

Town of Williamsburg Spring/Summer 2019

A periodic newsletter of the Town of Williamsburg



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Annual Town Meeting, Monday, June 3 at 7:00 pm Anne T. Dunphy School, 1 Petticoat Hill Road, Williamsburg

At the Annual Town Meeting, voters will be asked to consider 29 articles: to allow a police officer to continue beyond the age of 65; to pay prior fiscal year bills; to approve a five-year Capital Improvement Plan; to vote Fiscal Year 2020 budget articles to support government operations; to establish and set a spending limit for a Board of Assessors' revolving fund; to set spending limits for all other revolving funds; to support the water and sewer operations and complete sewer work; to upgrade the town's phone system; to provide additional funding for the town's 250th anniversary celebration; to upgrade the town's firewall system; to remove diseased or dying town trees; to replace and maintain the American flags along Route 9; to match two Assis-

tance to Firefighters Grant awards; to transfer funds from Free Cash to Stabilization; to authorize the town to enter into contracts longer than three years for recycling services and school busing; to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, section 21D, non-criminal disposition; and to amend the zoning and general bylaws for transient lodging.

A complete copy of the Town Meeting warrant articles including the proposed budget and Capital Plan for FY20 can be viewed by visiting the Town website at www.burgy.org under news.

Participate in your government: Attend Town Meeting at the Anne T. Dunphy School on Monday, June 3rd, beginning at 7:00 pm.

Town Flag Presentation at the State House

Our town flag was presented at the State House in November to be flown in the Hall of Flags. State Representative Steve Kulik and State Senator Adam Hinds hosted a group of town's folks for a tour of the State House, lunch in Rep. Kulik's office, and the official presentation. It was a wonderful day! Our thanks to the Flag Committee (Jeff Ciuffreda, Jim Cahillane, Lisa Tucker, and Jen Reagan) for creating the design to represent the town, to artist Lisa Tucker for bringing the design to life in a lovely painting, and the fabulous sewing group (Sandy Graves, Valerie Nicoletti, Liz Ducharme, Sara Fredette, and Lisa Tucker) for converting the painting to a fabric design to create the beautiful flags that will hang at the State House and in the Town Offices.

2018 Annual Town Report Dedication

The Williamsburg Board of Selectmen dedicates the 2018 Annual Report in memory of Ralmon Black and Paul Dunphy in recognition of their commitment and dedication to the town and community of Williamsburg. Annual Town Report booklets will be presented to the families of Ralmon and Paul at the June 3rd Annual Town Meeting.



Memorial Day Ceremony

On Memorial Day, **May 27th**, all parade participants will assemble at the Fire Station at 12:30 pm. The parade will depart at 1:00 heading west on North Main Street, to But-tonshop Road, to Route 9 east, to Veterans' Memorial Park. The ceremony will be held at Veterans' Memorial Park immediately following the parade. If there is heavy rain, the ceremony will take place inside the Anne T. Dunphy School.

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

Firefighters' Assoc. Preserving History

The Williamsburg Firefighters' Association Historian Peter Banister has accumulated a significant collection of Fire Department history. Much of the information was used to produce the book "150 Years of Firefighting" to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Williamsburg Fire Department in 1998. The book is still available today. Information from Peter's collection is being used to produce several plaques, each of which lists a town Fire Chief and the officers and firefighters who served the town under his leadership. Initially there will be plaques to commemorate those who served in the Hope Engine Company (later to become Haydenville Engine Company 2), with Fire Chief Cheney Hathaway, Fire Chief Elson Hathaway Jr., Fire Chief Howard Sanderson, Fire Chief Roger Bisbee, and Fire Chief Donald Lawton. A plaque for current Fire Chief Jason Connell will be in the future.



The information is inscribed on a plate then attached to a wooden background. The wood for the background was donated by former Association member and Firefighter Larry Lashway and Lashway Lumber. The lumber was prepared and finished by John Hoogstraten. The final assembly was done by Association member and retired Firefighter Gilman Smith.

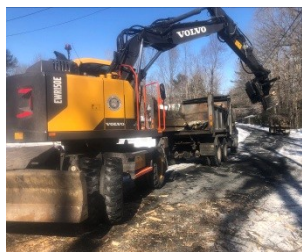
Research of names and design of the plaques was done by Fire Chief Jason Connell, Fire Department Administrative Assistant Kenneth Taylor and Firefighter Association Historian Peter Banister. The plaques will be displayed at the North Main Street Fire Station with a desire for a place of distinction in a new fire station.

The Williamsburg Firefighters' Association thanks the businesses and citizens who donate generously to our treasury to enable the members to undertake projects like preserving our history and to provide special equipment to the Fire Department.

—Roger Bisbee, Secretary
Williamsburg Firefighters Association

Highway Department

Thank you to all voters for supporting the purchase of the wheeled excavator for the Highway Department. The vehicle has been invaluable when the crew is doing its work, whether it is picking up trees damaged in a storm, brush clearing, replacing fire hydrants, maintaining and making catch basins or digging ditches. The excavator has cut the work time in half allowing the crew to be more efficient and effective on each project.



