

Celebrating the **Ashuwillticook Rail Trail**



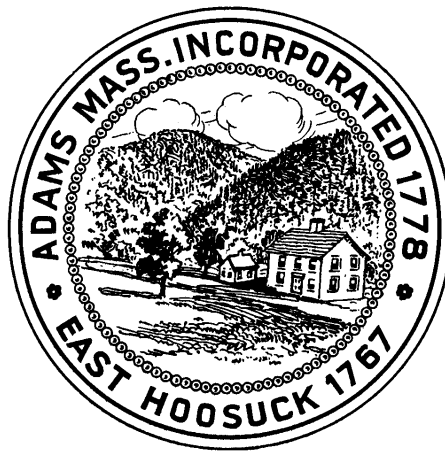
Town Report 2009

Town of Adams, Massachusetts

Town of
ADAMS

MASSACHUSETTS

**REPORT OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS**



**FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31, 2009**

Compiled and Edited by the
PERMANENT TOWN REPORT COMMITTEE

As Authorized by the Special Town Meeting

June 24, 1963

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Incorporated in 1778 as the Town of Adams in honor of Samuel Adams.

Population:

Town Census 2009	9,657
Town Census 2008	9,488
Town Census 2007	9,370
Town Census 2006	9,311
Town Census 2005	9,307
Town Census 2004	9,213
Town Census 2003	9,213
Town Census 2002	9,212
Town Census 2001	9,369
Federal Census 2000	8,809
Federal Census 1990	9,445
Federal Census 1980	10,385

Number of Registered Voters as of December 8, 2009 5,994

Area	23.02 square miles
Altitude	799 feet above sea level
Latitude	42° - 37"
Longitude	73° - 7"
Miles of State Road	2.73 miles
Miles of Town Road	57 miles

Tax Rate FY09	Residential & Open Space \$ 15.36
	Commercial, Industrial & Personal \$ 20.22

Total Taxed Assessed \$ 7,957,839.68

Total Valuation \$ 492,008,878.00

Town Hall - Open 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Selectmen's Meeting – Every Wednesday @ 7:00 pm

Adams Town Hall – 8 Park Street

Town Election – First Monday in May

State Senator, Berkshire District

BENJAMIN B. DOWNING. – Pittsfield

State Representative, 1st Berkshire District

DANIEL E. BOSLEY – North Adams

Governor's Councillor, 8th District

PETER VICKERY – Amherst

United States Senators:

EDWARD M. KENNEDY of Boston *Deceased 2009*

JOHN F. KERRY of Boston

Representative in Congress, 1st Congressional District

JOHN W. OLVER of Amherst

POINTS OF INTEREST

Mount Greylock, the highest point of land in Massachusetts overlooks Adams from the west and is part of the Taconic Range, a spur of the great Appalachian Mountain system. From Mount Greylock's 3,491 foot summit rises a ninety foot granite memorial beacon tower "erected by Massachusetts in grateful recognition of the loyalty and sacrifice of her sons and daughters in war".

The **Bellows Pipe**, a part of the gap between Mount Greylock and Ragged Mountain, often produces a roaring sound when whistling winds and storms blow through it from the north.

Pecks Falls is a cataract of wild natural beauty to be found on the upper reaches of Pecks Brook which flows toward Adams from Mount Greylock.

Susan B. Anthony's Birthplace is located on the East Road at Bowen's Corners. Miss Anthony (1820-1906) was a pioneer in advocating suffrage for women.

A **Quaker Meeting House**, preserved as closely to its original structure as possible, may be seen in the Maple Street Cemetery. The meeting house, built in 1784, is still used for an Annual Quaker Meeting on the last Sunday of August.

The **Birthplace of George N. Briggs**, an Adams native who served seven terms as governor of Massachusetts (1844-1851) still stands at 11 Weber Street.

The **Thunderbolt Ski Trail** which begins near the summit of Mount Greylock has a vertical drop of 2,150 feet and is 1.6 miles long. It is classified as an Expert Class A racing trail.

McKinley Square is the location of the Adams Free Library, Notre Dame Church, the Armory and the monument to President William McKinley. He visited Adams for several days on three occasions, once as Governor of Ohio and twice as President of the United States. His statue was created by Augustus Lukeman who also worked on Stone Mountain in Georgia.

Greylock Glen is the area at the base of Mt. Greylock which was formerly farm land the future site of potential economic development. This location has many beautiful vistas of mountains, streams and fields.

ADAMS INDUSTRIES

ADAMS PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

ALADCO

ATLANTIS EQUIPMENT CO.

BROWN PACKAGING

BURKE CONSTRUCTION CO.

HOLLAND CO., INC.

LANE CONSTRUCTION

MRA LABOTATORIES

MULLEN MOVERS

POWDER SHIELD TECHNOLOGIES

SHINE WIRE PRODUCTS, INC.

SOMMER ELECTRIC, INC.

SPECIALTY MINERALS, INC.

T & A TOOLS

DEDICATION

Anthony P. McBride **SELECTMAN** **STATE REPRESENTATIVE** **TOWN MEETING MODERATOR**

Anthony P. McBride became an important voice in town government in 1965. In that year, he was elected to the Board of Selectmen by an overwhelming majority of 64% of the votes defeating the incumbent opponent by a margin of nearly 2 to 1. At the age of 32, he was probably the youngest elected selectman in the town's history at that time.

His popularity could be attributed to his outspoken support of the proposed Mt. Greylock Tramway project. At that time, the textile and paper industry was shrinking and some farsighted leaders in town realized that its loss could be supplemented with tourism. Expanding access to the area's natural beauty could have changed the direction of the economy. He echoed the townspeople sentiment that Mt. Greylock should be enjoyed by more people than just the few who had access to it.

During his time as Selectman, Adams utilized the federal and state funding for the Urban Renewal and the regionalization of the school system that built a new high school.

Mr. McBride was elected to the office of State Representative to the Massachusetts General Court and served in that capacity for ten years from 1968-1978. His support to develop our local economy through tourism continued during his public service. In 1973, he proposed a bill to turn over a portion of the Mt. Greylock Reservation to the Town of Adams. In 1976, he filed a bill to legalize casino gambling at the proposed Greylock Glen Resort.

In 1973, he was appointed to the joint Committee on Post Audit and Government Oversight. A year later, in an address to the local Chamber of Commerce, he said that six years of seeing waste in government had changed him from a liberal to a conservative.

In addition to the elected positions mentioned above, he also served on the McCann Vocational Regional School Committee (1960-65), The Adams Housing Authority (1980-81), the Conservation Commission (2000-present) and as Town Meeting Member-Precinct 3 (1992-present). His latest official duty as an elected officer was Town Meeting Moderator which he carried out for the past 10 years (2000-2010).

Tony was born August 28, 1932 to Frank and Geraldine McBride and was educated in the Adams schools graduating with



photo courtesy of The Transcript

the Adams High School Class of 1950. He received a bachelor of science degree in Business Administration from Manhattan College in 1954. That year he entered the United States Marine Corps for two years of service. In 1957, he received his certificate from the New England Institute of Embalming and has become the third generation proprietor of P.W. McBride Funeral Home established 1901.

He married Ruth McLaughlin and together they raised a family of five children. Mr. McBride has been active in the American Legion Post #160 and currently serves as Chaplain. He is the treasurer of the Maple Grove Civic Club. He was the enduring energy and spark of The Convenient Store coffee counter discourse group which has since moved to McDonald's after the close of The Convenient Store.

Mr. McBride has an engaging personality. By his wit and elocution he has charmed many gathered audiences. We are proud and grateful that he has shared his talents with our community.

In Memoriam



ALBERT J. CIRONE
Town Meeting Member

MARION A. LYDEN
ACRSD Nurse

JOHN S. CZUBRYT
Adams Highway Department Employee

ALFRED "DEWEY" MALLOY
Adams Highway Department Employee
Adams Fire District Employee

CLARA DUPRAS
Town Hall Employee

BARBARA G. MORSE
Teacher's Aide

ELEANOR R. FARNAM
Election Poll Worker
Council on Aging Volunteer

JEANNETTE H. OLESKIEWICZ
ACRSD Secretary

DORIS HAJDAS
Town Meeting Member

BENEDICT P. POLAK
Library Trustee
Finance Committee Member

GLADYS D. JETTE
Election Poll Worker

LOIS A. RACINE
Adams School System Teacher

CLAIRE JUIF
Election Poll Worker

JOAN E. RYCZEK
Election Poll Worker

DONALD L. LAFRANCE
Finance Committee Member
Town Meeting Member

ROBERT J. SIRARD
Adams School System Teacher
Planning Board Member
Conservation Commission Member
Town Meeting Member

TRACY M. LEE (aka Gracie E. Martin)
Council on Aging

HELEN C. LUBOWICZ
Election Poll Worker

PETER B. SOLARI
Board of Health Member
Electrical/Wiring Inspector

Town Clerk

Adams Town Election Results

May 4, 2009

MODERATOR	for a term of One Year
ANTHONY P. McBRIDE, Eleven hundred thirty eight	1,138*
Write In Votes, Twenty	20
Blanks, Four hundred	400
Total	1,558

TOWN CLERK	for a term of Three Years
PAUL HUTCHINSON, Fourteen hundred twelve	1,412*
Write In Votes, One	1
Blanks, One hundred forty five	145
Total	1,558

SELECTMAN	for a term of Three Years
EDWARD MACDONALD, Three hundred ninety two	392
JOSEPH C. SOLOMON, Five hundred forty six	546
ARTHUR W. HARRINGTON, Twelve hundred five	1,205*
JASON HNATONKO, Six hundred eighty nine	689*
Write In Votes, Four	4
Blanks, Two hundred eighty	280
Total	3,116

ASSESSOR	for a term of Three Years
DONNA AITKEN MACDONALD, Eleven hundred sixty seven	1,167*
Write In Votes, Six	6
Blanks, Three hundred eighty five	385
Total	1,558

BOARD OF HEALTH	for a term of Three Years
PATRICIA A. CLAIRMONT, Twelve hundred sixty one	1,261*
Write In Votes, One	1
Blanks, Two hundred ninety six	296
Total	1,558

LIBRARY TRUSTEES	for a term of Three Years
JAMES R. LOUGHMAN, Eleven hundred thirty three	1,133*
EUGENE F. MICHALENKO, Thirteen hundred thirty eight	1,338*
Write In Votes, Four	4
Blanks, Six hundred forty one	641
Total	3,116

PARK COMMISSIONER	for a term of Three Years
WILLARD BARD, Twelve hundred thirty three	1,233*
JAMES J. FASSELL, Twelve hundred thirty eight	1,238*
AIMEE L. SINOPOLI, Eleven hundred seventeen	1,117*
Write In Votes, Two	2
Blanks, One thousand eighty four	1,084
Total	4,674

PLANNING BOARD	for a term of Five Years
BARBARA ZIEMBA, Twelve hundred fifty one	1,251*
Write In Votes, One	1
Blanks, Three hundred six	306
Total	1,558

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER	for a term of Three Years
ROBERT J. CIEMPA, Twelve hundred thirty three	1,233*
Blanks, Three hundred twenty five	325
Total	1,558

HOUSING AUTHORITY	for a term of Five Years
MARK A. COVERT, Eleven hundred fifty one	1,151*
Write In Votes, Two	2
Blanks, Four hundred five	405
Total	1,558

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	for a term of Five Years
JAYMIE L. BUTLER, Eleven hundred seventy four	1,174*
Write In Votes, Three	3
Blanks, Three hundred eighty one	381
Total	1,558

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE	for a term of Three Years
AARON M. DEAN, Twelve hundred four	1,204*
Write In Votes, Two	2
Blanks, Three hundred fifty two	352
Total	1,558

ADAMS-CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE	for a term of Three Years
Adams Representative	
CAROL A. CORRIGAN, Twelve hundred forty nine	1,249*
Write In Votes, Two	2
Blanks, Three hundred seven	307
Total	1,558

ADAMS-CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE	for a term of Three Years
Cheshire Representative	
DARLENE M. RODOWICZ, Eight hundred thirty eight	838*
JENNIFER S. MCGRATH, Four hundred seventy two	472
Blanks, Two hundred forty eight	248
Total	1,558

* Elected Official

Results of the Annual Town Elections held for the Adams-Cheshire
Regional School District

ADAMS - Adams Representative – Three Year term		
	Adams	Cheshire
CAROL A. CORRIGAN	1,249	352
Write In Votes	2	0
Blanks	307	112
TOTAL	1,558	464

CHESHIRE - Cheshire Representative – Three Year term		
	Adams	Cheshire
DARLENE M. RODOWICZ	838	236
JENNIFER S. MCGRATH	472	196
Blanks	248	32
TOTAL	1,558	464

Question 1: Shall the town of Adams cease assessing the excise imposed under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 8A on certain animals, machinery and equipment owned by individuals and non-corporate entities principally engage in agriculture?

YES, Nine hundred seventy nine	979*
NO, Three hundred seventy seven	377
Blanks, Two hundred two	202
Total	1,558

Elected Town Officers

	Term Expires		Term Expires
Moderator		Park Commission	
Anthony P. McBride	2010	Wilfred R. Bourdon, III	2011
		David Charon	2011
Town Clerk		Willard Bard	2012
Paul Hutchinson	2012	James J. Fassell	2012
		Aimee L. Sinopoli	2012
Selectmen		Planning Board	
Joseph R. Dean, Jr.	2010	Michael P. O'Brien	2010
Donald R. Sommer	2010	David B. Rhinemiller	2011
Michael G. Ouellette	2011	Sandra H. Moderski	2012
Arthur W. Harrington	2012	Martha J. Stohlmann	2013
Jason Hnatonko	2012	Barbara Ziemba	2014
Treasurer-Collector		Cemetery Commission	
Holly M. Denault	2010	Lawrence A. Clairmont	2010
Assessors		John J. Swistak, III	2011
Charles J. Welch	2010	Robert J. Ciempa	2012
Lynn D. Avery	2011		
Donna Aitken MacDonald	2012	Housing Authority	
Board of Health		State Appointee Vacant	2009
Roy J. Thompson	2010	Mary A. Robert	2010
Richard E. Frost	2011	Carol A. Roberts	2011
Patricia A. Clairmont	2012	Edward E. Roberts	2013
		Mark Alan Covert	2014
Library Trustees		Redevelopment Authority	
Karen L. Kettles	2010	Lawrence A. Clairmont (State Apt.)	2005
Juliette Wilk-Chaffee	2010	David Charon	2010
Joseph F. Greenbush	2011	Joseph W. Allard	2012
David M. Strzepek	2011	Steven M. Blanchard	2013
James R. Loughman	2012	Jaymie L. Butler	2014
Eugene F. Michalenko	2012		

	Term Expires
Northern Berkshire Regional Vocational School Committee	
Joseph W. Allard	2010
Daniel J. Maloney, Jr.	2011
Aaron M. Dean	2012

Adams-Cheshire Regional School District Committee

Elected At-Large

(Adams)

Paul K. Butler	2010
John E. Duval	2010
Jill A. Pompei	2011
Carol A. Corrigan	2012

(Cheshire)

Mary Ellen Baker	2010
Lynn T. Clairmont	2011
Darlene Rodowicz	2012

Appointed By Moderator

Finance Committee

Matthew Cowie	2010
Edward J. Driscoll	2010
Charles H. Foster	2010
Amy A. Giroux	2010
Brian R. Johnson	2010

Sandra D. Kleiner	2011
John Lawson	2011
Paula I. Melville	2011
Joan Smigel	2011
Rachel Tomkowicz	2011

Timothy R. Burdick	2012
Craig R. Corrigan	2012
Paul S. Demastrie	2012
Fred S. Hobart	2012
Gregory E. Tremblay	2012

Town Report Committee

Barbara Bennett
Donna Cesan
Haley Meczywor
Kelly Rice

Adams Memorial Day Committee

John J. Lennon
Clement St. Hilaire
William Bradley
Gary Guttuso

Appointed At Annual Town Meeting

Fence Viewers

Stanley J. Ziemba, Jr.	2010
Victor Ziemba	2010

Measurer Of Wood And Bark

Donald Delmolino	2010
Walter Slosek	2010

Appointed Town Officials

May 2009

Acting Right to Know Coordinator

Thomas A. Satko

AdHoc Committee on Solid Waste

Joseph R. Dean Jr.
Gregory DeBlois
John Swistak
Edward Driscoll
Leon Parrott Jr.

Agricultural Commission

Gary Alibozek
Joseph Nowak
Sonia McWhirt
Michael Ziemba
Peter Levesque
Elaine Erdeski (<i>Alternate</i>)
Tom Morin (<i>Alternate</i>)
Sharyn Alibozek (<i>Alternate</i>)
Terry Ziemba (<i>Alternate</i>)

American with Disabilities Coordinator

Jonathan W. Butler

Animal Control Officer

Terence E. Moran

Animal Control Officer (*Weekend*)

Daniel Lefebvre

Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission

Sandy Moderski
Michael G. Ouellette (<i>Alternate</i>)

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority

Jason Hnatonko

Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Edward Capeless
John Duval
Michael Mach
Donald Sommer
Robert Belanger
David Rhinemiller
George Haddad
Michael Ouellette

Chief Procurement Officer

Jonathan W. Butler

Code Enforcement Officer

Scott Koczela

Community Development Director

Donna E. Cesan

Conservation Commission

James Fassell
Anthony McBride
Thomas Robinson
David Randall
Jason Krzanowski
Douglas C. Burnett, Jr.
Joseph J. Nowak

Constables

John J. Lennon
Francis Wojtaszek
Frederick Kurpiel
Anthony P. McBride
Thomas A. Satko
Herman Bishop

Council on Aging Director

Barbara St. Pierre

Council on Aging Board of Directors

Rose Belisle
Eleanor Steadwell
Michelle Wellspeak
MaryEllen Cyrulik
Jackie Rhinemiller
Thomas Dubis
Ruth McBride
Bob Joppich
Kateri Rymarski

Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire**Adams Representatives:**

Patricia Lyga
Gracie Vincent

Department of Public Works Director

Thomas A. Satko

Emergency Management Director

Richard Kleiner

Employee Insurance Advisory Group

Mary Beverly
Beth Wojtaszek
Keith McLearn
Richard Biros
Lorraine Kalisz
Barbara St. Pierre
Barbara Lewis
Sharyn Klein

Fair Housing Officer

Donna E. Cesan

Forest Warden

Richard G. Kleiner

Hazardous Waste Coordinator

Joseph R. Dean, Jr.

Historical Commission

Jody Fijal
Bruce D. Dumochel
Eugene Michalenko
John R. Cowie, Jr.
Ryan Biros

Housing & Building Inspector

David J. Pelletier

Information Technology Consultant

Rob Wnuk

Inspector of Gas Piping & Appliances

Bruce LaPerle

Inspector of Plumbing

Bruce LaPerle

Mt. Greylock Advisory Board

Joseph R. Dean, Jr.

No. Berkshire Solid Waste Management District

Edward Driscoll

Parks, Grounds and Recreation Superintendent

David Nuvalle

Preservation Officer

Eugene Michalenko

Registrar of Voters

Timothy Rowley
John J. Nowicki
Frances Meier
Paul Hutchinson

Retirement Board

Francis Wojtaszek

Safety Committee

Scott McWhirt
Scott Koczela
Joseph Fijal
Barbara St. Pierre
Thomas Satko
Donald Poirot
Deborah Bruneau
David Nuvallie

Special Police Officers

Allen Mendel
Matthew Wright
Curtis Crane

Superintendent of Insect Control

Thomas A. Satko

Town Accountant

Mary Beverly

Town Counsel

Edmund St. John, III

Town Scholarship Committee

Holly Denault
Alfred Skrocki
Paul Hutchinson
Paula Schrade
Bernard Pinsonneault

Traffic Commission

Scott McWhirt
Richard Tarsa
Keith McLearn
Thomas Satko
Michael O'Brien

Tree Board

Thomas A. Satko

Tree Warden

Thomas A. Satko

Trench Board

Thomas A. Satko
David Pelletier
Scott Koczela

Veterans Agent

Paul Hutchinson

Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent

Joseph Fijal

Weighers of All Commodities:**Hoosac Valley Coal & Grain**

Keith Hayden

Mullen Movers

Arnie Solis
Martin Mullen, Jr.
Craig Raymond
Mark LaVigne

Specialty Minerals, Inc.

William Donovan
Richard Bua
Alan Girou
John Bouley
James Alibozek
Tim Sutliff
Derek Masse
Barbara Gomeau
Amy Krauss

Lane Construction

Mark Schaffrick
Joe Catrambone

Wire Inspector

David Rhinemiller

Assistant Wire Inspector

Les Rhinemiller

Zoning Board of Appeals

Winthrop Peter Gutmann
Michael Mach
Joseph Allard
Anthony Donovan
Patricia Folino
Corinne Case (*Alternate*)

Town Meeting Members – Annual Town Meetings

Precinct 1	June 16	Precinct 2	June 16	Precinct 3	June 16
Baker, Patricia A.	X	Biros, Richard	X	Aitken, Paul	X
Baker, Starr D.	X	Biros, Ryan	X	Blanchard, Richard	X
Blanchard, Heather A.	X	Butler, Jaymie L.	X	Boccia, Theresa M.	X
Blanchard, Scott A.	X	Cardin, Bruce E.	X	Case, Corrine J.	X
Blanchard, Steven M.	X	Chittenden, Mark J.		Conroy-Shepley, Patricia	E
Bush, James	X	DeBlois, Gregory A.	X	Corrigan, Craig R.	X
Fijal, Jody A.	X	Delmolino, Donald L.	X	Cowie, John R. Jr.	X
Hanbery, Patrick S.		Driscoll, Edward J.		Dumouchel, Bruce D.	X
Harnick, Suzanne R.		Duval, John E.		Frost, Susan K.	X
Jette, Richard A.	X	Janik, Edward S.	X	Heritage, David L.	X
Kline, Sarah JP	X	Kolis, Dolores J.	X	Kalisz, Lorraine M.	X
Kolis, David	X	Kolis, Theodore J.	X	Keen, William E.	X
Kolis, Patricia M.	X	Kozik, Michael A.		Kolis, Marilyn Phelps	X
Kupiec, Anne E.	X	Kurpiel, Frederick T		Kopala, Stanley J.	X
Kupiec, Neil	X	Lefebvre, Cynthia A.		Lawson, John L.	X
Meczywor, Haley A.	X	Lefebvre, Jeffrey M.	X	Mach, Michael J.	X
Meier, Frances O.	E	Lentine, Joseph A.	X	McBride, Anthony P.	X
Morin, Norma P.		Meczywor, Paula	X	Moderski, Sandra H.	
Moyer, Christine A.	X	Michalenko, Eugene F.	X	Nichols, Scott F.	
Moyer, John D.	X	Schutz, Norman K.		Paciorek, John S.	
Nimmons, Jacqueline F.	X	Skrocki, Mary		Parrott, Leon S. Jr.	X
Nowak, James F.		Taber, Candice N.		Parrott, Nancy A.	X
Revett, Richard E.		Taber, Michael Paul	X	Powers, Michael J.	X
Robinson, Brenda	X	Thompson, Roy J. – Resigned 7/24/09	X	Prokopowicz, Dawn M.	X
Robinson, Lorraine C.	X	Turoczy, Lawrence		Shepley, Bruce Dale	X
Robinson, Thomas	X	Wilk-Chaffee, Juliette J.	X	Silvia, Veronica A.	X
Taylor, Judith L.	X	Wisniewski, Richard	X	Stohlmann, Martha J.	E
Taylor, Marshall	X			St. Pierre, Barbara	X
				Ziemba, Barbara	E

Precinct 4	June 16
Alibozek, Elizabeth	
Blanchard, William T.	X
Bosworth, Kathryn	
Bourdon, Beth L.	X
Bourdon, Wilfred R. III	X
Clairmont, Lawrence A.	X
Davenport, Susan	X
Deeley, Susan	X
Demastrie, Jacqueline M.	X
Demastrie, Paul S.	X
Denault, Ronald	X
Hayer, Joseph P.	X
Lennon, John J.	X
Lillie, Dolores	X
Mendel, Bruce W.	X
Mendel, Lisa A.	X
Pederchini, Timothy J.	X
Porter, Raymond A.	X
Rymarski, Kateri A.	X
Schrade, Paula G.	X
Sommer, Donald R. Jr.	X
Sommer, Michael J.	
Strzepek, David M	X
Swistak, John J.	X
Taylor, James	X
Taylor, Patricia	X
Wilk, Myra L.	
Ziaja, Mark D.	X

Precinct 5	June 16
Berti, Katrina M.	X
Burdick, Timothy R.	X
Case, Colleen M.	X
Corrigan, Carol A.	X
Corrigan, Thomas J.	X
Cutillo, Dianne M.	X
Dean, Aaron M.	X
Dean, Joseph R. Jr.	X
Doyle, Ann Marie	
Doyle, Joseph B.	
Fassell, James J.	X
Gigliotti, Debra Lynn	X
Haddad, George J.	X
Hellquist, C. Barre	X
Hutchinson, Doris M.	X
Kustra, Donna Meczywor	X
Lennon, David J. Jr.	X
Levesque, John Joseph	X
Levesque, Lauryn B.	X
MacDonald, Donna Aitken	X
MacDonald, Edward	
MacDonald, Thomas	
Moran, Frederick D.	
Moran, Marilyn A.	
Morin, Thomas M.	X
Noyes, Nicholas G.	X
Pinsonnault, Bernard A.	X
Satko, Thomas A.	X
Whitman, Mary E.	

