401 to update your water/sewer billing address.

Have you purchased a new or new-to-you vehicle and sold or traded your "old" vehicle?

- Contact the Board of Assessors at 268-8403 to find out about the abatement process on excise tax paid for the current year on your sold or traded vehicle. Abatement forms are also available online at www.burgy.org.

Mailing address for real estate, personal property, motor vehicle excise and water/sewer bill payments is P.O. Box 488, Haydenville, MA 01039. Other town correspondence should be sent to P.O. Box 447, Haydenville, MA 01039.

Did you know? Payments can be made online at www.burgy.org 24 hours a day / 7 days a week! No postage or mail delivery to worry about and no standing in line, and a confirmation # will be provided at completion of payment.

Hampshire Regional News and Events

Happy Fall, Williamsburg Families!! The staff at Hampshire Regional High School is excited to welcome the class of 2023 and welcome back all students on August 30! Hampshire recently adopted the motto: **Embracing Growth Together—Think, Care, Contribute.** Every aspect of what we do in our learning community should connect to this ideal. Each community member in our school should always be looking for ways to improve—I think the old saying is *even the best know how to get better.*

New Staff

Hampshire Regional High School welcomes the following new staff:

Aidan Talbot: Choral Director

Sydney Cloutier: Physical Education Teacher

Jesse Porter-Henry: Middle School Science—Team Everest

James Belcastro: High School English

Susannah Branch: Spanish

Amy Adamski: High School Mathfile:///C:/Users/Sherry/Downloads/IMG_0093.JPG

Patricia Keane: Middle School Math—Team Rocky Mountains

Amy Bush: Special Education Teacher

Jeffrey Carriero: Special Education Teacher

Alicja Strycharz: Para Educator

Dayna Doolittle: Para Educator

Katelyn Hanlon: Para Educator

Abigail Rivard: Para Educator

Lyndsey Opperheimer: Para Educator



Each new staff member, whether brand new to education or a seasoned educator, shared our vision of Embracing Growth Together, and they are fantastic additions to our school.

New Courses and Student Support Programs

Hampshire Regional is pleased to offer a number of new courses this year including:

Exploring Computer Science

Advanced Placement Computer Science

Advanced Placement Statistics

Digital Math (Middle School)

Algebra 1A

As math is now a four-year graduation requirement, it was necessary to expand our offerings, and we are especially pleased to be offering computer science as a new course.

Part of our school goal is to ensure that students are supported with the rigorous academic workload. We are in the process of developing a number of programs for the different needs of students. These include programs for students who have been out of school due to a long-term illness and who need a transitional placement to get caught up with work, credit recovery programs for students who have failed a class, and programs associated with Holyoke Community College for students who need a different setting.

School Improvement Plan

Our school improvement plan is located on our website at www.hrhs.net. I invite you to review it and reach out to me with questions or concerns. It was developed by the HRHS School Council. School council members are **HRHS Staff:** Kelly Carpenter (co-chair), Tonya Aitken, Amy Scully and Keith Wright; **HRHS Parents:** Melissa Adams, Bill Curran, Luci Dalton, Eileen Hamel; **HRHS Student** Rebecca Buelher, and **HRHS School Committee Representative** Margaret Larson. The HRHS School Improvement Plan goals include topics around college and career readiness, communication, curriculum alignment, safety, and supporting the whole child.

Please do not hesitate to contact Principal Kristen Smidy if you have questions or comments about Hampshire Regional!



Closed for the Holidays

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

Thursday, November 9, 2017 (*Town Office Depts. closed*)

Friday, November 10, 2017 (*Highway Dept. closed*)

Thursday, November 23, 2017

Friday, November 24, 2017

Monday, December 25, 2017

Monday, January 1, 2018

Meekins Library



Front Stairs Project: Though it has taken a very long time (over a year) to repair the cheek walls of the steps leading to the entrance of the original building, we are finally done (mostly) and open to the public! In the spring of 2016, several large stones fell out of the aging wall. Luckily, no one was hurt. Town officials and members of the Board of Library Trustees began the process of filling out forms and putting the job out to bid. As the library is an historic building, there are many state guidelines involved. We received a generous grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission as well as money from the town to deconstruct and then repair the walls. Unfortunately, as the work crew progressed, they found that the damage was far more serious than originally thought, so that delayed the project. Also, as an historic building, the replacement stones have to match the original stones, so there were delays at the quarry and work was stalled again while waiting for the stones. The stones finally arrived and work resumed the last week of August 2017. And now we have a beautiful new/old entryway wall and the steps are open to the public!

We had a very successful **Summer Reading Program: Build a Better World**; 144 children signed up, as well as 27 teens and 69 adults! Our Kmit Children's Programming Librarian, Wendy Peppercorn, held many wonderful programs, including: a kick-off event with Rae Griffiths from Teaching Creatures featuring Animals and their Habitats; painting Kindness Rocks for our Kindness Garden here at Meekins; Kevin Kopchinski of Nature Explorations entertained us with an astronomy/ science program as a tie in to the solar eclipse. For the Teens and Tweens we held a Harry Potter birthday party. For the younger crowd, we held a stuffed animal sleep-over. The animals were a bit out of control while they were here all night (without supervision), but they were all glad to go home with their children the next day. We also held a Princess and Pirate party. The End of Summer gala included many games and activities outside including an ice cream social.

We celebrated Henry David Thoreau's 200th birthday with an event July 13th with Rochelle Wildfong, Jack Barry, and Jeffrey Riordan Hinich at Angel Park Music Series: "Henry David Thoreau 2017 in Story and Song" and we also held a group reading on July 16 of Thoreau's "Walking Essays" followed by a group walk on a Williamsburg Woodland Trail.