The grapple is fabulous for picking up trees and has come in very handy, especially this year! The steel wrist/rotator allows the bucket to get in at funny and unique angles which makes digging more precise, reducing potential cave-ins of trenches and reducing damage when working alongside private property. The machine has proven its worth to the town and crew just in the work this last year. **Thank you for your support!**

Williamsburg Police Department

Happy Spring from all of us at the Williamsburg Police Department. We like to take opportunities like this newsletter to let everyone know what kinds of things the officers here handle every day.

We do handle the "typical" type calls that are expected of police. In 2018 we handled 1594 calls that came in through our emergency dispatch center. In addition to those calls we handled almost 2000 walk in / call in reports that came in on the non-emergency station line. Each of these calls required some type of response or report from an officer. These can include motor vehicle crashes, harassment issues, domestic violence, medical emergencies, alarms, disturbances, drug overdoses, drug activities, loose animals, road hazards, speeding complaints, breaking and enterings, suspicious activities, telephone scams, identity theft, missing persons, wellness checks, and several others.

Some of the other services we provide are senior safety presentations, house numbering project, safe entry programs, child car seat installations and inspections, safety talks with children and families, business checks, and crime prevention activities.

Police officers from this department are constantly training for emergencies, including active shooter scenarios. Officers receive regular training in legal updates, CPR, First Responder, firearms qualifications, defensive tactics, mental health first aid, drug investigation and prevention, domestic violence, and many other topics. We work with our schools and practice shelter-in-place drills and lock-down drills. We practice these drills with the State Police and also with Police Departments from surrounding communities to ensure that everyone is prepared and able to assist in these types of emergencies.

Williamsburg is a perfect community for one to call home, but the Police Department would like all residents to know that our community is not crime free. Police Officers from the Williamsburg Police Department do an amazing job at handling emergencies and addressing criminal activity, most times without residents knowing it is happening in their neighborhoods.

We strive to work together in our community to prevent and solve crimes. Reporting suspicious activities and persons is one of the key ways you can help us do this. We look forward to taking part in community events to give every resident an opportunity to get to know all of our officers.

Work Zone Cones:

When you see these cones, this is a notification that crew members are working in and around the road. Please slow down and be aware of crew members! Drive slowly and be observant. We want to keep everyone safe so we can all go home at the end of the day. Thank you!



Department Hours and Contact Information

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

Board of Selectmen (Admin Asst.): Mon - Thurs, often 10 - 2, best 1-2. 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, Wed and Thurs, 8:30 - 3:30. Tues 8:30-5:30 (NEW HOURS beginning 7/1/19)
towncollector@burgy.org 268-8401

Meeting schedules may be found at www.burgy.org

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.

- Monday, May 27
- Thursday, July 4
- Monday, Sept. 2
- Monday, October 14
- Monday, November 11
- Thursday, November 28
- Tuesday, December 24 *
- Wednesday, December 25
- Tuesday, December 31 *

* (1/2 day for some offices / departments)

Open Space Committee

Williamsburg's Open Space Committee will be updating the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan this coming summer and fall with support from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. Having an up-to-date open space and recreation plan enables Williamsburg to proactively identify those lands that are most suitable for conservation and to receive state funding to protect land and develop recreational areas that are open for public use.

Updating the plan will involve development of new maps, a community survey, development of goals for land conservation, recreation, environmental protection and related topics, and an action plan. As part of this process, the committee will seek public input via a survey in early summer, a public visioning session in early fall, as well as direct feedback from related Williamsburg committees. We look forward to your involvement in this effort.



New Electric Aggregation Rate

On May 1st town residents and businesses will have a new electricity rate through the electric aggregation. The Town entered into an agreement for electricity at 10.2 cents per kWh. This is a reduction of slightly over one cent from the current rate. The new contract price will go through April of 2022.

National Grid customers typically pay what is called the default rate which changes twice a year, in May and then in November. Our new rate is slightly lower than National Grid's current residential May-October default rate and will be even lower than the default rate during the winter months. National Grid's rate typically increases during the winter months due to the region's reliance on natural gas generation and lower gas availability for power production during the winter months when heating uses take precedence.

Businesses in the aggregation may want to consider switching to another supplier over the summer since the default rate is slightly lower than the aggregation's rate.

WANTED: Poll Workers!

Who Can Be A Poll worker? Any registered voter in Massachusetts can be considered for a poll worker position. **What will my duties be?** Poll workers identify the voters as eligible, assist voters when necessary, and assure that the election laws of the state are followed. **Will I be trained?** Yes. All new workers are trained, and renewal training is done as needed. **What are the hours?** You will report to the polling place by 6:30 am and remain until after the polls close at 8:00 pm for federal and state elections. For town elections reporting is at 9:30 am and polls close at 7:00 pm. The voting precinct must be fully staffed for all primary, general or special elections held in the county. Poll workers are also used to check in voters at Town Caucus and Annual Town Meeting. **How much will I be paid?** \$13/hr. is the current pay for Wardens and Clerks and \$12/hr. is the current pay for Inspectors and/or checkers.

How can I become a poll worker?

