

Town of Williamsburg Fall/Winter 2019

A periodic newsletter of the Town of Williamsburg



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Public Safety Complex – OPM Steering Committee

In January 2018, the Owner's Project Manager Steering Committee (OPMSC) was appointed by the Board of Selectmen to steer the pre-design services for the public safety complex. The Committee has been meeting over the last 22 months, determining the programmatic needs of emergency services, evaluating potential building sites and studying building scenarios and costs. The Committee came away with four key findings:

1. **New spaces for fire and police departments are crucial and necessary.** Current facilities are in disrepair, are inadequate and do not reflect the value our first-responders bring to the town.
2. **Using privately owned sites is not an option.** A thorough, public and open search did not find any privately owned parcels that meet the needs of the project.
3. **The questions of what to do about public safety spaces and what to do with the Helen E. James building are inextricably linked.** The James School property is by far the most centrally located, cost effective and advantageous site available.
4. **The community will not support the construction of structures it sees as excessive.** As such, the committee has worked with police and fire department leadership to reduce the scale and scope of the project to one that is in line with the town's needs and is affordable.

Recently the Committee held two community forums, Saturday, Sept. 21st and Thursday, Oct. 3rd at the Anne T. Dunphy School. Members shared their findings and work they have done through a short presentation and information stations. The work has included reviewing the site criteria, reexamination of the current facilities and past studies, revisiting the 142 sites looked at by the previous committee, issuing an RFP to determine if there are available private sites, and developing and considering 11 different building scenarios with costs on town-owned sites.

Committee members had the opportunity to engage with close to 100 residents over the two forums, discussing the work completed and next steps for the town. The Committee members reported that after looking at all the information, the town-owned Helen E. James (HEJ) site offered the most affordable and practical options for the new safety complex. This means any decision is linked with a need to determine the future of the former school building. Past studies and initial review of the James building indicate that costs to upgrade the facility, bring it to code and renovate for a future use will be in the millions, even before addressing public safety complex programmatic needs.

Public Safety Complex, cont'd. on pg 2



Visit www.burgy.org for more information about:
Town Committees, Boards, Departments, Events, and much more!

250th Anniversary Committee

The Town is searching for folks to join the 250th Anniversary Committee. This exciting celebration will take place in the summer of 2021 and while that seems far away, it really isn't. If you have time and energy and ideas and want to help Williamsburg celebrate in style, please join the Committee. Please contact the Town Clerk Brenda Lessard for details or the Board of Selectmen to be appointed.

- Town Clerk – 268-8402, townclerk@burgy.org
- Select Board – 268-8400, option 0, option 1, selectmen@burgy.org

Highway Dept. 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 20, 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!

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.

- Wednesday, November 27, 2019 (some town office departments may be closed)
- Thursday, November 28, 2019
- Friday, November 29, 2019
- Tuesday, December 24, 2019 (some town departments may be closed)
- Wednesday, December 25, 2019
- Tuesday, December 31, 2019 (some town departments may be closed)
- Wednesday, January 1, 2020
- Monday, January 20, 2020
- Monday, February 17, 2020

Wishing you a safe, healthy & happy holiday season!

Public Safety Complex cont'd. from pg 1

The Committee has not taken a formal stand on the issue, but feels strongly that the town needs to commit to either investing in renovation of the school building so that it may have a viable future use or taking the building down. In order to move forward with any building, a decision on the James building is needed to appropriately site and construct the public safety complex. The committee acknowledges this will be a difficult decision for the town, but one that must be made all the same.

Community members provided invaluable feedback, most importantly that a formal engineering / structural study and an environmental study of the James building is crucial to informing the decision. The Committee will be moving forward on these two issues under a design contract to study three scenarios for a stand alone public safety complex and incorporating the James building.

The OPM Steering Committee will continue to meet with the community at small gatherings throughout the fall and winter to continue the dialogue of the need for an emergency service facility and decisions about the James.

For more information email the Town Administrator at townadmin@burgy.org, call 413-268-8418 or visit www.burgy.org—Public Safety Complex on the home page.