Board of Selectmen

2009 was a year of transition and challenges in Adams. In addition to a very poor revenue outlook, the Town also saw the election of two new Selectmen and the start of the recruitment process for a new Town Administrator. Through all of this, the Board of Selectmen was still able to see the groundbreaking of a significant downtown project, major progress on several Town initiatives, and the successful award of \$685,000 in grant funding for the reconstruction of one of Adams' two major downtown commercial corridors.

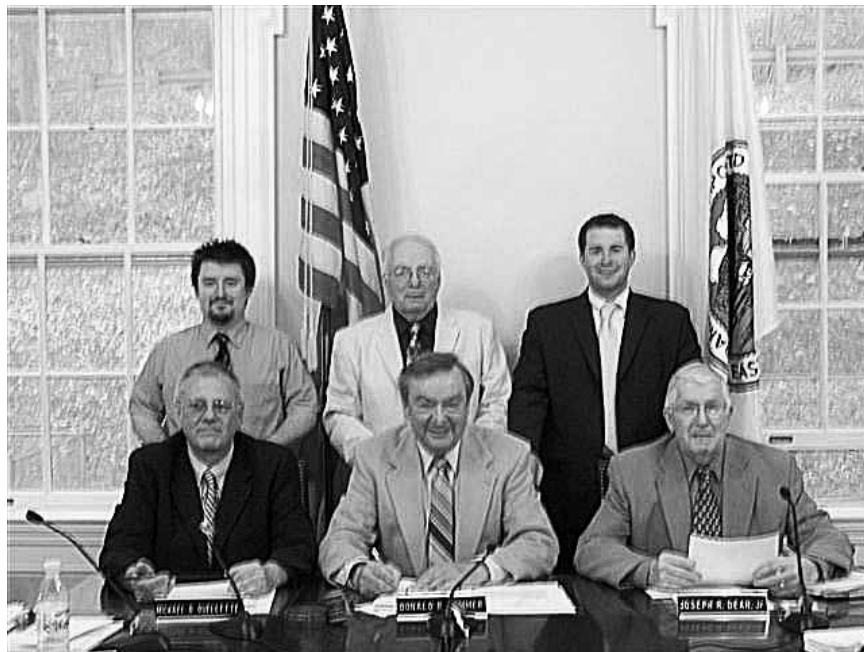
Starting right out of the gates in January, the Board became greatly concerned with the pending budget forecasts. State projections indicated that the upcoming 2010 Fiscal Year was likely to see level funding of local aid. This projection, coupled with declining local revenues and continued increases in health care costs, placed the Board in a position where immediate action was needed. After the careful review of multiple scenarios, the Board was forced to make some exceptionally difficult decisions relating to the budget. In the final analysis, the Fiscal Year 2010 budget included the elimination of seven town positions as well as the seasonal workers program within the Department of Public Works.

Previously in 2008, the Selectmen appointed a Search Committee to handle the recruitment and interview process for a new Town Administrator. By April 2009, the Committee had referred three finalists to the Board and final interviews were then conducted during a special Selectmen's Meeting. Shortly thereafter, Jonathan W. Butler was selected as the new Town

Administrator and he formally began performing the duties of the position on June 1st. During the first five months of the year, the Town had been very fortunate to be represented by George Haddad – a capable local resident who served, without pay, as Interim Town Administrator.

Downtown revitalization made significant progress during 2009. In late summer, the Town's Jones Block & Armory Block Historic Facades Rehabilitation Project commenced. Once this project is completed, two of the most historic buildings along Park Street will have been fully restored on the exterior, and the previously vacant Jones Block will be revitalized to include three new premium commercial spaces as well as six luxury apartments above the street. Additionally, the Town completed the Armory Court Park Project, a small "pocket park," on Pleasant Street in late summer. This project represents the completion of the Town's efforts in revitalizing the Armory Court area while adding another location for folks along the bike trail to stop and enjoy the downtown. In the late fall, the Town began working with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation on plans for an extension of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail north to Lime Street from its current terminus at Hoosac Street.

The Greylock Glen project also made some additional headway in 2009 and is poised to see significant steps taken in 2010. At the close of the year, the Town's Community Development Department was working diligently towards the filing of the Environmental Notification Form (ENF) under MEPA with the



Board of Selectmen (front l-r) Michael G. Ouellette, Donald R. Sommer, Joseph R. Dean, Jr. ; (back l-r) Jason Hnatonko, Arthur W. Harrington, Town Administrator Jonathan W. Butler

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Once filed, the MEPA review provided will be paramount in determining what steps remain for the Town's largest and potentially most significant economic development project.

Despite the challenging economic conditions, the Board of Selectmen and the new Town Administrator looked toward the future and established economic development as a number one priority. To reinforce this commitment, two new grant-funded positions were created within the Community Development Department in December, restoring the previous staff complement. These positions are intended to bring additional energy and expertise on board to assist the Town with the workload and direction of current and future projects.

While the economic picture is both discouraging and challenging, it is in no way a reflection of the community. The people of Adams still expressed their strong community spirit by making several events a huge success - including the Street Fair on Park Street during the Susan B. Anthony Celebration, the Summer Street Fair, the Adams Agricultural Fair, "Movies Under the Stars," the return of the Greylock Ramble in the fall, and the magnificent support of all of our successful youth and high school programs. Adams is a community that prides itself on identity, and 2009 was a clear example of how unwavering the people of Adams are in their willingness to step up and share responsibility, always working toward making our Town more vibrant and improving its quality of life.



*Greylock Roadway - Grand Reopening of DCR's Mount Greylock Historic Parkway - May 22, 2009
(Jason Hnatonko, Michael G. Ouellette, Governor Deval L. Patrick, Donald R. Sommer, Joseph R. Dean, Jr.)*

Town Clerk

SPORTING LICENSES ISSUED

Resident Fishing.....	186
Resident Fishing Minor.....	20
Resident Fishing 65-69	23
Resident Fishing Over 70.....	53
Non-Resident Fishing	7
Non-Resident Fishing - 3-Day	2
Non-Resident Fishing Minor	0
Resident Fishing - 3 Day.....	1
Resident Trapping	0
Resident Trapping - Minor.....	0
Resident Trapping - 65-69	0
Duplicate Fishing	1
Resident Citizen Hunting	38
Resident Hunting - 65-69	3
Resident Hunting Paraplegi	1
Non-Resident Hunting, Big Game	3
Non-Resident Hunting, Small Game	0
Resident Citizen Minor Hunting	2
Resident Sporting	192
Resident Sporting 65-69	22
Resident Citizen Sporting Over 70	84
Duplicate Hunting	0
Duplicate Sporting	0
Archery Stamp	90
Waterfowl Stamp.....	10
Primitive Firearms Stamp	120
Totals	858

Payments

To Division Of Fisheries And Wildlife	\$18,368.25
To Town Treasurer-Collector For: Dog Licenses & Fees, Sporting Fees, Marriage Permits, Certified Copies, Gasoline Permits, Pole Locations, Cemetery Lot Deeds, Abstracts, Miscellaneous (Includes Late Dog Fees), Raffle Permits, Application Fees-Zoning Board Of Appeals, Fines-Non-Criminal	20,752.54
Total	\$ 39,120.79
2007 - \$43,878.98	2008 - \$38,305.60

Vital Statistics	2009	2008	2007
Births Reported	56	54	85
Marriages Reported	61	44	43
Deaths	113	115	118

Gas Station Renewals 11

Number of Dog Licenses Issued

Males.....	90
Neutered Males	348
Females	
Spayed Females	409
4-Dog Kennel Licenses	12
10-Dog Kennel Licenses	2
25-Dog Kennel Licenses	0
Transfer Licenses	0
Total.....	905

Town Census 9,657

VOTER REGISTRATION

Annual Town Election — May 4, 2009

Prec.	Dem.	Rep.	Unen	Green/ Rain J	Lib.Reform L	Green E	Green USA G	Totals
1	389	77	579	1	5	0	1	1,052
2	430	70	651	2	0	1	0	1,154
3	441	110	644	1	5	0	1	1,202
4	400	83	627	2	6	0	1	1,119
5	452	103	693	1	5	1	0	1,255
	2,112	443	3,194	7	21	2	3	5,782

VOTER REGISTRATION

Special State Primary — December 8, 2009

Prec.	Dem.	Rep.	Unen	Green/ Rain J	Lib.Reform L	Green E	Green USA G	Totals
1	406	95	618	1	4	0	2	1,126
2	441	74	683	2	0	1	0	1,201
3	453	114	651	1	5	0	1	1,225
4	403	86	641	2	7	0	2	1,141
5	472	105	714	2	6	1	1	1,301
	2,175	474	3,307	8	22	2	6	5,994

Community Development Department

The Adams Community Development Department continued to implement an intense work program in 2009, with the implementation of projects funded under the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Staff work is focused on completing several individual projects for each year of funding, as well as developing the next year's grant application. Projects included continuation of the Downtown Façade & Signage Improvement Program, the Adams Housing Rehabilitation Program, and construction of the proposed Armory Court Park project. Community Development staff submitted the Town's FY09 CDBG application in February 2009. In August, the Town was awarded \$884,801 in CDBG funding for the Summer Street Reconstruction Project along with a small amount of funding for façade improvements. Administrative funds from CDBG cover the wages and benefits of the grants staff within the Community Development Department, however, because of a lack of this funding earlier in the year, two staff positions sustained layoffs.

Adams Downtown Revitalization Program

The Community Development Department continues to implement recommendations in the *Adams Downtown Development Plan* (adopted in 2003). Progress on several downtown projects was accomplished in 2009:

Jones Block Redevelopment Project

After many months of work, the Town's "Jones Block & Armory Block Façade Rehabilitation Project" was advertised in March 2009. Earlier, the Town's independent architect (Russo-Barr Associates, Inc.) completed its review of the project construction drawings and specifications prepared by Westall Architects. The six (6) categories of Sub-Bid work included: Masonry, Roofing & Flashing, Glass & Glazing, Miscellaneous & Ornamental Metals, Painting, and Electrical. Filed Sub-Bids were received on April 16 and General Bids were received on April 23, 2009 but, unfortunately, the lowest bidder was over \$330,000 higher than available funding. This was surprising given the great deal of interest in the project and the current economy.

After careful evaluation of the previous bids, it was decided to rebid the project. To address the cost issues, Town staff worked with the developer, Samuel Adams Enterprises, LLC, and his architects to modify the project scope in several minor ways. Most of the cost savings was due to the work being added to the private portion of the project, the greatest element of which was the masonry cleaning, repointing, and repair for both buildings. These changes, in turn, realized savings in scaffolding, bonding, and overhead & profit. The modified project was again advertised and 47 parties obtained project plans and specifications, indicating a sustained high level of interest. A Pre-Bid site visit was conducted on June 4, 2009. Filed Sub-Bids were received on Thursday, June 11, 2009 and General Bids were received on June 18, 2009. After a careful review of the new bids, it was determined that Burke Construction Company was the low bidder. On July 14, 2009, the Town executed an agreement with Burke Construction Company for the construction of the Jones Block & Armory Block Façade Rehabilitation Project, for a total contract sum of \$898,719.

During the late summer and fall, major progress was made on the Jones Block Project. All masonry repair work was completed, new windows for the upper floors of the Jones Block were delivered, painted, and later installed by Burke, and the decorative metal cornice was installed and secured at the uppermost wall of the Jones Block by CW Construction, Inc. New gutters and downspouts were installed and the frames for the Hope storefronts for both the Jones Block and Armory Block buildings were installed. Given the start of cold weather, the Town's contractor constructed temporary plywood and glass enclosures for the individual businesses in the Armory Block until the new storefront systems were completed. The storefront glass and the curved glass for the entranceway to the buildings in the walkway were ready for shipping toward the end of the year, and were expected to be installed in January 2010. The project is funded by a \$1 million CDAG grant awarded to Adams. All CDAG-funded work is expected to be completed prior to June 30, 2010.

Hinge Block Parking Project

Located behind the Jones Block building, the Hinge Block Parking Project was completed in June 2009. An important element of the Town's downtown revitalization program, the Hinge Block project is part of the focus on improving the Armory Court area and the rear facades of downtown properties visible from the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail. The Town's contractor, C & A Construction Company of Ludlow, completed the installation of decorative pavers and final punch list items during the first part of the 2009 construction season and the project was formally closed out prior to the grant deadline of June 30, 2009.

The parking project was challenged from the start because of the work being undertaken on the Jones Block Renovation Project involving both the Jones Block and Armory Block buildings. Sequencing the work for the parking project with that of the building restoration project created several complications and added complexity. Some of the work originally intended as part of the Hinge Block Parking Project – completion of walkway areas designated for decorative pavers and the installation of dumpster enclosures – had to be removed from the scope because they would have interfered with work on the buildings. It was also determined that if these items were installed they would likely become damaged as the exterior work on the buildings progressed. Samuel Adams Enterprises, the Jones Block developer, will have the responsibility of completing these items.

Armory Court Park Project

CD staff continued efforts toward implementation of the Armory Court Park Project located at 12 Pleasant Street. Although some initial work was begun in 2008, the project began in earnest in the spring of 2009. Site work and final grading were complete in late spring by Del-Rich, Inc. of Pittsfield, the Town's contractor for the park project. Following this, all concrete and decorative pavers were installed, along with installation of the granite and wood rails perimeter fence, landscaping, and the handicapped ramps. One of the park's asphalt walkways was severely damaged during the installation of the perimeter fence. After Town negotiations with both the contractor and his subcontractor, the contractor offered to replace the asphalt walkway with a new



Armory Court Park Project

concrete walk. This occurred when concrete was brought to the site for the footings of the new fabric shade. The concrete walk dramatically improved the overall appearance of this portion of the walk in addition to solving the damage problems.

The final touches -- of the park's benches, trash receptacles, bike racks, table and chairs, and the red fabric shade -- were completed later in the summer and a Certificate for Substantial Completion was issued on September 3, 2009. Final acceptance of the work was provided later in September. The completed park eliminated a blighted area within the downtown and now provides an attractive seating area to have lunch out of doors or enjoy a game of checkers with a friend. Users of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail have another place to rest and relax along the bike trail.

Adams Downtown Façade & Signage Improvement Program

The Adams Downtown Façade & Signage Improvement Program continues to be a key revitalization program within the town center and serves as a catalyst for private investment. The program provides financial incentives in the form of grants and loans to Downtown property owners and businesses enabling them to undertake needed façade renovations. The Adams Downtown Façade & Signage Improvement Program works to eliminate blighting conditions in the Downtown target area, specifically decreasing the number of structures rated in "fair, poor, or severely dilapidated" condition. In 2009, Department staff worked to complete the final few projects funded by FY07 CDBG and start on continuation of the program for FY09.

Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Education Center Project

Working with input from the Advisory Committee, the Town and its consultant, Vanasse Hagen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB), continued to refine the Site Master Plan. Work focused on reducing the footprint of the various project components -- the campground, lodging & conference area, amphitheatre, the Environmental Education Center, and associated parking. The campground footprint was successfully modified to avoid areas of wetlands and Riverfront Areas. The campground is now proposed to include about 140 sites, consisting of tent sites, "eco-structures," rustic cabins, and a few pull-in sites for small RVs. The parking areas for the proposed amphitheatre and Environmental Education Center were

revised to minimize the number of entrances/exits and reduce areas of pavement. VHB also continued to make progress toward completion of the draft Sustainable Design Guidelines for the Glen project. These guidelines will provide standards for site work, design and construction of all buildings, and energy use for the project. The guidelines will be incorporated into future solicitations issued by the Town for private entities to undertake the development of certain components of the proposed Glen project.

Dodson & Associates (hired by DCR) made significant progress in developing the alignments for the proposed multi-use trails system for the project. A meeting with local trails users and mountain biking enthusiasts was held in December to review the latest revisions. With input from the Town and DCR, Dodson significantly reduced the number of Class I trails, so these are by and large limited to the Development Area. Dodson also completed digital GPS mapping of all existing trails at Greylock Glen, including trails proposed to be abandoned and trail connections with established trails on the State Reservation. The consultant also completed draft maps of the proposed network of trails (both winter and summer use). Dodson met with local snowmobile clubs and, based on this input, they have identified a recommended corridor for snowmobiles across an area of the Glen to access the summit. They have also investigated sites appropriate for sledding and other winter activities and mapped these areas. The Town and DCR still have concerns about the emphasis on Nordic skiing with Dodson's proposed trails system and will continue to evaluate this in light of changing climatic conditions.

Both Town and DCR staff participated in several meetings with state agency personnel. A meeting with staff from the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NH&ESP) was held on March 6, 2009 to review the botanical survey final report completed by DCR's consultant, Biodiversity, LLC of Amherst. NH&ESP staff concurred with the findings of the report, which established that no endangered species would be impacted by the proposed development with the exception of certain trail alignments. To address this, modifications were made to the trails plan by eliminating or realigning these trail segments so that any areas of protected species and habitat would be avoided. Meetings were also held with MA Department of Environmental Protection staff, Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, and DCR regional staff.

The Town's Advisory Committee for the Glen project continued to meet to discuss aspects of the project throughout 2009. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to assist the Town in developing the Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation and Environmental Education Center project in accordance with DCR's *Greylock Glen Amended Master Plan* dated April 2004 and the Town's September 14, 2004 proposal submitted in response to the Commonwealth's Request for Proposals for a project developer. The Advisory Committee is established to provide a small, focused group to guide the project and assist the Town, through its Community Development Department, in making project decisions. The Committee serves in an advisory capacity only, has no legal powers to put recommendations into action, nor does it have any liability that may result from consequences of actions taken by the Town of Adams.

MEPA Review

Early in the year, Town and DCR staff met with Epsilon Associates, Inc. to discuss thresholds of the MEPA review process and the anticipated impacts from project elements, including impervious areas, traffic generation, number of parking spaces, wastewater generation, potable water use, stormwater, and rare species. Town and DCR consultants carefully quantified anticipated impacts and a meeting was held with the MEPA office in Boston to discuss the project and identify in advance any concerns of MEPA staff. A draft Environmental Notification Form (ENF) was prepared by both Town and DCR staff and their respective consultants, with additional assistance by Epsilon Associates, Inc. It was determined that additional material needed to be incorporated into the ENF to reflect the extent and depth of analysis undertaken by the Town and DCR, their consultants, and members of the Advisory Committee. This work continued throughout 2009. The Town and DCR anticipate filing by the completed ENF in spring 2010.

Green Communities Act

Massachusetts adopted landmark legislation in 2008 with the adoption of the Green Communities Act. The Act, among other goals, is designed to enable municipalities to become more sustainable, to deal with rising energy costs, and to incubate the clean energy technologies and practices that will place the Commonwealth at the center of the 21st century clean energy economy. Cities and towns designated as a “Green Community” will be eligible for grants and loans to implement significant energy efficiency measures, construct large renewable energy projects, or pursue other innovative projects that help communities’ efforts to reduce their fossil fuel energy consumption.

The Green Communities Program has five criteria which communities will have to meet to become a Green Community. The Town established a Green Committee and began work toward these criteria:

1. Municipalities must establish a baseline inventory of energy usage for municipal buildings, vehicles, street and traffic lighting and put in place a program designed to reduce this baseline by 20 percent within five (5) years of initial participation. *The Town submitted its application under the Energy Audit Program to the MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER) on March 24, 2009. Once the Town receives the results of the audit and understands the baseline results, the Green Committee can develop a comprehensive program to reduce energy use.*

2. Communities must establish “by right” zoning for the siting of at least one type of renewable energy facilities. *As part of the Master Plan, appropriate locations for the siting of various types of renewable energy facilities will be identified. The Green Committee began researching bylaws for wind facilities.*
3. Municipalities will be required to adopt an expedited permitting process to the proposed renewable energy facilities which are subject to the “by right” siting provisions. *Similar to the expedited permitting process consistent with M.G.L.c. 43D, the Town would adopt its expedited permitting process for properties identified appropriate for renewable energy facilities which will be subject to the “by right” siting provisions.*
4. “Green Communities” will be required to purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles for municipal use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable. *Heavy-duty vehicles (fire trucks, ambulances, DPW heavy equipment, etc.) are exempt. To comply, the Town would need to develop a vehicle inventory and a plan for replacing these vehicles with those meeting required fuel efficiency ratings.*
5. All new residential construction over 3,000 square feet and all new commercial and industrial construction would be required to minimize the life-cycle cost of the facility by utilizing energy efficiency, water conservation, and other renewable or alternative energy technologies. *To comply with this criterion, it is proposed that municipalities would elect to adopt the proposed optional energy code developed by the state’s Board of Building Regulation and Standards (BBRS).*

In July 2009 with assistance from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), an analyst with the Cadmus Group conducted a preliminary site assessment of Town buildings for their suitability for solar panels. These preliminary investigations found that the Wastewater Treatment Plant was the most viable structure to install such a system. Through BRPC, the Town was able to obtain additional engineering expertise to conduct a structural analysis of the building’s roof and complete the design of the proposed solar project. In December 2009, the Town applied for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act’s (ARRA) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program to install a solar energy system on the roof of the Town’s Wastewater Treatment Plant. The project, although small, will work to reduce energy use in a Town building and provide Town staff initial knowledge and experience in renewable energy technologies.

Inspectors

Building Inspector

The Building Inspector's Office issued 417 permits for construction, demolition, alterations, additions, repairs, change of use, woodstove/chimney installations, certificate of inspections and curb cut/driveway entrances during 2009. A \$29,777.60 in filing fees was collected during the year.

Numerous inspections were carried out on these new permits as well as those requested for single, multi family and assembly buildings or by the Adams Board of Health, Adams Housing Authority, Office of Transitional Assistance, and the office of Mass. Small Cities Program. We also handled many citizen inquiries, request and complaints. Forty Certificates of Inspection were done on restaurants, bars, clubs, food establishments, schools, and churches.

Seven permits were issued for new single-family dwellings and twenty two permits were filed for Commercial/Business/Non-Residential buildings.

<i>Type of Permits:</i>	<i># of Permits</i>
Single Family Dwelling	7
Pools	6
Demolition	12
Res. additions, alterations, conversions, repairs, & insulation	123
New Residential accessory structures i.e. sheds	5
New Residential Garages	7
Siding Residential	15
Roofing Residential	81
Windows / Replacement windows	25
Decks	17
Churches / Schools / Government Buildings	5
Commercial / Business / Non-Residential	22
Signs	11
Change-of-Use	2
Fill	0
Home Occupations	0
Woodstove / Pellet Stove / Coal Stove	24
Curb-cut / Driveway entrance	8
Certificate of Inspection	40
Adams Housing Rehab Program	7
TOTAL BUILDING PERMITS	417

In light of recent inquiries from Town residents pertaining to building permits, the Community Development staff decided to list common projects that would require a building permit, but not limited to the following.

