



TOWN REPORT 2012

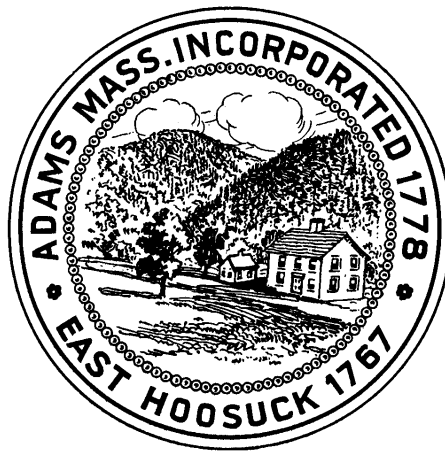
Adams Massachusetts

Town of
ADAMS

MASSACHUSETTS

REPORT OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS



FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31, 2012

Compiled and Edited by the

TOWN REPORT COMMITTEE

As Authorized by the Special Town Meeting

June 24, 1963

Printed by Adams Specialty & Printing Co. • Adams, MA 01220

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Population:

Town Census 2012	9,146
Town Census 2011	9,183
Town Census 2010	9,414
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 2010	8,485
Federal Census 2000	8,809
Federal Census 1990	9,445
Federal Census 1980	10,385

Number of Registered Voters as of May 2012 5,826

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 FY12	Residential & Open Space	\$ 17.26
	Commercial, Industrial & Personal	\$ 20.47

Total Taxed Assessed	\$ 8,795,827.00
Total Valuation	\$ 494,039,099.00

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
GAILANNE M. CARIDDI – North Adams

Governor's Councillor, 8th District
Michael J. Albano of Longmeadow

United States Senators:

ELIZABETH WARREN of Cambridge
WILLIAM "MO" COWEN of Boston

Representative in Congress, 1st Congressional District

RICHARD NEAL of Springfield

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**, in the Maple Street Cemetery is and enduring memorial to the pioneers of Adams who built it. The meeting house, (c.1784) is open for tours on Sundays after July 4th and before Columbus Day 1-4 pm.

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.

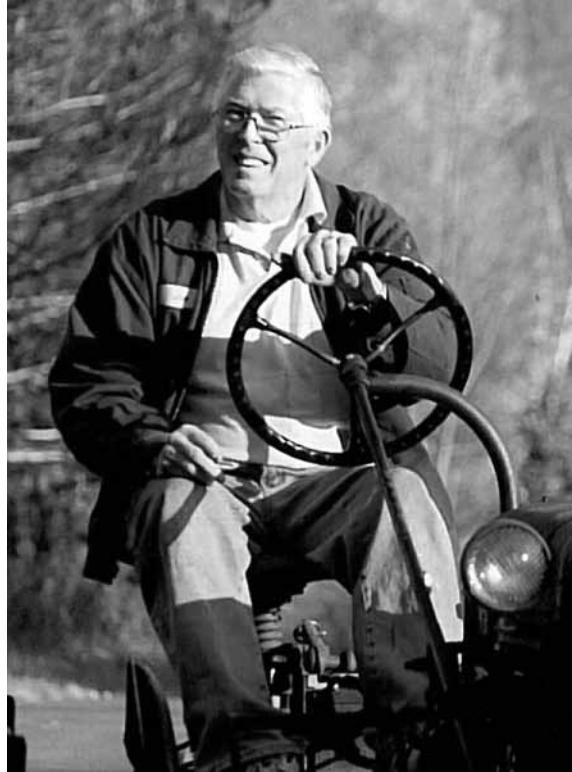
ADAMS INDUSTRIES

ADAMS PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.
ALADCO
ATLANTIS EQUIPMENT CO.
BROWN PACKAGING
BURKE CONSTRUCTION CO.
CONSERVE THRU CONTROL, INC.
HOLLAND CO., INC.
LANE CONSTRUCTION

MEEHAN & COMPANY
MRA LABORATORIES
MULLEN MOVERS
SHINE WIRE PRODUCTS, INC.
SOMMER ELECTRIC, INC.
SPECIALTY MINERALS, INC.
T & A TOOLS

DEDICATION

The Town Report Committee dedicates the Annual Report to



JOSEPH R. DEAN, JR.
MAY 31, 1936 - DECEMBER 9, 2012

“Public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly, it must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation.”

Margaret Chase Smith

Joe Dean may not have served the nation but he served the Town of Adams and Berkshire County as an honest and committed advocate for the people of the town and the region he loved throughout his lifetime.

Mr. Dean's service is listed with admiration and gratitude:

- Adams Alert Hose Company
- Adams Ambulance Board of Directors
 - Adams Board of Selectmen
 - Adams Planning Board
- Adams Town Meeting Member
 - Adams Town Moderator
- Berkshire County Advisory Board
- Berkshire County Commissioner
- Berkshire County Selectmen Association
- Berkshire Regional Transit Authority
- Mount Greylock Advisory Committee
- North Adams Regional Hospital Board
- Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District
- Right to Know Coordinator

We will miss you Joe

In Memoriam



GARRY J. BATOR SR.

Adams Redevelopment Authority Member
Town Meeting Member

MARJORIE J. BELLMAN

Teacher's Aide ACRSD

MARY ELLEN CYRULIK

Council on Aging Board of Directors

JOSEPH R. DEAN JR.

Town Moderator
Board of Selectmen Member
Planning Board Member
Town Meeting Member
Hazardous Waste Coordinator
Greylock Glen Advisory Board Member
No. Berkshire Solid Waste Committee Member
Berkshire County Commissioner

SAMUEL DELMOLINO

Police Officer

JOSEPHINE M. DUBIS

Cafeteria Employee at HVHS

ROBERT T. LEITCH

Finance Committee Member

ELAINE H. LOVE

Assistant Librarian at Adams Free Library

EDWARD A. RECCHIA

Town Meeting Member

LEONARD RUSEK

Sealer of Weights & Measures

MARY E. WELCH

Secretary at Adams Memorial School

FRANCIS "TOOTSIE" WOJTASZEK JR.

Director of Department of Public Works
Special Police Officer
Adams Retirement Board Member
Finance Committee Member
Town Meeting Member
Tree Commission Member
Inspector of Pest Control
Downtown Development Commission Member
Constable



Town Clerk

Adams Town Election Results

May 7, 2012

MODERATOR	for a term of One Year
JOSEPH R. DEAN, Jr., Nine hundred thirty-eight (Dec'd. 12-9-12)	938*
RYAN BIROS, Four hundred seventy-seven	477
Write In Votes, One	1
Blanks, Fifty-five	55
Total	1,471

TOWN CLERK	for a term of One Year
HALEY A. MECZYWOR, One thousand two hundred forty-five	1,245*
Write In Votes, Two	2
Blanks, Two hundred twenty-four	224
Total	1,471

SELECTMAN	for a term of Three Years
ARTHUR W. HARRINGTON, Eight hundred fifty-two	852*
RICHARD BLANCHARD, Four hundred seventy	470
EDWARD J. DRISCOLL, Five hundred four	504
JOHN E. DUVAL, Five hundred sixty-five	565*
JEREMY C. HALEK, Three hundred forty-one	341
Blanks, Two hundred ten	210
Total	2,942

ASSESSOR	for a term of Three Years
DONNA AITKEN MACDONALD, One thousand one hundred eighty-seven	1,187*
Blanks, Two hundred eighty-four	284
Total	1,471

BOARD OF HEALTH	for a term of Three Years
PATRICIA W. CLAIRMONT, One thousand two hundred five	1,205*
Blanks, Two hundred sixty-six	266
Total	1,471

LIBRARY TRUSTEES	for a term of Three Years
JAMES R. LOUGHMAN, One thousand thirteen	1,013*
EUGENE F. MICHALENKO, One thousand two hundred fifty-three	1,253*
Write In Votes, Three	3
Blanks, Six hundred seventy-three	673
Total	2,942

PARK COMMISSIONERS	for a term of Three Years
JAMES J. FASSELL, One thousand one hundred forty-one	1,141*
Write In Votes, Three hundred fifty-seven	357*
Blanks, Two thousand nine hundred fifteen	2,915
Total	4,413
*TODD EDWARD SHAFER and BARBARA A. MECZYWOR were declared PARK COMMISSIONERS	

PLANNING BOARD	for a term of Five Years
SANDRA H. MODERSKI, One thousand one hundred forty-three	1,143*
Write In Vote, One	1
Blanks, Three hundred twenty-seven	327
Total	1,471

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER	for a term of Three Years
Write In Votes, Twenty-one	21*
Blanks, One thousand four hundred fifty	1,450
Total	1,471
*ROBERT J. CIEMPA was declared CEMETERY COMMISSIONER	

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEMBER	for a term of Five Years
Write In Votes, Nine	9*
Blanks, One thousand four hundred sixty-two	1,462
Total	1,471
*JOSEPH W. ALLARD was declared REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEMBER	

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEMBER	for a term of Two Years
Write In Votes, Nine	9*
Blanks, One thousand four hundred sixty-two	1,462
Total	1,471
*FAILURE TO ELECT was declared for REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEMBER	

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE	for a term of Three Years
AARON M. DEAN, One thousand one hundred eighty-two	1,182*
Write In Vote, One	1
Blanks, Two hundred eight-eight	288
Total	1,471

**Elected Official*

ADAMS CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE	
Adams Representative	for a term of Three Years
STEPHEN J. VIGNA, One thousand one hundred sixty-three	1,163*
Blanks, Three hundred eight	308
Total	1,471

ADAMS CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE	
Cheshire Representative	for a term of Three Years
DARLENE M. RODOWICZ, One thousand one hundred fifty	1,150*
Write In Vote, One	1
Blanks, Three hundred twenty	320
Total	1,471