Department Hours and Contact Information

Assessors: Tues, 9 - noon, Tues eve, 7 - 8
assessors@burgy.org 268-8403

Board of Selectmen (Admin Asst.): Mon & Wed, 10 - 2,
Tues & Thurs, 1-4. selectmen@burgy.org 268-8400

Senior Center: Mon – Thurs, 8:30 - 1:30
seniorcenterdirector@burgy.org 268-8407, 268-8410

Fire Dept.: no regular office hours, On-Call department
jason.connell@williamsburgfire.com 268-7233

Highway Dept.: Mon – Fri, 7:00 - 3:30
burgyhighway@burgy.org 268-8405

Police Dept.: Mon, 3 - 7 pm. All other days & eves by appointment. wicklandd@williamsburgpd.org
or luszczkia@williamsburgpd.org 268-7237

Town Administrator: Mon – Thurs, 8 - 4
townadmin@burgy.org 268-8418

Town Clerk: Mon & Tues, 8:30 - 3:30, Thurs, 9 - 2.
Check the website for evening hours
townclerk@burgy.org 268-8402

Town Collector: Mon – Thurs, 8:00 - 3:30.
towncollector@burgy.org 268-8401

Meeting schedules may be found at www.burgy.org

Board of Health News

We welcome our new Health Agent, **Mark Bushee!**
Mark may be reached by phone at 413-268-8404 or 413-824-5132, or by email at foothills@burgy.org.



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Police Department

Greetings from the Williamsburg Police Department. The Department was busy this summer answering calls in our community. We have seen an increase in drug-related activity and arrests. Several notable arrests were made, and several large investigations took place, keeping the officers busy. Individuals were arrested on charges such as trafficking heroin, illegal distribution of marijuana, operating under the influence of drugs, operating under the influence of alcohol, assault and battery with dangerous weapon (firearm), and possession of several various classes of illegal drugs. The investigations that took place involved crimes such as possession of child pornography, indecent assault and battery on a person under the age of fourteen, rape, embezzlement, possession of drugs, providing alcohol to persons under 21 years of age, assault and battery, identity fraud, and various other offenses.

The Williamsburg Police Department, Williamsburg Fire Department and Triad are now participating in the Safe Entry Program. This program offers lock boxes to residents who want to have them installed on the exterior of their homes. The boxes contain a key, provided by the resident, and can provide access to the home by emergency responders only when they are called to the home for an emergency.

Soon it will be the holidays and many residents will be travelling. We want to remind you that officers can check on your homes when you are away. If interested in this service you can fill out a security check form and bring it to the station, or even put it in our locked/secured mailbox located outside the front door.

We still have our permanent unused medication disposal box at the station. We encourage everyone to properly dispose of any unused or expired prescription, over the counter, and pet medications. You can put these unused medications in the box located in the lobby of our police station with no questions asked. The lobby is open for this service on Monday evenings between 3:00 and 7:00 pm, and also by appointment. The Police Department can be reached at 413-268-7237.

Police Officers from the Department continue to practice safety drills and work closely with school staff to ensure the safety of all the students.

Lastly, we want to remind residents that we do live in a great community; however, that doesn't mean we are crime free. We encourage people not to be afraid to call the police if they see suspicious activity in our community. We care about our community and we are here to help. To report something that needs immediate attention, residents should call dispatch at 413-586-1508 or 911 for emergencies.

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.



Highway Department Reminders

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

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

If you notice that a road is icy, please call dispatch so we can get someone out to address it. Dispatch phone # is 413-586-1508.

Sidewalk 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 and help keep your neighbors, who use the sidewalks to move about the town village and center, safe this winter.

Protect Your Mailbox

As you do your fall yard clean up and winter preparations please remember to protect your mail boxes from snow. Some sources are predicting a slightly warmer than usual winter, which means heavy and wet snow. As a general rule it is not the plow that damages a mail box but the snow that comes off the end of the plow. In most cases simply standing a board up on the side of the mail box (the oncoming traffic side) will protect the mail box from snow.

Williamsburg Veterans' Memorial Committee

The Williamsburg Veterans' Memorial Committee is working on updating the names on the Veterans' Memorial located on Rt. 9 next to the Brewmaster's Tavern.

Committee members are asking the community for help in identifying errors, omissions, and new additions of the names of Williamsburg and Haydenville veterans of the past and present. Any local veteran who meets the definition of a veteran under M.G.L. Chapter 4, sec. 7, clause 43 may qualify to have their name added to the monument. In addition to meeting the service requirements under state law, the veteran's home of reference (HOR) on their DD-214 should be Williamsburg or Haydenville. Any current or past resident who doesn't have the appropriate HOR on their DD-214 will have additional requirements to fulfill in order to have their name added to the monument.

If you're not able to visit the Memorial to ensure a veteran's name is represented accurately, you can view pictures on the Veterans Service page on the town website, www.burgy.org/departments-veterans-services.