Thanks to our Kmit Trust fund, we reorganized and refurbished the picture book room, adding new bench cushions, a new book case, new area rug, and a new cart for music CDs and kits containing books and books on CD.

Our annual Halloween Boo Bash-a-Roo...a huge event by any standards, will be held on Halloween night, Tuesday, October 31 from 6:00 to 7:30. There will be "not too spooky" fun and frivolity for all ages, warm food, candy treats, and a great many crafts and activities! Please wear your costumes—we will!

Upcoming art shows in the Neil Hammer Gallery include: Brendon Connors in September, Carol Duke in October, Samuel Rowlette in November, and Gloria Black in December. Some of our upcoming events/programs include, John Irving Clapp discussing his book, "The Lost Village of Roberts Meadow: Northampton's Forgotten Settlement" on October 11th at 6pm; Jack Barry will be discussing his new poetry book on November 9 from 6-7:30; and an Estate Planning workshop with Karen Jackson, Esq., on Saturday, October 14th from 11-12.

Our Friends group will be holding their "Largest Book Sale in the Hilltowns" on Saturday, October 7 and Sunday, October 8 from 9-2 here at Meekins Library. Come on down and dig for treasure (the book kind of treasure, that is!) The Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries had an eventful summer. They started off the season by funding the great performers that participated in the May Faire celebration at the Meekins. This growing, annual event is also an opportunity for the Friends to volunteer and enjoy a fun day in the community. Later in the summer they supported the Kick-off and Closing events for the spectacularly successful Summer Reading Program at the library. They also purchased more prizes than ever before for this popular program. They continue to fund practical improvements around the library like the purchase of a new sign to post library hours, new cushions and toy baskets for the picture book room, and the painting of the Hawks~Hayden Room. These improvements help make the library a warm, welcoming space for all. They also purchase museum and park passes that can be checked out at the reception desk. They finished up the summer season by tabling and having a small book sale at the Town Picnic. They look forward to movie nights and book events in the fall!

We would like to point out a **new service on our webpage**—<http://www.meekins-library.org/>— that allows you to download e-books for free. It is called the Commonwealth E-book Collections and features three different modules: Axis360 which provides fiction bestsellers and some non-fiction, EBL which provides help with research items, and Biblioboard which provides primary sources, historical documents, images, and videos. Be sure to look for this link.



Watch A DAY AT THE DUMP!

Wednesday, November 1, 2017, 7 pm at the Meekins Library

See the latest in the Meekins Library Archives and Council on Aging's "living archives" series of Cross Generation Conversations which capture the life and spirit Williamsburg and Haydenville. Hear what your friends and neighbors love about our town.

This fourth part of the ongoing project was filmed on July 1, 2017, at the Williamsburg Transfer Station. More than 80 neighbors, who have lived in town from just a few weeks to more than 90 years, shared the multitude of things that make Williamsburg and Haydenville home for them. This film is a montage of the faces and voices of our town.



A Day at the Dump will also be shown on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, at 12:15 at the Senior Center Meal Site in the town offices.

For additional information or questions, contact Archivist Daria D'Arienzo at 413-538-6489 or ddarienzo@me.com.

A Day at the Dump was supported by the Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries; the Williamsburg Senior Center; the Williamsburg PTO; the Williamsburg Historical Society; the Williamsburg Grange #225; Florence Bank & the Williamsburg Cultural Council.

HRMC RECYCLING REMINDER

Fall is upon us and soon we will be preparing for the Holiday Season. Following are some guidelines for recycling during the holiday and winter months:

Please **DO** include the following items in your paper recycling mix:

YES

- corrugated cardboard boxes
- paperboard gift boxes
- greeting cards (except those with foil, metallic inks, or glitter)
- gift wrap, gift bags, tissue wrap (except those with foil, metallic inks, or glitter)
- paper shopping bags (any type of handle is okay)
- catalogs and calendars

Please **DO NOT** include the following items in your recycling mix:

NO

- ribbons, bows, tinsel, and Mylar wrapping paper
- packing peanuts and Styrofoam (re-usable, contact your local pack and ship store)
- holiday lights
- blister packaging (formed plastic package used to hold toys and electronics)
- plastic bags (clean, dry plastic bags marked #2 or #4 recyclable at some retailers)
- photographs

Thank you for your recycling efforts over the past year.

If you have any questions about recycling, please visit the HRMC website at www.hrmc-ma.org or the Springfield Municipal Recycling website at www.springfieldmrf.org

HRMC ANNOUNCES ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE HHW COLLECTION EVENT

Saturday, October 28, 2017, from 9 am to Noon at the Westhampton Highway Department

Protect your home and our environment by properly disposing of old or unwanted household chemicals. **The program is free to HRMC member-Town residents, however, Pre-Registration is required.** Please email your name, street and mailing address (including Town and Zip Code) and phone number to hrmc@hrmc-ma.org or call HRMC with the above information including an email address at 413-685-5498. HRMC will confirm your registration and send a confirmation letter to bring with you to the event. *For additional recycling information visit the "What To Do With" link on the HRMC website at: www.hrmc-ma.org or call (413) 685-5498.*



HRMC: Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative, P.O. Box 630, Williamsburg, MA 01096

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Historic Dam Trail Is Open!

Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers and the generosity of landowners, the new trail to the Williamsburg Reservoir Dam site is open for the public.

The Williamsburg Woodland Trail committee has been busy cutting the trail, building bridges, installing a kiosk and working on trail signage. We invite the public to explore and enjoy this trail to the site of the beginnings of the 1874 Mill River Disaster.

Parking is available at a small pull-out on Ashfield Road, just before Judd Lane. The trail then heads east along a dirt road through an open field. Look for the kiosk in the north-east corner of the field.