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

ADAMS

Adams Representative – Three Year Term		
	Adams	Cheshire
STEPHEN J. VIGNA	1,163	316
Write In Votes	0	0
Blanks	308	113
TOTAL	1,471	429

CHESHIRE

Cheshire Representative – Three Year Term		
	Adams	Cheshire
DARLENE M. RODOWICZ	1,150	344
Write In Votes (other)	1	0
Blanks	320	85
TOTAL	1,471	429

Elected Town Officers

	<i>Term Expires</i>
Moderator	
Joseph R. Dean, Jr. (<i>Dec'd. 12-9-12</i>)	2013
Town Clerk	
Haley A. Meczywor	2015
Selectmen	
Paula I. Melville (<i>Resigned 7-1-12</i>)	2013
Scott F. Nichols	2013
Michael G. Ouellette	2014
John E. Duval	2015
Arthur W. Harrington	2015
Treasurer-Collector	
Holly M. Denault	2013
Assessors	
Charles J. Welch	2013
Lynn D. Avery	2014
Donna Aitken MacDonald	2015
Board of Health	
Roy J. Thompson	2013
Richard E. Frost	2014
Patricia A. Clairmont	2015
Library Trustees	
Karen L. Kettles	2013
Juliette Wilk-Chaffee	2013
Joseph F. Greenbush	2014
David M. Strzepek	2014
James R. Loughman	2015
Eugene F. Michalenko	2015
Park Commission	
Quinn Louise Gladu	2014
Jacob N. Schutz	2014
James J. Fassell	2015
Barbara A. Meczywor	2015
Todd Edward Shafer	2015
Planning Board	
Martha J. Stohlmann	2013
Barbara Ziemba	2014
Michael P. O'Brien	2015
David B. Rhinemiller	2016
Sandra H. Moderski	2017

Cemetery Commission

Lawrence A. Clairmont	2013
John J. Swistak III	2014
Robert J. Ciempa	2015

Housing Authority

State Appointee Vacant	2009
Edward E. Roberts	2013
Mark Alan Covert	2014
Mary A. Robert	2015
Carol A. Roberts	2016

Redevelopment Authority

Lawrence A. Clairmont (State Apt.)	2005
Steven M. Blanchard	2013
VACANT	2014
Ryan Biros	2015
Joseph W. Allard	2017

Northern Berkshire Regional Vocational School Committee

Joseph W. Allard	2013
Daniel J. Maloney, Jr.	2014
Aaron M. Dean	2015

Adams-Cheshire Regional School District Committee**Elected At-Large****(Adams)**

Paul K. Butler	2013
Joshua Ryan Demarsico-Birkland (<i>Appointed 4-23-12</i>)	2013
Regina A. Hill	2014
Stephen J. Vigna	2015

Adams-Cheshire Regional School District Committee**Elected At-Large****(Cheshire)**

Gloria Lewis (<i>Resigned 5-8-12</i>)	2013
Edmund R. St. John IV	2014
Darlene Rodowicz	2015

Appointed By Moderator

Finance Committee

David Allen	2013
Edward J. Driscoll	2013
Charles H. Foster	2013
Amy A. Giroux	2013
Brian R. Johnson	2013
Sandra D. Kleiner	2014
John Lawson	2014
Leon S. Parrott	2014
Joan Smigel	2014
Rachel Tomkowicz	2014
Timothy R. Burdick	2015
Craig R. Corrigan	2015
Paul S. Demastrie	2015
Fred S. Hobart	2015
Gregory E. Tremblay	2015

Town Report Committee

Mary Beverly
Donna Cesan
Haley Meczywor
Melissa Schaffrick
Patricia Wol

Adams Memorial Day Committee

John Bordeau
Paul Hutchinson
Joseph Kus
John J. Lennon
Clement St. Hilaire
Ralph Schwarzer
David Smachetti

Appointed At Annual Town Meeting

Fence Viewers

Stanley J. Ziemba, Jr.	2012
Victor Ziemba	2012

Measurer of Wood And Bark

Donald Delmolino	2012
Walter Slosek	2012

Appointed Town Officials – May 2012

Right to Know Coordinator

Jonathan W. Butler

AdHoc Committee on Solid Waste

Joseph R. Dean Jr. (*Deceased 12/9/2012*)

Gregory DeBlois

John Swistak

Edward Driscoll

Leon Parrott Jr.

Agricultural Commission

Gary Alibozek

Joseph Nowak

Peter Levesque

Michael Ziemba

Sharyn Alibozek (Alternate)

Terry Ziemba (Alternate)

Corinne Case (Alternate)

Timothy Case (Alternate)

American with Disabilities Coordinator

Jonathan W. Butler

Animal Control Officer

Carrie Loholdt

Animal Control Officer (Weekend)

Daniel Lefebvre

Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission

Sandy Moderski

Arthur W. Harrington (Alternate)

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority

Michael Ouellette

Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Michael Mach

Jeff Lefebvre

Paul Butler

David Rhinemiller

George Haddad

Michael Ouellette

Richard Kleiner

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

Jason Krzanowski

Douglas C. Burnett, Jr.

Joseph J. Nowak

Corey Bishop

Constables

John J. Lennon

Frederick Kurpiel (*Deceased 01/10/2013*)

Anthony P. McBride

Thomas A. Satko

Herman Bishop

Council on Aging Director

Erica Samson

Council on Aging Board of Directors

Alete Moncecchi

Michelle Wellspeak

Rose Belisle

Robert Joppich

Karen Matthews

Melissa Schaffrick

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

Vacant

Department of Public Works Director

Thomas A. Satko

Emergency Management Director

Richard Kleiner

Employee Insurance Advisory Group

Mary Beverly

Beth Wojtaszek

Richard Biros

Lorraine Kalisz

Barbara Lewis

Kathleen Fletcher

Shawn Briggs

Erica Samson

Fair Housing Officer

Donna E. Cesan

Forest Warden

Richard G. Kleiner

Hazardous Waste Coordinator

Joseph R. Dean, Jr. (*Deceased 12/9/2012*)

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

Norman Rolnick

Michael Lahey (Assistant)

Inspector of Plumbing

Norman Rolnick

Michael Lahey (Assistant)

Mt. Greylock Advisory Board

Joseph R. Dean, Jr. (*Deceased 12/9/2012*)

No. Berkshire Solid Waste Management District

Edward Driscoll

Parks, Grounds and Recreation Superintendent

David Nuvallie

Preservation Officer

Eugene Michalenko

Registrar of Voters

Timothy Rowley

John J. Nowicki (*Deceased 04/08/2013*)

Frances Meier

Haley Meczywor

Retirement Board

Patricia Wol

Safety Committee

Scott McWhirt

Scott Koczela

Joseph Fijal

Thomas Satko

Donald Poirot

Deborah Bruneau

David Nuvallie

Special Police Officers

Allen Mendel

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

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

Stephen Roy

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

Alan Giroux

James Alibozek

Tim Sutliff

Derek Masse

Barbara Gomeau

Patricia Markland

Lane Construction

Mark Schaffrick

Joe Catrambone

Wire Inspector

David Rhinemiller

Assistant Wire Inspector

Les Rhinemiller

Zoning Board of Appeals

Michael Mach

Anthony Donovan

Peter West

Brian Tenczar

Joseph Greenbush

Patricia Folino (Alternate)

Richard Solomon (Alternate)

Robert Krzanik (Alternate)

Town Meeting Members – Annual Town Meetings – 2012

Precinct 1	June 26	Nov 1	Precinct 2	June 26	Nov 1	Precinct 3	June 26	Nov 1
Baker, Patricia A.	X	X	Biros, Richard	X	X	Aitken, Paul	E	
Baker, Starr D.	X	X	Biros, Ryan	X		Blanchard, Richard	X	X
Blanchard, Heather A.	X		Cardin, Bruce E.	X		Case, Corrine Z.	X	E
Blanchard, Scott A.	X		Chittenden, Mark J.	X		Conroy-Shepley, Patricia	X	X
Blanchard, Steven M.	X	X	DeBlois, Gregory A.	X	E	Corrigan, Craig R.	X	X
Bush, James	X	E	Delmolino, Donald L.	X	X	Cowie, John R. Jr.	X	X
Butler, Michele (Shelton)	X	X	Driscoll, Edward J.			Dumouchel, Bruce D.	X	X
Clerc, Bruce	X	X	Duval, John E.	X	X	Frost, Richard E.	X	X
Daunais, James F.			Grandchamp, Jeffrey P.			Frost, Susan K.	E	X
Fijal, Jody A.	X		Hanbery, Patrick S.			Heritage, David L.		
Jette, Richard A.			Janik, Edward S.	X	X	Kalisz, Lorraine M.	X	
Kline, Sarah JP	X	X	Kolis, Dolores J.	X	X	Kolis, Marilyn Phelps	E	
Kolis, David	E	X	Kozik, Michael A.			Kopala, Stanley J.	X	
Kolis, Patricia M.	X	X	Lefebvre, Jeffrey M.	X	X	Lawson, John L.	X	
Kupiec, Anne E.	X		Lentine, Joseph A.		X	Mach, Michael J.	X	X
Kupiec, Neil	X	X	Loughman, James R.	X	X	McBride, Anthony P.	X	X
Meczywor, Haley A.	X	X	Meczywor, Paula	E	X	Melville, Paula I. (Resigned 7-1-12)		
Meier, Frances O.	X	X	Merlini, Donald J.	X		Moderski, Sandra H.		
Moran, Terence E.			Michalenko, Eugene F.	X	X	Nichols, Scott F.	X	X
Morin, Norma P.	X		Romaniak, Ann L.	E	X	Paciorek, John S.	E	
Moyer, Christine A.	X	X	Romaniak, Thomas A.	E	X	Parrott, Leon S. Jr.	X	E
Moyer, John D.	E	X	Schutz, Jacob N.	X		Parrott, Nancy A.	E	X
Mucci, Erin	X	X	Schutz, Norman K.			Powers, Michael J.	X	
Neep, Kristin Lynn	X		Skrocki, Mary	E		Rice, Kelly F.	X	X
Nimmons, Jacqueline F.	E	E	Taber, Candice N.			Schaffrick, Melissa L.	X	
Poirot, Dayne P.	X		Taber, Michael Paul			Silvia, Veronica A.	X	X
Robinson, Brenda	X	X	Turoczy, Lawrence	X		Stohlmann, Martha J.	X	X
Robinson, Thomas	X	X	Tomkowicz, Rachel H.	E	X	St. Pierre, Barbara	X	
Taylor, Judith L.	X	X				Wilk-Chaffee, Juliette J.	X	X
Taylor, Marshall	X	X				Ziembra, Barbara	X	X