To request changes and/or additions to the monument, you must submit a Veterans' Memorial Update Request form along with a copy of the veteran's DD Form 214. In order to ensure your change request is included in the next Memorial update, please have your requests submitted by June 30, 2020. You can pick up a request form at the Williamsburg Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours or download the form from the veterans' services section of the town website as referenced above.

Veterans' Day Service

The Town of Williamsburg celebrated Veterans at a service at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month. At the ceremony, Russ Richardson and Gordon Cranston were presented with the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal.



Collector's Corner

Pay Your Taxes and Water Bill Online!

Just a reminder that we offer our residents the convenience of online payments through UniPay.

With UniPay, you can choose to make a one-time payment or choose to become a registered user and take advantage of some great features including scheduling payments, saving payment information, viewing payment history and setting payment reminders. Best of all, the ability to pay online after the due date is available!

To pay your taxes have your bill and checkbook or credit card in hand, and then...

- 1) Go to: <http://www.burgy.org>
- 2) Click on: **Online Payments**
- 3) Select the bill you would like to pay.
- 4) Complete each screen to process your payment.

UniBank, our banking partner, will charge a nominal processing fee for credit card payments. A fee schedule is located on the welcome page for your convenience. Use your checking account and there will be a \$.25 fee, less than the cost of a stamp.

UNIPAY

It's convenient, fast and secure.

Building Permits

Are you planning to do upgrades on your home? Please make sure you get a building permit! Details and permit forms can be found on the Williamsburg website at www.burgy.org under departments / inspection services.



Veterans' Volunteer Tax Relief Program

The Town's ongoing Veterans' Volunteer Tax Relief Program (also called Veterans' Tax Work-Off Program) is still accepting applications. (Deadline was October 1.) People can do work for the Town and earn a reduction in property tax, up to \$1500 per household per year. The program is open to all veterans with no income or age limits. 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). (The similar program for seniors is full for this year; application deadline for next year will be October 1.)

Conservation Commission

Climate Change Is Real

Climate change is happening today. Scientists have known for some time, from multiple lines of evidence, that humans are changing Earth's climate, primarily through greenhouse gas emissions. Human activities have led to large increases in the concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and other heat-trapping gases (greenhouse gases) in the Earth's atmosphere during the past century. Global temperatures are projected to continue to rise over this century.

The evidence is clear and compelling. Earth's atmosphere and oceans are warming, the magnitude and frequency of extreme climate and weather events are increasing, and sea level is rising along our coasts. Climate change is not a distant threat; it is occurring here and now. As a result of the growing abundance of greenhouse gases, the global average air temperature has risen steadily over several decades, particularly since the 1950s. The first decade of the 21st century has proven to be the hottest decade since scientists began recording global temperatures in the 1880s, with the 1990s following close on its heels as the second hottest. The unmistakable signs of a rapidly changing climate are everywhere – melting glaciers, heat waves, rising seas, flowers blooming earlier, lakes freezing later, migratory birds delaying their flights south. No geographic region is immune.

Climate change is increasingly affecting people's lives. It is having significant effects on infrastructure, agriculture, fisheries, public health, and the ecosystems that support society. It is also changing the environment in ways that affect the distribution, diversity, and long-term survival of species of plants, animals, and other forms of life on Earth. Rising temperatures, and particularly rising ocean temperatures, also have significant implications for the world's rainfall patterns. The heat causes water to evaporate faster, resulting in more water in the atmosphere. Scientists predict that the global average annual precipitation will increase as a result. However, this precipitation will not be distributed evenly across the globe. While the effects are predicted to vary from region to region, it will generally hold that already wet areas will get wetter while dry areas will get dryer. Many regions will also find rainfall patterns tending more toward the extreme, such as torrential downpours interspersed with prolonged dry spells. Plus, in some areas precipitation that used to be in the form of snow will shift to rain, with major implications for stream flows and availability of water for wildlife, fish, plants, and people.

We need to take climate into consideration. Government leaders need to keep the climate emergency in mind when thinking of energy policies, which crops to plant, approaches to ecosystem management, infrastructure investments, community adaptation plans, public health strategies, sustainable business practices and procedures, national security policy and infrastructure, and education. For the rest of us, it could be our decision to buy a fuel efficient vehicle, change to energy-efficient light bulbs, wash clothes in cold water and dry them on the line, invest in solar panels, and, very importantly, plant trees.

We created this situation. Let's do everything we can to fix it.