Permits Required:

- Sheds
- Garages
- Siding
- Roofing
- Replacement windows
- Doors
- Decks
- In-ground Pool
- Above-ground Pool (not applicable to pools less than twenty-four (24) inches deep, except were pools have water circulation systems)
- New Chimneys and Liners, fireplace insert, solid fuel ie: exterior and interior Wood Stove, Pellet Stove & Coal Stove.
- Signs
- Awnings
- Fill
- Fences over Six (6) feet in height.
- Trench Permits

Gas Inspector

Number of Gasfitting Permits Issued	67
Revenue Generated	\$2,605

Plumbing Inspector

Number of Plumbing Permits Issued	43
Revenue Generated	\$2,315

Electrical Inspector

Commercial Rough-in	45
Final Inspections	194
Furnaces	12
Industrial Rough-in	32
Pools	3
Residential Rough-in	162
Services 100 Amp.	63
Services 150 Amp.	7
Services 200 Amp.	32
Services 400 Amp.	8
Services 600 Amp.	2
Services 800 Amp.	2
Services 1200 Amp.	1
Services Reconnection on Old	8
Services Temporary	8

Miscellaneous Inspections

Board of Health	5
Building Inspector	8
Complaints	44
Fires	4
Insurance Companies	21
Loan Agencies	22
Adams Housing Rehab Program	5
Power Company	24
State Inspectors Office	22
State Police	4
State Police Fire Marshal	4
Inspections Completed	742
Permits Granted	154

Planning Board

Section 125-9 of the Adams Zoning Bylaw establishes provisions for the review and approval of Site Plans. Subsection 125-19(E) identifies the uses that require Site Plan review by the Planning Board. Generally, any exterior modification of an existing non-residential building, other than signage and trash containers, also requires approved Site Plan.

The Planning Board convened for six public hearings at which it addressed three Site Plan applications, five Form A (Approval Not Required for Subdivision Plans), and one Subdivision Definitive Plan.

Specific applications reviewed included Site Plan approval for the following:

46 Commercial Street, 153 Howland Avenue, and 86 Howland Avenue.

In addition, the Board approved five Form A's (Approval Not Required for Subdivision Plan) for properties located at: Mountainview Drive, 110 East Mountain Road, Friend Street, Lime Street, and East Orchard Terrace.

The Planning Board also reviewed and approved a Definitive Subdivision for property located off of Orchard Street.

Members of the Planning Board include: David Rhinemiller, Chairman; Michael O'Brien, Vice-Chairman; Martha Stohlmann, Barbara Ziemba and Sandra Moderski.

Committees represented by the Board are: Traffic Commission, Michael O'Brien; Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Sandra Moderski; and Capital Improvement Committee (CIP), David Rhinemiller.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals meets when required to hear an appeal from an applicant who has been denied some or all of his or her building application. Typically, an applicant seeking the right to develop or build on a property, who has received a negative decision of the Building Inspector or the Planning Board, may appeal that decision to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Board also hears and issues decisions for Variance applications under MGL Chapter 40A Section 10, and Special Permit application to expand or alter a pre-existing nonconforming structure or use under MGL Chapter 40A Section 6. The Board of Appeals plays a key role in determining Special Permit applications under the Adams Zoning Bylaw.

The responsibility of the Town of Adams Zoning Board of Appeals is to provide fair and impartial public hearings on zoning issues presented. On designated meeting nights, the Board meets to hear and decide applications for Special Permits, applications for Variances (including Variances for Use); to hear and decide other appeals, to issue permits and to issue withheld building permits.

This past year, applicants ranging from individual homeowners to new business owners and existing businesses appeared before the Board with the responsibility to show that the granting of their requested Special Permit or Variance would not compromise the reasoning behind the enactment of the bylaws. A broad range of interesting and difficult issues was presented to the Board. Working together, the Board tried to balance the need for economic development with the rules, regulations, and intent of the Zoning Bylaws.

Many issues came before the Board during 2009. This year eight Public Hearings were conducted involving thirteen Special Permit requests and eight Variance requests. One Special Permit was withdrawn without prejudice.

The Board of Appeals is comprised of five permanent members appointed by the Selectman and one alternate member who takes the place of a member of the Board in case of a temporary vacancy, absence, inability to act, or conflict in interest.

Current permanent members are: W. Peter Gutmann, Chairman; Michael Mach, Vice-Chairman; Anthony Donovan, Joseph Allard and Patricia Folino. Corinne Case serves as the alternate member and recording secretary is Pamela Gerry. Michael Mach serves as the Board's delegate to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee.

Agricultural Commission

The Adams Agricultural Commission continues to work on issues regarding the farms in our Community. Dairy farms were our main focus in 2009 due to the economic straits that farmers are currently facing. The Commission is concerned about the possibility that the family farms may find it necessary to close their doors on the “Big Red Barn” for good, should the monies become more scarce. As a group we have written letters to both State and Federal Officials voicing our strong opinions in support of these dairy farmers. Their contribution and the role they play in the betterment of natural resources and our food supply in the Town of Adams can’t be minimized or go unnoticed.

The Commission also continued its efforts in hosting and highlighting agricultural programs and pursuits in the Northern Berkshire area, on the Public Access Cable Television Network.

Some Commission members attended farm related Seminars and brought back valuable and informative information to share.

A Biodiesel demonstration with Agricultural Members and State Officials was held showing the potential use of alternative energy sources to power tractors and other vehicles in the near future.

A collaborative effort between the special needs students at Hoosac Valley High School and Agricultural Commission volunteers took place in the Spring of 2009; which consisted of planting flowers at the High School so the students and others could enjoy the fruits of their labor.

The members of the Agricultural Commission are exploring ways to effectively start and support a Farmer’s Market in town, along with other various Community activities. All in all we continue our efforts to promote agricultural awareness to assure that the Town of Adams retains its viability as a Farming Community, thus preserving our rich and timeless heritage.

Adams Agricultural Fair

Bowe Field

The Adams Agricultural Fair took place July 31st, August 1st and 2nd. The opening of the fair began with a ceremony to commemorate the 35th Annual Fair. Among those in attendance were Town Administrator Jonathan Butler, Selectman Michael Ouellette, Representative Daniel Bosley, Senator Ben Downing and fair members.

Despite the torrential rain, the activities went on. Many volunteers worked to restore Bowe Field including the Adams Fire Wardens who generously pumped water off Bowe Field.

A steel roof was installed on the rest room building. The installation was completed by Atlantis Equipment Corp.

Users of Bowe Field were the Berkshire Kings, from the New England Football League, Gillette Shows for their annual carnival, Northern Berkshire Radio Club for their annual flea market and Custom City Cycle who sponsored the annual Fall Run for charity.

Veterans Services

It was a busy year for the Adams Veterans Services Department. As usual activities focused on the observance of Memorial Day and the celebration of Veterans Day. But the most important work of this department was continuing to support needy veterans under Massachusetts Chapter 115 and helping veterans with applications for the Federal Veterans Administration.

The caseload has increased, partly because of the age of veterans, but also because of returning veterans who have served in the Gulf War and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The economy has also played a major part in the increased caseload since Chapter 115 provides a buffer to those vets who have lost a job and have no income.

Under Chapter 115 the Town is reimbursed 75% of the expense of providing financial assistance to needy veterans and their widows.

Board of Health

Public Health Nursing

Community Blood Pressure Clinics: 4 sites

Under Age 65:	84
Over Age 65:	151
Male: 69	
Female:	166
Total Residents:	235
Seasonal Flu Vaccinations administered:	733

Communicable Disease Investigation and Reporting:

Clostridium perfringens:	1
Viral Meningitis:	1
Group B Streptococcus:	1
Campylobacter:	1

All reports were completed and forwarded to Massachusetts Department of Public Health for recording.

Adams residents also attended walk-in clinics held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the VNA office for blood pressure checks, medication reviews, TB skin testing and blood sugar checks. Health promotion information is also offered at these clinics.

School Nursing

Nursing services at St. Stanislaus Kostka School are provided by contract with School Nurse Jean King, RN. In January of 2009, LPN Nancy Derby was subcontracted by Ms. King (with prior approval by Adams BOH) to assist with the day-to-day nursing. Monthly school reports for this program are submitted to the Adams Board of Health.

Services Provided:

- New students are accepted with strict adherence to State-mandated Immunization and Physical Exam Laws.
- Yearly Immunization Surveys are required by the Department of Public Health in Boston. These apply to Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and 7th Grade students. Original copies must be sent to Boston before October 15th of each school year.

- Physical exams are required every three years. New students must have a new exam within thirty days of admittance.
- Tetanus Boosters are required for entry into 7th Grade.
- Strict Medication Administration Laws (as well as Standing Orders) are adhered to for all medications given at the school. A written Doctor's Order along with written Parent Permission must be received before any medication can be given; including over-the-counter medications.
- All students are screened for Pediculosis (head lice) in September and throughout the year as needed.
- Vision and hearing screenings along with height and weight measurements, are yearly requirements for all students. Referrals are sent home if further testing is indicated.
- In fall of 2009 all students were offered free N1H1 Immunizations- given only with written parent permission. Students, ages nine and under, had to receive two inoculations given one month apart. Teachers and parents were offered free shots during the second round.
- Scoliosis (postural) screenings are also required for all students in grades five through eight. Parents/Guardians are sent pre-screening letters and, if necessary, follow-up referrals. A yearly report is sent to Boston.
- Calculation of every child's height and weight is now a requirement. Body-Mass Index or BMI consists of a complex mathematical formula that is used to calculate the percentage of body fat for each child. The normal range is 18-25 percent. The percentage of each child in grades one, four and seven must be sent to all parents/guardians of children in these grades.
- Classroom teaching topics addressed by the nurse include: Illness Prevention, Dental Hygiene, Personal Hygiene (with written parent permission) and Prevention of Head Lice Transmission.
- Staff are given yearly immunization recommendations provided for by The Center for Disease Control or CDC.

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission has seven members. Jason Krzanowski serves as Chairman and James Fassell is Vice Chairman. The members are Thomas Robinson, Anthony McBride, Douglas Burnett, Joseph Nowak and David Randall.

Seven business meetings were held in 2009. The Commission acted on five Requests for Determinations and two Notices of Intent.

Notices of Intent were filed and the Commission issued Order of Conditions for the following projects:

1. Nancy Hamlin for removal of an existing building, footings and slab floor, removal of unsuitable soils and construction of a new structure located at 6 Country Club Extension.
2. Carolyn Irace for clearing of a small wooded area and improvements to property located at 11 Miller Street.

Determinations of Applicability were issued for the following:

1. Leo & Patricia Curtin for construction of a two car detached garage at 4 Burlingame Hill Road.
2. Charles & Marie St. John for construction of a single family house on East Road.
3. MJD, LLC for construction of a gravel parking area, minor modifications to an existing loading area and reconstruction of a service ramp at 115 Howland Avenue.
4. Richard Grabicki for review of delineation of property located on Burlingame Hill Road.
5. MacDermid, LLC for removal of a 13,000 gallon underground fuel tank located at 10 Harmony Street.

Certificate of Compliance

1. Wayne & Charlene Ouimet for completion of a new gravel driveway across an intermittent stream and associated wetland areas at 69 Alger Street.

Council on Aging

The Council on Aging (CoA) is a town department authorized under Chapter 40 Section 8B of Massachusetts General Laws. The law states that a Council on Aging may be established for the purpose of coordinating or carrying out programs designed to meet the needs of the aging in conjunction with programs of the Office of Elder Affairs.

Our CoA's mission is:

- To advocate on behalf of seniors in Adams sixty years of age and over.
- To provide information and referrals working in conjunction with other Town departments and area agencies.
- To identify unmet needs in the community and network with other social service agencies to address those needs.
- To enhance the quality of life for seniors and the whole community by providing educational, cultural programs and activities.

Transportation

Our two handicap/wheelchair accessible vans, contracted with Berkshire Regional Transit Authority to meet the transportation needs of Adams seniors transported clients to various destinations.

We have two full-time van drivers as follows: Rita Clarke and Todd Casey. Vern Emerson is the substitute van driver.

Our priority for transportation is always medical appointments on a first-come first-serve basis. We transported people to: the Adult Day Program in North Adams, our Supportive Day Program, the nutrition site at the Community Center, errands, banking, the Big Y, Wal-Mart, nursing homes, and the hospital for visits.

Mr. Paul Hutchinson, Town Clerk, and the CoA Director coordinated Election Day transportation.

Supportive Day Program

The Supportive Day Program has provided support services in a group setting to assist participants to recover and rehabilitate



The Dam on Hoxie Brook off of Gilead Street was removed in November, 2009

from an acute illness or injury, or to manage a chronic illness. The services include assessments and care planning, health related services, case management, social services, therapeutic activities, nutrition, and transportation. These services focus on the participant's strengths and abilities while maintaining their connection to the community and assisting them to retain their daily skills.

The interactions of the physical and human environments combine to create a homelike setting. The physical environment and the Program's design provide safety and structure for participants. The Program staff builds relationships and creates a culture that supports, involves and validates the participant. This setting then forms the framework in which therapeutic activities, health monitoring, and all the services offered by the Program occur. All therapeutic components of adult day services (meals, activities, interactions with staff and peers, and health services) are reinforced by the warm, caring, affective tone of the Program's atmosphere.

The Adams Council on Aging Supportive Day Program continues to provide quality services to Adams seniors and their families. The services provided through this adult day care model are intended to promote well being, enhance self-esteem, maintain independence, maximize functioning and honor individuality, while encouraging friendship, assisting with meaningful activities, and supporting an atmosphere of purpose. Family members and caregivers are provided respite knowing their loved one is being cared for by a professional and dedicated staff. Participants have varying degrees of needs, such as: isolation, frailty, Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's Disease, cognitive impairments, and multiple chronic medical conditions. The program is designed to provide friendship, socialization, failure-free activities and non-medical supervised care for seniors in a safe, nurturing, home-away-from-home atmosphere. Supportive Day participants have a nutritious lunch from the Elder Services of Berkshire County, Inc.'s congregate nutrition site, a light breakfast and an afternoon snack. The program operates Monday through Friday. Elder Services of Berkshire County may cover the fee if the participant is eligible. An alternative would be to pay privately for services.

We are forever grateful to our volunteers: Bob Joppich, Sandy Totter, Mary-Ann and Barry Emery, Irene and Bernie Bator. MANY THANKS!

The Program Coordinator is Antoinette M. Alizio, B.S.W., assisted by Edward Ethier.

Nutrition Program

We invite all seniors to join us Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. for a nutritious balanced meal at the Elder Services of Berkshire County, Inc.'s nutrition program that we sponsor in the main hall of the Community Center.

The Nutrition Program Site Director is Dee Dee O'Bryan. We thank her and her dedicated volunteers for all of their hard work: Ralph Farrar, Bea Grillone, Debbie Coody and Laura Sunn!

All seniors may join us for lunch or to attend the special parties and events at different times during the year. All are welcome to come early to join in a fun game of cards. Those wishing to

reserve a meal are asked to call the CoA two days in advance. Transportation is available with the Council on Aging wheelchair-accessible van upon request.

Brown Bag Program

The Brown Bag Program, in cooperation with the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, is a program that the Adams Council on Aging continues to sponsor.

The program is for residents of Adams and Cheshire 55 years old and over, who meet the United State Department of Agriculture eligibility guidelines. Individuals receive fifteen pounds of groceries monthly for a \$3.00 donation. This is a great program in which we wish more people would become involved.

Homebound Grocery Shopping Program

In cooperation with Big Y Supermarket, the Adams Council on Aging continued to shop for homebound seniors in Adams. We are very grateful to our volunteers Irene LeMarche and Bernice Trzcinski.

Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Program

This Program was implemented in August 2008 and continues to be a success. Eligible senior homeowners have the opportunity to receive a real estate tax exemption. Program participants will be entitled to a reduction of \$500.00 from their real estate bill in exchange for performing 62 ½ hours of service at a rate of \$8.00 per hour. For more information or eligibility requirements please contact Assessor Donna MacDonald or CoA Director Barbara St. Pierre.

Reach Community Garden

The Community Garden is located at the Adams Community Center site and has proven to be a benefit for Adams seniors.

Other Programs and Events:

The Council on Aging continued to offer support programs. Some of these programs were:

- Foot Clinic
- VNA Health and Flu Clinics
- Educational speakers and special events
- Annual Lions Club Luncheon in October serving 120 seniors
- Monthly entertainment provided by "The Aladdins"
- Volunteer recognition dinner catered by Boston Seafood's Omar Ameen, including a special presentation by motivational speaker Mr. Richard Fabozzi.

Director/Staff Accomplishments of 2009

Continuing education and network opportunities by CoA's Staff and Director are as follows:

- New Formula Grant
- CoA Supportive Day Working Group

- Western Massachusetts CoA quarterly meetings
- Annual CoA Conference in October
- Van Driver training by MARTA
- Annual Care-giver Resource Expo sponsored by ESBC in Springfield
- Annual Western Massachusetts Elder Care Conference

Community Center

The Community Center is a town building that houses the Council on Aging, the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste District, and the Youth Center, as well as other groups listed in this report. Our jobs in human services are about people: seniors, families, and consumers who are in need of our time, talents and services. Our goals are incorporated in our mission statement and the strategic plan for the town.

Department of Public Works

Highway Division

Following its Pavement Management Plan the following streets were resurfaced or chip sealed in 2009 with Chapter 90 funds.

Streets Resurfaced:

2110'	Bucklin Road
867'	Depot Street
1247'	Friend Street
600'	Prospect Street
830'	River Street
955'	Victory Street
525'	West Burt Street
1230'	West Road

All sewer and drainage structures on the above named streets were repaired or rebuilt.

Street Chip Sealed:

7220'	West Mountain Road
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Sidewalk Replacement:

Sidewalks were replaced on the following streets to eliminate trip hazards and to comply with ADA regulations using Chapter 90 funds.

100'	Glen Street
50'	Myrtle Street
550'	Spring Street
100'	West Street
100'	West Street

There are presently eight full-time employees in the Highway Division. Tasks performed by the Highway Division include:

- Street Sweeping
- Patching Streets
- Scarifying and shaping unpaved roads
- Maintaining street guardrails, culverts and surface drains
- Maintaining parking meters and regulatory signs
- Painting all crosswalks, parking spaces and centerlines
- Sanding, snow plowing and snow removal
- Repairing and rebuilding catch basins and sewer manholes
- Repairing sidewalks
- Installing seven new sewer connections
- Planting new trees
- Chipping brush on the sides of roads
- Chipping brush at the Recycling Center
- Sanding and snow plowing Hoosac Valley High School, Adams Memorial Middle School and C.T. Plunkett Elementary School
- Mowing grass at the Cemeteries

Additional Projects

Highway employees assisted Reynolds Inliner, LLC with the relining of the main sewer line along Grove Street. The relining of the sewer line has resulted in a large reduction of infiltration into the sewer lines. Ground water will no longer be able to enter the sewer lines resulting in a smaller flow into the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The cleanup of debris from the December 2008 Ice Storm continued into January. The final cleanup was accomplished in April once all the snow and ice had melted.

A section of storm water drainage on Meadow Street was replaced along with the rebuilding of two catch basins.

A surface water problem on Arnold Avenue was corrected with the installation of additional piping and catch basins. This will prevent the build up of ice on the street during the winter months.

Flood Control Project

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducts an annual inspection of the Adams Flood Control Project. As a result of the 2009 inspection there were three areas in the Flood Control Project where shoals must be removed and areas where the concrete walls or floors needed minor repairs. The Town hired Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. to: 1) provide environmental and engineering services, 2) prepare a plan to determine the required environmental permitting applications, 3) complete all environmental permitting applications, and 4) provide permitting, construction layout and design, preparation of bid documents, assistance in the bid process, and construction supervision for the removal of the shoals and concrete repairs.

Department of Public Works employees have made repairs

to a majority of the concrete walls and performed the usual vegetation removal and also cleared trees along many portions of the system until winter conditions prohibited such work. The remaining repairs will be done in the summer of 2010. Stantec has prepared a preliminary design for the removal of the shoals after determining the volume of sediment to be removed. Stantec is now undertaking the lengthy process of securing the proper permits to allow the project to move forward.

Equipment and Maintenance Division

There are presently two full time employees in the Equipment and Maintenance Division. This division is in charge of repairing and maintaining the entire Town owned vehicles and equipment which include: forty-eight equipment / vehicles for the DPW including Highway, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Forest Warden, Parks, Grounds and Cemetery Departments; nine vehicles for the Police Department; and two vans for the Council on Aging. Also maintained by this division are lawn mowers, chain saws, water pumps, generators, snow blowers, air compressors, etc.

The maintenance shop does all of its own fabrication and welding to: plows, plow frames, dump bodies and loader buckets; and does its own body repairs, sand blasting and painting. The shop also changes all tires including loader tires and large truck tires. Numerous repairs are performed daily.

This division also writes specifications for all equipment to be purchased.

In 2009, the Town through the Equipment and Maintenance Division purchased a 2010 International Model 7500 – 4x4 Dump Truck.



The 5th and final lease payment was made on the Vacuum Jet Rodder Truck that is used to clean and maintain both the sewer and stormwater systems.

Cemetery Division

Maple Street Cemetery

Two large maple trees were removed and several more have been identified for removal in the near future. The underground irrigation system developed a major leak which supplies water to the entire eastern half of the cemetery. Repairs are scheduled for spring 2010. Activity was as usual with no major projects or repairs performed, although the Cemetery Division operated without seasonal employees for the first time in decades. This was the case for both Cemeteries and Parks Divisions. Thanks to the Berkshire County Sheriffs Office and Berkshire Trial Court for supplying free labor to the Town for the entire growing season.

Bellevue Cemetery

The cemetery commissioners appropriated funds to repave 2000 feet of roads this year. Bids were very competitive again as they were in 2007 which allowed almost 2900 feet to be repaved. As usual, cemetery employees repaired underground pipes and loamed and seeded winter burials in the spring. The cemetery was in spectacular condition for Memorial Day. No major cemetery equipment purchases were made this year.

Parks & Grounds Division

PARKS AND ATHLETIC FIELDS

Reid Field

The softball season had a very large turnout and all leagues seem to be enjoying the new facility that was constructed five years ago. The field house is in need of a total painting which hopefully will be performed during the spring of 2010.

Renfrew Field

The field had several applications of fertilizers this year which seems to have improved turf condition. Several light bulbs were replaced on the eighty-foot poles. Department employees also repaired irrigation heads as needed. A new high-tech field light monitoring system was installed in late July. The system uses a hand-held computer which downloads all field lighting usage by any league that uses our facility. Unfortunately the summer parks' program was lost due to hard economic times which resulted in major budget cuts.

Russell Field

The repairs to the breached stream bank that were performed in 2007 proved to be very effective in controlling flooding to the field. Several light bulbs were replaced to the field lights this year.

Valley Street Field

Due to budget cutbacks there have been no major projects planned for Valley Street Field. Hopefully the town will be able to begin work on projects such as fence replacement, field house painting and related repairs. The parks crew edged the baseball diamond and hauled several cubic yards of baseball mix to the field.

Town Common

The Parks employees repaired several of the wrought iron benches at the Common. Several benches were brought to the cemetery garage and totally refurbished. They also decorated the entire Common for Christmas which included a 25-foot pine tree and all the small oak trees. The gazebo had lights and red bows displayed for the season.

Other Duties

The Parks & Grounds Division employees:

- Maintain lighting on Park Street, Armory Court and all of Memorial Park;
- Maintains several miles of the Flood Control System, which spans from Lime Street to Reeves Street;

- Keeps all bridges, walkways and street crossing ramps clear of snow;
- Assists the Highway Division with all public plowing;
- Performs town wide trash removal, which includes many public buildings, athletic fields, playgrounds, cemeteries, and downtown street receptacles; and
- Decorates Park Street, Hoosac Street and Summer Street light poles with holiday decorations.

Adams Wastewater Treatment Plant

In 2009 the Adams Wastewater Treatment Facility operated the entire year with no excursions to the limits and parameters as described in the Federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The NPDES permit allows the wastewater treatment plant to discharge treated and cleaned wastewater into the Hoosic River. The minimum staffing levels have remained constant at seven full-time employees. All seven employees possess a Massachusetts Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators license of a Grade 4 level or higher. Hours of operation are 7 AM – 3 PM, Monday through Friday. Weekend laboratory staffing is rotated between the Operations Supervisor, Lab Technician, and two Operators. Weekend equipment and facility inspections of three pumping stations and the Wastewater Treatment Plant are alternated every week between the two licensed mechanics.

A summary of the work and projects accomplished in 2009 is as follows:

Dewatering and Conveying Equipment:

- Dewatering Press filtrate containment wall and floor cracks sealed with urethane caulk.
- Waste sludge gallon totalizers were reprogrammed.
- Gould wash water booster pump rebuilt with new mechanical seals and gaskets.
- New motor installed on wash water booster pump.
- Top processing belt on belt press was replaced.

Valves, Pumps, Motors, Controllers and Associated Equipment:

- Grit pump room and lower pump room heating system condensate return pumps were rebuilt with new mechanical seals, impellers, gaskets and motors.
- Waste sludge pipelines were painted brown.