Call the Town Clerk's Office at 413-268-8402 or stop by Room 104 at Town Office for an application.



Board of Health

Due to forces beyond the control of the Board of Health we must raise the Transfer Station stickers/permits in mid-May to \$100 for each household, and \$75 for seniors. The option for a second permit for the same address at much reduced price will continue. Proof that a second vehicle belongs to the same address is still needed.

Our hauling contract with K & W Materials & Recycling of West Springfield is ending a year early, unexpectedly. They were bought out by a larger company who has quoted us a hauling price of \$400 per haul (both trash & recyclables) when we have been paying \$130 per haul. We have secured another bid through Wickles Hauling at \$165 per haul.

For all materials residents put into the "open box" we will be charging everybody, no matter the quantity or size or weight of it. So think about what other uses you might be able to put these materials to. Can they be recycled? Is it wood someone with a wood stove might be able to use?

We will likely no longer be receiving money back from the operator of the Materials Recovery Facility in Springfield where our recyclables end up. Williamsburg has been one of the last towns in our county to have received these "recycling dividends," part of our original contract with the MRF, because of our dual-stream method and quality of materials sent. In the past, we have received around \$1500 annually, which will end June 2019.

As many of you may be aware, the entire recycling efforts of all countries is changing. No one knows how it will play out.

Donna Gibson, Chair
Board of Health

American Flags

We are thankful to all the donors who helped us purchase the American flag setups for along Route 9. The flags stretch from Williamsburg center to Haydenville village and look wonderful swaying in the breeze as you drive through town. As we have been hanging them for longer between the holidays, the flags, poles and brackets take a lot of weather abuse and require some maintenance, repair and replacement. In order to keep them flying on the holidays, the Town is asking Annual Town Meeting to support a small amount of funding for replacement of the poles and flag setups. We hope you will continue to support this project, through donations, as you are able throughout the coming years.



2019 Transfer Station Stickers: Stickers for 2020 are available at the Transfer Station on Wednesday or Saturday 9 to 4 or at the Town Clerk's office hours on Mon., Tues. or Thurs until mid-July.

INCREASED Sticker Costs

Proof of residency must be shown to purchase a sticker!

- \$100 per household, \$10 for second sticker for additional vehicle of the same household.
- \$75 for household with resident 70 yrs. or older, \$10 for second sticker of the same household

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.

Myth Buster: Town employees and officials get a discount on taxes, permits and fees: **FALSE!** Town employees and town officials are treated the same as every other resident in town. They do **NOT** get a discount on property, water or excise taxes and must pay for transfer station stickers. Fines and fees **ARE** imposed on employees and officials who pay their taxes late, same as other residents. Employees and officials must apply for permits and adhere to the by-laws of the town just like everyone else.

BEWARE of SCAMS: There are still several scams operating by phone calls or emails that try to trick you into supplying your personal or financial information or giving money! **Don't fall for it.** If you get a phone call from the IRS, hang up. **The IRS will NEVER call you** if there is a problem. You will get an official letter delivered by the United States Postal mail. If you get an email from your bank or other financial institution asking for information, **do NOT provide any information!** Do NOT respond to the email or open any link in the body of the email. **Your bank will not ask for your personal information by email.** If you are ever in doubt, you should call your financial institution yourself or call a friend to talk it through. Always call the number from your official documents or by independently looking the phone number up, to make sure you know you are speaking with an employee of the institution. Keep your personal information safe! **NEVER share your personal information or credit card information with someone who called you!**

Who Do I Call When I Notice...?

- **Pothole** – 413-268-8405
- **Water Leak** – 413-268-8405
- **Slippery Street** during normal hours – 413-268-8405
- **Slippery Street** outside of normal work hours – Dispatch @ 413-586-1508
- **Downed Trees** without wires during business hours – 413-268-8405
- **Downed Trees** without wires after hours – Dispatch @ 413-586-1508
- **Downed Trees with wires** – Dispatch @ 413-586-1508

HRMC Shares Recycling News from MaDEP. —*Brooke Nash*

Are your recycling efforts going to waste?

It seems like every other day a negative recycling story hits the national or local news. For example:

- U.S. Cities Have Nowhere to Put Recycling (CBS Evening News, 3/20/19)
- As Costs Skyrocket, More U.S. Cities Stop Recycling (NY Times, 3/16/19)
- Recycling is a Dumpster Fire. Literally (On Point Radio, 3/14/19)
- Is This the End of Recycling? (Atlantic Monthly, 3/4/19)
- Help, We're Drowning in Recycling (Wall Street Journal, 3/2/19)

It's no wonder our neighbors, friends and family are asking "Is my recycling just going to a landfill?" or "Should I even bother recycling?"

There's no question that what happened in the last year - since China closed its doors to the world's mixed paper and unsorted plastics through a policy known as "National Sword" - was a wake-up call. Over the last decade, U.S. recycling habits got sloppy (wishful recycling, anyone?) and it didn't seem to matter. China kept gobbling up everything we sent, sorted out the bad stuff, and made new packaging and products from the good stuff...until they said, "enough."