(Info from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.)

Con Com Reminder:

It is autumn and the colors were beautiful this year! Unfortunately, it also means we have to clean up all those leaves when they fall to the ground. The Conservation Commission wishes to remind folks to please not dump their leaves in the river.

Dumping trash and leaves in streams can block or change the direction and speed of the streamflow causing the water above the obstruction to flood stream banks and water below it to scour the stream banks. The breakdown of leaves and grass clippings rotting in the stream uses the water's oxygen, reducing the number and type of life forms the stream can support. Please do not dump anything in our river and streams. It is pollution that can change how a stream looks and smells - and it's never for the better. Please protect our waterways and the lives that they support. Thanks for your cooperation.



Energy Committee

**The Energy Committee has a vacancy.
Are you interested in energy projects?
We need you!**

Duties and responsibilities:

- Increase the energy efficiency of town buildings and operations per the guidelines in the regional Clean Energy Plan.
- Assist residents in becoming more energy efficient through public outreach.
- Apply for grants to assist in implementing new technologies.
- We have succeeded in bringing nearly two hundred thousand dollars to the town to provide improved heating and lighting as well as LED street lights.
- We meet as needed.

If interested, please contact the town administrator at townadmin@burgy.org or send a letter of interest to the Select Board at selectmen@burgy.org

Current members:

Mark Corner, Charles Dudek, Mary Dudek, Gerry Mann.

Water and Sewer Commission

Yikes, Sewer Rates Went Up! As you may have noticed in your recent water and sewer bill, there was an increase in the sewer rates this fall from \$4.00 to \$5.70 per 100 cubic foot of water used. The Water and Sewer Commission reluctantly approved the rate increase at its March 19th meeting to address an anticipated funding shortfall due to increasing charges from the City of Northampton, which treats our sewage, and to invest in cost-saving improvements to our aging infrastructure.

Our town is charged for every gallon of sewer discharge sent to Northampton. In addition, we are subject to surcharges if this discharge exceeds standards for total suspended solids (TSS) and/or organic compounds (e.g. biochemical oxygen demand or BOD). Since our flows have increased and we have had high spikes of TSS and BOD, it has meant a surcharge of \$67,853 in 2018.

The Commission has taken or is planning aggressive steps to reduce the quantity and improve the quality of the sewage discharge to reduce, and hopefully eliminate, future fees and surcharges from Northampton. These steps include:

- The use of grant money in 2018 to do an engineering assessment of the sewer lines and storm water manholes to locate where groundwater is infiltrating the system.
- Approval of new sewer regulations in February which mirror those in use by Northampton and that allow the Commission to address problem areas. We are also in talks with Northampton and will be signing a new Inter Municipal Contract with the City soon.
- Repairs of storm water manholes and pipes to decrease the amount of runoff that can enter the sewer system.
- Requiring residents to stop surface runoff from entering the sewer system (sump pumps, roof downspouts, exterior foundation drains, etc.).
- Conducting inspections of residences and businesses to ensure compliance with the surface runoff regulations.
- Remote camera inspection of sewer lines that have been identified by past flow monitoring as major sources of ground water infiltration, which increases our flow to Northampton, with follow-up plans to patch, reline, or replace these problem sewer lines.
- The purchase and use of 24-hour monitoring equipment to pinpoint sources of excessive TSS and BOD discharge, and working with these customers to bring their discharge into compliance with set standards.

For most customers, the new rate will of course result in a higher bill. As an example, an actual family-of-three customer who uses an average of 3,300 cubic feet of water every six months currently pays \$132 ($3,300 \div 100$ cubic feet x \$4.00 = \$132). Under the new rate, this customer will pay \$188.10 every six months or an increase of \$56.10 over 6 months or \$9.35 more per month. It is worth noting that even with the increase, our sewer rates will still be comparable to rates charged in most area communities, and less than many.

If you have any questions about this change, please contact the Water and Sewer Commission at 268-8430.

Important Tax information: Circuit Breaker Credit

State income tax credit for eligible Massachusetts residents age 65 or older who paid rent or real estate taxes during the tax year. The credit is for senior homeowners and renters who meet income limits and other eligibility requirements. Homeowners may claim the credit if they paid more than 10% of their total income for real estate taxes, including water and sewer debt charges. Renters can count 25% of their rent as real estate tax payments.