- Rotating assembly, pump housing gaskets, coupler / element, replaced on #2 plant water pump.
- #1 and #2 plant water pump discharge valves adjusted.
- All eight chemical pumps (sodium bisulfite, sodium hypochlorite and alum) were completely rebuilt.
- Chemical tubing lines were replaced on # 2 sodium bisulfite pump.
- #3 bleach pump's chemical tubing was replaced.
- Peristaltic pump tubing on Influent and Effluent stationary composite samplers was replaced.
- Flow meter transducers reattached to piping at the Domestic Pumping Station.
- All eleven Variable Frequency Drives (VFD) were cleaned, wire lugs checked and air filters cleaned and reinstalled.
- AutoCon pump controller at the Industrial Pumping Station had control relays replaced and mercury switches adjusted to maintain proper level control.
- "Run-time" hour meters for three raw sewage pumps at the Domestic Pumping Station were replaced.
- Gear motor on the shredder at the Domestic Pumping Station was sent to a motor shop to be completely overhauled.
- Two air compressors at the wastewater treatment plant had new "run-time" hour meters installed.
- The piston pump for scum was repacked.
- Three Return Sludge Pumps were painted dark grey.
- #1 Raw Sewage Pump and its mechanical seal was completely rebuilt and put into service.
- #1 Raw Sewage Pump motor mounting floor plate's struts were replaced due to corrosion. Floor plate was repainted dark grey prior to installation.

- 1" pipe strainers on Bleach Tank suction lines were replaced.
- #1 & #3 Raw Sewage Pumps were painted.
- Waste Sludge (dual piston) pump packings were adjusted.
- #2 Grit pump packings were adjusted.
- #2 Grit collector (drag chain) clutch required adjustments.
- #2 Plant water pump VFD failed after 16 years of operation and required replacement.
- New wiring conduit lines to #1 & #2 plant water pump motors were installed to eliminate electrical field voltage caused by multiple conductors being "bundled" into one large electrical conduit.
- Programmable Loop Controller and Pressure Transducer on the plant water pump control system were replaced.
- #5 Aerator dissolved oxygen sensor was replaced.
- #4, #5 and #6 Aerators dissolved oxygen sensors were recalibrated.
- #4, #5 and #6 Aerator gearbox and north clarifier gearbox oil was sent out for wear analysis.
- New ball valves and anti-siphon valves were installed on water supply lines to the three Return Sludge Pumps mechanical seals.

Mobile Equipment, Stationary Emergency Generators and Vehicle Maintenance:

- 2001 Ford F350, ¾ ton, 4x4 pick-up truck had new air and oil filters, crankcase oil, reverse and directional lights, windshield wipers, brake calipers & pads, and three power steering hydraulic hoses replaced.
- Scag 48" mower had three drive belts, cutting blades, oil, oil & air filters, two idler pulleys, and transmission replaced.
- John Deere push mower had oil, spark plug, air filter, control cables and blade replaced.
- Corrosion inhibitor was added to coolant for Olympian generator at the Harmony Street Pumping Station.
- Starting batteries for the emergency generator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant were replaced.
- Green Machine Brush Cutter's ignition module was replaced.
- Semi-annual oil, oil filters and coolant filters were replaced on all three emergency electrical generators and forklift truck.

Other Equipment:

- Air Handling Unit air filters were replaced.
- Sodium lights and ballasts were changed out on three outside light poles.
- 1-ton, 2-ton, and 3-ton overhead hoists were inspected and tested by Electric Motor Service & Sales, Inc.
- Effluent pH probe was relocated to chlorine contact channel center wall / slide gate area.
- Security and equipment alarm system required repairs by Alarms of Berkshire. Over the last 25 years the wiring to the sensing devices had become oxidized and corroded causing false alarm signals. Wire was either cleaned or replaced to correct problem.

- Sludge container loading area rolling door required adjustments to the limit switches and door brake.
- Emergency lighting was replaced in sludge loading stairwell area.
- Alarm float switch in effluent metering vault was replaced.
- All fire extinguishers at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the three pumping stations were tested and inspected by B W Instrumentation Unlimited.
- Five Magnetic Flow Meters were cleaned, calibrated and certified as accurate.
- Air regulator on Sanford Stationary Composite Sampler was rebuilt with new o-rings to resolve an air leak problem.

Miscellaneous:

- In late autumn chlorine analyzers and all chemical solution lines were drained and purged with compressed air to prevent freeze damage from cold weather.
- Laboratory scales were cleaned and calibrated by All-State Scale Co.
- Removal of tree limbs and storm damage repair from north and east fence lines was performed.
- Eight-foot fluorescent lighting fixture was installed above #2 Return Sludge Pump.
- Alarm system insurance certification was performed by Lee Audio.
- Thermo-Fisher lab drying oven was repaired by installing a new temperature control circuit board. Laboratory fume exhaust hood was inspected, tested and certified as operational by Health and Safety Services Unlimited, Inc.
- Stilling well was built and installed for the Influent pH probe.
- Embankment water erosion damage was repaired near Chlorine Contact Channel stairs along with lawn damage caused by winter snow plowing.
- Routine tank cleaning for algae removal and control was performed.



Superintendent Joe Fijal showing Henry and Jack Snizek around the WWTP plant. This is the North Clarifier.

- Ground water was removed from electrical manholes and chemical line manholes in the spring and fall.
- The Adams Highway Department used their street sweeping machine to clean the roadways at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the spring.

Summary:

The Wastewater Treatment Plant received a total of \$3,190 for a yearlong participation in EnerNOC's "demand response" program. If a "demand response event" is declared then the Wastewater Treatment Plant will switch off from the electrical power grid and generate its own electricity by using our emergency electrical generator. By participating in this program we are doing our part to reduce the potential of electrical "brown-outs" in our area. There was only one "demand response" declared for 2009. A total of \$3,190 was forwarded to the Town Treasurer for deposit into the Town's general fund.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant employees attended various training seminars during 2009. The courses are selected by the employees and are used to obtain training contact hours that are required for renewal of each employee's Massachusetts Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators license.

The laboratory technician passed all analytical parameters that were part of the EPA's annual Discharge Monitoring Report Quality Assurance Study 29. This performance study insures the data we submit in our monthly, quarterly and annual reports to the Federal and State regulatory agencies are verified as accurate.

The Adams Wastewater Treatment Plant is currently undergoing the process to renew its NPDES permit. The renewal applications along with extensive analytical data on the Treatment Plants' final effluent discharge to the Hoosic River were submitted in December 2009 to EPA Region 1 for their review. The Town's

four industries, Aladco, Power Shield Technologies, Inc., Holland Company and Crane Design Services, are monitored by the Wastewater Treatment Plant. They were issued three-year permits to discharge into the Town's sewer collection and treatment system.

A review of the 2009 facility's records and reports shows 761.51 million gallons of wastewater was treated and cleaned before being discharged to the Hoosic River. This was a decrease of 7.56% from last year's (2008) annual flow of 823.75 million gallons as reported in last year's annual town report. This decrease is a result of the sewer pipe-sealing project, which was done on Route 8 in the "Grove" section of Town.

A total of 162.20 dry metric tons of dewatered sludge was processed and hauled to an incinerator in Waterbury, CT for final disposal in 2009. This was a small decrease of 5.57% from last year's (2008) sludge disposal total of 171.77 dry metric tons. The monthly averages for removal of Total Suspended Solids removal ranged between a minimum of 89.1% to a maximum of 97.2% with an overall average for 2009 of 93.98%. Biochemical Oxygen Demand removals ranged from a minimum of 94.2% to a maximum of 97.9% with a twelve-month average for 2009 of 96.4 %.

Conclusion:

In 2009 the Operating Expense portion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant's budget was decreased by 5%. We have shown that we can provide the same quality wastewater treatment that we have provided in past years with less money even when cost for supplies, materials and parts steadily increase. As stated in past reports these achievements are the result of having a professional, resourceful and knowledgeable staff. Their endeavors have provided the best possible wastewater treatment at the lowest cost to the Town to insure the water quality of the Hoosic River.



Superintendent Joe Fijal showing Henry and Jack Sniezek the Main Console Panel.



Superintendent Joe Fijal showing Henry and Jack Sniezek the Walkway around the Belt Filter Press.

Emergency Management

The Emergency Management Director is responsible for updates to the Town's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). The plan provides a framework for the community to plan and perform respective emergency functions during a disaster or emergency situation on the local, state or national level.

Updating the plan is a continuous effort; names, positions, telephone numbers and tactics change on a regular basis.

The Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan combines four phases of emergency management:

- **Mitigation** - those activities which eliminate or reduce the probability of disaster;
- **Preparedness** - those activities which governments, organizations, and individuals develop to save lives and minimize damage;
- **Response** - those activities which prevent loss of lives and property and provide emergency assistance; and
- **Recovery** - those short and long term activities which return all systems to normal or improved standards.

The Town retains Massachusetts Emergency Management Agencies A+ rating through the efforts made to update the CEMP.

The Chief Municipal Official is the ultimate authority in any declared state of emergency and is in command of the Town's resources.

The Emergency Management Director is responsible for coordinating the emergency management program including advising the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen on courses of action available for decision making.

Thanks to all Departments involved in the continued effort to provide for the safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Adams.

Richard G. Kleiner
Emergency Management Director

Forest Warden

HAPPY 65TH BIRTHDAY SMOKEY BEAR 1944-2009

The Town of Adams Forest Warden is charged with:

- Prevention and suppression of all outdoor fires within the boundaries of the Town of Adams;
- Enforcement of the outdoor burning regulations as stated in Chapter 48 of the Massachusetts General Laws and 527 CMR Section 10:22; and
- Issuance of outdoor burning permits as stated in Chapter 48 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Calls and Events:

- 4 – Wildland Fires
- 33 – Illegal Burns and Smoke Investigations
- 6 – Mutual Aid Calls
- 1 – Mutual Aid Drill
- 1 – Basic Wildland Firefighting Course
- 2 – Search & Rescue Calls
- 11 – Community Service Events

Burning Permits Issued: 299

Adams Agricultural Fair:

The Forest Warden deputies were called to pump water out of the flooded Bowe Field so the Adams Agricultural Fairr could continue despite the heavy rain.

Mt. Greylock Ramble:

The Forest Warden Deputies provided communications and safety on all trails as they have done for the past 38 years. Prior to the Ramble, members of the Forest Warden Department volunteered to clear fallen trees and limbs that fell on the Cheshire Harbor trail during a severe winter wind storm.

**“GET YOUR SMOKEY ON...
ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRES”**

Richard G. Kleiner
Forest Warden

Parking Tickets

Revenue from Parking Meters	\$13,633.91
Revenue from Parking Violations	\$12,556.00
Total Revenue	\$26,189.91

Adams Police Department

Chief:	Donald A. Poirot	<i>Serving Since</i> 12-17-1981
Sergeants:	David M. Clark Richard W. Tarsa Jr. Shawn M. Briggs Scott McWhirt	04-01-1978 04-05-1987 04-05-1987 01-30-1989
Patrol Officers:	1. Lawrence Ordyna 2. Keith Erdeski 3. Paul Keating 4. Keith McLearn 5. Alan Vigiard <i>Retired 11/05/2009</i> 6. Donna Malloy 7. David Dean 8. Gregory Charon 9. Michael Wandrei 10. Joshua Baker 11. Nicholas Dabrowski 12. Thomas Cook	08-11-1980 01-01-1984 03-17-1984 01-30-1989 09-30-1989 09-20-1997 01-28-2002 03-30-2005 03-30-2005 04-17-2008 04-17-2008 11-03-2008
Administrative Assistant:	Cheryl Dabrowski	01-28-2002 <i>Resigned 12/06/2009</i>
Dispatchers:	Anthony Piscioneri John Pansecchi Thomas Romaniak Travis Cunningham	11-15-1997 08-19-1999 02-01-2001 06-13-2008 <i>Laid Off 07/07/2009</i>
Reserve Officers:	Robert Krzanik Matthew Wright Travis Cunningham	06-03-2004 09-14-2009 09-14-2009
Special Police:	Allen Mendel Curtis Crane	
Animal Control:	Terence Moran Daniel Lefebvre (<i>weekend</i>)	

February's training began with Officers Keith Erdeski, Paul Keating, David Dean and Michael Wandrei attending 911 training at STCC. Sergeant David Clark attended SLAT, an anti-terrorism training at Westover Air Force Base. Animal Control Officer Terence Moran attended training at Holyoke Community College regarding the duties and responsibilities of ACO's in Massachusetts.

In April Chief Poirot and Sergeant Clark attended a training concerning underage drinking.

During the month of May Dispatcher Anthony Piscioneri attended a one-day training on active shooters. Detective Lawrence Ordyna became 911 certified at STCC and also attended narcotics training in Hyannis.

In June, Chief Poirot, Sergeant Clark, Officer Dean and Officer Charon were re-certified as firearms instructors at a one-day class held in Pittsfield. All officers of this agency attended the annual qualification shoot where officers are certified in the use of department weapons including handguns, shotguns and patrol rifles.

In September, Sergeant Richard Tarsa attended an advisory meeting at North Adams Regional Hospital concerning the possible H1N1 epidemic. A training class was held at Berkshire Community College concerning school safety and was attended by Chief Poirot, Sergeant Shawn Briggs, Officer Dabrowski and Officer Matthew Wright. Sergeant Clark, along with Trooper Andrew Canata of the Massachusetts State Police Cheshire Barracks, instructed school safety training that focused on school lockdowns. Officer Charon attended a re-certification class for Child Safety Seat Installation. Sergeant McWhirt traveled to Westfield State College for a Massachusetts Police Training Council class on computer/distance learning.

October's training consisted of Officer Charon attending a two-day Police Shotgun Instructors course held in New Jersey. Chief Poirot attended UHF radio training in Lenox. Sergeant

Police Department Training 2009

2009 the Adams Police Department Officers attended various training throughout the year as well as mandatory in-service training that was held throughout the county.

In January, Officer Gregory Charon attended a four-day class in Pittsfield where he was certified as a Child Car Seat Installation Technician. Officer Nicholas Dabrowski attended a two-week training where he became certified as the Department's DARE Officer. Sergeant Scott McWhirt and Officer Donna Malloy attended a one-day seminar on underage drinking. Chief Donald Poirot became certified in the use of the 911 system at a two-day class at Springfield Technical Community College (STCC).



Officer Gregory Charon with Children from the Head Start Program

Clark was invited to attend the Massachusetts Bank Security Officers Meeting in Marlboro, which he attended with Michael Prudhomme of the Adams Co-operative Bank.

To end the 2009 training, in November Sergeant Clark attended a training held at the Cranwell Resort in Lee that gave instructions on how to deal with the disabled during an emergency.

2009 Yearly Activity Report

A. Calls for Service	18463
B. Ambulance Calls	1277
C. Fire Department Calls.....	232
D. Department of Public Works Calls	79
E. Animal Control Calls.....	633

Criminal and Custody Activity

A. Offenses Committed	1399
B. Arrests.....	
1. Adults.....	88
2. Juveniles	16
C. Summons Served	340

Motor Vehicle Activity

A. Motor Vehicle Charges	
1. Written Warnings	859
2. Civil Charges	469
3. Arrests	84
4. Criminal Complaints	62
B. Motor Vehicle Accidents	
1. Number Investigated	266
2. Fatalities	1
3. Persons Injured	68

Other Police Activity

Breaking & Entering and Larcenies	162
Alarms Responded To.....	211
Restraining Orders Served	76
Emergency 911 Calls	2242
Parking Tickets Issued	608
FID & License to Carry Issued	282
Building/House Checks	3842

General Remarks

The Adams Police Department has continued to move forward and provide the community with the quality of life expected. Over the past year, the Department was faced with many issues during a fiscally difficult period. Throughout this period of time, the employees of the Department continued to move forward providing our citizens with a safe and healthy environment.

One of the programs that has proven to be successful in providing services to the community is the Police Athletic League. This program has had to endure the closing of the Adams Armory and, most recently, the Adams Memorial School, along with substantial funding cuts to community policing grants. The relocation of the program to the gym at Hoosac Valley High School has been successful and the program continues to flourish. This, coupled with financial support from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation, has allowed the Adams Police Department to continue a valuable youth program.

With continued funding through the Governor’s Highway Safety Bureau, the Department has been allowed to provide several traffic initiatives to make our public ways safer. These programs include the Click-It-Or-Ticket and the Drink & Drive You Lose programs. Both of these have allowed the town to initiate traffic safety programs which have proven to be educational to the motoring public. Participation in initiatives like these has also allowed the Department to purchase equipment through the grant process.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of the Town of Adams for their continued support.



Memorial Day Bike Parade

Adams Free Library

The Adams Free Library marked another busy year of providing informational services to the residents of Adams and neighboring communities while making major interior improvements in an effort to enhance these services. Even though the Town was forced to cut the Library's personnel budget for FY 2010 by more than \$24,500, the Library Trustees were able to fill this funding gap in 2009 through the use of State Aid to Libraries funds.

A major goal in the interior improvement project, under the leadership of Building Maintenance Trustee David Strzepek, was the creation of a new Teen Center and Children's Department. The work was substantially completed by October with new carpeting installed along with electrical work that added both new lighting and restored some original lighting to the upper level of the Miller Annex. The centerpiece of this work was the creation of a new Circulation Desk to serve as the hub for youth services. Funding for this project has been almost entirely through the use of State Aid funds that the Trustees banked over a number of years in anticipation of this project. The effort to switch the rooms' collections, dubbed "The Move," was very well planned and precisely organized primarily by Children's Librarian Holli Jayko. The Move, in which over 19,000 items were switched between rooms, went off without a hitch and was accomplished in less than one day. This could not have been accomplished without the very hard work of the Library staff and an equally devoted and hard-working group of core volunteers. We are so very thankful to them.

Thanks to a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and a proportional match, again from State Aid to Libraries funds, four new computers providing public Internet access, two for children and two for teens, were also added to this area. The same improvements are planned for the adult area in 2010.

We believe in making children's services a priority. Children's Librarian Holli Jayko and part-time Children's Library Aide Susan Szpila continue admirably to make our youngest patrons and their families feel welcome and comfortable in their public library. The following is Ms. Jayko's 2009 annual activities report:

The Children's Department offers a variety of programs throughout the year. We have a home school research group that meets monthly, seasonal reading programs, day and evening story times, book groups, special guest presentations and more. The home school research group covered a variety of topics including the Dewey Decimal Classification System, library etiquette, and planning, organizing, and evaluating information for a research paper. Our attendance increased 24% over last year; we had an average of fourteen people each month. This group continues to grow, and all home school families are welcome.

Our Story Times have continued to grow. We were able to offer two pre-school age story time sessions per week and both programs have been well attended. We had an average weekly attendance of twenty-two people. We believe in the importance of reading aloud to children. "The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children. This is especially so during the preschool years," says the report, *Becoming a Nation of Readers*. The Library sponsored The Cow Lady in an Author Reads evening story time. We had twenty-eight youth and adults participate in this story and craft time. We also held an evening story time put on by our staff that was well attended.

The Children's Book Group read two books this year: "*The Thief Lord*" by Cornelia Funke and "*The Willoughby's*" by Lois Lowry. We met for five weeks for each book and our total attendance for these two programs was 119 youth and adults.

Our Summer Reading program theme was "Starship Adventures @ your Library." A total of 896 youngsters participated in the activities during the summer. The Library saw a 6% increase in the number of children who registered for the program and an 18% increase in the number of children who completed the program over last year. This summer we had five volunteers who gave over forty hours to the Library during the summer.

The following three summer reading program events were supported in part by a grant from the Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. The first of these was our kick-off



Before photo of Uper Annex



After photo which is now the new Children's/Teen room



Magician Debbie O'Carroll presents the "Planets Magic Show"

event - *"The Planets Magic Show"* by magician Debbie O'Carroll. Secondly, the *"Go for the Stars Multimedia Space Program"* featuring ROBO the friendly Robot! Thirdly, Musicians and Storytellers Davis Bates and Roger Tincknell. In addition, the Boston Museum of Science traveling program *"Rockets: There and Back Again"* was made possible by a scholarship grant given to the Library from the Boston Museum of Science. These grants saved the library \$1,675.00



The "Cow Lady" and author reads storytime

encouraged the participants to join in the lively discussions, no matter what their personal reading tastes may be. Lorraine arranged for Massachusetts author Suzanne Strempek Shea to join the May book discussion which drew 55 people to the library! The next month, Lorraine invited Aleisha Gibbons, the owner of **Berkshire Organics** in Dalton, to talk with us about eating organically after we read Barbara Kingsolver's book *"Animal, Vegetable, Miracle"*.



The Springfield Museum traveling Program presents "The NightSky!" in the StarLab Dome

The Springfield Museum traveling program presented "The Night Sky!" in the StarLab Dome here at the Library. Otha Day presented a Community Drum Circle. No musical experience was required and everyone was able to participate.

The highlight of adult services at the Adams Free Library (and the envy of some neighboring public libraries!) is the book discussion group. The program has grown so much in attendance that two sessions are now held every six weeks. An average of twenty-two adults attend this flourishing program each session from September through June. The enormous success of this program, where participation increased 12% over the previous year, is entirely the result of the dedicated and hard work of our very capable Administrative Assistant /Senior Librarian Lorraine Kalisz. Lorraine's welcoming and warm personality has



Adult Summer Reading Garden Party



Multimedia Space Program with ROBO the Friendly Robot

Chinese Cuisine, Corner Lunch, Red Carpet Restaurant and the **Daily Grind**. We are very thankful to **Berkshire Organics** for donating a basket of organic foods as one of the prizes. We are deeply grateful for the donation of the grand prize by Mary Lou Beaudin of a one-night stay for two at **Belle's Victorian**.

Other adult programs offered throughout the year included a very popular program presented in July by John Root called "Mushrooms of the Northeast." Sixty-three lively participants added to an informative and fun evening as they shared their personal experiences on mushroom hunting in Adams. Three music concerts were held throughout the year with music ranging from light jazz to traditional folk songs. A knitting group, also coordinated by Mrs. Kalisz, met weekly at various times during the year. In May, in what is becoming an annual tradition, award-winning artist and art instructor Gregory Maichack presented a pastel workshop titled "Impressionism: Monet's Magic Garden". This is another program that was made possible by a grant awarded to the Library by the Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire. In the fall, Lynda Meyer conducted a six-week course on the "History of Fashion."

Another major event held in August is the Library's annual sale of used and donated books and other items. This year's sale was the most organized, and most successful sale thus far, realizing greatly needed additional funds to purchase new materials. This program, especially, would not be possible without the many, many volunteer hours provided by our devoted patron helpers. The Library is very fortunate to have such a devoted group of volunteers. The Trustees plan to encourage the formal organization of the Friends of the Adams Free Library in 2010 to offer these eager patrons more opportunities to help the Library on a regular basis.

In addition to use of the Library's three meeting rooms for Library-sponsored programs, the rooms were used heavily throughout the year for meetings by such diverse groups as the Republican and Democratic caucuses, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, U.S. Census, class reunion planning committees, and the senior ladies exercise class. Free programs on health wellness are held periodically by an Adams chiropractor, Berkshire Community College held outreach classes, and Community Access to the Arts presented twelve weeks of art classes for disabled students. Seven members of a local memoir writers group held a very well received workshop encouraging the writing of one's life story.

Another hat that Lorraine Kalisz wears is that of Interlibrary Loan Librarian. For any requests by patrons that cannot be filled by the materials and resources of our collections, Mrs. Kalisz searches the millions of items in the Central/Western Massachusetts Resource Sharing System (C/W MARS), of which the Adams Free Library is an Online Affiliate member. If the patrons' requests cannot be met through C/W MARS, Mrs. Kalisz relies on the services of our colleagues at the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System (WMRLS), who search throughout the country for materials on our behalf.

Other staff members include talented and extremely capable part-time Maintenance Custodian Michael Rinaldi who handles the complex maintenance of the Town's glorious Civil War Memorial building admirably. Mike has worked non-stop throughout the building, painting where needed, cleaning the many storm drains on the roof, re-plastering walls and always being on-call for emergencies. Adult Circulation Services Librarian & Cataloger Lyn Wilson oversees the operation of the Main Desk and enters all of the materials for the Adult collection with efficiency. Part-time Library Aide Christa Sidway, who assists at the main Desk, provides a welcoming charm to all our patrons as she handles the many daily transactions and requests. Part-time Library Page Dorothy Rice keeps the Library's Adult Department materials in proper order and completes the very complicated processing on all new items for use.