Precinct 4	June 26	Nov 1	Precinct 5	June 26	Nov 1
Blanchard, William T.	X	X	Bassi, Michael E.	X	X
Bourdon, Beth L.	X		Burdick, Timothy R.	X	X
Bourdon, Wilfred R. III	X	X	Byrd, Colleen M.	X	X
Clairmont, Lawrence A.	X	X	Corrigan, Carol A.	E	
Davenport, Susan	X		Corrigan, Thomas J.	X	
Deeley, Susan			Cuttillo, Dianne M.		
Demastrie, Jacqueline M.	E		Dean, Aaron M.	E	
Demastrie, Paul S.	E	E	Dean, Joseph R. Jr. (Dec'd 12-9-12)	X	X
Denault, Ronald			Doyle, Ann Marie	X	
Dimitropolis, George H.	X	X	Doyle, Joseph B.	X	X
Halek, Jeremy C.	X	X	Fassell, James J.	X	
Hayer, Joseph P.	X	X	Gigliotti, Debra Lynn	X	X
Kondel, Geoffrey A.	X	X	Haddad, Amber J.	X	X
Koscinski, Joseph P.	X	X	Haddad, George J.	X	X
Lennon, John J.			Kleiner, Richard G.	X	X
Lillie, Dolores	X		Kleiner, Sandra D.	X	X
Meczywor, Leona	X	X	Koperniak, Christopher T.	X	
Mendel, Bruce W.	X		LaPlante, Daniel P.	X	X
Mendel, Lisa A.	X		Lennon, David J. Jr.	X	X
Pansecchi, John M.	X	X	Levesque, John Joseph	X	X
Rymarski, Kateri A.	X	X	Levesque, Lauryn B.	X	X
Schrade, Paula G.	X		Levesque, Tami M.	E	X
Sommer, Donald R.	E	X	MacDonald, Donna Aitken	X	X
Sommer, Donald R. Jr.	E		Meczywor, Donna	X	
Sommer, Michael J.	E		Moran, Frederick D.		
Strzepek, David M.	X		Moran, Marilyn A.		
Taylor, James	X	X	Noyes, Nicholas G.	X	
Taylor, Patricia	X	X	Pinsonnault, Bernard		
Wilk, Myra L.	X		Satko, Thomas A.	X	X
Ziaja, Mark D.	X		Whitman, Mary E.	E	X

Board of Selectmen / Town Administrator

2012 was a year filled with a combination of progress, vision and change in Adams. Coming out of the devastating 2011 budget season, the Town had an opportunity to begin recommitting itself to long-term priorities and capital obligations while also beginning to “right-size” the budget for future operations. Many exciting strides forward were also taken throughout 2012, highlighted by the opening of the new Hoosac Valley Middle and High School in September. The Board of Selectmen also saw the re-election of its Chairman, Arthur “Skip” Harrington, as well as the addition of a new Member, John Duval.

Progress was a definitive theme in 2012 underscored by the opening of the newly renovated Hoosac Valley Middle and High School. The \$40.5 million renovation project had begun over a year earlier and finished on schedule. In September, students of grades 6-12 from Adams and Cheshire became the first classes to fill the building, which is now among the finest and most technologically advanced education facilities in the region.

The Town also took over complete control of the Adams Visitors Center after the Berkshire Visitor’s Bureau moved to Pittsfield. Instead of their move becoming a loss for the downtown, it was seen as an opportunity and the Town moved very quickly to respond. During the 2012 Town Meeting, an \$80,000 renovation project was approved to expand the conference room in the Center. In September with the construction completed, the Council on Aging Department made a complete transition to the Visitors Center, making it the new home for their services. In addition, the Thunderbolt Ski Museum opened within the facility during Columbus Day Weekend, creating a new historical and recreational attraction in the community. Through all of this activity, the center remained a Visitors Center opened to the general public on a daily basis during the 2012 tourism season.

The opening of the Thunderbolt Ski Museum was not the only

exciting new initiative in 2012, as the Town also saw the birth of two new exciting downtown festivals, *Thunderfest* and *Ramblefest*. These events were meant to compliment the already existing Thunderbolt Ski Race and Mount Greylock Ramble, respectively. Viewed by many as a smashing success, Thunderfest drew hundreds of people out into the cold to celebrate outside the Visitors

Center, while Ramblefest drew an even larger crowd the day before the annual pilgrimage to the summit of Mount Greylock. These new events were an addition to the already successful slate of community events, including the Susan B. Anthony Days Celebration, Adams Agricultural Fair, Bike Night, the George Coop Race, and the Pedal & Plod.

The Town also continued progress on several major community projects in 2012, with the largest highlight being the substantial completion of a \$2 million infrastructure improvement project at Greylock Glen. This project was funded by a MassWorks Infrastructure Improvement grant and included the extension of water, sewer, and gas to serve the site, drainage and resurfacing of Gould Road and much

of Thiel Road. Meanwhile, in January the Town partnered with the neighboring communities of North Adams and Williamstown to secure federal construction funding for the extension of the Ashuwillticook Bike Trail from Lime Street in Adams to Hodges Cross Road in North Adams. This extension project will bring the trail all the way through Adams, connecting with neighboring communities along our border both south and north.

2012 was another year where Adams proved to be a community positioning itself to become a bigger player in Berkshire County. Adams has long been considered a beautiful place to live and raise a family. Now, with a more focused emphasis on recreation and the branding of all that is unique about the community, the Town is beginning to also see increased interest as a destination for tourists and businesses alike.



(l-r) Selectmen Scott Nichols, Michael Ouellette, John Duval and Arthur “Skip” Harrington

Town Clerk

Payments –

To Town Treasurer-Collector For: Dog Licenses & 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 18,918.25

Vital Statistics	2012	2011	2010
Births Reported	65	37	70
Marriages Reported	42	44	52
Deaths	101	89	106

Gas Station Renewals 11

Number of Dog Licenses Issued

Males.....	81
Neutered Males	319
Females	42
Spayed Females	373
4 Dogs Kennel License	7
10 Dogs Kennel License	1
25 Dogs Kennel License	0
Transfer Licenses	0
Total	823

Town Census — 9,146

VOTER REGISTRATION

Presidential Primary Election March 6, 2012

Prec.	Dem.	Green/ Rep.	Lib. Unen	Reform Rain J	Green L	Cons. E	USA G	A	Totals
1	398	94	598	5	9	0	2	0	1,106
2	409	66	673	3	3	1	0	0	1,155
3	435	100	643	1	5	0	0	1	1,185
4	395	67	650	1	7	0	1	0	1,121
5	450	86	716	2	5	0	1	0	1,260
	2,087	413	3,280	12	29	1	4	1	5,827

Annual Town Election — May 7, 2012

Prec.	Dem.	Green/ Rep.	Lib. Unen	Reform Rain J	Green L	Cons. E	USA G	A	Totals
1	398	87	599	5	9	0	2	0	1,100
2	405	70	670	2	3	1	0	0	1,151
3	432	101	653	1	5	0	0	1	1,193
4	398	67	645	2	7	0	1	0	1,120
5	449	88	717	2	5	0	1	0	1,262
	2,082	413	3,284	12	29	1	4	1	5,826

State Primary Election — September 6, 2012

Prec.	Dem.	Green/ Rep.	Lib. Unen	Reform Rain J	Green L	Cons. E	USA G	A	Totals
1	398	85	603	3	8	0	1	0	1,098
2	406	71	671	3	3	1	0	0	1,155
3	440	100	663	1	5	0	0	1	1,210
4	404	69	652	2	8	0	1	0	1,136
5	454	91	717	2	5	0	1	0	1,270
	2,102	416	3,306	11	29	1	3	1	5,869

State Election — November 6, 2012

Prec.	Dem.	Green/ Rep.	Lib. Unen	Reform Rain J	Green L	Cons. E	USA G	A	Totals
1	394	91	608	0	9	0	1	0	1,103
2	410	74	686	3	3	1	0	1	1,178
3	456	101	668	1	5	0	0	1	1,232
4	407	73	680	2	8	0	1	0	1,171
5	466	93	730	2	5	0	1	0	1,297
	2,133	432	3,372	8	30	1	3	2	5,981

Adams Agricultural Fair / Bowe Field

In 2012 Bowe Field was used for the 38th Annual Adams Agricultural Fair during the first week-end in August. During the opening of the fair, Helene Meacham, a veteran exhibitor and supported of the fair was honored on her 100th birthday. The following are events took place during the 2012 season:

- Northern Berkshire Radio Club held their annual flea market at the fairgrounds.
- Custom City Cycle held the Annual Fall Run to benefit the Shriners Children's Hospital
- The Annual Woof and Wag Dog Show sponsored by the "Aggie Fair" was held in August.