If you have not filed for Circuit Breaker before, you may file for current year and the two years previous. You must file a Massachusetts state income tax return to claim the Circuit Breaker Credit, whether or not you normally file one. You must include Schedule CB, Circuit Breaker Credit, with Form 1. For additional information, contact Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Customer Service Bureau, (800) 392-6089 or www.mass.gov/dor.

Williamsburg's Municipal Aggregation Program

Want to pay less for your electricity supply? Join the Williamsburg Municipal Aggregation Program. You must now opt-in to the Town's program if you wish to take advantage of the savings the aggregation will offer this winter, as compared to National Grid's Basic Service.

To join Williamsburg's Program, you can do one of two things:

1) Visit www.colonialpowergroup.com/williamsburg/ <<http://www.colonialpowergroup.com/williamsburg/>> and click the OPT-IN button, then fill out and submit the Opt-In Form.

2) Call Dynegey at (866) 220-5696 and ask to join the Town of Williamsburg's Program.

For both of the above options, you should have your National Grid bill handy in order to provide some required information.

Wildlife Warning

Residents are reminded never to approach or touch wildlife no matter how cute and cuddly they seem. Even if they look like they need your help, please don't. You put yourself at risk for getting injured or contracting rabies. If you have questions about a specific situation, please call the Animal Control Officer at 413-522-2632.



Poop Scoop Reminder



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

Volunteers Needed!

These Town positions are appointed by the Board of Selectmen, unless otherwise noted.

- Agricultural Commission, alternate – 2 positions, 1 year term
- Community Development Advisory Committee – 2 positions, 3 year terms
- Energy Committee – 1 year term
- Historical Commission – 3 positions, 3 year terms
- Open Space and Recreation Commission - 1 year term
- Planning Board – 5 year term
- Technology Committee – 1 year term
- Tree Warden – 1 year term
- Veterans' Memorial Committee – 2 positions, 1 year term
- Woodland Trails – 1 year term
- Zoning Board of Appeals, alternate – 1 year term
- 250th Anniversary Committee

If you are interested, please email the Board of Selectmen's office at selectmen@burgy.org or call them at 268-8400, select option 0 and then option 1.

Mill River Greenway Project Gets Major Boost from Mass DOT

In late summer, the Williamsburg Mill River Greenway project took its biggest leap yet when the MA Dept of Transportation committed to picking up design and engineering costs to get the project to the all-important 25% threshold. This removes upward of \$1 million in projected design costs from the town's Capital Plan and keeps the project on track to make the regional TIP (the federal highway construction program) in 2025-2026. This is huge news for the Burgy Greenway, and is a testament to the MRG Committee's diligent efforts since 2012 to create a town-wide consensus on both the need for and the conceptual design of a dedicated 10-foot shared use path running along the river side of the Route 9 roadbed from the Brassworks to the Helen E. James school.

The timetable for the Greenway/Route 9 design coincides perfectly with the state-funded Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) planning process, for which Williamsburg received a \$20,000 grant from the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs earlier this summer. Through a guided 8-hour planning process, the MVP program enables communities to achieve a broad consensus about their most pressing vulnerabilities in the face of a changing climate. Representatives from the Williamsburg Select Board, Planning Board, Zoning Board, Police and Fire Departments, Water/Sewer Commission, Highway Department, Administrative staff, Emergency Management, Conservation Commission, Open Space Committee, Council on Aging, Historical Commission, Mill River Greenway Committee, and OPM Steering Committee (which is guiding the Public Safety Complex) gathered for two nights in October to identify and prioritize hazards and vulnerabilities including the proximity of Route 9 to the Mill River; threats to our vital forest resources; insect-borne diseases; and increasing storm

intensity. Submitting a report on these priorities will certify Williamsburg as an "MVP Community," which will make us eligible for MVP Action Grants starting in 2020 to address the most urgent concerns. Our hope is that both of the town's major upcoming construction projects, the Public Safety Complex and Mill River Greenway, will benefit from these Action Grants.

The Greenway Committee is partnering with the Conservation Commission and with Lincoln Fish of Bay State Community Forestry to mitigate the presence of invasive plant species on the new town park parcel on the river floodplain across from the Family Vet and Snack Bar in Skinnerville. We also worked with the City of Northampton this summer to remove old railroad ties from the Mass Central Trail connecting Haydenville to Leeds.