As you have most probably read elsewhere in the Town Report, the financial forecast for the next year on both the state and local level is very grim. One grave concern that the Library staff is facing at the end of 2009, and that our patrons who extensively use the resources of C/W MARS and therefore the interlibrary loan and delivery services of WMRLS, is the loss of WMRLS in 2010. Due to extensive cuts at the state level, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners is in the process of consolidating the six regional library support systems into ONE, which will most probably be located at the junction of Routes 128 and 495 in Waltham. This is devastating not just for our staff members, who will lose such important services as continuing education and professional consulting, which are currently available at WMRLS in Whately, but for the many unique small libraries in Western Massachusetts who rely so heavily on the valuable resources of WMRLS.

As we begin 2010, here at the Adams Free Library we are faced with the certainty that two important part-time positions will not be funded in Fiscal Year 2011, which begins on July 1, 2010. Unlike FY 2010, the Board of Trustees has no reserve funding remaining to supplement the shortfall in the Town's appropriation. This will undoubtedly necessitate a reduction in hours that the Library is open to the public and the loss of some programs. This is so discouraging to both the staff and trustees as we near the end of this extensive interior improvement project. Just when we strive to make our patrons even more comfortable in their public library, and provide services to even more users, we will be forced to reduce hours of service. We sincerely hope that this will indeed be the last very bad year economically for the foreseeable future.

James R. Loughman, Chairman
Board of Library Trustees

Deborah G. Bruneau, Director

Library Fiscal 2009 Statistics

Total Number of Volumes as of 6/30/2009 42,598

Newspaper subscriptions: 7
Periodical subscriptions (including gifts): 62

Registered borrowers:

Adult 6,531
Juvenile 1,957

TOTAL 8,488

Circulation:

Adult print 34,713
Juvenile print 16,159
Video Cassettes/music CDs/DVDs, misc. 15,476
Audio Books 1,894

TOTAL 68,242

TREASURER'S REPORT

Returned to Revolving Fund via Town Treasurer:

Fines for Overdue Materials \$ 2,725.04
Used Items Sale Receipts 2,378.25
Microfilm Printer Receipts 59.25
Damaged or Lost Items Replacement Fees 542.35
Miscellaneous 114.22
Photocopier Receipts 627.80

TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS \$ 6,446.91

INCOME

Gifts, Memorial Donations \$ 310.00
Grants: Bill & Melinda Gates Fdn., No. Berkshire Cultural Council \$ 6,100.00
State Aid to Public Libraries awards \$ 18,991.02

TRUST FUNDS DIVIDEND INCOME	BALANCE 7/01/08	RECEIPTS	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE 6/30/09
W.T. Adams	\$ 3,171.07	\$3,146.00	\$2,639.10	\$ 3,677.97
C.N. Miller	5,152.63	2,856.86	4,360.05	3,649.44
Plunkett / Saunders	1,212.10	423.51	0.00	1,635.61
H. Tiedemann	2,495.05	1,948.64	268.60	4,175.09
TOTALS	\$12,030.85	\$8,375.01	\$7,267.75	\$13,138.11

Memorial Book Funds	Total as of 12/31/09	\$ 50,021.17
Memorial Book Funds Investments	Total as of 12/31/09	\$ 52,643.76

Adams Historical Commission

Repair and maintenance work was done at the two most historical structures in Adams, the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace and the Quaker Meeting House, both of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There were also three other National Register Properties in Adams that were improved.

The Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum is credited with making a major facelift that restored the house to a historical look. The chimneys, doors and paint color are now more in keeping with the original architecture of the house. Landscaping, lighting and signage draws attention to the house as a historic structure. Rededication ceremonies were scheduled for Susan B. Anthony's 190th Birthday on February 15, 2010. It will open for visitors in the summer of that year. The museum set up five rooms of exhibits: the kitchen-hearth, the birthing room, Daniel Anthony's store, a room detailing the history of the women's struggle for suffrage and a room for the history of the house and its restoration. A gift shop/museum entrance was established in the remodeled former garage.

The Quaker Meeting House didn't have a major makeover but received repairs that were needed. Wood pieces were replaced where it was necessary: clapboards, fascia, window trim, and exterior doors. The supports for the second floor fireplace were braced. The 12-foot granite curbing that was used for a front step was removed and replaced with steps that would eliminate the water damage occurring at the entrance. The work was done by Burke Construction Co. who made the extra effort to make sure the integrity of the historic structure was maintained.

A Quaker Meeting House Advocacy Committee made up of Commission and Historical Society members have been seeing to the proper maintenance of the town-owned property.



The Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum

The Historical Commission in conjunction with the Adams Historical Society still opens the Quaker Meeting House every Sunday in the summer. The schedule was changed in that it is open the first Sunday after July 4th and stays open until Columbus Day weekend.

The street level facades of two National Register Properties on Park Street, The Armory Block (39-45) and The Jones Block (49-53), received a dramatic makeover. The existing facades on these buildings were placed on these buildings over the past decades ranging from 1940 to 1980. Polonia Construction replaced five storefronts that had three different styles with one unifying style that used plate glass covering the entire fronts from the ground up to the next level. This is a style originally used on the Jones Block as was determined by a historic photo of that building taken circa 1900.

The Jones Block has been gutted since a devastating fire in March 1996. Efforts are being made to create retail space on the ground level and residential units on the second and third floors.

The Bascom Lodge on the summit of Mt. Greylock, a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is under new management by two former Adams residents and their partner who have brought a new vitality to the place.

The former churches in town are still a concern. The Adams Lodge of Elks and the Berkshire Lodge of Masons, who own the former St. Paul Universalist and Trinity Methodist Church respectively, have taken care of their buildings and done some important maintenance work on them. The two closed Roman Catholic churches are safe for now. The St. Thomas Aquinas Church has not been completely abandoned as its basement is now being used for a charity center and educational purposes. The St. Stanislaus Kostka Church is occupied 24 hours a day by vigilers who hope to reopen the church pending Vatican decision. The vigilers help maintain the building and grounds.

Financial Reports

Board of Assessors

The Board of Assessors continues to update property record cards to assure accurate assessment values. Interim revaluations (yearly) have been mandated by the State – which means that values will fluctuate annually according to the market.

Assessors are required by Massachusetts law to assess all real and personal property at its fair cash value as of January 1st each year. Fair cash value means fair market value, which is the price a willing buyer and a willing seller would settle upon in an open market transaction.

Exemptions are available for qualifying senior citizens, qualifying widows and widowers, qualifying veterans and for those residents certified to be blind. Residents are encouraged to visit the office for more information.

Our Board and office staff would like to thank the residents of Adams for their continued cooperation and support.

TAX RATE SUMMARY

a. Total amount to be raised	\$13,690,519.94
b. Total estimated receipts and other Revenue sources	- 5,878,077.00
c. Tax levy	\$7,812,442.94

Class	Certified Full and Fair Cash Value Assessment	Percentage Full Value Shares of Total Tax Levy
1. Residential	410,355,404	80.5260%
2. Open Space	0	0.0000%
3. Commercial	34,389,186	8.0054%
4. Industrial	27,448,200	6.3896%
5. Personal Property	21,818,172	5.079%
Totals	494,010,962	100.0000%

Tax Collector

July 01 2008 June 30, 2009

Tax	Outstanding JULY 1,2008	Committed	Payments other credits	Outstanding June 30, 2009
2009 Real Estate		7,528,491.01	7,065,489.21	356,318.46
2009 Personal Property		426,835.92	415,534.13	11,576.13
2008 Real Estate	332,898.00		6,904,020.38	185,716.23
2008 Personal Property		342,376.51	335,685.27	6,691.24
2007 Real Estate	241,952.76		120,882.76	121,070.00
2007 Personal Property	6,537.66		3,017.63	3,520.03
2006 Real Estate	152,106.93		74,793.93	77,313.00
2006 Personal Property	3,592.83		1,924.36	1,668.47
Prior years RL	290,263.87		24,028.87	266,235.00
Prior years Personal	5,662.12		244.12	5,418.00
Prior Years	27,360.47		1,573.74	25,786.73
2004 Motor Vehicle Excise	5,390.87		1,170.64	4,220.23
2005 Motor Vehicle Excise	4,363.54	3,467.60	5,585.32	2,245.82
2006 Motor Vehicle Excise	26,312.74	16,373.08	28,713.81	13,972.01
2007 Motor Vehicle Excise	158,788.26	130,702.15	269,233.89	20,256.52
2008 Motor Vehicle Excise		704,920.26	627,671.40	77,248.86
Tax Title Accounts	236,622.13			236,622.13
TOTALS:	1,491,852.18	9,153,166.53	15,879,569.46	1,415,878.86

TOWN OF ADAMS TOWN TREASURER

Indebtedness As of June 30, 2009

Issued	To Whom Payable	Purpose	Rate	Maturity	Payable How	Outstanding
JULY 15, 2003	QUICK & REILLY, INC.	Town Hall	2.000%	JUNE 30, 2028	Taxes/Stabilization Fund	\$1,980,000
Nov. 23, 2004	Water Abatement Trust	Waste Water	2.000%	Aug 1, 2024	Taxes/Stabilization Fund	\$2,501,741
Nov. 30, 2004	Citizens Bank	Various Projects	3.680%	May 15, 2010	Taxes/Stabilization Fund	\$ 165,449
TOTALS:						\$4,647,190

Treasurer

Revenue Cash Investments Fiscal Year 2009

End of year Balance	8,449,016.93
Year to Date Interest	142,839.10
Balance June 30, 2009	8,591,856.03

Stabilization Fund

End of Year Balance	1,132,079.66
Interest	52,230.84
TRANSFERS ATM	(271,317.32)
Balance as of June 30, 2009	912,993.18

Trust Funds (IN CUSTODY OF THE TOWN TREASURER) Fiscal Year 2009

Stephen Low Arnold Hall School Trust Fund

End of year Balance	45,220.30
Interest	724.08
Subtotal:	45,944.38
Balance as of June 30 2009	45,944.38

Walter A. & Velma Harrington Kruszyna Adams High School Trust Fund

End of year Balance	17,893.47
Capital Gains/(Losses)	(3,193.32)
Dividends/Interest	175.04
Withdrawals - Paid to School District	(167.07)
Balance as of June 30, 2009	14,708.12

C.T. Plunkett Library Fund

End of year Balance	22,965.49
Interest	369.91
Withdrawals- Paid to Library	(348.13)
Balance as of June 30, 2009	22,987.27

Frank H. Saunders Library Fund

End of year Balance	4,972.27
Interest	80.09
Withdrawals - Paid to Library	(75.38)
Balance as of June 30 2009	4,976.98

Cemetery Investment Fund

End of year Balance	226,214.64
Interest	3,776.22
Sale of Lots	7,052.11
Expenses	.00
Balance June 30, 2009	237,042.97

Cemetery Maintenance Fund

End of year Balance	10,793.91
Interest	173.83
Transfers Out	.00
Transfers In	.00
Subtotal:	10,967.74
Maintenance Accounts Bal. JUNE 30, 2009	9,042.27
Transfers Out	.00
Transfers In	.00
Interest	144.81
Balance as of June 30, 2009	20,154.82

Cemetery Perpetual Care Bequests

End of year Balance	413,218.88
Interest	19,081.58
Bequests	2,975.00
Subtotal:	435,275.46
Transfers to General Fund	(5,000.00)
Balance as of June 30 2009	430,275.46

Bellevue Cemetery Endowed Lots

Henry L. Harrinton Fund	
End of year Balance	14,480.95
Interest	231.87
Transfer to Cemetery Investment Fund	
Balance as of June 30, 2009	14,712.82

Maple Street Cemetery Endowed Lots

Margaret H. Hall Fund	
End of year Balance	4,395.35
Interest	71.10
Expenses	.00
Balance as of June 30, 2009	4,466.45

Town of Adams Scholarship Fund

End of year Balance	9,590.51
Contributions	1,064.58
Interest	165.88
Subtotal:	10,820.97
Expenses	(2,400.00)
Balance as of June 30, 2009	8,420.97

Quaker Meeting House Endowment Fund

End of year Balance	15,992.94
Interest	266.43
Transfer to general fund	(20.00)
Balance as of June 30, 2007	16,239.37

Town of Adams, Massachusetts
Statement of Operating Revenue
Budget and Actual - General Fund
(AUDITED)
for the year ended June 30, 2009

	Budget	Actual	Surplus/ (Deficit)
LOCAL RECEIPTS:			
TAXES:			
Real Estate Taxes	7,528,493	7,307,467	(221,026)
Personal Property Taxes	429,347	416,706	(12,641)
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	775,000	773,377	(1,623)
Payments In Lieu Of And Other Taxes	118,000	132,044	14,044
Penalties And Interest	42,500	61,153	18,653
Sewerage Charges	25,000	38,204	13,204
Other Departmental Revenue	99,000	128,183	29,183
Licenses And Permits	51,500	54,740	3,240
Alcoholic Beverages	22,500	24,360	1,860
Fines & Forfeitures	44,000	27,425	(16,575)
Investment Income	100,000	59,290	(40,710)
Miscellaneous Revenues	0	154,274	154,274
STATE RECEIPTS:			
Unrestricted General Government			
AI (Lottery)	2,477,382	2,235,971	(241,411)
Police Career Incentive (Quinn Bill)	42,369	34,903	(7,466)
Abatements to Vets, Elderly/blind	56,074	57,760	1,686
Additional Assistance	44,183	40,768	(3,415)
State Owned Land	48,961	48,961	0
Veteran's Benefits	2,433	0	(2,433)
Urban Redevelopment Excise	0	88,457	88,457
TOTAL REVENUES	11,906,742	11,684,043	(222,699)
OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS APPROPRIATED:			
Operating Transfers In	809,463	779,252	
Revenue Appropriation (Free Cash)	750,000	362,858	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	13,466,205	12,826,153	(222,699)

Town of Adams, Massachusetts

Statement of Operating Expenditures - Budgetary and Actual - General Fund

for the year ended June 30, 2009 - (AUDITED)

	Budget as Revised	Actual Expended	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Selectmen	16,601	16,337	264
Employee/retiree Benefits	1,119,569	982,880	136,689
Moderator	410	324	86
Town Administrator	231,337	220,721	10,616
Finance Committee	2,000	1,938	62
Accountant	166,601	164,389	2,212
Assessors	157,790	157,187	603
Treasurer	146,500	146,334	166
Town Counsel	60,908	60,766	142
Technology	134,213	132,419	1,794
Town Clerk	151,670	147,890	3,780
Elections	18,268	18,260	8
Registrations	2,007	1,999	8
Property Insurance	68,750	47,711	21,039
Town Report	2,600	2,464	136
Debt Service	677,597	613,402	64,195
Liability Insurance	50,000	49,650	350
Conservation Commission	3,456	1,459	1,997
Planning Board	13,029	6,874	6,155
Zoning Board	7,964	3,776	4,188
Small Cities	193,385	122,778	70,607
Community Development	182,500	179,043	3,457
Building Inspector	142,639	139,229	3,410
Gas Inspector	3,801	3,726	75
Plumbing Inspector	2,478	2,001	477
Weights And Measures	2,537	2,441	96
Electrical Inspector	10,739	10,681	58
Historical Commission	1,200	1,196	5
Agricultural Commission	1,000	962	38
Police Station	63,270	44,541	18,729
Registry of Deeds	13,800	12,586	1,214
Police	1,749,223	1,562,831	186,392
Emergency Management	1,740	975	765
Animal Control Officer	72,297	66,833	5,464
Forest Warden	11,024	9,416	1,608
Hazardous Waste	150	125	25
Parking Ticket Dept	5,510	5,427	83
Council On Aging	179,175	160,199	18,976
Veteran Services	35,832	31,023	4,809
Social Day Care	106,490	106,132	358
Library	313,073	305,503	7,570
Celebrations - Veteran	900	700	200
Town Hall	136,661	107,919	28,742
Quaker Meeting House	120	120	-
Community Center	50,511	35,226	15,285
Tree Warden	34,000	24,927	9,073
DPW Administration	129,321	126,586	2,735
Highways	629,139	572,107	57,032
Snow & Ice Control	192,696	192,468	229
Flood Control	55,590	11,998	43,592
Equipment Maintenance	498,448	449,312	49,135
Landfill	48,782	35,340	13,443
Wastewater Treatment	816,930	759,184	57,746
Wastewater Collection	90,000	80,281	9,719
Cemetery, Parks & Grounds	433,780	401,834	31,946
Recreation	22,650	16,235	6,415
Celebrations - Seasonal	2,397	1,032	1,365
Visitor's Center	7,250	7,041	209
Board of Health	63,661	53,608	10,052
Adams-Cheshire Regional	3,552,940	3,552,940	-
McCann Vocational Region	538,132	538,132	-
State Assessments	39,165	41,614	(2,449)
GRAND TOTAL	13,466,205	12,553,030	913,175

Town of Adams, Massachusetts

Consolidated Balance Sheet

as of June 30, 2009

ASSETS	General Fund	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Trusts Funds	Agency Funds	Long-term Debt Group	Total Memo only as of 06/30/2009
Cash							
Petty Cash	440						440
Cash in Savings and Money Market Account	4,334,264	1,883,229	-40,348	789,818	34,628		7,001,591
Investments				810,000			810,000
Accounts Receivable							
Personal Property Taxes	27,614						27,614
Real Estate Taxes	1,006,653						1,006,653
Allowance for Abateements & Exemptions	-566,767						-566,767
Motor Vehicle Excise	105,384						105,384
Tax Titles and Possessions	279,183						279,183
Departmental - PD Off Duty - due from Vendors	24,519						24,519
Departmental - Industry Sewer	10,428						10,428
Departmental - Sewer/Water Liens AFD	1,409						1,409
Departmental - Veterans Services	11,586						11,586
Departmental - Comm of Massachusetts Ch 90			40,348				40,348
Checks returned - ISF	-120						-120
Special Assessment - Demolition Lien							0
Special Assessment - Sewer/Water Liens	8,059						8,059
Amounts to be Provided for							
Payment of Bond	4,691,654						4,691,654
Total Assets	5,218,133	1,883,229	0	1,599,818	59,147	4,691,654	13,451,981
LIABILITIES and FUND BALANCES							
Current Liabilities							
Warrants Payable	136,756	13,087					149,843
Payroll Payable	35,556						35,556
Health Insurance Withheld	123,803						123,803
Workmans Comp/PD Accident Payable	7,591						7,591
Taxes Withheld/Payable	4,396						4,396
Unemployment Payable	102						102
Misc Withheld	5,331						5,331
Retirement Withheld	974						974
Contract Retainage	5,531						5,531

Town of Adams, Massachusetts

Consolidated Balance Sheet

as of June 30, 2009

LIABILITIES and FUND BALANCES (Continued)	General Fund	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Trusts Funds	Agency Funds	Long-term Debt Group	Total Memo only as of 06/30/2009
Current Liabilities (Continued)							
Miscellaneous					4,957		4,957
Due to Deputy Collector					25,244		25,244
Off-Duty Work							
Due to Other Governments					4,427		4,427
Commonwealth of Massachusetts							
Deferred Revenues							
Real Estate & Personal Property Tax	467,499						467,499
Motor Vehicle Excise	105,385						105,385
Tax Liens & Foreclosures	279,183						279,183
Departmental	31,482		40,348		24,519		96,349
Unreserved Fund Balances	2,404,503						2,404,503
Fund Balances Reserved for Encumbrances	300,927						300,927
Fund Balances Reserved for Compensated Absences	359,114						359,114
Fund Balances Reserved for Trust Funds							
Restricted Trust Funds				1,590,991			1,590,991
Unrestricted Trust Funds				8,827			8,827
Fund Balances Reserved for Fed/State Grants		1,231,743					1,231,743
Fund Balances Reserved for Appropriation	950,000	564,273					1,514,273
Fund Balances Reserved for Gifts/Bequests/Revolving		74,126					74,126
Fund Balances Reserved for Special Purposes							
Reserved for Expenditure			-40,348				-40,348
Bonds Payable							
Inside Debt Limit - Town Hall/PD Station						1,980,000	1,980,000
Inside Debt Limit - Multiple Projects						209,913	209,913
Inside Debt Limit - MWPAT						2,501,741	2,501,741
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	5,218,133	1,883,229	0	1,599,818	59,147	4,691,654	13,451,981
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Town of Adams, Massachusetts

Combining Statement of Revenues and Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Special Revenue

For the year ended June 30, 2009

(AUDITED)

	Fund Balance 06/30/08	Revenue	Expenditure	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditure	Operating Transfer In	Operating Transfer Out	Fund Balance 06/30/09
FEDERAL GRANTS							
Public Safety							
Federal Community Develop Block Grant	45,711.00	689,833.00	(540,281.00)	149,552.00		(163,965.00)	31,298.00
Massachusetts Small Cities Program							
Total Federal Grants	45,711.00	689,833.00	(540,281.00)	149,552.00	0.00	(163,965.00)	31,298.00
STATE GRANTS							
Public Works Economic Development	(15,593.00)	459,231.00	(507,258.00)	(48,027.00)			(63,620.00)
Public Works Economic Development - CDAG	1,031,022.00	11,347.00	(3,457.00)	7,890.00			1,038,912.00
43D Grant - Greylock Glen	147,500.00		(73,600.00)	(73,600.00)			73,900.00
Elderly	1,851.00	17,407.00	(19,257.00)	(1,850.00)			1.00
State Aid to Libraries	120,146.00	19,241.00	(31,576.00)	(12,335.00)			107,811.00
Energy Conservation	2,766.00			0.00			2,766.00
Culture & Recreation	0.00			0.00			0.00
MEMA	25.00			0.00			25.00
Condiut Grant	0.00			0.00	2,343.00		2,343.00
Right to Know	4,515.00			0.00			4,515.00
Board of Health - Local Prep Grant	918.00			0.00			918.00
Growth Policy	0.00			0.00			0.00
Municipal Incentive	5,550.00			0.00			5,550.00
Public Safety	37,809.00	64,999.00	(75,485.00)	(10,486.00)			27,323.00
Total State Grants	1,336,509.00	572,225.00	(710,633.00)	(138,408.00)	2,343.00	0.00	1,200,444.00
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS							
Parking Meter	98,693.00	15,404.00		15,404.00		(15,000.00)	99,097.00
Council on Aging	240,580.00	60,669.00		60,669.00		(105,390.00)	195,859.00
Technology Fund	43,581.00	21,854.00		21,854.00		(42,500.00)	22,935.00
Bond Proceeds	6,191.00			0.00			6,191.00
Cemetery Sale of Lots	226,215.00	13,976.00		13,976.00			240,191.00
Other Special Revenue & Gifts & Donations	120,812.00	31,869.00	(78,556.00)	(46,687.00)			74,125.00
Total Other Special Revenue Funds	736,072.00	143,772.00	(78,556.00)	65,216.00	0.00	(162,890.00)	638,398.00
TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2,118,292.00	1,405,830.00	(1,329,470.00)	76,360.00	2,343.00	(326,855.00)	1,870,140.00

Town of Adams, Massachusetts

Combining Statement of Revenues and Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Trust Funds

For the year ended June 30, 2009

(AUDITED)

	Fund Balance 06/30/08	Revenue	Expenditure	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditure	Operating Transfer In	Operating Transfer Out	Fund Balance 06/30/09
NONEXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS							
Scholarship - Hall/Low	45,220	724		724			45,944
Cemetery Perpetual Care	372,149	6,067		6,067			378,216
Total Nonexpendable Trust	417,369	6,791		6,791	0	0	424,160
EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS							
Cemetery Endowed Lots - Harrington/Hall/Plunkett	27,919	448	(220)	228			28,147
Cemetery Perpetual Care	41,091	15,794		15,794		(5,000)	51,885
Cemetery Maintenance	10,794	174		174			10,968
Library - Plunkett & Saunders Funds	27,938	450	(423)	27			27,965
Stabilization	1,223,322	45,884		45,884	188,615	(449,721)	1,008,100
Scholarship - Town / Kruszyna	27,483	1,798	(5,753)	(3,955)			23,528
Historical Preservation	16,003	256		256		(20)	16,239
Conservation Trust	7,954	873		873			8,827
Total Expendable Trust	1,382,504	65,677	(6,396)	59,281	188,615	(454,741)	1,175,659
TOTAL TRUST FUNDS	1,799,873	72,468	(6,396)	66,072	188,615	(454,741)	1,599,819

**ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
ADAMS-CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CHESHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS 01225**



**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009**



*(l-r): John Duval, Lynn Clairmont, Jill Pompi, Superintendent Al Skrocki,
Mary Ellen Baker, Carol Corrigan, Chairman Paul Butler.
Vice Chairman, Darlene Rodowicz is missing from photo.*

Report of the Chairman

Adams-Cheshire Regional School District

Paul K. Butler, Chairman	(Adams, appointed 9/00, elected 5/01, re-elected 5/04, 5/07)
Darlene Rodowicz, Vice-Chair	(Cheshire, appointed 09/04, elected 5/06)
Lynn Clairmont	(Cheshire, elected 5/96, re-elected 5/97, 5/00, 5/03, appt'd: 5/06, elected 05/08)
John E. Duval	(Adams, elected 5/95, re-elected 5/98, 5/01, 5/04, 5/07)
Mary Ellen Baker	(Cheshire, elected 5/98, re-elected 5/01, 5/04, 5/07)
Carol Corrigan	(Adams, elected 5/06)
Jill Pompei	(Adams, elected 5/08)

The Adams-Cheshire Regional School Committee has had one of the busiest years in recent memory during the 2009 and 2010 school year. And as has been the case over the past several years, much of the work being done has been done so in the increasingly difficult and challenging financial times that we are still in. This year we bid farewell to one of our longtime school committee members, Cheshire representative Mary Ellen Baker, as her elected term expires in May. Always a positive voice of support for the students of this district, her insight, input, and wit will be very much missed. The members of the school committee offer their thanks for her years of service and wish her the best in all that she looks forward to.