The fair committee was pleased to present the completed pavilion constructed by Atlantis Equipment. The electrical contractor was McLain Electric and JCB Landscaping volunteered to trim around the fences at Bowe field. Nick Bergeron with the assistance of Boy Scout Troop 38 attained his Eagle badge for repairing a set of bleachers at Bowe field. The Community Services workers assisted in setting up for the fair. The remainder of maintaining Bowe Field is done by committee members and the Town of Adams. The field is available for rental.

Board of Health 2012

The Board of Health has three elected members; Chairman Dr. Richard E. Frost, Ed. D.; Vice Chairman Patricia Clairmont; and Member Roy Thompson. Each member serves for a three year term. Scott Koczela is the appointed Food Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer for the Adams Board of Health. The Board of Health conducted 11 regular business meeting in 2012.

Code Enforcement Officer Scott Koczela conducted 220 rental inspections as required by the Adams Town By-Law to assure the dwelling units are in conformance with the Massachusetts State Sanitary Code and collected fees of \$5500 for these inspections. Rental Inspection Correction orders are issued for any unit that fails the inspection and reinspections are conducted after repairs are made. Non-Criminal ticket fines collected \$1250.00.

The Board conducted the following the activity:

- State Sanitary Code orders issued – 43
- Berkshire Housing Court cases, most requiring multiple trips to court – 17
- Soil Perk Tests conducted – 2
- Septic System Installations – 1
- Well Permits issued - 1
- Complaints received and acted upon – 142
- Variance requested – 0
- Non-Criminal Disposition \$50.00 Citations issued – 11

The following permits were issued:

- Food Service Establishments – 24
- Retail Food – 14
- Catering – 4
- Frozen Desserts – 6
- Milk Permits – 38
- Septic Hauler – 3
- Commercial Hauler – 8
- Septic Installer – 3
- Manufactured Housing – 1
- Mobile Vendors – 2
- Temporary Vendors – 15
- Funeral Directors – 3

- Body Art Practioner – 1
- Body Art Establishment – 1
- Motel – 1
- Residential Kitchen – 3
- Tanning Salon – 1
- Syringe – 1
- Tobacco – 9

2012 Public Health Nursing for Town of Adams VNA & Hospice of Northern Berkshire

Community Blood Pressure Clinics: 4 sites

Under age 65:	57
Over age 65:	168
Male:	49
Female:	176
Total residents:	225

Seasonal flu vaccine administered: 239 doses

Communicable Disease Investigation and Reporting:

Salmonellosis:	one case
Norovirus:	one case
Ehrlichiosis:	one case

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Bednarz RN Clinical Supervisor

BOH Services Provided to Adams

School Nursing

Nursing services at St. Stanislaus Kostka School are provided by contract with School Nurse Jean King, RN and LPN Nancy Deby. Monthly reports for this program are submitted to the School Principal and the Adams Board of Health. This year the school hired a new Principal, Janet Trombley.

Services Provided

- Admittance of Pre-Kindergarten, and Kindergarten as well as all transferring students are accepted but only with strict adherence to state-mandated immunization and physical exam laws.
- Immunization surveys for Pre-K, Kindergarten and Grade 7 are required and sent to Boston every October..
- Physical examinations must be completed every three years.
- A Confidential List of student medical information is given to each teacher at the start of school.
- Tetanus Boosters are mandated for entry into Seventh Grade.
- Adherence to State Medication Administration Laws are strictly followed for all medications given in school, including over-the-counter meds. A written Doctor's Order as well as a written Parent Permission must be received before any medication be given.
- All students are screened for Pediculosis (head lice) in September and throughout the year, as needed. So far, this

year, no lice.

- Vision and Hearing screenings are done for all students and referrals sent if further testing is indicated.
- Asthma Reports are done as a yearly requirement of Boston DPH. They need to know how many students have asthma, what town they live in, their grade, sex and nationality.
- Heights, Weights and Body Mass Index Calculations are done for every student.
- Scoliosis (Postural) screenings are done for all students Grades 5 through 8. Parents are notified ahead of time and referrals are sent if indicated. Boston DPH requires a yearly report.
- The Nurse is ideally present daily during recess and all day during gym day (Wednesdays) for the administration of First Aid.
- Classroom teaching topics include Illness Prevention, Dental Hygiene, Personal Hygiene/Sex Education (with written parent permission) Prevention of Head Lice Transmission and Nutrition.
- Staff is given up-to-date recommendations that are provided by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).
- Close communication with parents, staff and physicians are the major part of total nursing continuity of care.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean King, RN
School Nurse



*An Exhibit at the Thunderbolt Ski Museum
in the Adams Visitors Center*

Inspectors Reports

Building Inspector

During 2012, The Adams Building Inspector's Office issued three-hundred nine (309) permits for construction, demolition, alterations, additions, repairs, change of use, woodstove/chimney installations, certificate of inspections and curb cut /driveway entrances. A total of \$37,845.36 in filing fees was collected during the year.

Numerous inspections were carried out on new permits as well as those requested for single-family, multi-family, and assembly buildings or by the Adams Board of Health, Adams Fire Department, Police Department, Adams Housing Authority, Office of Transitional Assistance, and the Town's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The Building Inspector's Office addressed numerous zoning and building code violations, with some resulting in additional court action. Periodic inspections were performed on restaurants, bars, clubs, food establishments, schools, bed & breakfast inns, motels, apartment houses, day care centers, condominiums and churches. The Building Inspector also worked with the Zoning and Planning Boards by reviewing applications and organizing meetings.

Five (5) permits were issued for new residential single-family dwellings in 2012. Some two-hundred forty-six (246) permits were filed for residential alterations and renovations. Twenty-five (25) permits were filed for new commercial / business and non-residential buildings. Twenty four (24) permits were filed for signs, and nine (9) permits were issued for curbcuts.

Type of Permits:	# of Permits:
Single Family Dwelling	5
Residential additions, alterations, conversions, repairs, & insulation	246
Commercial/Business/Non-Residential additions, alterations, conversions, and repair	25
Sign Permits	24
Curb-cut/Driveway entrance	9
Total Building Permits	309

Gas Inspector

Number of Gas Fitting Permits Issued	143
Revenue Generated	\$5,325

Plumbing Inspector

Number of Plumbing Permits Issued	58
Revenue Generated	\$2,970

Planning Board

The Planning Board convened eight (8) public hearings during 2012, at which they addressed four (4) Site Plan applications and six (6) “Form A” subdivision plans (“Approval Not Required” in the Town’s Subdivision Regulations).

Specific applications reviewed included Site Plan approval for the following: Columbia Street, Primax Properties, LLC (Dollar General Store), and Alternative Motors of Adams, Inc.; Howland Avenue, PCA Systems Corp. and Janet & Kennard Sherman (Berkshire Outdoors).

In addition, the Planning Board approved six (6) Form A’s (“Approval Not Required” under the Subdivision Regulations) for properties located at: Grove Street, John D. Duquette, Jr. and David T. Ciepiela, (A.K.A. Route 8 Adams); Hoosac Street, Michael Meehan; Gilead Street, Zachary Volpicelli, Tabitha A. Kaigle and Natalie C. Kaigle; Victory Street, Peter Z. Armata and Barbara A. Armata; Summit Street, Robert E. Armata and Nicole L. Armata; Hughes Street, John D. and Christine Moyer.

Members of the Planning Board are:

David Rhinemiller, Chairman
Michael O’Brien, Vice-Chairman
Martha Stohlmann
Barbara Ziembra
Sandra Moderski.

Committees represented by the Board are:

Traffic Commission, Michael O’Brien
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Sandra Moderski
Capital Improvement Committee (CIP), David Rhinemiller.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals hears issues and decisions for Variance applications under M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 10, and Special Permit applications to expand or alter a pre-existing nonconforming structure or use under M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 6. The Board of Appeals plays a key role in determining Special Permit applications under the Adams Zoning Bylaw. The Zoning Board of Appeals also hears appeals from applicants who have been denied some or all of their 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.

Many issues came before the Board during 2012. Twelve (12) Public Hearings were conducted involving fourteen (14) Variance requests and seventeen (17) Special Permit requests, four (4) of which were “Home Occupations.”

During 2012, the Adams Zoning Board of Appeals had five (5) permanent members and three (3) alternate members, who would replace a member of the Board in case of a temporary vacancy, absence, inability to act, or conflict of interest.

The Board’s Permanent Members were:

Chairman Michael Mach
Vice-Chairman Peter West

Members

Anthony Donovan
Joe Greenbush
Brian Tenczar

Current Alternate Members:

Patricia Folino
Rob Krzanik

Board’s newly appointed alternate member this year:

Richard Solomon

Michael Mach serves as the Board’s delegate to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee.

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission has (7) members. Jason Krzanowski serves as Chairman, James Fassell, serves as Vice Chairman. The other members are Thomas Robinson, Anthony McBride, Douglas Burnett, Joseph Nowak and Corey Bishop.

Fifteen (15) business meetings were held in 2012. The Commission Acted on five (5) Requests for Determinations and two (2) Notices of Intent.

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

1. Department of Public Works for the installation of a new drop inlet and french drain in the public right of way near 194 West Road.
2. Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation for approval to kill/control the invasive plant species in designated areas within the Greylock Glen.

Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD):

1. Filed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to confirm as accurate the depicted resource area boundaries for the Greylock Glen Project as referenced in the ANRAD.
2. Filed by Specialty Minerals to confirm as accurate the depicted resource areas boundaries as referenced in the ANRAD.