What the headlines and news haven't told us is this: there are still markets for our mixed paper (think newspaper, junk mail, magazines, and cereal boxes) and plastic food and beverage containers, just not in China anymore. That's not such a bad thing. Here's why:

Other countries such as India, Korea, Indonesia, and Vietnam are buying the mixed paper China no longer wants and that's where most of the paper collected from Massachusetts residents and businesses goes to be recycled into new products. The global oversupply of mixed paper has produced a buyer's market. That means the value of mixed paper has dropped from about \$75 per ton to \$5 per ton. With less revenue from the sale of recyclables to offset the cost of sorting and baling (known as "processing" in industry terms), the cost of recycling is going up. The Springfield Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), which processes most of the recyclables collected in Western Massachusetts, is feeling the effects of this buyer's market. But at the end of the day, what we put in our recycling bins IS getting recycled. And that's good news!

What about cardboard? It's mostly sold to mills in the U.S. or Canada, and multiple U.S. mills are expanding or re-opening to start taking scrap paper and cardboard again. Pratt Industries, a U.S. recycler, opened its fourth new 100% recycled paper mill in Valparaiso, Indiana last year. They'll open their fifth mill in Ohio this year. Pratt makes boxes for the US Postal Service, Amazon, & Home Depot.

There's good news with plastics too. The U.S. plastics recycling industry is healthy and they want our soda bottles, milk jugs, yogurt cups and margarine tubs. Companies like EFS Plastics, KW Plastics, Buckeye Plastics and Trigon Plastics use recycled containers to make consumer products, automotive parts, construction materials, and even 100% recycled plastic Adirondack chairs. At the Northeast Recycling Council meeting in Delaware last month, all of these companies made their message clear: we need all the recycled containers you can send us, and more.

The silver lining of the "recycling crisis" is that National Sword is stimulating jobs and investment in the U.S. recycling industry and enabling recycling companies to buy recycled materials that they previously had to compete with China for.

What about the increased cost of recycling?

While market experts expect the value of recyclables to increase as domestic markets expand, let's first remember why we recycle. Recycling has always been about saving resources, conserving energy, and reducing our dependence on landfills and incinerators. As the impacts of climate change escalate, it's more critical than ever to embrace the circular economy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and lower our carbon footprint. Recycling does all of that - and it creates jobs.

We also need to remember that recycling is a service. Trucks, labor, and fuel - none of that is free. But it's a service worth paying for. It's also a public good - like schools, public transit, parks, clean air and clean water. It's hard to put a dollar value on the benefits for our community, because they're invaluable.

How can you help?

Learn how to "recycle smart" by visiting helpful websites such as www.springfieldmrf.org. Then, help educate your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. Keeping the bad stuff out of our recycling bins means the good stuff gets recycled. It also ensures we're supporting a supply chain of recycled materials that go back into our economy while conserving resources and protecting our environment.

To be sure, this is hard work. But the pay-offs are real. We've come too far with recycling in the last 30 years to turn our backs on it now. Together, we can keep our recycling programs strong and protect our planet for generations to come.

Byline: Brooke Nash is the Branch Chief for Municipal Recycling at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in Boston.



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 take care of our town property!

Williamsburg 250th Anniversary Celebration

The Williamsburg 250th Committee is gearing up for the next phase of planning for the town's upcoming birthday in 2021. Events have been laid out and we are now fine-tuning specifics. We are **looking for volunteers** for many aspects of the events. Meetings are planned for this summer onward with the volunteers and committee. If you are able to help out in any form with planning, execution or just to take directions in assisting with events... we need you! If you would like to be involved in any of the many jobs that will be needed, please contact the Town Clerk's office to be included in our volunteer email list.

We are also looking for donations to support the cost of the four days of celebration. If you would like to make a donation, make the check payable to "Town of Williamsburg" with "250th celebration" in the memo line. Donations may be left with the Town Clerk or mailed to: Williamsburg 250th Committee, PO Box 447, Haydenville, MA 01039.

Town Vacancies

Town Government operates efficiently and effectively due to the dedication and commitment of its elected and appointed officials. Therefore, it is important to keep positions filled as they become available. Please consider donating your time and skills to one of the positions below. Contact the Town Administrator at 268-8418 or townadmin@burgy.org to find out more!

- Capital Planning Committee
- Community Development Advisory Committee
- Cultural Council
- Historical Commission
- Measurer Soil, Gravel & Manure
- Mill River Greenway
- Planning Board
- Technology Committee
- Tree Warden
- Veterans' Memorial Committee
- Woodland Trails
- Zoning Board of Appeals, Alternate



Conservation Commission

Last October (2018), a serious ecological accident occurred in Williamsburg. A company developing a site for a ground-mounted solar array literally lost control of the ground, and some tons of sediment escaped from the site, smothered about two acres of beautiful healthy wetlands, and ran into Nichols Brook and the West Branch Mill River. This is the worst pollution event the current Conservation Commission has seen.

The Commission found the situation during a "spot check" site visit. We immediately contacted the regional office of the Massachusetts DEP, Division of Wetlands and Waterways, who has taken on oversight of the situation. Since it is an open case, DEP can't share details, but we can expect the company responsible is being told to clean up the mess and try to make up for the damage to the wetland resources by repairing what they can and planting new resource areas to replace those too damaged to be restored.