But of all these collaborations, the most rewarding is our developing connection with the students and faculty of the Anne T. Dunphy School. The MRGC is working with teachers to incorporate their ideas for ways to enhance the Mill River Greenway's value as an outdoor classroom and a safer way to access the school and river by foot or bike. The partnership has already borne fruit in the form of "Children Imagine the Greenway," a collaborative exhibit in the Meekins Library Gallery featuring the river-themed art and poetry of teacher Katie Joyce's 5th graders alongside design sketches and models of the Greenway. With the invaluable support of Visual Art Teacher Natalee Dias, we hope to see this artwork live on in the form of a published book that will be available later this fall.

Your input is crucial to the success of this project! The Committee is eager to hear from you at millrivergreenway@burgy.org. We meet on the first Thursday of every month at 7pm and welcome your questions, concerns, and support!



The River
The swishing and wishing. The trickling and
trotting. The leaves and through the rocks the
water goes through the old mill ruins.

Collin Parker

Williamsburg Senior Center

Programs & Services for Active Living at 60+

Williamsburg Town Office, Room 102
413-268-8407

*Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8:30 - 1:30
 with extended hours for classes and events.
 Lunch is served in our Café, Rm 101, at 11:45.*

It is with great sadness that we've said goodbye to our Director, Jennifer Hoffman. She was a wonderful asset to the center, a good friend to all, and she will be greatly missed.

Meanwhile, we continue to offer services as usual. We hope to get your input on what you are interested in doing at the Senior Center. Many of you have not come in to meet us and seen what we can offer you. If you haven't, don't be shy—we are here to help and entertain you, right here, in our community.

One of our most popular services is our daily luncheons. We offer a wholesome freshly made meal on Mondays and hearty congregate meals from Highland Valley Elder Services Tuesday through Thursday. Please call at least 2 days ahead to reserve. We have Brown Bag food service once a month and have started a program called Take and Eat, sponsored by local churches to provide a week-end meal to seniors.

We also provide health and exercise classes, support groups, men's breakfast and women's lunch. We have a veterans agent and a SHINE rep who come in weekly and a podiatrist and a foot nurse. We have a pen pal program with 6th graders at Anne T. Dunphy School.

We are open to all suggestions about what you would like to see offered in your Senior Center. We are here for all generations, not just seniors 60 and over. Check our newsletter* and see for yourself!

We are looking for folks who'd like to start a weekly card/games group. Please call us with your interest or suggestions. Like to do puzzles? Play bridge or other games? Knit/crochet? Crafts? Let us know and we'll try to accommodate you!

Events Calendar

Mondays

Veterans' Agent, 2-4 pm
 Monday Meals (except holidays), 11:45 am
 Bag Sew Group, every other week at 3:15—5:15 pm
 Ukulele Strum Group, 4:30 pm
 Zumba! 6 pm

Tuesdays

Healthy Bones & Balance, 10:30 am
 SHINE Rep, 11-2 (call for appointment)
 Congregate Meal, 11:45 am
 Yoga for You, 6 pm
 Basic Computer Class, 6-7 pm (call ahead)
2nd Tues alternate months: Podiatrist, 9 am -1 pm

Wednesdays

Modern/Creative Dance Class, 10 am
 Congregate Meal, 11:45 am
2nd Wed. Caregiver Support Group, 1 pm
3rd Wed: Advisory Board Meeting, 12:15, Public welcome
4th Wed alternate months: Foot Nurse, 9 am - 2 pm

Thursdays

Chair Stretch & Strengthen, 10:45 am
 Congregate Meal, 11:45 am
 Healthy Bones & Balance, 4 pm
 Basic Computer Class, 6-7 pm (call ahead)
2nd Thurs: Brown Bag, 10 am
3rd Thurs: Men's Group, 8 am at Williamsburg Snack Bar

Fridays

Tai Chi, 9:30-10:30 am
2nd Fri: (unless notified): Ladies Luncheon, 11:30 am
 at Williamsburg Snack Bar

Stop in and see what we can do for you!

**Special events and programs are listed in the Living Well Newsletter, published monthly. To subscribe, call 268-8407 or email sloomis@burgy.org. Get the Newsletter (or a digital version) and stay informed!*



Some pictures of our Town Prom in May. About 150 people came and rocked the Gym at the Anne T. Dunphy School!

Hampshire Regional News and Updates

Happy Fall, Williamsburg Families!

The HRHS administration is thrilled to welcome the class of 2025 and welcome back all students and staff to Hampshire Regional! This year, the school will be focusing on empowering students to take charge of their learning. This will be done in collaboration with families of course. HRHS Staff look forward to this academic year as we push our learning community to be stronger individually and collectively.