The most visible change that has taken place in the school district has been the temporary closure of the Adams Memorial Middle School building on Columbia Street in Adams and the resulting move of the middle school students to the Hoosac Valley High School campus. The rapidly deteriorating condition of the Columbia Street site caused the school committee to have to make the decision last spring to consolidate grades 7 and 8 for the towns of Adams and Cheshire at the high school campus. Meanwhile Adams grade 6 was retained at C.T. Plunkett School in Adams and all pre-school students were moved to Cheshire. Of course, the move of the 7th and 8th grades to Hoosac Valley was the cause of great concern to many parents in the community, and rightfully so. By all accounts this transition has gone better and more smoothly than had been anticipated. As a parent myself with a child in 7th grade I can assure anyone that the positives far outweigh the negatives. Students like being at the high school and actually report feeling safer in the new environment. They have access to superior technologies, classroom facilities, and athletic fields. They are able to take part in high school level activities and non-contact sports. This move was well thought out and executed and as a result the long term benefits to the students are already being seen.

As many of you are aware this move has been the subject of discussion for several years and has been one of the scenarios laid out with the proposed building projects. And as many of you also know, the district is in the middle of a feasibility study that will determine the exact direction that any school building project will take. This building project is designed around the needs of the middle school as that particular building has been the site of greatest need within the district. Until the feasibility study is complete, the exact direction of any building project is uncertain. It is the hope of the school committee that we will have information to present to the public in the near future. It cannot be emphasized strongly enough how important it will be to secure state funding for this project. There are hundreds

of schools with projects that are on the list for consideration by the state. Our school district has been selected early on due to the high level of need specifically at the middle school. While it may be too early at this time to determine the level of state funding available, it is typical of these types of projects to have a 65-75 percent reimbursement rate. If the towns were to vote against this project now, it may be a long time before we would qualify again and the taxpayers simply could not afford to pick up the full cost of a building project of this magnitude without state assistance.

Perhaps the biggest ongoing issue that the school district has had to deal with has been the impact on the school operations of the loss of revenue caused by budget shortfalls at the federal, state, and local levels combined with the ever increasing fixed costs associated with district operations. The effects of the economic recession that has hit the entire globe continue to be felt by every community and every school across Massachusetts and indeed across the nation. As a result, the budget process for FY2011 has been much more complicated and difficult than in previous years. As of this writing the School Committee has not finished the process leading up to the vote to approve the budget for FY2011. Trying to get preliminary figures from the state regarding chapter 70 state funding reimbursement is often times more of an educated guess. However, the school district must, by law, approve its budget long before the state finalizes the amounts of chapter 70 funding that each school district will receive. It is quite possible that once again we will be looking at cuts and reductions in our operating budget. I would like to emphasize that we will, in all likelihood, be approving a budget that is far from ideal and it certainly does not represent the direction that the School Committee would like to take the district in. However, considering the constraints of the economic realities that we are all dealing with and remaining sensitive to our taxpayers, we believe that this budget still represents good overall value to the two member towns and more importantly still delivers a well rounded and quality education for the students of the district.

Maintenance and technology continue to improve throughout the district. After a winter with the new gas fired boilers at C.T. Plunkett, the upgraded heating system has helped to make the building a much more inhabitable one and has also helped to control the ever escalating costs of energy. The capital improvements in technology in our district have helped to further integrate technology into the classroom. New hardware, software and peripheral support equipment has been in use by students in every grade level. The use of technology in the classroom helps improve the learning environment both for students and teachers alike. Additionally, on-line grade books has been implemented

this year that allows parents and students to track their grades from home over the internet. Rather than waiting until progress report time, families are able to see exactly how their child is doing with respect to their school grades in each class. The result of all this increased technology will be that students will be better prepared to enter a world of increasing dependence on technology in the workplace. The committee would like to thank the taxpayers and the towns for supporting capital improvement in this area as it is such an important asset to the schools and to the students and their families.

Just about every year the school district sees a turnover in personnel because of retirements. While we are always thankful for the years of service and dedication that everyone gives to the students of this district, it would be difficult to offer acknowledgement to each of them in this report. However, this year we say goodbye to our Special Education Director, Julie Wilk-Chaffee, who retires at the end of this school year. We all wish to thank Julie for all that she did to improve the special education programs for the children with special need within this school district. Due to her leadership, new and innovative ways to offer programs to a wide variety of student's needs have been implemented district wide. As a direct result, more of our students who otherwise might have had to have been placed out of district at day or residential facilities are able to stay in our school close to family and friends and are able to flourish in their environment. This has also led to lower placement costs for the district and the taxpayer as well. We wish Julie the very best that retirement has to offer. You will be missed. Her husband, Spencer Chaffee is also retiring from his post as Food Service Director following many years of service. Best wishes to Spencer as well. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation and best wishes to all of our staff members who are retiring this year. It has been your time, effort, and enthusiasm that have helped to make the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District the excellent school system that it is today. Thanks to all of you and good luck in all that you do.

The Adams-Cheshire Regional School District and the Adams Teacher's Association (ACTA) are currently in negotiations for a new contract. The teachers are working under the conditions of an expired contract until such time as an agreement can be reached. Many of the other bargaining groups in the district, such as the paraprofessionals, custodians, and cafeteria workers will have their contracts up for renewal this summer and negotiations will be ongoing with those groups as well.

The chairman's report would not be complete without a few words about our students. The members of the School Committee are all parents and most of us have children who attend school here in this district. We are naturally concerned and proud not only of our own children but of all the students in the district

as well. There are always so many exciting things happening in our schools that it would be impossible to list them all. Without overshadowing the reports of the Superintendent and the Athletic Director, I just wish to give acknowledgment to the *Eye of the Hurricane* staff who recently won yet another award for journalism. The Hoosac Valley High School band was forced to cancel its trip to Walt Disney World this winter due to lack of students able to attend. This trip has been rescheduled for the winter of 2011 and the band is continuing its fundraising efforts for next year's trip to Disney where they will represent their school and communities as they march down Main Street U.S.A. playing for the world to hear. I would encourage anyone who has yet to attend a presentation by the concert or jazz band to do so. It certainly is a great evening of entertainment. The same can be said for the performances put on by our students in the senior class play and the spring musical. If you like live entertainment, attend one of these events, you will be amazed at the level of acting ability by our young people. Sports programs have always been a life blood for our district and a great source of pride. This season's perfect 12-0 record and state championship win by the Hurricane Football team was a tremendous achievement not only from the athletic standpoint but also in the way they did it. The students displayed great sportsmanship all throughout the season and at all times they looked like a group of students having fun playing football. Great job to all the players and coaches!

Finally, as chairman of the Adams Cheshire Regional School Committee, I would once again like to thank everyone in the community for their continued support for the school district and for the children who attend class here every day. We are very proud to represent this school district. The people of the towns of Adams and Cheshire are fortunate to have the dedicated group of administrators, teachers, and staff that we have. Members of the school committee are involved in long range planning as to the future of the school district. We try to have some vision of what we want the district to look like next year or five or ten years from now. Due to the budget constraints we have had to make some very difficult and unpopular decisions, decisions that none of us wanted to make. Despite all of the bad news on the economy and our budget, there are still a lot of good things happening in our schools. Time and time again, everyone in the district puts forth the effort and ingenuity to create a positive educational environment. The reason is simple; we are all here for one purpose; the education of all of our children. Whether you watch them on the playing field, or on the stage performing a play or musical, or perhaps you see them performing service for the people in their communities, or marching in a parade, it is always our students who inspire us to do what we do.

Paul K. Butler, Chairman
Adams-Cheshire Regional
School District

Superintendent of Schools

In compliance with policy of the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District, I respectfully submit the school district annual report for the year 2009. This year completes the third year of the current five-year strategic plan of the district. This report will focus on activity and progress in the areas of academics, technology, communication/community relations, facilities and safety. The mission of our plan and our school district is “. . . to create a partnership of our school and communities that develops all of our students into educated, responsible and productive citizens.” This mission continues to provide a focus and collaboration of all stakeholders of the school system to recognize and meet the needs of all students.

ACADEMICS AND INSTRUCTION

The district temporarily consolidated buildings from four to three (closing the Adams Memorial Middle School) for budget purposes and to allow for a feasibility study to determine the long-term needs of district facilities. Programs and grades were adjusted by moving the sixth grade students from Memorial to the Plunkett Elementary School, creating a K-6 building. The Adams Pre-K program was moved to Cheshire and the 7th and 8th grade students were moved to the high school to create a 7-12 program under one principal. Peter Bachli, from Dalton, was hired as the new principal of Cheshire Elementary School, replacing Pamela St. John who retired. Approximately 98% of district teachers and 100% of required paraprofessionals were highly qualified in 2009. In addition to following the goals of the Strategic Plan, the district followed goals of the Berkshire Compact, with the Superintendent as a board member. Through an initiative development by the Compact and the Berkshire County Superintendents, a county-wide training was held at MCLA on student aspirations at the secondary level. The school district is also engaged in a state readiness grant initiative to provide a collaboration of MCLA, the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District and the North Adams School System to address needs and enhance programs in both districts. The primary goals of the district in the area of professional development for teachers involved training in the area of progress monitoring and interventions for all students and training to use technology to enhance curriculum and instruction.

TECHNOLOGY

The district changed its internet provider from Verizon to Time Warner and connected fiber lines to the high school to increase speed and band width. Electronic grading has been implemented at the high school with live information on student progress provided to parents on a regular basis. The lecture hall at the high school has been converted to a technology lab to serve teachers as an area for training and a classroom for students in using technology to enhance learning in the content areas. Two portable computer carts provide over twenty student lap tops each and a teacher lap top for use in the classroom. All teachers in the district have lap tops to meet student and teacher needs both during and outside of the school day. At the high school, technology programs continue to include courses required for graduation and a variety of electives, including robotics, digital photography, animation and film / media.

COMMUNICATION/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

A study was conducted of Hoosac Valley High School gradu-

ates to help assess district programs in meeting the needs of students and preparing them for life after high school. A number of parent forums, public meetings, presentations to town officials and other forms of communication were provided by the school district to explain and answer questions related to the \$1.3 million reduction to the school budget and the temporary closing of the Memorial Middle School. On-going communication also took place with 7th and 8th grade parents in regard to the relocation of these students to the high school.

The Adams-Cheshire Educational Foundation (ACE) continues to provide support for creative district initiatives in the four schools. Started as a result of the district's first strategic plan in 2002, the executive committee is currently chaired by Bernard Pinsonnault. The foundation has a balance of approximately \$300,000 in charitable contributions and has provided financial support to about fifty proposals since its inception. The district web site, www.acrsd.net includes a variety of information for parents, students and the public on academics, policy, events & activities and the accomplishments of our current strategic plan.

FACILITIES

The school committee and building committee selected Chris Lawson, from URS in Boston, to serve as the project manager for the feasibility study of the middle school. Chris worked with the district and the Massachusetts School Building Authority to select the firm of Tessier / Margo Jones to conduct the feasibility study. It is anticipated that the school committee will be prepared sometime in 2010 to present a plan to the towns to address the facility needs of the district. The school district is maintaining the Memorial Building while the study is being completed. Matt Pitoniak, graduate of Hoosac Valley High School and owner of CTC, volunteered his time and resources to help the district secure and heat the building through the study. The high school athletic director worked with community organizations to consolidate and coordinate activities in the three remaining buildings of the district. Some retrofitting at the high school and Plunkett Elementary was done in the summer of 2009 to accommodate the movement of students from Adams Memorial.

SAFETY

The school district has a comprehensive crisis manual to provide direction to staff in dealing with safety issues involving the schools. This plan was reviewed in October of 2009 by the district in conjunction with town police, fire and emergency personnel, as well as the state police. State and local law enforcement also continue to provide comprehensive training for staff in the areas of lock-downs and bomb threats. The district, with the help of Adams Police, Dufour Bus Company and staff at public access television, including HVHS teacher Colleen Case, produced a video on bus safety that was televised several times in 2009. Systemic behavior programs were developed and implemented in all buildings to help prevent and address incidents. The district provided information to students and parents on the H1N1 Flu through the district web site and also provided vaccinations (through the Board of Health), to all students and teachers that were interested.

Alfred W. Skrocki
Superintendent of Schools

Hoosac Valley High School

“Strive for Academic Excellence by Emphasizing Student Responsibility in a Climate of Mutual Respect”

ANNUAL REPORT

The year 2009 was one of continuity and change at Hoosac Valley High School. While continuing to honor the school's time-honored traditions, the fall of 2009 brought a return of the middle school to the high school as Memorial School in Adams was temporarily closed for budget reasons.

The year began with a focus on the arts in January with our annual winter concert, featuring the stage and jazz bands, as well as the chorus, under the direction of Jacob Keplinger, and our choreography class, under the guidance of Ms. Kate Frissell. Also in January our winter semi-formal dance, the Student Council's annual “Snow Ball” was once again held at the Bounti Fare in Adams with over 200 students in attendance.

Spring brought more events featuring the talents of our students, such as a jazz night in March, featuring the HVHS jazz band and two well received performances of the musical *Godspell*, under the direction of Ms. Frissell and Mr. Keplinger. Our spring concert followed in May, as well as the ninety-fourth annual Junior Prize Speaking contest, which was won by Megan Bantle for her rendition of Victor Borge's “Phonetic Punctuation”. Our annual “Career Day” was also held in May, with over 50 professions and professionals on display for our students. The Hoosac Valley Leo Club continued its fundraising and charitable efforts during the year carrying a membership of over 200 students into 2009 and closed out the spring by holding a fun fair at Hoosac Valley as a fundraiser for the Boston Children's Hospital.

As June arrived, the series of end of the year activities ushered in. The senior class members of the National Honor Society were honored at an annual banquet sponsored once again by the Adams Lions' Club at the Bounti-Fare. The prom was held at the Williams Inn for the first time in manner years. The theme this year was “*The City at Night*” and over 200 students attended. Class Night and Graduation also were held in early June. On Class Night, more than \$113,825 was presented to graduating students as scholarships. One hundred and three students were honored at graduation, with Holly Bednarz as the Valedictorian and Laura Russett as the Salutatorian. Graduate Michael Superneau delivered the class speech, highlighting the previous four years at Hoosac Valley for the Class of 2009. A parent sponsored all-night party was held as an after graduation event and was well received by the graduating seniors, especially a trip to watch the sunrise at the summit of Mt. Greylock. 56% of the Class of 2009 graduates went on to attend four year colleges this fall, with 27% entering two year schools, for a total of 83% of Hoosac graduates moving on to higher education.

The summer brought a flurry of activity to Hoosac as it was decided that the seventh and eighth grades would move from Adams Memorial School to the high school for the fall. A tremendous amount of equipment, including desks, computers, and supplies, were moved from downtown Adams to the top of the hill throughout the month of July. August was spent preparing Hoosac Valley for the arrival of an additional 250 students and twenty-five additional staff members. After a great deal of hard work, the newly reconfigured Hoosac Valley Middle and High School was ready to open to students on September 1st.

With the addition of these two new grades, the fall brought a mixture of the traditional and the new to Hoosac Valley. Our long standing events like the Freshmen Reception, where our senior host a dance for the incoming freshmen, and the fall pep rally our organized by the fantastic Hoosac cheerleaders kicked off the year. The Susan B. Anthony Chapter of the National Honor Society induction dinner and ceremony was held in November. Newly appointed Adams town administrator, and Hoosac Valley graduate, Jonathon Butler was the keynote speaker. The Art Hathaway Senior Dinner, sponsored by the HVHS Student Council and held in early December, was once again well attended and received and the Leo Club, still over 200 strong, sponsored a successful CreateADream program at our school for the seventh consecutive year, expanding our school's participation in order to sponsor even more local families.

Seventh and eighth grade students have taken to the new building. A number of middle school students participated in the fall and winter sports seasons by joining the Cross Country, Swimming and Nordic Ski teams. Also, two well-attended dances were held and a tutoring program was established between high school students and those in seventh and eighth grades.

Hoosac Valley's partnership with the volunteer fire departments of Cheshire and Savoy through the SAFER Grant has continued into 2009. Both fire departments organized a series of field days in the fall, during which all of our students participated in an obstacle course based on fire fighter training methods. Also, Hoosac Valley has been able to offer five First Responder courses this school year through the SAFER grant.

The staff of Hoosac Valley Middle and High School continues to be devoted to the academic, social and behavioral development of the young men and women of Adams and Cheshire. They are a group of highly trained professionals who are committed to preparing our children for the future.

C.T. Plunkett Elementary School

C.T. Plunkett Elementary School practices the beliefs and values of the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District on a daily basis. The staff, students and parents are continuously exposed to the beliefs and values and continue to demonstrate all of these regularly.

1. All children are capable of learning.
2. All students deserve the best instruction.
3. High expectations for teachers and students increase student learning.
4. A safe and organized school environment is essential to teaching and learning.
5. Mutual respect creates the optimum climate for learning.
6. Learning is a shared responsibility.
7. There is more than one way to accomplish something.
8. When administrators, teachers, students and parents are accountable, students will learn.
9. Families and schools who communicate and cooperate with each other will have more successful students.
10. If it is not working, it shouldn't be continued.

C.T. Plunkett Elementary School has the largest enrollment of any elementary school in Berkshire County. This year, the addition of sixth grade has increased enrollment. The transition of the sixth grade into C.T. Plunkett has been exceptional. The school is located on Commercial Street in downtown Adams housing seven grade levels with approximately one hundred students in each. The original building was constructed in 1923 and served as the town's junior high school for almost fifty years. It was then converted to an intermediate elementary school and served as an instructional facility for students in fourth through sixth grades until it underwent a complete renovation. The school reopened as an elementary school with a fourteen-classroom addition constructed on the south side of the building for students in pre-kindergarten through grade five in September 1994 and remains the same today.

The information included in this report highlights some of our special accomplishments, provides statistical information on enrollment and staffing, reviews some school-wide projects and initiatives, and tells about some significant changes.

Enrollment Comparisons

Grade:	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10
Kind.	97	90	82	84	96	84	71	97
1	100	93	83	83	98	84	84	80
2	91	98	93	85	82	80	90	78
3	107	104	97	101	91	90	80	91
4	103	101	100	95	94	94	93	85
5	104	102	103	100	91	104	89	90
6								77
TOTAL	598	619	594	576	563	579	537	598

Staffing

The following people help to provide a supportive learning environment for the students at our school.

Kindergarten

Amy Anderson, Carleen Butler, Jennifer Mach, Barbara Mallett, Chris Nimmons, Stacia Peterson, Roberta Urquhart, Mary Whitman, and Mara Woolley

Grade 1

Kristy Bachli, Susan Biros, Melissa Torres, Lisa Waltermire and Laurie Gamari

Grade 2

Elizabeth Alibozek, Laurie Gamari, Dawn Bombardier, Donna LaBonte, Kelly Ryan, Mary Tanner, Aimee Kelly, and Susan Knapp

Grade 3

Beth Bourdon, Jennifer Downey, Patricia LaFrance, Donna Mulaney, Donna Novak, Anne Prudhomme, and Sarah Sookey

Grade 4

Dawn Bishop, Mary Murray, Cynthia Vadnais, and Noella Wotkowicz, Mark Ziaja

Grade 5

Barbara Czerwinski, Jeanne Garofano, Christine King, Susan Martel, Kathleen McGrath, Nancy Parrott, Kale Skrocki

Grade 6

Rebecca Koczela, Kathryn Little, Brenda Robinson, Lynne Robinson

School-Wide

Patricia Alibozek, Diane Arduini, Ann Atwell, Susan Barth, Judy Bender, Kim Biagini, Kathy Bradbury, Lisa Bresett, Susan Burzamati, Aaron Dean, Amy Garner, Kimberly Briggs, Francis Cariddi, Chad Carpenter, Deborah Ciempa, Terri Cooper, Dawn Daniels, Heather DiSanti, Theresa Duprey, Jackie Fortier, Laurie Gavazzi, Sharon Girard, Kristen Gordon, Deanna Guettler, Marianne Hall, Suzanne Harnick, Frances Jamros, Shelley Jenkins, Joann Kingsbury, Jennifer Kline, Susan Knapp, Geoff Kondell, Sara Laing, Wendy Lamberton, Karen Levesque, Deborah Langer, Geeta Lipinski, Laurie Malloy, Michael Marchetti, Paula Meczywor, Sue Modena, Rick Noel, Jennie Pierce, Edward Rysz, Marlene Salvi, Mirriam Serrano, Nicole Seyerlein, Deb Silverio, Gina Simoneau, Jason Skalski, Ellen Smachetti, Jay Sniezek, Paul Sniezek, Barbara Steuer, Penny Tarsa, Jennifer Taylor, Heather Todd

Library

The C.T. Plunkett Library houses over 13,500 books, videos and magazines. The automated circulation and cataloging system makes it possible for students and staff to access the electronic card catalog. Approximately 13,000 items were checked out during the school year. Students visit the library once a week and have the opportunity to borrow a variety of books, including picture books, fiction, biographies and non-fiction.

The C.T. Plunkett Library Committee was established on March 26, 1998 for the purpose of raising funds to enrich our school

library services and provide books for the children. Various activities such as raffles, book fairs and school-wide fundraisers have raised approximately \$55,000. Reference materials, fiction books, nonfiction books, magazine subscriptions, Accelerated Reader discs, academic videos and the automated cataloging/circulation system have been purchased and supported through this committee. The Library Committee is one of the financial supporters of the RIF program which enables each student in the school to choose a free book three times a year. For the past six years the committee has also sponsored a Literacy Fair which has been extremely successful.

Parent Group

The C.T. Plunkett Parent Group provides extensive support to the children of our school throughout the year. The group meets monthly to discuss ongoing support to the children. Their efforts support the C.T. Plunkett community in a variety of ways.

Arts Enrichment:

- Monthly performances in music, drama, science, history and dance, both in-house and off-site
- Sponsoring a children's author
- Mass MOCA events
- Musician and songwriter

Family-Focused Events

- Bingo Nights
- Harlem Wizards
- Square Dancing Night paired with the Nutrition Committee's promotion of healthy snacking

Activities

- Field trips for students at all grade levels
- Give-a-Gift to promote the spirit of holiday giving and donating, from children to children, for programs such as the Leo's Create-a-Dream.
- C.T. Plunkett Yearbook creation
- Participation in programs that support the school's Nutrition Committee and works with the committee to write grants for programs through the REACH foundation to promote healthy lifestyles

Appreciation Days

- Staff Appreciation Day in May
- Sundae Party for all students and staff to recognize fundraising efforts
- Classroom Pizza Party to award top sellers in fundraiser

School Improvements/Equipment Maintenance:

- Curtain in Auditorium
- Purchase of Kiln
- Bulletin boards
- Snow shoe maintenance/replacement

Nutrition Committee

On June 30, 2004, Congress passed Section 204 of Public Law 108-265, of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004. This law requires local education agencies to develop a policy that addresses the growing problem of childhood obesity. At C.T. Plunkett we recognize the need to assist our students by encouraging healthy eating and physical activity. The Nutrition Committee, a subcommittee of the PTG, meets throughout the

year within the PTG and School Council to plan and implement activities to promote healthy eating and living for our children.