It was, as they say, a perfect storm of problems. The site had virtually no vegetation, no living plants or trees whose roots would hold the soil. The site sloped significantly, increasing soil instability. The mechanical work on the site loosened the top layers of soil. There were frequent and remarkably heavy rains in September and October of 2018. All these elements joined together, with disastrous effect on the adjoining wetlands and stream.

Massachusetts is a Commonwealth, founded on law and united by agreement of the people for the common good. The intention is clear when you put a space in the word -- common wealth. Our water, air, soil, plants and animals -- these are all of ours, our common wealth, protected by law for our common good.

Environmental disasters impact all of us, and environmental responsibility lies with all of us as well. There are consequences to what we do. The Conservation Commission works with people to ensure that their actions do not damage protected water, wetland, and vegetation resources -- our common wealth.

Williamsburg Conservation Commission contact info:
email- conservation@burgy.org; phone- 413-268-8416; or
online- <https://www.burgy.org/conservation-commission>.

Boston Post Cane

The Board of Selectmen awarded the Boston Post Cane to Helen Molloy of Haydenville on Thursday, March 28, 2019. There was a lovely ceremony with her family, town officials, and residents to celebrate Ms. Molloy. The Boston Post Cane is awarded to the oldest citizen in town. (Photo at left.)

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.

2019 was a great year with new additions to staff, as well as new and different programming! Most importantly, Williamsburg along with the Northern Hilltown Consortium has obtained "Aging in Place" recognition from AARP. This assures that the Hilltown communities are invested in making lives of those who are aging a priority for our changing needs.

The goals for FY 2020: We will continue helping those in town with fuel assistance applications, please do not hesitate to call or drop by for help. We hope to be offering SNAP applications for seniors and disabled by the fall of 2019. These two new services are in addition to our SHINE advisor who assists with insurance as well as our VA service representative. We look forward to continuing our very popular and loved 6th grade Pen-Pal Program and even collaborate further with the Anne T. Dunphy school to increase our intergenerational awareness.

We have added exercise classes that accommodate all fitness levels and we plan to incorporate even more fun classes. We are excited to be offering meditation and relaxation classes as well as support groups for how to handle being in the "sandwich generation" – being a parent to your child and having an aging parent you need to care for.

We offer a WONDERFUL vegetarian meal on Mondays and hearty congregate meals from Highland Valley Elder Services on Tuesday through Thursday. Please call to reserve. We have Brown Bag food service once a month and are planning to continue our farm-share program this late spring-summer.

We are open to all suggestions about what you would love to see offered in your Senior Center – we are here, for not just seniors, but all generations. Check our newsletter and see for yourself—classes and programs for everyone!

Events Calendar

Mondays

Veterans' Agent, 2-4 pm
Monday Meals, every Mon, 11:45 am
Ukulele Strum Group, 4:30 pm
Zumba! 6 pm

Tuesdays

Healthy Bones & Balance, 10:30 am
SHINE Rep, 11-2 (call for appointment)
Meditation & Relaxation 11:30 am
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

Tai Chi, 9:30-10:30 am
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
2nd Thurs: Blood Pressure Clinic, 11:30 am
3rd Thurs: Men's Group at the Snack Bar, 8 am

Fridays

2nd Fri (unless notified): Ladies Luncheon, 11:30 am
at different local restaurants

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 us at sloomis@burgy.org. Get the Newsletter (or a digital version) and stay informed!

We enjoyed a trip to Steve's Sugar Shack this spring



Collector's Corner

Are your payments getting to me timely or at all???

Help me be sure to get your payments and apply them correctly.

If you are using the online payment system through the town website/Unibank, you are all set! This service is available 24/7 at www.burgy.org and when a payment request is submitted you receive a confirmation number that it has been received and is being processed. Please be sure you are updating your bill # and other information correctly so the payment will be applied appropriately. Sometimes I have to put my investigative hat on to determine where the payment is intended for.

However, if you are using the online payment system through your own banking institution, there are some details you need to be aware of and pay attention to. Did you know that when you request a payment be made, if electronic payments are not accepted by vendors you are paying, such as Town of Williamsburg, then your payment request is sent to a third party who then prepares a paper check which is then mailed. This can cause a number of delays. Here are some things to pay attention to so that a delay does not occur:

- Make sure the name on the payment matches the name on the bill. Many households have more than one surname. The computer searches by the name listed first.
- Make sure you list the current bill number and don't just "roll forward" the previously used bill number.

- Make sure the mailing address is P O Box 488, **HAY-DENVILLE, MA 01039**. I continue to receive payments that are addressed to Williamsburg. The post office will not deliver these, they will be returned to the sender.
- Allow time for mailing. All mail is sent to Hartford for sorting. It can take only a day or two but I have also seen it take several weeks to get back here. And the fine print says the bank does not cover you if it is not received timely – even though you ask for it to be sent by a certain date.