Determinations of Applicability were issued for the following:

1. Roadway and infrastructure improvements in the Greylock Glen filed by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin for the Town of Adams.
2. Massachusetts Broadband Institute for the extension of fiber optic cable throughout the Town of Adams on existing utility lines.
3. Adams Trucking for driveway repair on 169 West Road.
4. David Morin for connection to an existing sanitary manhole on Orchard Street for a single family home.
5. Berkshire Gas for a replacement gas line on Forest Park Avenue and West Street.

Certificate of Compliance were issued to:

1. Nancy Hamlin of 6 Country Club Extension for reconstruction of a single family home.
2. Hall Brook LLC for removal of a dam located on Gilead Street.



Exhibit at the Thunderbolt Ski Museum at the Adams Visitor Center on Hoosac Street

Department of Public Works

Highway Division

Following its Pavement Management Plan the following streets were resurfaced or chip sealed in 2012 with Chapter 90 funds.

Streets Resurfaced:

- 920' Bellevue Avenue (Leonard St. to Cemetery entrance)
- 2500' East Hoosac Street (East Rd. to Country Rd.)
- 136' Water Street

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

Streets Chip Sealed:

- 2920' Spring Road (2 coats)
- 3967' East Mountain Road (1 coat, Walling Rd. to Pole #17)
- 2508' East Mountain Road (2 coats, Pole #17 to End)

There are presently seven (7) 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
- Sidewalk replacement (Park St., River St., Mill St. Bridge)
- Installation of new sewer connections (8)
- Planting of 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

Equipment Maintenance Division

There are presently two (2) full time employees in the Equipment Maintenance Division. This division is in charge of repairing and maintaining all of the Town owned vehicles and equipment which include: 48 equipment / vehicles for the DPW including Highway, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Forest Warden's, Parks and Grounds and Cemetery Departments; 9 vehicles for the Police Department; 2 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. There are too many numerous repairs performed each day to list individually.

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

In 2012 the Town of Adams through the Equipment Maintenance Division purchased the following equipment:

- Zwack 6yd stainless steel sanding body
- Ford F350 4x4 pickup truck with plow
- Ford F450 4x4 dump truck with plow
- Snowplow, wing plow and controls installed on 2010 International dump truck

DPW Garage

There were two major projects done at the DPW Garage to reduce potential liability and to save taxpayers money. The underground gasoline storage tank was removed to prevent any liability before the old steel single wall tank developed a leak. All Town vehicles now obtain fuel through the use of a fleet gas card, which has eliminated expensive testing and record keeping resulting in reduced costs.

The heating system at the DPW Garage was converted from heating oil to natural gas. Two (2) commercial high efficiency Lochinvar Knight XL Model KBN 400 boilers were installed to replace the existing boiler. The first two months of operation has shown a huge savings compared to using heating oil.

Major Projects

In August 2011 Tropical Storm Irene caused major flooding and damage throughout the Town. Numerous repairs and projects were completed in 2011; however because of winter weather two of the projects were completed in the spring of 2012.

The slope stabilization project on East Road opposite the Susan B. Anthony Museum was completed in May. The various vegetation (grasses and bushes) that were planted to help prevent future erosion have grown well despite the dry summer. The contractor D. R. Billings Inc. did an excellent job restoring and stabilizing the slope. The work prevented the adjacent house from being undermined and damaged.

The other project finished in the spring was the final coat of blacktop was placed on East Road where the culvert that carries the Southwick Brook under East Road was replaced. Tom Ayotte Construction had made most of the repairs before winter. Opening up this road was very important as this is the secondary evacuation route out of Adams to North Adams.

The Town with the use of Chapter 90 funds had a stone retaining wall on Enterprise Street replaced. The wall that was falling down supports the roadway of Enterprise Street from falling into the adjacent resident's backyard. AJ Virgilio Construction Inc. removed and replaced the existing stone wall with a segmental block wall that included fence and railings for a cost of \$62,300.00.

PARKS GROUNDS & CEMETERY DIVISION

CEMETERIES

Maple Street Cemetery

Damaged or dying trees that were identified in the 2011 town report have also been removed. Three seasonal employees were hired this year to maintain all aspects of cemetery maintenance. Again as in the past the Berkshire County Trial Court supplied this division with free labor throughout the growing season for both cemeteries. The cemetery was in pristine condition for Memorial Day and the entire summer. Major purchases included a 36" walk behind commercial mower.

Bellevue Cemetery

The town was able to hire five seasonal employees to assist one full time employee this season in maintaining all aspects of cemetery maintenance and assisting in funeral excavations. There were no major water breaks. Special projects this year included repaving of more than 2000 feet of roadways. There are plans for continued paving next year. Major purchases this year included a 36" walk behind commercial mower.

FLOOD CONTROL

There was no joint inspection of the flood control system with the US Army Corp. of Engineers. Their written assessment of the system condition has not yet been received as of this writing for the 2011 inspection. DPW employees performed the usual vegetation removal and also cleared trees along many portions of the system until winter conditions prohibited such work. Several shoals were identified as needing total removal as they have in the past. The department of public suspended the herbicide spraying program to manage unwanted vegetation. All vegetation was removed manually by DPW employees with the assistance of seasonal employees.

PARKS AND ATHLETIC FIELDS

Russell Field

Several cubic yards of baseball mix was hauled to the field this year as a usual annual task. An underground spring has been leaching onto the softball field along the third base line. Parks department employees attempted to repair this situation but there is still some flooding occurring.

Valley Street Field

The parks crew edged the baseball diamond and hauled several cubic yards of baseball mix to the field. Due to the irrigation system needing to be repaired or replaced the fields have begun to show wear and tear. There is a tentative plan in place to get the two irrigation systems back up and running next year on a joint venture between the town and the user leagues.

Reid Field

The softball season had a very large turn out as usual. Thanks to the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office the entire field house exterior got a fresh coat of paint.

Renfrew Field

The field had several applications of fertilizers this year which seems to have improved turf condition. Hydro Pro Corp. performed several repairs to the irrigation system. Broken irrigation pipes and sprinkler heads were replaced and the system is up and running like new. Fortunately the summer parks program was reinstated this year due to funding through the town and administered by Youth Center Inc. of Adams.

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. The gazebo had several repairs performed such as new hand rails, hand rail slats and lattice repairs. The Berkshire County Trial court performed a major park clean up this fall.

Other Duties

Parks & Grounds staff maintains lighting on Park Street, Armory Court and all of Memorial Park. Staff also maintains several miles of the flood control system which spans from Lime Street to Reeves Street. The division keeps all bridges, walkways and street crossing ramps clear of snow, assists the Highway Division with all public plowing and performs town wide trash removal, which includes many public buildings, athletic fields, playgrounds, cemeteries, and downtown street receptacles. Each year staff also decorates Park Street, Hoosac Street and Summer Street light poles with holiday decorations.

Submitted by:

David Nuvalle
Parks & Cemetery Superintendent

Adams Wastewater Treatment Plant

2012 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

The 2012 calendar year at the Town of Adams Wastewater Treatment Plant was business as usual. This facility provides wastewater treatment services for the town residents, commercial and industrial operations within the town plus wastewater treatment for Hardman Industrial Park and the new Wal Mart complex just north of the Adams, North Adams boundary line. Our staffing levels have remained at seven full time employees. Our hours of operation are 7 AM – 3 PM, Monday through Friday. To meet the conditions set forth in our National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for daily monitoring of our discharge to the Hoosic River our laboratory is staffed weekdays and for two hours each day on weekends and holidays. The wastewater treatment plant (wwtp) and our current three wastewater pumping stations are inspected seven days a week (including holidays) to comply with Massachusetts General Law, by our licensed mechanics. All employees at the Adams Wastewater Treatment Plant hold a Massachusetts Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's license of a grade 4 level or higher.

As in past reports a summary of the work and projects accomplished in 2012 is as follows:

DEWATERING and CONVEYING EQUIPMENT

- Mechanical seal replaced on plant water pressure boost pump on filter belt press.

VALVES, PUMPS, MOTORS, CONTROLLERS and ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT

- #2 and #3 peristaltic bleach pumps were rebuilt with new pump heads, rollers and silastic tubing.
- New mechanical seal installed on #1 return activated sludge pump.
- Main back flow prevention valve rebuilt and tested.
- Gearbox oil change on Hayward plant water screen.
- The #1 grit channel gate regulator was removed, all moving parts refurbished and gate regulator reinstalled. All work performed by Atlantis Equipment Corp.
- New 15 amp air breaker installed at domestic pumping station's comminutor.
- New belt guard fabricated for Quincy air compressor at the domestic pumping station.
- #1 plant water pump rebuilt with new bearings, grease seals, pump shaft, gaskets and mechanical seal.
- #1 and #2 Clow-Yeoman pumps at the Harmony Street pumping station were removed to inspect and de-rag their impellers.

MOBILE EQUIPMENT, STATIONARY EMERGENCY GENERATORS and VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

- Plow frame welded and repaired on 2001 Ford F-350 pickup truck.
- New snow plowing lights installed on pickup truck.
- The John Deere push mower had its motor oil, air filter, recoil rope and cutting blade replaced.
- The forklift truck had oil, oil filter and air filter installed.

- Semiannual oil, oil filters and coolant filters changed on our two Caterpillar stationary emergency electrical generators.
- Scag 48" lawn mower had new cutting blades, oil, oil filter, wheel drive belts and spark plug installed.
- New starting batteries installed on Kraft emergency generator at the industrial pumping station and on the Caterpillar emergency generator at the wastewater treatment plant.