School Council

A School Council is a representative, school building-based committee composed of the principal, parents, teachers and community members. The major areas of responsibility for councils include the following. School councils are to assist principals in:

1. Adopting educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards
2. Identifying the educational needs of students attending the school
3. Reviewing the annual school building budget
4. Formulating a school improvement plan

The Council meets throughout the school year. Any person can attend school council meetings.

Programs/Activities/ Events

- Pre-K and Kindergarten classes have participated in a self-study in preparation for accredited as an NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) program. Accreditation will distinguish our program and help to secure early childhood funding through state and federal grants.
- MCAS study programs conducted throughout the year help students to prepare for the exams given in March, April and May. These programs provide students in fourth and fifth grades with a variety of activities designed to improve reading, writing, and math skills.
- Homework assistance program for students in fourth, fifth and sixth grade takes place three days per week in an effort to assist students with homework.
- Our Title One program supports a school-wide literacy initiative for all students. Instructional assistants in all grade levels work under the guidance of the classroom teacher to reinforce literacy programs. Several informational meetings, in-service activities for staff members, and workshops for parents are held throughout the year. A newsletter, The Parent Connection, is distributed several times throughout the year to all families with tips to introduce quality reading activities at home.
- Our MCAS Nights are great nights for parents and students. Parents are updated on the strategies given to students to solve math problems as well as writing rubric expectations. These nights have been sponsored by CTP, Title 1 and 21st Century.
- We all celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday and Read Across America during the month of March. Guest readers from the community are invited to read a story or picture book and talk about the importance of reading with our students.
- The C.T. Plunkett Literacy Fair is conducted during the month of May. Projects created by every student to represent a wide range of literature are displayed in the gymnasium for families and friends who come to view them.
- Fifth graders make their annual journey to Nature's Classroom in Ivoryton, Connecticut. The weeklong event at the end of February-beginning of March is one of the highlights of the fifth grade experience at C.T. Plunkett.

- Project Snowshoe is supported by a grant from the REACH Foundation of the Northern Berkshire Health Systems. The three thousand dollar grant was used to purchase thirty pairs of snowshoes for use with fourth and fifth grade students during physical education classes.
- Curl Up and Read have been extremely successful nights at CTP. Students wear their pajamas and listen to stories.
- Daycare program before and after school as well as summer assists working parents with a safe, familiar daycare setting. Activities in the daycare program are centered on the individual needs of the students and fun activities are planned on a regular basis.
- The new computer lab and computers are very exciting additions to C.T. Plunkett. The students are currently working on the Lexia program and learning a great deal! Laptops are in each classroom so that students can carryover in the classroom. We also added a laptop cart this year at C.T. Plunkett.

Title I

Title I is an entitlement grant supporting school-wide academic support for all Plunkett students. Instructional assistants work under the guidance of classroom teachers to reinforce instruction through small group differentiated instruction. Students receive remedial intervention in the elements of reading, writing, and math guided by the Massachusetts Frameworks. Title I also supports extended day academic activities through Homework Help and early morning computer based practice sessions. Increased family involvement in school activities to meet parents' needs and support effective communication between home and school translates into higher student achievement. A monthly newsletter, The Parent Connection, along with helpful tips for home activities and homework help are available both as a newsletter and on the district website. A yearly survey invites parents to report on their impressions of school climate, academic preparation, communication, and family concerns. A school wide assessment informs the budget process by prioritizing demonstrated needs. Informational meetings and workshops are planned to address topics suggested by parents and staff and evening programs such as Curl Up & Read, MCAS workshops, and game nights are offered to families to promote literacy, reading, and math support at home.

Reading Is Fundamental

This federally funded program helps to purchase books that Plunkett students can choose three times during the school year. A wide selection of leveled novels, picture books, and informational texts are purchased in combination with funding through the grant and additional library fundraising. Prior to each day of book distribution, the entire student population is involved in motivational themed activities including read aloud, art and writing projects. Themes have included spiders, the ocean, snow and the beach. **RIF** promotes literacy in the home. Plunkett qualifies for this grant due to the percentage of free and reduced lunch students attending.

Music Program

Aaron Dean teaches general music at CT Plunkett. In music classes, students learn to read musical notation, learn musical terminology, identify the instruments of the orchestra by both sight and sound, and become familiar with major composers of several different stylistic periods. 4th graders learn to play

the recorder which prepares them to begin learning orchestral instruments in 5th grade. Students in grades 1-6 have a unit with keyboards and learn the basics of playing the piano.

Technology

We have been making steady progress with technology at CTP. The school district has shown its commitment to technology with the hiring of Mr. Richard Noel, a certified computer teacher. Mr. Noel had previously worked as the computer teacher at Memorial Middle School since 1994. We are currently developing a computer literacy curriculum that will meet the Massachusetts Instructional Technology requirements, as adopted by the Massachusetts Department of Education.

With the addition of our certified computer teacher, our students are learning to use the computer as a tool that can be beneficial in other classes. We are providing extensive instruction in grades five and six in the use of Microsoft Word. Students in grades 2 through 6 are beginning to use the word processor when completing writing assignments. Grade six students are learning basic computer programming as part of their regular computer class instruction. Grade five students have learned more efficient ways to take notes when using online resources. As the school year progresses, we will continue developing our K – 6 technology curriculum.

Last year, desktop computers were purchased for the computer lab and library. Students receive weekly technology instruction in the school's computer lab. All students utilize Internet resources and are provided instruction in its effective use, online safety and etiquette. All computer instruction is supplemented with age appropriate websites that support our reading and math initiatives, by providing additional practice for skill building. Our students also have access to websites that provide additional learning support in science, social studies, design, problem-solving, and keyboarding.

Each teacher is provided with a laptop with Windows Vista, Microsoft Office, and the Adobe Creative Suite. Teachers can work both at home and in the classroom. In class, students can use the laptop to access the Internet and complete practice, keyboarding, and word-processing software. Each floor is equipped with black & white and color laser printers that are networked so that students and teachers can print directly from their classrooms.

Our school focuses on developing critical 21st Century skills for all students in Kindergarten through grade 6. We are continuing to be proactive with our selection of quality online instruction to meet both present and future educational needs of our students. We currently use the following Internet-based resources for our students: Lexia Reading, Type to Learn Keyboarding, Accelerated Reader, and FASTT Math.

We recently purchased a major upgrade for our Lexia, our Internet-based reading software. This software is used by grades K–8, and is designed to reinforce all areas of phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, and spelling. Each student is given a computerized assessment that places the student at the appropriate instructional level. Lexia then provides the student with a series of tasks that are chosen to meet their specific instructional needs. Lexia provides individualized, researched-based lessons to improve ELA skills. Teachers can monitor student progress

and print reports to allow for differentiated instruction to reinforce any problem areas. The school district also purchased a component to allow parents to install the program on their home computer, thus allowing students to use the program as part of their home studies.

We just began implementing an Internet-based keyboarding program from Sunburst Software, called Type to Learn. This program was developed using a proven, research-based keyboarding curriculum of touch-typing instruction. The program focuses on review, demonstration, practice, and assessment. Initially, Type to Learn will require each student to take a keyboarding test to assess their strengths and weaknesses. The program emphasizes both accuracy and words per minute speed, and provides each student with individualized instruction and remediation to ensure continued success.

Accelerated Reader has also been upgraded to an internet based program and can easily be accessed from home. Students read books and take a short test in Accelerated Reader to measure comprehension and vocabulary skills. Accelerated Reader makes essential reading practice more effective for every student by providing personalized reading practice to each student at their current level. The program will assess students' reading with four types of quizzes: **Reading Practice, Vocabulary Practice, Literacy Skills**, and Textbook Quizzes.

The *FASTT Math* intervention program uses the research-validated FASTT system (Fluency and Automaticity through Systematic Teaching with Technology) to help all students develop fluency with basic math facts. The program will assess students to uncover fluency gaps and to establish a baseline of fluency for each student. Then, *FASTT Math* automatically differentiates instruction in customized, 10-minute daily sessions.

We are pleased to announce the addition of a computer learning lab in the music room. During October, we received a generous donation of iMac computers from Williams College, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Noel and Mr. Dean. Mr. Aaron Dean was hired to teach music classes here at CTP. Previously, Mr. Dean was the instrumental teacher at Memorial Middle School. Mr. Dean has been utilizing the computers as tools to teach both music theory and principles of music composition.

The district's web site (www.acrsd.net) provides information about our school and the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District. An improved format with a variety of new features has been designed to be more user-friendly and visually appealing. The district's technology plan has been updated and posted on each school's website. A district-wide E-Mail system is in place to foster communication between staff and parents, in addition to communication among all staff.

21st Century After School Program

The 21st Century Grant currently operating in its eighth year is sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Education and the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District. The Exemplary grant-funded program offers children in grades one through six the opportunity to be involved in project-based after school activities that begin at the end of the school day and run until 4:45 P.M. four days per week. Parents pick up their children and have frequent contact with staff. There are three classrooms of

fifteen students. Classes consist of two grade level spans with a certified teacher and paraprofessional support staff. The program is free and provides snack, choice time, homework help, and multimodal indoor/outdoor activities. Adams Youth Center Inc. and Girls Inc. also provide staff once a week to do group projects that are science and fitness-based.

A total of forty-five students attend classes Monday through Thursday. Project based instructional activities focusing on a variety of academic topics are designed to improve student performance in reading comprehension, written expression, mathematics and study skills. This year a FitMath program was added which incorporated math standards and fitness. Lego robotic materials were also purchased through the Adams-Cheshire Educational Partnership Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

Community Connections

We continue to maintain excellent working relationships with a number of agencies throughout our neighboring communities as well as those in the town of Adams. We also work closely with the following organizations:

- The Berkshire Humane Society (pet care/classroom lessons)
- The Pittsfield Red Cross Unit (classroom lessons)
- The Counseling Center of the Berkshires (counseling)
- The Department of Social Services (family support)
- Barrett House (story hour for kindergarten students)
- The Massachusetts Audubon Society (classroom lessons)
- Adams Police Department (DARE/school resource officer)
- The Berkshire Museum
- Adams Library, Fire Department, and local banks (educational programs)
- Junior Achievement (Curl Up and Read)
- Hoosac Valley High School (Leo Club)
- Berkshire Community College (nursing interns)
- Adams Youth Center (Big Brother/Big Sister Program)
- Adams Visitor Center-Joe Novak (Presentations and visits)
- Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (practicum students and administrative interns)
- The Police Athletic League who use our gymnasium for basketball games
- Town Hall Coordination of Red Sox Trophy
- REACH Foundation
- The South Adams Savings Bank provides our school with a generous donation of one thousand dollars each year.
- The Golden Varsity volunteers continue working in the library, health room, and classrooms in our school on a regular basis.
- Parent volunteers regularly work in classrooms, library and chaperone field trips.

Submitted by:

Kristen Gordon, Principal

Cheshire Elementary School

2009 was a year of change for Cheshire Elementary School. In June, longtime Principal Pamela St. John retired and I was fortunate enough to be chosen as her replacement. I am thrilled to be a part of the Cheshire Community and I am so appreciative of the support from the staff, students and parents as I learn the ropes. I began on July first and have been learning a lot since then.

The administrative change was not the only one to occur. There were several other staff changes that took place over the summer months and beyond. Budget cuts led to the layoff of our school librarian, Mrs. Reynolds. While it was impossible to imagine a school without a library, we have been able to keep it going on a skeletal schedule with the help of parent and community volunteers. We also had several teaching changes. Fourth grade teacher Lynda Bianchi left CES to accept a principal's position with the Pittsfield Schools, so Eric Brown who formerly taught second grade moved to the fourth grade spot. Glen Chamberlain, a second grade teacher, took a new teaching position in Great Barrington cutting his commute from 45+ minutes down to 10. This created two second grade openings that were filled by Kim Trimarchi and Melissa Rusek. We also saw Stephanie McCarthy switch from fifth grade to third grade due to the reduction of one fifth grade class and the retirement of Woody Boillat. Also due to budget cuts, we lost 3 para-professionals. Another change was that the pre-school from C.T. Plunkett School moved here to Cheshire along with the staff of Kelly Riechers as the teacher and Kathy Malloy as the para-professional. In December, our School Adjustment Counselor, Donna Virgilio retired to enjoy her home in Florida and her role as grandma. Change can be challenging, but it helps us to grow and learn. The students and staff have adjusted well and we are feeling like a close school community already!

As of this writing, there is an enrollment of 275 students in pre-school through grade six. This is an increase during the course of the year by eight students. We are working very hard to provide the best education for the students in very difficult financial times. It is a challenge, and the staff at Cheshire has risen to that challenge working hard each day to do the best to remain upbeat and dedicated to our mission. Cheshire School is a hub of the community and the students are involved in many activities during and after school hours. The building is in constant use from our daily routines to the community members who use the school for practices, special events, youth sports programs as well as some adult sport programs. Our building is aging and the custodial staff works hard to maintain a clean and safe environment for everyone.

Each grade level teacher or teachers collaborated to draft a short paragraph to highlight some of the events of the past year at their grade level. The specialists also provided some insight into their programs as well. I hope you find them informative. Thank you for supporting our school and the education of the children who represent the future of our community. It is a valuable investment and one we don't take for granted.

Grade 6- Teachers: Jan Charbonneau & Tom Prokopowicz

Sixth Grade at Cheshire Elementary School is an opportunity

for students to develop both academically and emotionally. Along with academic work, students are prepared for entry into the middle school and the responsibilities that go along with that transition. Academically, students are challenged in all areas. A strong emphasis is focused on Language Arts and Math. Students complete several Language Arts projects that are designed to challenge the student's multiple intelligences.

In helping Cheshire students to understand Math and Science at the sixth grade level, instruction is exploratory and investigative. Students learn by discovery. Whether viewing slides through a microscope, modeling a volcano, or explaining one of the eleven human body systems, the students' knowledge is enhanced and retained because of the hands-on nature of the activity. The students utilize various mathematical operations in recording, displaying and interpreting their data. Mathematics becomes something that is useful. With such a background, Cheshire students are prepared for further studies at the middle school, on their way to becoming educated, responsible, and productive citizens.

Special events that take place in the sixth grade are Nature's Classroom, Berkshire Theatre Festival's Artist in Residency and Kindergarten Buddies. Each of these programs allows students to grow creatively and see themselves in new and exciting ways. Students gain more responsibility throughout the year. They learn to view themselves as young adults as they enter into their middle school years. Many students also take on leadership roles by volunteering on various committees and extra curricular clubs.

Grade 5 – Teacher: Dawn Prokopowicz

As part of the Living Landscapes program, a Berkshire Museum educator visited both fifth grades for a workshop on animal camouflage which included an outdoor "worm" hunt, graphing exercise, and create your own rock animal depicting one type of camouflage. In addition, the fifth grade visited the Berkshire Museum for the Trip to the North Pole exhibit, the Calder Toy exhibit/workshop (simple machines), and a general tour of the museum. We studied various aspects of baseball as related to language arts, geography, history, mathematics, science, character education, art, music, and economics. We then visited the Baseball Hall of Fame with Mr. Sniezek as a culminating event to this cross-curricular unit. In June, each student created a success scrapbook highlighting three successes he/she chose to present. The scrapbooks were then displayed during the school wide Success Night for parents and family members to enjoy.

In September, the students completed an "All About Me" poem project which included a poem, hand-drawn self-portrait, and a photograph of the student. Mr. Bachli joined the class for a "poetry slam" to hear and see the students' final projects. We started a sharing activity called "What's in the Sack?" after reading Shel Silverstein's poem. Students are chosen weekly to bring in a sack of five items to tell more about themselves. Adults in the school have also shared their sacks with the fifth grade. In November, the fourth and fifth grade students went on a field trip to Howe Caverns in New York state in conjunction with the science units of rocks/minerals and layers of the earth.

Grade 4 – Teachers- Michelle Gajda and Eric Brown

Fourth grade is such a wonderful transitional time. Our students get to apply all of their primary grade reading skills into reading about many new content areas and subjects such as science, geography and history. During 2009, the fourth graders enjoyed their own version of baseball's opening day in April, including baseball- related activities and lessons all day long, complete with hotdogs and Cracker Jacks for lunch! A Geometry Scavenger Hunt on the bike path in the spring tied the students' newly learned math skills into real-life application experiences and answered the age old question, "When am I ever going to need to use this?" In October, a class field trip to Howe Caverns in New York also allowed the students to see first- hand, everything they had learned in science and social studies: the physical geography of the Earth....both above and below ground.

Busy, productive, engaged and fun.....fourth grade.

Grade 3- Teachers: Danielle Taylor and Stephanie McCarthy

Last spring, Berkshire Museum came in and we planted the three sisters together. We watched them grow for the rest of the year. They went well beyond the height of the windows. Later in the year, we visited the museum and took part in the Native American exhibit. It was lots of fun dressing up in their attire. We followed up by creating posters for the various groups of Native Americans in the United States.

In science we made a how to video to teach others how the temperature of water affects a thermometer through the creation of our own water thermometer.

We worked hard on collaboration. Many of our lessons were completed through cooperative learning. Our teamwork helped us to better understand the concepts and provide constructive feedback to one another.

At the end of the year, we created a video that depicted the best parts of third grade.

We created a book on how the United States was "discovered". We also read about the first colony and created our own class model of Jamestown.



We are independently reading chapter books. Having made the transition from learning to read to reading to learn we are now reading various genres to help better understand author's purpose, theme, main idea and more.

In math we have completed long addition and subtraction. We have also begun memorizing our times tables.

Grade 2- Teachers: Kimberly Trimarchi and Melissa Rusek

This year there are two new teachers in second grade, Melissa Rusek and Kimberley Trimarchi. Together they are navigating through their first year with the second grade curriculum. The focus of the students' learning experience has been on activities within the Cheshire Elementary Community. They participated in opportunities to work with older students in grade four and six focusing on poetry and mathematics. They also invited parents and volunteers into their classrooms for events and activities such as holiday baking, arts and crafts, and classroom support.

Grade 1- Teacher: Katie Chenail

From January of 2009 to January of 2010, first grade has done many activities and projects. For math, we created many fun glyphs that the students really enjoyed. This gave them excellent practice in following directions. In the spring, we were able to go to the Colonial Theater to see Charlotte's Web. We read the book ahead of time, so the students would be familiar with the story. We also went to the Berkshire Museum and learned about simple machines. We planted popcorn seeds in the classroom, so the students could learn about living things. They were amazed when green plants started to grow out of their popcorn seed! In June, the students were learning about tall tales. As an ending project, the students wrote their own tall tale. For Thanksgiving, we made Pilgrim books. The students wrote about the Pilgrims and illustrated pictures to go with it. For Christmas, we made calendars to give to parents. The students had to make pictures for, title, and number each month. We also decorated Christmas trees based on a winter book we read. The students have enjoyed and learned from all of the projects we have done.

Kindergarten- Teachers: Robin Poirot and Heather Emerson

The Kindergarten classes had a real productive year learning to recognize environmental print while developing their early



reading skills as they prepare to enter first grade. Through the use of songs, creative movement, multi sensory activities and daily drill and instruction, each child is given the opportunity to learn at their own developmental level.

Early in the year, the students pair with sixth graders in our 6th Grade Buddy Program. This program provides each kindergarten child with a 6th grade mentor for the entire school year. Mentors assist in helping their kindergarten buddies with academics, self help skills and socialization during their first full day experience. The program has proved to be beneficial to all involved. As a finale, children and their 6th grade Buddies had a Teddy Bear Picnic in the courtyard during Graduation week in June.

This year the kindergarten students benefited from the use of a reading program called Lexia Reading during their computer time. This computer program reinforces phonemic concepts taught within the classroom. The program is also able to be accessed at their homes for additional tutorial use beyond regular school hours.

In our Science studies, the children learned about the wildlife in our area. In partnership with the Berkshire Museum, the children participated in an informational Field Trip titled Berkshire Backyard, as well as, an activity at our school site where the students learned about the concept of camouflage. This was an exciting activity which allowed every child the opportunity to participate in engaging educational experiences.

Kindergarteners at Cheshire School have the opportunity to learn Spanish. There has been significant research to support the fact that acquisition of a second language at an early age is extremely beneficial to their academic career. Children who learn a second language at a young age, go on to show enhanced spatial relations and problem solving skills, stronger overall communication skills, and higher elementary and SAT test scores. Through fun songs, daily conversation and practice, these young children learned days of the week, months of the year, colors, counting to 100, conversational phrases and traditional children songs and rhymes. As a culminating activity, each year the children have a Kindergarten Fiesta inviting family and friends to come and watch them perform and listen to the language they have acquired. The students wear Mexican clothing and sing and dance in Spanish on stage. Parents help with the preparation of authentic recipes and dishes which are shared after the performance.



Pre-School – Teachers: Laura Ziemba and Kelly Riechers

In the Spring of 2009 the preschool classes took a trip to Broadlawn Farms in Adams, owned and operated by the Ziemba family. The trip was after completion of a unit entitled “On the Farm”, where the Preschoolers learned about planting, nutrition and animals found on farm. During this unit the students observed the life cycle of a chicken by hatching eggs in the classrooms. After a couple weeks caring for the chicks, the Preschoolers brought them to their new home at Broadlawn Farms. This trip provided a hands-on experience and re-enforced those standards found in our Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts.

Physical Education- Teacher: Jason Snizek

Physical education at Cheshire Elementary School is taught to grades Pre-K through six by specialist Jason Snizek. The curriculum covers a wide range of gross motor, manipulative, coordination/agility, and social activities and is aligned with the Massachusetts Comprehensive Health frameworks. Some of the activities/sport themes include soccer, football, baseball, badminton, volleyball, pillo hockey, rhythms and dance, Frisbee, and bowling. Non-traditional activities are also part of the curriculum and include orienteering, x-c skiing, and cooperative style games that have become popular through the TV show “Survivor”.

The physical education curriculum at Cheshire School focuses on all students equally and with the belief that students will learn “lifetime” skills and activities that can be utilized throughout their lifetime. Students will also learn to work cooperatively with others and to be respectful of differences between students in the physical education setting. It is Mr. Snizek’s belief that physical activity is very much a strong component to the academic part of the school atmosphere and can assist in the growth of the student in the classroom.

Music- Teacher: Wavelyn Hine

Cheshire School put on its first Circus in June of 2009. In lieu of a musical or Spring Concert, Mrs. Hine was responsible for the music during the day. At 9:00 a.m., each grade participated in the Circus Parade. The Parade had been planned for Cheshire’s main street, but a light drizzle kept us indoors marching around the school.

The line of march was as follows: Pre School – played a march rhythm on Boomwhackers Kindergarten - played a march rhythm



on Rhythm instruments. Both Pre K and K marched as animals wearing headdresses that tied around their faces. These costumes were borrowed from St. Stephen's Episcopal in Pittsfield, (where Mrs. Hine has her church job.) 1st Grade played the "Circus March" on kazoos. 2nd Grade played a march rhythm on Rhythm sticks. 3rd Grade played a march rhythm on drums. 4th Grade played the "Army Caisson Song" on recorders. 5th Grade played the "Pirates of the Caribbean Theme" on bells and 6th Graders carried signs and served at Midway Games later in the day. After the parade all the classes went into the auditorium for various circus "acts". The Chorus preformed two musical numbers: "Doe a Deer" costumed as a circus calliope – guys in grey pipes, gals in pink ones – popping up and down when their scale tone was sung. "It's a Small World" sung in English, French, German, and Spanish and dressed in costumes from those countries. Mrs. Emerson was in charge of the clowns' act. There were ribbon twirlers and acrobats organized by Mr. Brown. Ms. Ziemba had lions jumping through hoops. The Prokopowicz family appeared as elephants. The final act - Mrs. Hine had Mr. Brown stuff one of the Harrington twins in a cannon. After a big explosive noise, the other twin magically appeared!!! The afternoon was spent in the basement where several midway games were set up and prizes were won by all. The students really enjoyed their day at the "Circus".

On Wednesday, December 16th the students presented a Holiday Concert in the school auditorium at 6:30 P.M. Students from each grade (3rd through 6th) demonstrated the music they have been working on in music class. Several students performed solos during scene changes. 6th grade played a "Kwanza" Song on xylophones. 5th grade played "Silent Night" on guitars. 4th Grade played "Jolly Old St. Nick" on recorders. 3rd Grade played "Silver Bells" on hand chimes, and the Chorus sang "How Many Nites Until It's Hanukkah?".