Excise bills are generated by the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Williamsburg does not have access to their records to correct or update mailing addresses or any other information. Please check with your insurance company or the RMV – online is the easiest way – to be sure that your address lists the correct town and zip code for mailing and also for **garaging**. You are responsible for payment of the bill regardless of whether or not you receive it and once it goes to the Deputy Collector for collection additional fees and interest apply. Don't let this happen to you!

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be winding up another fiscal year which ends June 30th. The real estate tax bill quarterly installment due dates have come and gone so please be sure any outstanding amounts are taken care of. The annual excise billing has been processed. Additional billings are processed by the RMV as new or new to you vehicles are registered throughout the year. These billings will be partial year bills to pay the tax through December 31st. And, lastly, spring water/sewer bills have been processed and sent. How fast time flies!!

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Williamsburg Tax Rate: In a recent article on Masslive, it was reported that Williamsburg has the 31st highest tax rate in the State of Massachusetts; however, the report is misleading as the tax rate is only one factor in determining your tax bill. The other is the property assessment or valuation of the property. Therefore, when comparing communities, the Average Family Tax Bill is a better metric. According to the Department of Revenue, in 2017 the Town of Williamsburg is listed at #150 out of 351 communities in the State by this measurement.

The tax rate is important and the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee work very hard to make sure that the town is operating at its most efficient and effective standard so that residents get real value for their tax dollars. However, don't be misled by looking at only one part of the equation.



Tree damage in town.

Mill River Greenway Project: Planning and Listening

The Mill River Greenway Committee hosted its sixth public forum in the last seven years on Sunday, April 28 at the Town Auditorium. About 70 people took the opportunity to see Greenway planning in action, with maps, photographs, mock-ups, and models on display for review and comments. Engineering majors from the Smith College Design Clinic presented their work re-imagining the Mass Central Rail Trail terminus in Haydenville, and brought a 3D topographic model of a new proposed pedestrian bridge span and "overlook park" at the dismount onto South Main Street. A sample of submitted comments:

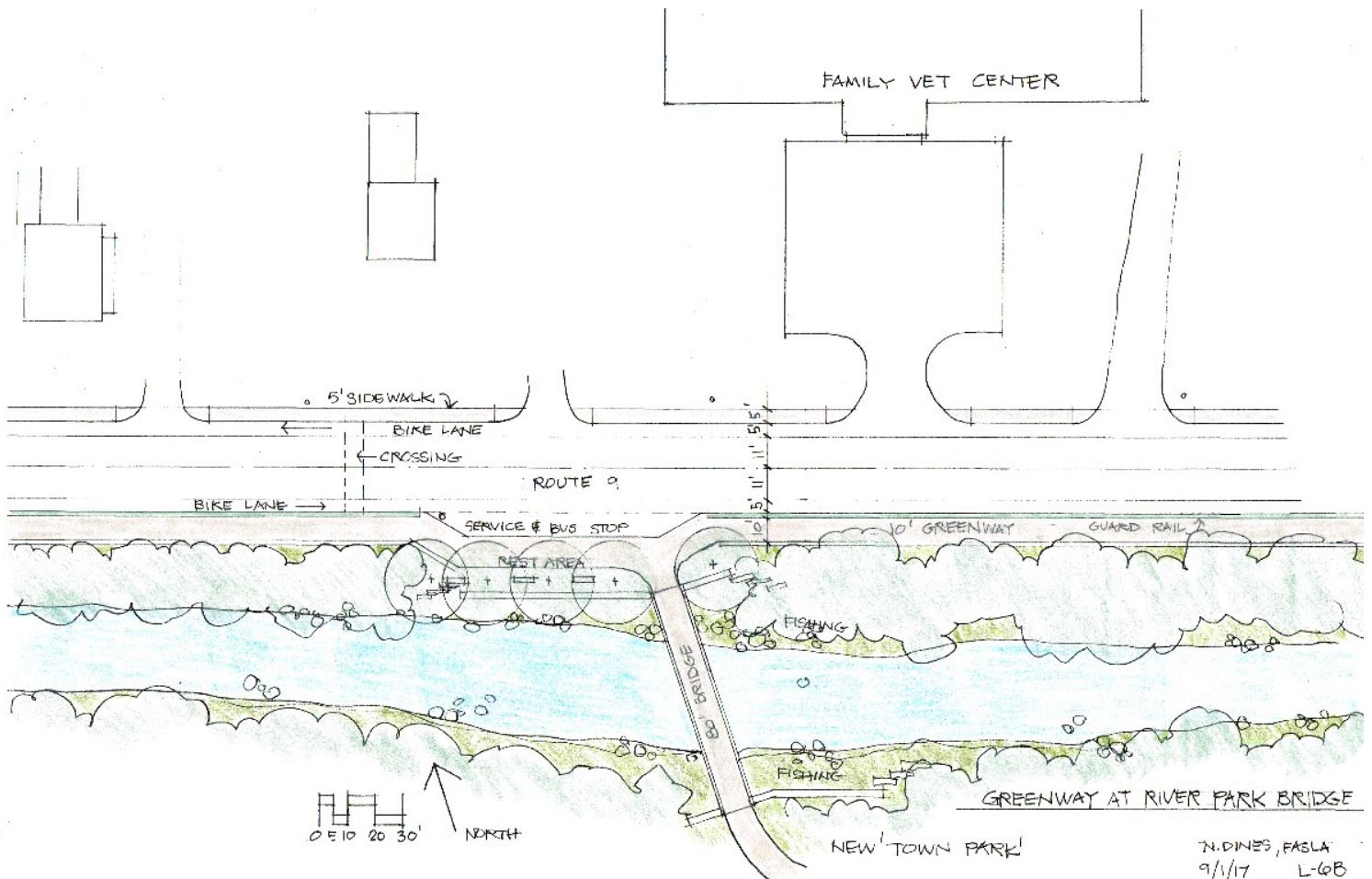
- "Excellent project to benefit many layers of the town demographics,"
- "I would walk my dog, and fish from the new park!"
- "It is remarkable and uncommon to see so much enthusiasm for a project like this in a small town like Williamsburg."