OTHER EQUIPMENT

- Air Handling Unit air filters replaced.
- All fire extinguishers at the wastewater treatment plant and the three pumping stations were tested and inspected.
- Five Magnetic Flow Meters were cleaned and calibrated.
- Influent pH probe rebuilt, electrolyte replaced and probe was calibrated.
- Drain lines power routed in maintenance shop.
- Drain lines to the return activated sludge pumps flushed clean.
- New V-belts and air filters installed on the buildings air handling unit.
- Float arm hinges, U-bolts and dissolved oxygen sensors for #4, #5 and #6 mechanical aerators were replaced with new sensor elements.
- In November all outside chemical solution lines were drained and purged with compressed air to prevent freeze damage from cold weather.
- Sample tubing lines to both the influent and effluent Isco samplers was replaced. A relay was also replaced on the effluent Isco sampler
- #5 aerator oxygen sensor and float ball were replaced. Oxygen sensor was calibrated.
- Gearbox lubricants from mechanical aerators and clarifier drives were sent out for wear analysis
- Boiler make-up water tank float switch replaced.
- All electrical relays replaced in polymer mixing machine.
- V-belt and motor replaced on roof mounted exhaust fan in MCC 1 room.
- Corroded steam heat piping replaced in bleach storage area and new pipe insulation installed. A new thermostat was also installed to replace the existing corroded thermostat.
- Several links were removed on #1 and #2 grit collector drag chains.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Laboratory scales were cleaned and calibrated by All State Scale Company.
- Alarm system insurance certification performed by Alarms of Berkshires. The alarm system master (cup) panel circuit board was replaced in May and a telephone line alternator was replaced in December.
- Lower pump room exhaust fan was removed and sent out to be repaired. Repairs included new bearings, seals, shaft and dynamic balancing. Refurbished unit was re-installed. All work was performed by Atlantis Equipment Company.
- Ground water 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.
- Lawn damage from snow plowing repaired in the spring.
- New tub sink installed in lower pump room. New sink faucet installed in lunch room.
- All variable frequency drives (vfd) were inspected using thermography.
- Annual state inspection of facility's boilers and compressors passed.
- South clarifier tank was cleaned of vegetation and swept clean. All material brought to dumpster.
- All outside chemical solution lines were cleared of liquid by compressed air to prevent damage from frozen pipes during the winter season.
- New pH probe and coliform test water bath incubator purchased for the laboratory.
- Tungsten lamp replaced in laboratory's DR 2000 spectrophotometer.
- Fume hood in lab inspected and tested annually.
- Various florescent lamps and lamp ballasts replaced, as needed, in the building.
- Minor vandalism at the domestic pumping station. A glass globe and light were replaced due to damage.

SUMMARY

The laboratory technician passed all analytical parameters that were part of the EPA's annual Discharge Monitoring Report Quality Assurance Study 32. The 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.

A review of the 2012 facility's records and reports documents 580.18 million gallons of wastewater was treated and cleaned before being discharged to the Hoosic River. This was a decrease of 35.2% above last years (2011) annual flow of 895.4 million gallons. When we compare 2012 annual flow of 580.18 million gallons to 2010 annual flow of 632.71 million gallons, there was a decrease of 8.3%. 2010 was more typical of the precipitation we usually have. In 2011 there were two tropical storms in August and September which delivered above average precipitation.

A total of 146.54 dry metric tons of dewatered sludge was processed and hauled to an incinerator in Waterbury, CT for final disposal in 2012. This was a decrease of 3.54% from 2012 sludge disposal total of 151.93 dry metric tons. The monthly averages for removal of Total Suspended Solids removal ranged between a minimum of 90.4% to a maximum of 97.2% with an overall average for 2012 of 94.6%. Biochemical Oxygen Demand removals ranged from a minimum of 94.3% to a maximum of 98.4% with a twelve month average for 2012 of 97.4%.

As in past years the wastewater treatment plant employees are being used in other departments to assist them during high demand periods. The WWTP employees have been assigned to cut grass and line trim in the towns cemeteries from April through May in preparation for Memorial Day observances. They have cut brush and vegetation in the town's flood control shoots in preparation of an army corp. of engineer's inspection. During the winter wwtp employees are assigned to plow town streets and to shovel and clear sidewalks, bridge sidewalks and stairs at all town owned buildings.

CONCLUSION

The Adams Wastewater Treatment Plant was one of two wastewater plants in New England to receive the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Operation and Maintenance Excellence Award for 2012. This award by the U.S. EPA is validation to the knowledge, resourcefulness and professionalism of the entire staff at the Adams Wastewater Treatment Plant. Joe Fijal, superintendent and Dick Biros, operations supervisor attended the annual New England Water Environment Association's award luncheon to accept the award on behalf of the staff and town. The employees at the wastewater treatment plant have a combined total of over 186 years of on the job experience. These same employees where working at the WWTP when we were the runner-up for the 1987 Operational and Maintenance Excellence award and received honorable mention.

In conclusion I would like to thank the staff at the wwtp for their dedication to protecting the water quality of the Hoosic River's ecosystem and the public health of the town of Adams and downstream communities.



Adams Historical Commission

On February 18, 2013, the Diocese of Springfield announced that the St. Stanislaus Kostka Church will re-open on Palm Sunday, April 1. After 1150 days of around-the-clock occupation of the church, the 200 and more people who participated were elated by this announcement. St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, one of the most significant architectural and historical buildings in Adams was saved from being abandoned and having its assets sold off.

This was the first church in the United States to be reopened as a result of appeals to the Vatican Congregation of the Clergy. The appeal process was led locally by Laurie Haas of Wilbur Lane and assisted by Peter Borré of Cambridge, MA. Funds were collected to hire a canon lawyer, Carlo Gullo, who argued the church's case in the Vatican courts.

The structure has a longer history of preservation. In 1978, it was the largest private preservation project in the town's history. The statues, decoration and structure were refurbished and improved in celebration of the parish's 75th Anniversary of founding. That was spearheaded primarily by the pastor at that time, Rev. John Chwalek.

The former St. Mark's Episcopal church on Commercial Street still remains on the market for sale.

The owners of the former childhood home of Adams native George N. Briggs, April 12, 1796 - September 12, 1861, received approval from the Historical Commission for their project for rehabilitation work on the residence. The residence is located at 8 Weber Street. George N. Briggs served as the 19th Governor of Massachusetts from January 1844 to January 1851. He also served in the United States House of Representatives from March 4, 1831 to March 3, 1843. Mr. Briggs opened a law practice in Adams and later moved the practice to Lanesborough and then to Pittsfield. He belonged to the Anti-Jacksonian party and then became a member of the Whig party. He was known as a "Cotton Whig" because while opposed to slavery and the extension of slavery into the new states forming in the mid-west he was in favor of protectionist tariffs for the southern cotton plantation owners. Mr. Briggs had also served as the Northern Berkshire Register of Deeds.

Mount Greylock - Bascom Lodge operators, John Dudek, Peter Dudek and Brad Parsons were awarded federal and state funds of up to 1 million dollars for repair and renovation work on the Lodge and the Veteran's Memorial atop the mountain. The work will include replacement of the Bascom Lodge roof, installation of new insulated windows, waterproofing of the sub-grade basement, upgrading of the plumbing and electrical systems and replacement or restoration of the period style furnishings inside the Lodge. The work is expected to be completed in 2014.

Repairs to the ceiling in the Quaker Meeting House were completed during the Summer of 2012. The ceiling was noted to



St. Stanislaus Kostka Church

be bulging and in danger of collapsing necessitating the repairs. The repair work was performed by Mr. Roger Rice of Clarksburg, MA. As in previous years the Meeting House was opened to the public on Sundays beginning on July 8th and running through Columbus weekend, October 7, 2012.

Demolition work on the two structures that were behind Albert's Hardware on Summer Street commenced on August 13th and was completed on the 15th.

The restoration work on the old Adams Town Hall - Registry of Deeds building is near completion.

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 the older adults in Adams sixty years of age and over.
- To provide information and referrals, working 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 older adults and the whole community by promoting "healthy aging" through educational programs, cultural programs and activities.



The year 2012 brought new beginnings for the Adams Council on Aging. The September relocation to the Adams Visitors Center, from the Community Center location, caused a spike in our participation and volunteer opportunities. Within the first three months of our relocation we were able to assist more than 100 new individuals for one or more reason. We are reaching several different age cohorts or various generations, offering programming to a variety of interests. With the rail trail just outside our door, there will be more availability to offer more optimal aging activities. Many highlights are offered below.

Transportation

Our two vans are leased from the BRTA, they are handicap accessible/para-transit vehicles. Long time van driver Rita Clarke was eager to train new hire Terry Moran. Both continue to go above and beyond their duties to fill the needs of their riders. Thanks to Chet Cyrulik, Vern Emerson and Archie DuPont, our per diem drivers, the center has been able to run two vans almost every operating day.

Although gas prices rise, the center has been able to maintain the affordable suggested donation for ridership. Anywhere in

Adams is a suggested \$1-each way, to North Adams \$2-each way, Williamstown \$3-each way and so-on-and-so-forth in the opposite direction. We continue to transport for medical purposes, nutrition services, social events, personal errands, and homebound services. Our transportation program also provides to and from the Adult Day health system for a fixed rate.

New this year, van driver and volunteer Chet Cyrulik offered to provide transportation to Selectmen Meetings and evening town events.

Between the affordable suggested donation for ridership and our dedicated team we continue to transport, on average, 97 unduplicated amounts of seniors per month with a total of 10,523 trips provided in 2012. Also offered are day trips with van driver, Rita Clarke.