New Staff

Hampshire Regional High School welcomes the following new staff:

- MS Special Education: Dylan Rickles
- Spanish: Mariana Lara Albert
- Spanish: Ana Rueda-Hernandez
- Spanish: Scott Evans
- MS Science: Marissa Axtell
- HS Math: Rachael Philbrick
- Counseling Maternity Leave Replacement: Casey Keefe
- Van Driver: Dan Charko
- Para Educator: Summer McAuslan
- Para Educator: Reilly Griffin
- Para Educator: Melinda Conway
- Para Educator: Madison McCarthy
- Para Educator: Jessica Blais
- Teacher of the Deaf: Linda Mondschieen
- BRIDGES Math Teachers: Delaney Seacrest and Kelly Regan
- School Psychologist Intern: Julie Woodbury

Therapy Dog

This year, HRHS will be hosting a trained therapy dog to support students at Hampshire. The therapy dog and its handler will be at Hampshire once a week and on days where students may need additional support, like 7th grade orientation, MCAS days, etc. The therapy dog will only be accessible to students who want to see it and staff will determine when it is appropriate for students to access the dog.

National Merit Program Commended Students

Five students have been named National Merit Program Commended Students from the Class of 2020. This important accolade is given to students who performed well on the PSATs taken last year. Congratulations to Mitchel Belden, Emma Civello, Jessica Fish, Aine McDonald, and Abigail Meunier

School Improvement Plan

Our school improvement plan is located on our website at www.hrhs.net. You are invited to review it and reach out to Principal Smidy with questions or ways to help. It was developed by the HRHS School Council. School council members are: HRHS Staff: Kelly Carpenter (co-chair), Amy Scully, and Tonya Aitken; HRHS Parents: Melissa Adams, Bill Curran, Luci Dalton; HRHS Students Jillian Scott and Kaylie Novak, 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.

Great Events Happening!

Hampshire Regional has already had a number of fantastic learning opportunities for our students including a Town Hall with Senator Hinds, Representative Blais and Representative Sabadosa, guest speakers providing students with an opportunity to electrofish, and engaging field trips. Students had fun at the Homecoming Dance and seniors painted their parking spots as a new senior privilege.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for the following HRHS activities and events for our community:

- **December 13: Improv Show**
- **January 15: Band Concert**
- **February 13: Chorus Concert**
- **Weekend of March 13: Musical TBD**

Also, our athletics schedule has almost daily events to attend. You can find it at: <https://www.hrhs.net/athletics-ca0dbec7>

Please do not hesitate to contact Principal Kristen Smidy if you have questions or comments about Hampshire Regional! You can also stay in the loop with Hampshire events by following the school's Instagram account @hrhsinsta.



Therapy Dog, Seamus



Deena Lashway, Susannah Branch, Ana Rueda-Hernandez, Spanish teachers during teacher PD on 8/28



Rep. Lindsey Sabadosa talks to students after the Town Hall at HRHS on 10/18



Natalie Leverault, Marissa Axtell, Jesse Porter-Henry & Chalam Hosig at PD

News from the Anne T. Dunphy School

This fall we were excited to start our sixth year in our wonderful new version of the Anne T. Dunphy School. Our 2019-2020 school year is off to a great start! 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 29th, 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 we opened up the doors 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!

Our staff is working hard this fall to implement a new mathematics curriculum, *Bridges*, from the Math Learning Center. This comprehensive K-5 program contains a balanced blend of direct instruction, structured investigation, open exploration, and practice opportunities. We are hopeful that this new curriculum program will help students at Anne T. Dunphy to deepen their mathematical understanding and problem solving skills, while also increasing mathematical achievement on assessments and performance tasks.

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, Quabbin Reservoir, 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.

One of the highlights of our fall is the annual Harvest Feast event. This event celebrates the harvest from the school garden program, and features dishes made by each classroom, using ingredients straight from our school garden! For example, our sixth graders made raspberry jam and raspberry thumbprint cookies, kindergarten students created their famous apple pies, and fourth grade made cornbread, garlic bread, and pesto! Families contribute potluck dishes, and the whole community gathers together to celebrate the fall. We are appreciative of the many hands that work so hard to keep this special event going!

We also appreciate the time that the Williamsburg Fire Department and Williamsburg Police Department have spent in our school already this fall. Volunteers from the WFD spent two days with our students, teaching and reviewing fire safety concepts. Students also had an opportunity to explore the Safe House to put those skills into practice. Members of the WFD also returned later this fall to work more closely with our Pre-school and Kindergarten students, connecting them to helpers in their community. It’s not uncommon for us to have a friendly visit from the Williamsburg Police Department during lunch or recess ~ and we even had a surprise visit from a “friend” of the WPD on Halloween!