The Mill River Greenway project is committed to being financially self-sufficient, and to date has brought almost \$300,000 in public and private funding into Williamsburg to support the project's planning and design. Another \$450,000 in grants have been submitted or are planned in the next year alone. These funds would not otherwise be available for the town's use, as they have been awarded directly to support the Greenway planning process. Sources include the MA Dept of Conservation & Rec-

reation's Recreational Trails Grant program; the Healthy Hampshire initiative of the MA Dept of Public Health; a line item in the 2014 State Transportation Bond; and close to \$40,000 in private fundraising from local residents and businesses willing to vote with their dollars for this project.

In December 2018, the Town closed on the purchase of 5 acres of wooded riverfront in Skinnerville, which will be developed as a new town park as part of the larger Mill River Greenway project. Williamsburg's own Lincoln Fish of Bay State Forestry is already on site under a three-year contract (paid for with private donations!) to control invasive plant species on the parcel. The Greenway itself can be considered as a linear park, extending town gardens along the two miles of Route 9 between Haydenville and Williamsburg and creating new opportunities for recreation, ecological restoration, and a way to connect to our two villages, town businesses, open space, and the Anne T. Dunphy School without getting in a car. The MRG Committee is eager to partner with the Dunphy School in the year ahead to imagine how the Greenway can be designed for maximum benefit as an outdoor classroom, recreation space, and safe route to school for the children of our community.

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



Hampshire Regional News and Updates

FY20 BUDGET

Hampshire Regional High School faces a challenging budget for the 2019-2020 academic year. Hampshire Regional's school committee approved a level-funded budget for the next academic year, meaning the school will operate with the same funding from the 2018-2019 school year. With fixed costs still increasing and a new transportation contract being negotiated, there are required increases to some budget lines, meaning the school needs to make cuts in other areas in order to operate with the same bottom line from the previous year. Therefore, HRHS estimates programmatic cuts to be about \$74,000. Even with a 0% increase to the overall budget, the town of Williamsburg's assessment is still increasing due to state and grant revenue sources being stagnant plus the population from Williamsburg is increasing while population counts in the five other towns in the region are decreasing or staying stagnant. School administration is working to ensure that the programmatic cuts are thoughtful and affect the fewest number of students as possible.

ACADEMIC AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES UPDATES

Even with the budget challenges anticipated for next academic year, Hampshire Regional had a successful spring in and out of the classroom.

For the first time, tenth graders completed the MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) online. Tenth grade students need to pass the MCAS in order to achieve their competency determination from the state and earn their diploma.

Juniors and seniors enrolled in Spanish courses had the opportunity to travel to Spain over April vacation. Students were excited about this international trip and being able to use their language skills abroad. This trip was led by Spanish teacher Deena Lashway (of Williamsburg) and Dan Korpita. Natalie Leverault led a trip to the Grand Canyon during April break for a small group of students as well.

In March, HRHS performed "Into the Woods" as their

spring musical. Directed by Myka Plunkett and produced by Rebecca Phelps, the production was a huge success with many talented student performers. Notably, Williamsburg native Emma Kuntz played the lead role as the witch, with a commanding presence and amazing voice. Rapunzel was sung beautifully by Grace Plumer, and Neil Adams had a fantastic performance as Rapunzel's prince. (See picture below)

STAFF AWARDS

Math teacher Lou Potorski was recognized as the Grinspoon Teacher of Excellence for Hampshire this year. Mr. Potorski teaches Advanced Placement Calculus, Advanced Placement Computer Science, Exploring Computer Science, and Honors Pre-Calculus. He runs the peer mentoring program for Hampshire Regional and is often seen staying after with students for tutoring or extra help. He a veteran educator who is well respected by his colleagues and students.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The spring music concert will be on May 30th in the HRHS Auditorium. Please consider joining us for this event.

Senior students are looking forward to taking finals the week after Memorial Day and for their senior week activities in the first week of June. On June 5, seniors will walk the halls at Anne T. Dunphy School in their caps and gowns. This is always a wonderful event hosted by Principal Jenkins and the students and staff at the Dunphy School. The HRHS Commencement Ceremony will be held at John M. Greene Hall at Smith College in Northampton on June 7th.