Jan: 113 indiv.	May: 88 indiv.	Sept: 95 indiv.
Feb: 104 indiv.	Jun: 99 indiv.	Oct: 98 indiv.
Mar: 85 indiv.	Jul: 98 indiv.	Nov: 97 indiv.
Apr: 84 indiv.	Aug: 105 indiv.	Dec: 99 indiv.



Nutrition Program

The Council on Aging offers a nutrition program Monday through Friday at 11:30 AM. All meals are provided by the Elder Service of Berkshire County, Inc. Dee Dee O'Bryan of Cheshire has been a staple at the nutrition program as site coordinator for 28-years now, with long-time volunteer Ralph Farrar for 26-years. Other volunteers include, Art & Peg Theil, Laura Sunn, Pat Boisvert, Debbie Coody and

Diana Reeves. In 2012, they served 4,183 meals to 111 unduplicated seniors.

All 60+ adults are invited to join us for lunch or to attend the special parties and events at different times of the year. Those wishing to join us should call two days in advance. Elder Service asks of a suggested \$2 a meal for lunch if affordable. Transportation is available to the center for meals if needed. All meals are low sodium and no added sugar to accommodate special diets, unless otherwise specified.



Halloween Party, 56 in attendance



Volunteers busy at work for the Brown Bag Program

Brown Bag Program

In conjunction with the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Brown Bag is a program that the CoA will continue to sponsor. This program is for adults 55 years and older who meet the eligibility guidelines.

With a team of volunteers, the CoA of Cheshire and Lanesborough meet at the Adams site to bag and deliver their own brown bags to their residents. People receive a 15 lb bag of non-perishable groceries once a month for a

suggested donation of three dollars. Volunteers are available to deliver bags to individuals who cannot get out of their homes independently.

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 for their real estate bill in exchange for performing 62½ hours of service at a rate of \$8.00/hour. For more information or eligibility requirements please contact Assessor Donna McDonald or CoA Director Erica Samson.

The Council on Aging assisted four out of the eight seniors in completing their hours this year.

AARP Tax Assistance Program

Adults can get their basic taxes done for free through the AARP Tax assistance program. Volunteers, Joe Greenbush, Jeff Markland, and Frank Engles have been trained in cooperation with the IRS and will assist in filling out federal and Massachusetts tax forms and filing them electronically.

Food & Fuel Fridays (LIHEAP & SNAP)

In collaboration with BCAC, LIHEAP (fuel assistance) applications can be completed at the Adams CoA, rather than referring you to their North Adams or Pittsfield Office. Both the Director and the Outreach Coordinator have been trained in filling out the applications. Eligibility is set high so that more people can be accommodated. You may be eligible!

In collaboration with the Food Bank of Western Mass, both the Director and Outreach Coordinator are trained in SNAP applications (formally known as food stamps). Worksheets can be filled out prior to applying to offer an estimated amount per month.

Contact us today to find out if you're eligible.

SafeLink Wireless Provider

We are now a certified provider of SafeLink wireless cell phones. Anyone who received fuel assistance, MassHealth,

SSI, SNAP, transitional aid to families with dependent children, LIHEAP, or emergency aid to the elderly, disabled and children automatically qualify.

Computer Classes & Computer Lab



Members of the Computer Class

Thanks to Williams College and Time Warner Cable we now have eleven operating computers and free Wi-Fi internet. Volunteer Lou Yarter has been holding computer classes for beginners and continuing learners. Other seminars offered by Lou have been, "what to know when purchasing a computer" and "Skype training". Along with Lou and the Town's I.T. Director, Rob Wunk, there have been countless hours invested in getting these machines organized and running.

Lou has "graduated" several classes in 2012. Many of whom continue to come back and enjoy the class for refreshers and socialization.

Annual Holiday Gathering

This December a holiday party was held at the Polish National Alliance, who donated the hall and half the cost of the entertainment, the Echo Orchestra. We served 120 prime rib or baked stuffed chicken dinners, provided by Miss Adams Diner, and had a successful auction in which many local business owners contributed to. The proceeds from the auction and a 50/50 raffle were donated to our local Pope John Paul Charity Center, in the end we raised \$629 for the non-profit.



CoA Director, Erica Samson, CoA Outreach Coordinator, Linda Greenbush, Pope John Paul Charity Center Volunteers - Bernie Bassi, Jim Dynes & President Larry Clairmont

Fix-It-Friends Program

A group of volunteers can assist in various household tasks. For example, but not limited to, changing light bulbs, moving a piece of furniture, laundry, cleaning refrigerator, window cleaning, tightening loose ends, light housekeeping, organize cabinets/closets, and much more. This assistance is offered twice a month, for more information, please call the office.

Monthly Newsletter

Our monthly newsletter is starting to reach many and subscribers are added every day. Funding comes from a grant provided by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and from your donations. You can be added to the e-mail list, take it off Town Hall's webpage, pick it up in local spots or asked to be added to the mailing list. Our Newsletter covers CoA programming, as well as local events.

Health & Wellness Fair

In September a Health & Wellness fair was held at the Adams town common. Food was provided by Bounti Fare, music by Too Human, over 30 vendors, and over 100 people in attendance.

Informative Fridays

Informative Fridays are now offered every-other month and cover a wide variety of topics. In collaboration with outside support agencies and businesses these events are made possible. Such topics and collaborations have included:

Heat & Protect: Adams COA, BCAC, and Western Mass Electric

How to Prepare for Hospitalization: Craneville Place of Sheehan Health Group

Bone Density & Hypertension: Northern Berkshire Health Systems

Fraud Forum: T.D. Bank, Adams Community Bank, & Greylock Bank

Veterans Benefits: Veteran's Rep. Steven Roy

Emergency Fuel Assistance

Funds are still available for Adams residents in need of emergency fuel assistance. A result of 2011's Annual Holiday Gathering.

Other Programs and Events

The CoA continues to offer other events and support groups. Some are seasonal others are not:

- Foot Care with Sandy Doppel, RN
- Blood Pressure Clinic & Flu Clinics- Seasonal: Northern Berkshire VNA
- Homebound Grocery Shopping
- Laundry Delivery Service
- "Movement in Time": Fall Prevention offered by Poarch Light VNA
- "Get Cuffed" offered by Berkshire Health Systems
- "Under Observation vs Admission in a Hospital Setting" Offered by NBHS & Rep. Cariddi

- Older Worker Workshop with Ice Cream Social
- AARP Driver Safety Class
- Assisted with Code Red sign-ups
- April buttered lamb workshop
- Neighborhood Crime Watch with Sgt. Tarsa
- Hosted Greylock Federal Credit Union's Quality Time Club
- Host Site for Red Cross Blood Drive
- Host Site for Farmers Market coupons with ESBC
- Garden Program with Jen Munoz and Adams/Cheshire Youth Center
- Annual Lion Club Luncheon in October serving over 120 Adams and Savoy residents.
- Monthly entertainment by the "Aladdins"
- Volunteer recognition dinner held at the Halfinger Haus
- Quilting Club, Senior Club
- Travel Opportunities
- "Buckets of Sand" Program
- Free Tai Chi with 20-plus students
- Three SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Elders) counselors, Lou Yarter, Karen Matthews, and Outreach Coordinator Linda Greenbush
- Yoga
- Seated Exercises
- Free Movies "Movies Under the Roof Top"
- Highlighted in Greylock Credit Union's quarterly newsletter
- Now have a link on Berkshire Work's website under senior resources
- Meet & Greet opportunities with various clubs, housing authorities and emergency response teams
- Free 'File of Life' cards
- Art Classes
- Nutritionist through a grant provided by ESBC and in collaboration with Williamstown COA, North Adams COA and North Berkshire Healthcare
- Spring Celebration with North County Councils on Aging, donating funds raised to the Adams Ambulance and Friendship Center
- College Intern Opportunities with BCC. 2012 Intern was Amber Lafogg who helped with the Health & Wellness Expo
- Kentucky Derby Social, complete with best hat competition



*Instructor
Donna Loncto with her
Art Class*

Conferences/Trainings Attended

I. MAP Through the Maze: Alzheimer's Association

Seminars Attended:

1. Learning to Speak Alzheimer's
2. Driving & Dementia: Balancing Personal Independence & Public Safety.
3. Trunk Full of Memories
4. The Voice of Alzheimer's Disease
5. The Powerful Three: Music, Movement, and Touch

II. MCOA Fall Conference: Massachusetts Council on Aging

Seminars Attended:

1. Using 800-AgeInfo OR What everyone should know about Using the Web to find services & programs for seniors in Massachusetts
2. New Director's Training: Part I & Part II
3. Conducting Community Needs Assessments & Planning for the Growing Older Population
4. How to discuss sensitive issues with older adults
5. Collaboration: How to leverage your dollars and maximize your impact.
6. Medications in Motion: The link to falls
7. Active Brains Make for Health Seniors- starting a lifelong program
8. Nuts and Bolts of Starting a Walking Club
9. Building Excellence: National Standards to Which All Senior Centers Should Aspire
10. Job Search Skills Program for Mature Workers
11. Youth Council on Aging- Intergenerational Community Development Tool for Aging
12. Is it Bullying? Strategies for Assessing and Intervening with Older Adults
13. Laughter Yoga

III. Pioneer Valley Stroke Survivors & Caregiver Forum

IV. National Community Transportation Rodeo & Expo

Seminars Attended:

1. With her involvement in Berkshire Rides, CoA Outreach Worker Linda Greenbush was a bus rodeo judge.
2. Transit Marketing for Community & Public Transit

V. CPR & First Aid

VI. Passenger Sensitivity

VII. Wheelchair Lift & Securement

VIII. Defensive Driving

IX. S.H.I.N.E. Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders

- X. Arrearage Programs: Updates on programs including, Energy Assistance, Weatherization, Credit & Collection Issues, Heating & Safety, and other resources available.