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



Staff & students were excited for the first day!



Kindergarten & 3rd grade Book Buddies enjoy some time getting to know each other

Recreation Commission

The Recreation Commission is pleased to announce that the town tennis/basketball/pickleball courts at Ames Field were resurfaced in September. There are new tennis nets and freshly painted lines for all three sports. Please remember to use non-marking shoes when using the courts.



Open Space

The Williamsburg Open Space Committee is busy updating the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. Over 220 community members responded to a survey about their interests and concerns regarding conservation and recreation issues and 30 people attended a public visioning session in September. The Committee will use information from the survey, public workshop, and conversations with several town boards and committees to develop a plan to guide the town's land conservation and public recreation activities for the next seven years. A draft plan is expected in December and will be available for public comment.

New Stop Sign on South Main Street, Haydenville

The Board of Selectmen has approved the installation of a stop sign in front of the Free Masons' building at the corner of South Main Street and Walpole Road. Traffic traveling west on South Main Street towards Walpole Road will have to stop before turning right on to the bridge toward Route 9 or continuing straight onto Walpole Road. Please take note.

Fall 2019 Meekins Library News

Ongoing Adult programs:

- Open Circle Poetry Night meets first Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm
- Yarn Spinners meets second Sunday of every month at 5:30 pm
- Burgy Bookshare meets randomly- stop by the library to pick up a copy of the current book



Kids Programs:

- Saturday mornings @ 10:30 - Steamcraft, Board Games or Lego Challenges (see website for details)
- Wednesday afternoons @ 4:30 Lego Build, Seasonal crafts, Manga Club

Special Events for the Community:

- Holiday Read- Share holiday books from many traditions, a cozy time! Sunday December 8, 4-6 pm
- The paintings of Mary Crampton of Haydenville In the Neil Hammer Gallery November through December 21— a special viewing and sale
- Meekins Market opens Tuesday, November 16 through December 21. Gifts of all sorts for every occasion.
- Bring warm clothes for those in need, food for the Hilltown Pantry or something for our animal friends in shelters – in the Rotunda at the library November 16 - December 21

Check us out at www.williamsburg-library.org and Meekins Library on Facebook—be sure to like and follow—and on Instagram @ Meekinslibrary.

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

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NORTHAMPTON, MA
PERMIT NO. 141
ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Meekins Library Introducing New Director Beverly Bullock

The next time you find yourself near Meekins Library in Williamsburg, stop in and say hello to Beverly Bullock, the new Director of the Williamsburg Libraries. Bev took over as Director when Katie Krol, our previous Director, retired at the end of June. Along with many years of library experience, Bev brings her warm personality and strong sense of community to the job. We feel very lucky to have her!

Bev began her career as a community social worker focused on drug and alcohol prevention. On one assignment she was placed in charge of a prison library in New York State, where she discovered how much she enjoyed helping people find the books and information they needed. She also began to see libraries as an essential resource for building strong communities, so, at the age of 50, she went back to school and completed a Masters degree in Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina. Since then she has worked as a youth services librarian, reference librarian, or library administrator in multiple locations, most recently the Greenfield Public Library, before coming to Meekins.

Bev and her husband Michael, an Episcopal priest with a church in Easthampton, moved from Pennsylvania to Haydenville five years ago. They have two German Shepherds, Oliver and Charlie, as well as three adult children: a daughter who lives with her husband and two young daughters in Easthampton; a son who lives on an inactive volcano in El Salvador (where Bev plans to visit soon) with his significant other, and another daughter who lives with her husband and infant son in Boston.

In her free time, Bev loves spending time with her grandkids, growing flowers and vegetables in her garden, cooking, bicycling, walking, and swimming. As you might guess, she also loves to read whenever she gets the chance. Her favorite kinds of books include historical fiction, thrillers, mysteries, and, of course, cookbooks!

As a librarian, Bev is especially interested in helping people learn to work with online databases and other digital learning resources, preserving local history and archives, and advocating on behalf of libraries. She's also looking forward to collaborating with town groups and individuals to plan special events, library programs, and outreach projects. If you have such a project in mind, don't hesitate to get in touch with Bev. She'll be delighted to meet you!

Submitted by Pat Billingsley, Chair, Board of Trustees of the Williamsburg Libraries