Our undergraduate awards ceremony will be held on June 10th. The last day of school is scheduled for June 13th and finals will take place from June 14-June 19th. The first day of school for Hampshire Regional High School is scheduled for September 3, 2019.

Regardless of the anticipated budget cuts, Hampshire Regional is an exceptional school for teaching and learning. The staff and students at Hampshire Regional appreciate your continued support.



Witch and Rapunzel from spring musical, "Into the Woods"



Trip to Spain led by teachers Deena Lashway & Dan Korpita

News from the Anne T. Dunphy School

Although the rainy, gray weather is making it difficult to envision summer, the remaining days in the 2018-2019 school year are quickly dwindling at the Anne T. Dunphy School! We are approaching the time of year that is filled with celebrations and field trips that culminate units of study—a busy and exciting time of year!

Aside from the important lessons students learn within our school throughout the year, students at Anne T. Dunphy School are able to experience many rich learning experiences outside of our school. Some of the locations students have traveled to this year are the Quabbin Reservoir, Beneski Museum, Hitchcock Museum, Springfield Museums, Smith College Art Museum, Camp Becket, Boston, Sturbridge, and Cape Cod! We are grateful for the support of the Williamsburg PTO and the Williamsburg Trust Fund who augment our school budget to help support these wonderful learning opportunities for our students.

Once again this year, we were so appreciative of the community support for our spring musical, ***Alice in Wonderland, Jr.*** This wonderful production was only possible because of the many, many community members who volunteered their time, and the wonderful audience that shows up year after year to cheer on our students!

Throughout the winter, the Anne T. Dunphy School building was a busy place! Aside from the busy school days, the Williamsburg Recreation Department utilized the building to provide an active recreation and travel team basketball program for both girls and boys from 1st through 6th grade. More than 30 basketball games were held in the Earl Tonet Gymnasium in addition to many weekly practices and other adult community sports groups.

Each Friday, from 10:00-11:30, our school continues to host a weekly playgroup for any area children, ages 0-5. This playgroup is funded by the Hampshire Regional Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant, and is typically led by our preschool teacher, Lucy Gertz. We welcome all area families with young children to drop in! On Friday, June 7th there will be a special presentation by the **Talking Hands Theatre!** We invite all families with young children to attend!

Our **Kindergarten Visitation and registration is planned for May 31st**. While we use the most recent census information for our mailings, we realize that sometimes families may be missed! If you have a child who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2019, please contact the school at 268-8421 for information about how to register for kindergarten!

We are also grateful for connections made between our sixth grade students and Williamsburg Senior Center members throughout this school year. Earlier in the year, our sixth graders were matched with senior pen pals. They exchanged letters with each other, and have had the opportunity to share lunch together three times this winter/spring. We love to see these relationships develop and hope that they continue in the community after these students leave ATD!

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

~Stacey Jenkins

Anne T. Dunphy School, Principal



The cast of *Alice in Wonderland, Jr.*

Sixth graders share technology projects w/ preschool buddies



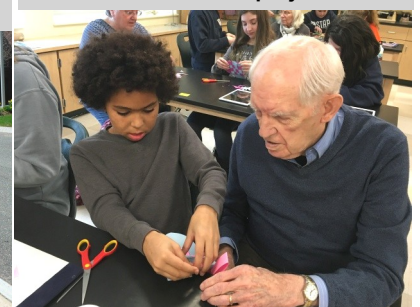
Preschool and 6th grade buddies play together



5th grade & 1st grade buddies celebrate Earth Day by picking up trash



Sixth graders & Senior Pen Pals – Art project



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Meekins Library

Summer Reading 2019 at Meekins Library



Come join the fun of Summer Reading this year! Summer Reading isn't just for kids! In 2018, 115 children participated as well as 38 teens and tweens and 82 adults. We have great prizes – just for reading! That's a “win-win!” This year's theme will be, “A Universe of Stories.”

The benefits to readers in a summer reading program include:

- encouragement that reading will become a lifelong habit
- reluctant readers can be drawn in by the activities
- reading over the summer helps children keep their skills up
- the program can generate interest in the library and books

And it being summer, the program can just be good fun and provide an opportunity for family time.

Sign-up starts on June 22 – and kids can choose a prize just for signing up!

Opening Program - Happier Valley Comedy (Improv group) Saturday, June 22 at 11 am.

Come join the fun, laughs, giggles, joy, ease, and play of improvisation - suitable for all ages.



Closing program - Springfield Symphony Orchestra Musical Petting Zoo, Saturday, August 3rd at 10:30 am.

The Musical Petting Zoo is a fun and informative hands-on traveling exhibit of musical instruments. After an introduction to the instruments, participants get a chance to bow a violin, blow a horn or tap out a rhythm on a drum. Here's your chance to try an instrument in a judgment-free zone that encourages exploration and excitement!

The Summer Reading Program is made possible in part by support from the Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries, the Massachusetts Library System (which provides, at no cost to the library, program promotional materials that included posters, bookmarks, certificates, and reading records), and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Donations of prizes and other support materials provided by Acme Surplus of Northampton, the Friends of the Williamsburg Libraries, and participating families.