Art – Teacher: Cheryl Sykes

On Thursday, May 21, 2009 Cheshire's 27th annual Student Art Exhibit was held in the school auditorium under the direction of Mrs. Sykes. Samples of each of the students' art work in pre-school through grade 6 were on display for viewing. There was a wide variety of media and subject matter for everyone to enjoy. Along with the art display, there was also a face-painting station set up and refreshments were served. It was a great evening and very well attended.



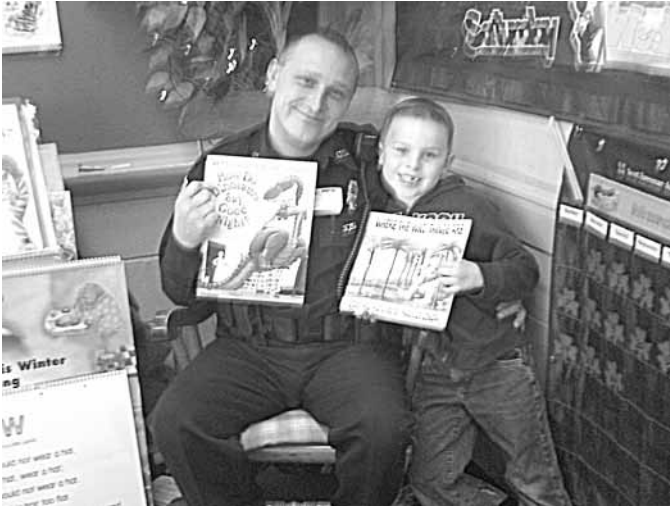
Along with the teachers, Cheshire School relies on our support staff to keep students learning and safe. As the saying goes, "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child". The rest of our "village" members are:

- Administrative AssistantNancy Chaput
- Special EducationChristine LeVardi
- Speech & Language PathologistCindy Rancourt
- School Adjustment Counselor
(Tues. & Thurs.)Nicole Seyerlein
- Technology (Tues. & Thurs.)Geoff Kondel
- Building & GroundsDave Richards
-Stash Cote
- School NurseLinda Biros
- CafeteriaCindy Gajda
-Denise Moncecchi
-Darlene Harrington
- Extended CareSherry Goodrich
-Donna Novak
-Clara Wilusz

Paraprofessionals:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Linda Bonnivier | Noreen Hoag |
| Shannon Briggs | Kathy Malloy |
| Karen Drain | Donna Murdock |
| Judy Gaylord | Sue Randall |
| Linda Giroux | Clara Wilusz |
| Sherry Goodrich | |

Athletic Director



Cheshire School also works with many organizations in Berkshire County. We are business partners with Berkshire County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's office helps to scholarship students to special events like the sixth grade trip to Nature's Classroom. They have also assisted with school events like Field Day as well as a visit from Santa in December.

The Cheshire Fire and Police Departments as well as the State Police are also reliable sources of support for the children and staff of Cheshire Elementary providing programs for fire safety and assistance for our Crisis Team. They help with the various safety drills conducted at the school. There are various other local businesses and civic groups who have supported the school during the past year and for that we are all truly grateful.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter J. Bachli
Principal

The 2009 athletic program had over 400 student athletes participate in 26 varsity and sub-varsity programs that compete in the Berkshire County League. We also have collaborative teams in swimming, Nordic skiing, tennis, and wrestling, with other Northern Berkshire schools.

In the fall, the Boy's Football team had an excellent season winning the Western Massachusetts Football Super Bowl and completing a perfect season at 12-0 under the direction of Head Coach John Duval. The Girls' Soccer team came on strong making the Western Mass tournament once again before falling in the first round. The Boys' Soccer team qualified for the Western-Mass tournament and lost a heart breaker on a last minute goal. The Boys' Cross-Country running team did very well this past fall and the girls' cross-country team also did very well. The golf team that now participates in the fall and had a great season falling just short of winning the northern division.

In the winter season, the Boys' and Girls' Nordic Skiing, along with a group of new participants finished near the top in State competition. The Girls' Swim team had a successful season in league action and competed in Western Mass Division I, and in the Division I State meet. The Boys' Swim team competed in both Western Mass and States as well. Both the Boy's and Girls' Basketball teams qualified for Western Mass tournament play, with the Boys winning Western Mass and getting beat in the State finals at the DCU Centrum in Worcester.

In the spring, the Boys' baseball team qualified for Western Mass only to get beat in the semi-finals. The Girls' softball qualified for Western Mass also losing in the semi-finals. The boy's and girl's track teams, qualified for Western Mass and State meets. The tennis team, which co-ops with Drury, also qualified for the Western Mass Tournament.

In all, the students, coaches, administrators, and parent booster groups worked very hard to maintain a quality sports program which serves the best intent of our school community.

Daniel L. Caritey
Athletic Director

Director of Food Services

The Adams-Cheshire Regional School District, in 2009, has continued to participate in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs as well as the Special Milk, After School Snacks and USDA Commodity Distribution program. For the summer of 2009, the ACRSD initiated participation in the federally funded Summer Food Service Program. Through this program breakfast and lunch were served, free of charge, to any Adams or Cheshire child age 18 or under at the Plunkett School cafeteria for a six week period in July and August. We intend to continue this program and expect that the 80 per day per meal participation in 2009 will increase from year to year as awareness of the program grows. Berkshire Head Start continues to participate in our programs with breakfast and lunch being transported from Plunkett School to their Howland Avenue classroom. The Food Service Department continues to be a member of the Berkshire County Food Service Purchasing Cooperative. Through this co-op, bread, dairy and paper products are put out to bid on a county-wide basis.

The food service department earned a profit of \$6,445 for the 2008-2009 school year on revenues of \$655,907, a profit margin of .98%. Government subsidies in the form of reimbursements for meals served are an increasingly important revenue source representing 47.6% of total revenue as compared to the historical norm of 40%. The percentage of students who qualify for free/reduced meals is at an all-time high of 43% as of the end of December 2009. Total reimbursements of \$327,462 were received in 2009, an increase of 9% from the previous year. These figures reflect the economic downturn that has affected our community along with the entire country. USDA commodities valued at \$56,301 were received in 2009, up from \$52,635 in 2008. In light of continued declines in enrollment strict cost control as well as ongoing evaluation of staffing needs will be necessary in order to ensure the long-term solvency of our programs.

The food service department functions at minimal staffing levels and relies on a high volume of a la carte sales as well as multiple choices of reimbursable meals at HVHS to maximize revenue. The closing of Memorial Middle School and the resulting consolidation of the 7th and 8th grades to HVHS at the start of the 2009-2010 school year allowed for a realignment to the cafeteria staff and a savings of \$25,000 in labor costs. The elimination of one cook's position, by lay-off and one part-time position, by resignation, reduced the cafeteria staff from 104.5 to 93 labor hours per day. There are currently 16 permanent positions plus a director and a clerk who make up the food service department.

A price increase of \$.25 for all full-pay student lunches and adult lunches went into effect for the 2009-2010 school year and will enhance revenue by \$25,000. The price increase together with the savings in labor costs will address budget cuts enacted in the ACRSD FY10 budget. Prices for the 2009-2010 school year are as follows:

Paid Student Lunch (CES & CTP)	2.00
Paid Student Lunch (HVHS)	2.25
Paid Student Breakfast.....	1.00
Reduced Student Lunch.....	.40
Reduced Student Lunch.....	.30
Paid Adult Lunch	3.25

Participation in the reimbursable school lunch program remained stable in 2009 at 72.9% as compared to 74.9% in 2008, 73.6% in 2007 and 74.5% in 2006. Breakfast participation in 2009 was 18.6% as compared to 18.4% in 2008, 17.4% in 2007 and 16.7% in 2006. The number and type of reimbursable meals served in 2009 are as follows

Paid Student Lunch.....	89,740
Free Student Lunch.....	71,217
Reduced Student Lunch.....	19,536
Total Student Breakfast.....	46,497
Adult Meals	13,069

The Lunchbox point of sale hardware and software that was installed in September 2007 continues to be a useful technological upgrade enhancing the department's report writing and data collection capabilities. Most importantly, the elimination of overt identification of free/reduced students has increased their participation as well as the government reimbursements that ensue. The system has also been useful in allowing advance payments, tracking student accounts electronically and storing all F/R application data, participant data, reimbursement claim data and a full range of sales and financial reports.

This will be my last annual report as I will be retiring in June 2010. I look back at my 30 years of employment in the ACRSD with fondness and will miss the many friends and colleagues that I have worked with over the years.

Spencer N. Chaffee
Food Service Director

Director of Special Services

The Special Services Department continues to support and develop programs to best meet the needs of our students. It is the Mission of the Special Education Department to provide an appropriate public education to students in the least restrictive setting. Furthermore, it is our vision to be able to support all students in community-based programs. In order to accomplish this goal, we have been working as a department to develop in-district programs that can successfully support all our students, especially those students with diverse needs. In that regard, we are continually exploring new projects and modifying those in place to become more effective. These initiatives are designed to serve all students who can benefit from the programs whether or not they require specialized instruction. These efforts are in keeping with the Beliefs and Values of the Adams-Cheshire Regional District; specifically that all children are capable of learning and that all students deserve the best instruction.

Academic support programs in direct, systematic reading instruction and remediation in math are part of the resource room and inclusion instruction that students receive during the school day. Related services for students are provided by a speech and language pathologist as well as speech assistants. The district contracts to provide physical therapy for students who are in need of these supports in order to make progress in their educational programs. This school year we were able to expand and improve our occupational therapy services by hiring a full time Occupational Therapist and a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant at a cost savings compared to the cost of contracting with an outside provider.

The blending of the middle school and high school programs provided opportunities to expand support services for students. In addition to Resource Room programs for academic support and specialized instruction in reading and mathematics; paraprofessionals provide individualized and small group assistance under teacher direction and consultation.

There also are three very specialized self-contained programs at Hoosac Valley. The Exceptional Program (EP) for high school students provides them with a small group instructional model for academic courses and incorporates a pre-vocational and work study component. Students work toward meeting course requirements for graduation as they develop the skills necessary for employment success. A therapeutic component to support the clinical needs of the students is also an important element. The program allows the district to provide supports for students in a way that was previously only available by tuition to out-of-district placements. A key element for success is the out-reach contact to students and their parents that takes place beyond the regular school hours. An EP class designed to meet the needs of younger students is also available for middle school students.

Our Life Skills Program at Hoosac Valley has evolved into a very comprehensive offering for students to develop more independence with activities for daily living in a structured and caring environment. The program provides opportunities for the students to practice social and vocational skills as well as volunteer their time and efforts in their community. Under the direction of their teacher, our students have participated in both the spring and winter Special Olympics; a truly rewarding experience of all involved.

Other specialized district programs include a behavioral support program at C. T. Plunkett Elementary which provides assistance to students both within a substantially separate classroom as well as in classes with their peers. We also contract with the Willie Ross School to provide the expertise of a Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing on-site and are able to provide specialized instruction in the least restrictive environment for students.

A variety of supports are available for children who fall under the umbrella of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Collaboration extends to teachers and parents through our Autism Specialist and Special Education Teachers. Aside from the direct benefits to students and their families, the district has been able to see considerable savings in consultant fees and training costs for services that no longer need to come from outside agencies. The district is currently exploring ways to expand our offerings in this area with possible program development on the horizon.

Child Find is an important component of the Special Services Department. We work cooperatively with community agencies and health care providers to help identify students in need of services at an early age. Our preschool programs are both now located at Cheshire Elementary. They welcome students with special needs who have turned three with specially designed curriculums to meet their individual needs in a side-by-side program with their typical peers.

Extended year programs are available during the summer months to help children at risk of substantial regression to continue to make progress academically and socially. A program for our younger students balances academic growth with fun activities. We also partner with the 21st Century Summer Program based at C. T. Plunkett to provide a program for the older elementary students that combines academics with projects and special community outings. The summer program for older students combines academic support, pre-vocational skill training and community and recreational outings.

The development of programs to support students in our schools has the immeasurable benefit of servicing children in their community along with their neighbors and classmates. Over the past five years the funds spent on out-of-district placements have decreased dramatically.

Recognizing the important role that they play in the lives of all students, we are striving to reach out and encourage parents to become active members on the Parents Advisory Council (PAC). The Steering Committee of the PAC meets on a regular basis to advise the district and serve as a resource for all parents.

The district is proud of its successes in the area of special education. We continue to move forward to fulfill the beliefs and values that serve as the foundation of our vision for the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District and its mission to create a partnership of our schools and communities that develops all of our students into educated, responsible and productive citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Juliette J. Wilk-Chaffee
Director of Special Services

Adams Cheshire Regional School District
Special Revenue Funds FY2009
Combing Schedules of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances

June 30, 2009

Description	Revenues	Expenditures	Transfers	Excess (Deficiency)	7/1/08 Balance	6/30/09 Balance
Federal & State Grants						
21st Century	50,413.00	49,337.56	-	1,075.44	-	1,075.44
Drug Free 08	6,848.00	390.00	-	6,458.00	-	6,458.00
Drug Free 09	-	2,146.79	-	(2,146.79)	2,146.79	-
Early Childhood 08	22,606.00	22,606.00	-	-	-	-
Early Childhood 09	-	5,390.00	-	(5,390.00)	9,686.00	4,296.00
PL 94-142 SPED 08	383,447.00	379,945.07	-	3,501.93	-	3,501.93
PL 94-142 SPED 09	-	126,019.59	-	(126,019.59)	128,478.65	2,459.06
SFSF (ARRA)	1,100,461.00	1,100,461.00	-	-	-	-
SPED Prof. Development 08	4,194.00	3,575.00	-	619.00	-	619.00
SPED Prof. Development 09	-	1,720.00	-	(1,720.00)	1,720.00	-
Title I 08	327,378.00	334,550.54	-	(7,172.54)	-	(7,172.54)
Title I 09	-	22,894.56	-	(22,894.56)	23,304.55	409.99
Title I FY08 Carryover	6,703.00	4,467.62	-	2,235.38	-	2,235.38
Title IIA 08	85,677.00	84,085.00	-	1,592.00	2,333.95	3,925.95
Title IIA 09	-	1,455.00	-	(1,455.00)	1,455.00	-
Title IID Enhancing Educ.	3,476.00	1,476.00	-	2,000.00	-	2,000.00
Quality Kindergarten	94,590.00	90,558.22	-	4,031.78	-	4,031.78
Academic Support	10,700.00	10,700.00	-	-	-	-
Bay State Readers	-	-	-	-	1,200.00	1,200.00
Summer Food Service	1,500.00	1,200.00	-	300.00	-	300.00
TOTAL FEDERAL & STATE GRANTS	2,097,993.00	2,242,977.95	-	(144,984.95)	170,324.94	25,339.99

Adams Cheshire Regional School District

Special Revenue Funds FY2009

Combing Schedules of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances

(Cont.)

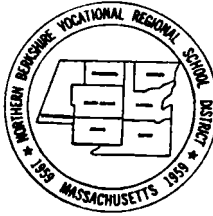
Description	Revenues	Expenditures	Transfers	Excess (Deficiency)	7/1/08 Balance	6/30/09 Balance
Revolving and Other Funds						
21st Cent Academic Support	1,500.00	1,383.04	-	116.96	-	116.96
ACE-Projectors	1,240.00	1,240.00	-	-	-	-
ACE-Dev in Writing	1,136.69	1,136.69	-	-	-	-
ACE-Myroads	-	-	-	-	2,668.18	2,668.18
Athletic User Fee	30,373.06	64,000.00	-	(33,626.94)	41,972.02	8,345.08
Berk Cty Reg Employ. Board	2,800.00	2,990.97	-	(190.97)	1,942.46	1,751.49
BHG Wellness Program	2,000.00	-	-	2,000.00	-	2,000.00
Cheshire Child Care Program	97,908.30	77,800.55	-	20,107.75	37,745.56	57,853.31
Cheshire Computer	-	-	-	-	1,246.12	1,246.12
Cheshire PTO	-	-	-	-	722.95	722.95
Circuit Breaker Revolving	223,482.00	223,482.00	-	-	198,939.00	198,939.00
Dep Sheriffs Department	2,000.00	1,502.07	-	497.93	-	497.93
Food Services	655,872.24	652,758.09	-	3,114.15	113,466.89	116,581.04
Gate Receipts	33,570.60	86,100.00	-	(52,529.40)	84,654.90	32,125.50
HVHS Football Club	2,000.00	-	-	2,000.00	-	2,000.00
HVHS Pool	-	-	-	-	1,966.83	1,966.83
HVHS Sound	-	-	-	-	10,503.66	10,503.66
Library 1953	-	972.24	-	(972.24)	1,000.00	27.76
NB Community Partnership	-	-	-	-	11,136.00	11,136.00
Plunkett Child Care Program	116,772.17	140,693.98	-	(23,921.81)	30,743.36	6,821.55
Pool Fund	-	-	-	-	11,761.12	11,761.12
Prof Development	300.00	-	-	300.00	-	300.00
Riverside	-	-	-	-	3,462.67	3,462.67
S.A.F.E.R. Grant	21,910.14	22,618.13	-	(707.99)	1,591.04	883.05
SASB Spanish Club	-	-	-	-	1,000.03	1,000.03
School Choice	474,581.00	228,337.00	-	246,244.00	149,975.88	396,219.88
Stabilization Fund	148.01	25,466.68	-	(25,318.67)	25,318.67	-
Surtleff Fund	-	-	-	-	2,747.95	2,747.95
Transition to Kindergarten	6,250.00	-	-	6,250.00	-	6,250.00
TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER FUNDS	1,673,844.21	1,530,481.44	-	143,362.77	734,565.29	877,928.06

Capital Projects Funds

FY2008 Tech. Budget	-	-	-	-	(100,000.00)	(100,000.00)
CTP HVAC Project	27,000.00	478,489.41	-	(451,489.41)	-	(451,489.41)
FY2009 Tech. Budget	-	88,716.00	-	(88,716.00)	-	(88,716.00)
TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS	27,000.00	567,205.4	-	(540,205.41)	(100,000.00)	(640,205.41)

Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009



TOTAL RECEIPTS

2008 Balance	\$1,146,473.68
Receipts 2008-2009	11,244,848.68
Private Scholarship Accounts	142,780.90

TOTAL PAYMENTS

Payments 2007-2008	11,100,459.99
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Cash Balance

as of June 30, 2008 **\$1,433,643.27**

REVOLVING ACCOUNTS

Payroll Deductions

FY08 balance	13,826.92
08-09 receipts	1,727,145.62
08-09 expenditures	1,726,610.80

Balance 6/30/09 14,361.74

Health Programs -Post Secondary

FY08 balance	6,536.03
08-09 receipts	75,560.50
08-09 expenditures	71,316.19

Balance 6/30/09 10,780.34

School Lunch

FY08 balance	-14,123.68
08-09 receipts	257,069.87
08-09 expenditures	247,120.53

Balance 6/30/09 -4,174.34

Scholarships/Special & Class Gifts/Olmsted Awards

FY08 balance	13,163.60
08-09 receipts	74,295.00
08-09 expenditures	70,847.97

Balance 6/30/09 16,610.63

Adult Continung Education

FY08 balance	19,182.51
08-09 receipts	11,961.32
08-09 expenditures	2,510.00

Balance 6/30/09 28,633.83

Athletic Game Receipts

FY08 balance	2,763.72
08-09 receipts	8,615.05
08-09 expenditures	11,378.77

Balance 6/30/09 0.00

Cosmetology Kits

FY08 balance	327.77
08-09 receipts	8,037.00
08-09 expenditures	7,234.07

Balance 6/30/09 1,130.70

Misc. Purchases

FY08 balance	671.82
08-09 receipts	1,605.12
08-09 expenditures	1,979.92

Balance 6/30/09 297.02

Sales & Meal Taxes

FY08 balance	157.11
08-09 receipts	570.62
08-09 expenditures	727.73

Balance 6/30/09 0.00

Claims Trust Fund

FY08 balance	1,203.20
08-09 receipts	842,734.01
08-09 expenditures	837,562.10

Balance 6/30/09 6,375.11

RANS PAYABLE

08-09 receipts	400,000.00
08-09 expenditures	400,000.00

Balance 6/30/09 0.00

Capital Improvement Project

FY08 balance	
08-09 receipts	140,673.89
08-09 expenditures	140,673.89

Balance 6/30/09 0.00

Student Activity Account

FY08 balance	19,385.08
08-09 receipts	32,836.75
08-09 expenditures	30,283.74

Balance 6/30/09 21,938.09

Pell Grant

08-09 receipts	95,072.55
08-09 expenditures	95,072.55

Balance 6/30/09 0.00

Tailings					
FY08 balance	478.76				
08-09 receipts	1239.31				
08-09 expenditures	1050.00				
Balance 6/30/09		668.07		Balance 6/30/09	0.59
Post-Secondary 37F Tuition Account				FY09 FG - Title I	
FY08 balance	22,412.26			08-09 receipts	150,610.52
08-09 receipts	168,529.10			08-09 expenditures	149,133.52
08-09 expenditures	41,241.00			Balance 6/30/09	1,477.00
Balance 6/30/09		149,700.36		FY09 FG - Teacher Quality	
Adult Post-Secondary Perkins Grant				08-09 receipts	20,493.00
FY08 balance	31.87			08-09 expenditures	22,551.00
08-09 receipts	7,578.72			Balance 6/30/09	-2,058.00
08-09 expenditures	7,610.59			FY09 FG Techhnology Enhancement	
Balance 6/30/09		0.00		08-09 receipts	1,248.00
FY08 -FG - Title 1 - 191-				08-09 expenditures	1,248.00
FY08 Balance	5,150.68			Balance 6/30/09	0.00
08-09 receipts	64,774.80			FY08- FG - New Technology - 199 -	
08-09 expenditures	73,800.59			FY08 balance	10,000.00
Balance 6/30/09		-3,875.11		07-08 receipts	30,000.00
FG - Sped Entitlement -166				07-08 expenditures	40000.00
FY08 balance	2,701.80			Balance 6/30/08	0.00
08-09 receipts	0.00			FY08- FG - Title IV - Drug/Free Schools - 193 -	
08-09 expenditures	0.00			FY 08 balance	88.27
Balance 6/30/09		2,701.80		08-09 receipts	
FY08 - FG - Perkins - 192 -				08-09 expenditures	0.00
FY08 balance	9507.00			Balance 6/30/09	88.27
08-09 receipts	0.00			BHG Wellness Program	
08-09 expenditures	9,447.26			FY08 balance	2,000.00
Balance 6/30/09		59.94		08-09 receipts	2,000.00
Tech Prep Grant				08-09 expenditures	0.00
FY08 balance	2,185.50			Balance 6/30/08	4,000.00
08-09 receipts	3,500.00			FY08-BCREB/Conn. Act. -163-08-	
08-09 expenditures	5,432.18			FY 08 Balance	-182.50
Balance 6/30/09		-1,326.68		08-09 receipts	382.50
FY08 - FG - Teacher Quality Title II - 195 -				08-09 expenditures	-2,850.00
FY08 balance	-6225.71			Balance 6/30/09	-2,650.00
08-09 receipts	6,878.67			FY08 - FG - Sped -190-	
08-09 expenditures	652.96			FY08 balance	-11,808.87
Balance 6/30/09		0.00		08-09 receipts	12,428.00
FY09 Perkins Grant				08-09 expenditures	619.00
08-09 receipts	69,778.80			Balance 6/30/09	0.13
08-09 expenditures	61,019.63			FY09 FG - SPED	
Balance 6/30/09		8759.17		08-09 receipts	122,657.17
FY09 Drug/Free Schools Grant				08-09 expenditures	121,794.49
08-09 receipts	3022.72			Balance 6/30/09	862.68
08-0 expenditures	2938.72				
Balance 6/30/09		84.00			

Shop Income

08-09 receipts	10,743.62	
08-09 expenditures	<u>.00</u>	
Balance 6/30/09		10,743.62

Total Revolving Accounts	<u>265,188.96</u>
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Total Revolving Accounts	\$265,188.96
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2009 E & D Account Balance	400,937.66
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2009 Estimated Receipts	624,735.75
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Private Scholarship Accounts	<u>142,780.90</u>
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Total Cash Balance 6/30/09	<u>\$1,433,643.27</u>
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***Includes FY08 encumbered payroll and purchase orders**

Notes

Notes

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