XI. Alzheimer's: Home Instead

Seminars Attended:

1. Alzheimer's Disease or Other Dementias

2. Techniques to Handle Challenges
3. Activities to Encourage Engagement

XII. ServSafe Certification

XIII. Elder Protective: Franklin County Elder Services

XIV. SNAP Training: Food Bank of Western Mass

XV. LIHEAP: Berkshire Community Action Council (BCAC)

XVI. BCAC's Networking Breakfast with a wide range of providers and government officials.

XVII. Home Instead's Networking Breakfasts

Grant Opportunities & In-kind Donations

1. **Berkshire Taconic's Neighbor to Neighbor Fund:** The Adams COA is the administrator of this fund for all North County Residents, excluding Williamstown as they have their own fund. For every \$5000 allotment the Adams COA will make 5% in administrative fees.
2. **Helping Hands Grant** out of the First Congo Church in Williamstown. This grant provided the \$240 for our staff to become recertified in CPR & First Aid.
3. **Incentive Grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs** in the amount of \$5000. This grant was shared with Lanesboro, Cheshire and Savoy Councils on Aging to provide extended outreach where a successful survey was completed.
4. **Formula Grant** provided through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs in the amount of \$15,260 to assist in operation costs and programming.
5. Various amounts from the **Cultural Council on Northern Berkshire**. Grant funds helped to cover the costs for Paul Clermont's Shoot it – Write it, Richard Clark's performance of Love Letters, musical entertainment by Too Human at our Health & Wellness Expo, and Richard Fabozzi at our Spring Celebration.
6. In Kind Donations were made by McCann Technical School when they made a suggestion box and two newsstands, and much more.

The Staff at Adams CoA:

Erica Samson, Director
Linda Greenbush, Outreach Coordinator
Rita Clarke, Van Driver
Terry Moran, Van Driver
Chet Cyrulik, Per Diem Van Driver & Volunteer
Vern Emerson, Per Diem Van Driver
Archie DuPont: Per Diem Van Driver
Gary Green: Custodian
Pauline Pytko: ESBC Senior Aid
Dee Dee O'Bryan: ESBC Meal Site Coordinator

Volunteers:

Bob Joppich, Office volunteer
Mary Smachetti, Office volunteer
Lucille McLear: Office volunteer & Companion
Adelle Michaud: Office, Knitting, & Walking club

Marcia Mikuszewski: Homebound Grocery Shopper
 Irene LeMarche: Homebound Grocery Shopper
 Bernice Trzcinski: Homebound Grocery Shopper
 Joe Greenbush: Tax Preparer
 Jeff Markland: Tax Preparer
 Frank Engles: Tax Preparer
 Marie Greenbush: Event Decorator
 Barb McKenna: Event Decorator
 Donna Loncto: Art Instructor
 Dennis Lawson: Fix-it-Friends Volunteer
 Diane Lawson: Fix-it-Friends Volunteer
 Beverly Favreau: Fix-it-Friends Volunteer
 Barbara Bassette: Fit-it-Friends Volunteer
 Fran Bassi: Fit-it-Friends Volunteer
 Bernie Bassi: Fit-it-Friends Volunteer
 Lechelle Badorini: Socials Volunteer
 Lou Yarter: SHINE & Computer Instructor
 Karen Matthews: SHINE & Miscellaneous
 Carol Cain: Miscellaneous Assistance
 Carol Thorner: Brown Bag Volunteer
 Beverly Brothers: Brown Bag Volunteer
 Johnny Riveara: Brown Bag Volunteer
 Dennis Malloy: Brown Bag Volunteer

Board of Directors:

Mary Ellen Cyrulik
 Rose Belisle
 Bob Joppich
 Karen Mathews
 Michelle Wellspeak
 Alita Moncecchi
 Melissa Schaffrick

Community Boards that CoA Staff Serve On

Elder Services of Berkshire County Advisory Board, Northern
 Berkshire Community Coalition, Berkshire Rides, & Goodwill
 Industries



Friends Chet Michalski, George Beckwith, Dee Dee O'Bryan, Gen Beckwith and Rachel Michalski say good-bye to our space at the Community Center



Buttered Lambs made in April: A Polish Tradition



*Lions Club Volunteers Luncheon, catered by Boston Seafood
120 meals served*

Office of Veterans' Services

Annual Report

To: Town Administrator Jonathan Butler and Members of the Board of Selectmen.

The Office of Veteran Services is directly responsible for providing veterans' benefits under Chapter 115 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This important need-based program provides financial assistance to eligible veterans and their dependents to provide relief from crushing poverty and hopelessness. Veterans of our community who are disabled, homeless, unemployed, underemployed or suffering from the trauma of war and have nowhere else to turn can find some relief in the services provided by the Office of Veteran Services. Many veterans and their families in our community have been rescued from hunger and homelessness by the services provided by the Veteran Service Officer, who works closely with the Department of Veteran Services in Boston to help those in need.

Veteran Services also assists a great number of veterans with filing claims through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This intimidating process is extremely difficult to accomplish successfully - without assistance nearly all claims would be denied by the VA. We support these folks in acquiring the correct documentation, proper completion, and submission to the appropriate entity. Other services provided include but are not

limited to: educational/employment assistance, dependency and indemnity compensation, alcohol/drug rehabilitation, housing assistance, referrals, and close contact with funeral homes and cemeteries to ensure all veterans' graves are properly honored. The Office of Veteran Services also serves as a depository for hundreds of thousands of documents and important records of historic value to the sons and daughters of Adams, maintained in secure archives.

The VSO maintains a very dynamic and flexible schedule serving not only the Town of Adams but the City of North Adams and Williamstown, Clarksburg and Florida as well. The VSO often makes special appointments and house calls to the sick, bedridden or elderly who cannot easily make it to Town Hall to process documentation in person. The VSO also makes frequent duty calls to the hospital and skilled nursing/assisted living facilities in the area to assist veterans with their needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Roy
Veteran Service Officer

Emergency Management

2012 Report

The Town's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan is reviewed and updated yearly by the Emergency Management Director. The Plan provides a framework for the Town of Adams to perform emergency functions during emergency situations on the local, state or national level.

The Emergency Response Team invests a lot of time to make sure the residents of Adams have a lifeline and course of action to take in the event of an emergency, natural or manmade.

The Town retains MEMA's A+ rating through the efforts made in updating the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. Information obtained by attending the quarterly meetings provided by MEMA in Agawam, MA and other MEMA sponsored meetings held throughout the State provide new and updated information.

The Town of Adams experienced three emergency events this year:

The first and largest was Hurricane Sandy. This event prompted the Emergency Management Director to open the Emergency Operations Center; open the shelter at the Visitor's Center; met with all Department heads involved, and determined the course of action the Town should take. The Chairman of the Board of Selectman was informed of the situation and advised to declare the Town in a State of Emergency. A State of Emergency was declared at 12 Noon on October 29th. Hurricane Sandy did not develop into the potential disaster that it did in the coastal areas of the northeast.

The second event was the Nor-Easter of November 7th and 8th. The information provided through the National Weather Service indicated that a substantial storm could affect the Berkshires. The Emergency Operation Center was activated and all department heads were notified of the situation. The Town, for a second time, was spared any damage.

The third event was a potential threat of a bomb inside of a parked car on Park Street. The police notified the fire department who in turn took charge of the situation. The Emergency Management Director was notified and was on scene in the event future action would be needed. The police evacuated Park Street as a precautionary measure and the shelter at the Visitor's Center was open. The Fire Chief notified the State Fire Marshall who arrived at the scene. After conferring with the Fire Marshal and police, the decision was made to call for the State Police Bomb Squad. Upon arrival, the Bomb Squad defused the situation and all ended well.

I thank all departments involved in the joint effort to provide for the safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Adams.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Kleiner, Director
Town of Adams Emergency Management

Forest Warden

2012 Report

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
- Issuance of outdoor burning permits

Responsibilities of a Forest Warden are stated in Chapter 48 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

2012 MT. GREYLOCK RAMBLE:

The Forest Warden Deputies provided communications and safety on all trails as they have done for the past 41 years.

Members of the Forest Warden department cleared fallen trees and limbs from the Cheshire Harbor trail prior to the event to ensure the safety of the hikers.

BURNING PERMITS ISSUED: 301

CALLS AND EVENTS:

- 12 – Wildland Fires
- 57 – Illegal Burns and Smoke Investigations
- 5 – Mutual Aid Calls
- 3 – Mutual Aid Drills
- 2 – Search & Rescue Calls
- 6 – Community Events
- 9 – Community Service Details

Participated in the Annual Fall Foliage Parade

Participated in Savoy's Annual Parade

Provided support to the Adams Agricultural Fair for the three day event

Provided manpower for both Hurricane Sandy and the Nor-Easter in November

**“REMEMBER.....ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT
WILDLAND FIRES”**

**THANKS TO THE RESIDENTS OF ADAMS
FOR A SAFE BURNING SEASON
IN A VERY DRY YEAR.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard G. Kleiner
Town of Adams Chief Forest Warden

Adams Free Library

Preparation was the theme for 2012 as the library worked to ready its collections for circulation on the Central / Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing (C/W MARS) System. This required additional intense labor for all library employees even while they capably performed their regular duties. The project involved the evaluation of every one of the library's more than 43,000 items. As a result of this work, approximately 25% of the items were withdrawn from the collections.

Both print and non-print materials were examined for possible removal using criteria that included popularity of use, outdated information and physical wear. Of the inventory that was retained, approximately 15% required re-barcoding with 14-digit barcodes in order to be compatible with C/W MARS. Early in the year, Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter School Senior Cassidy Matthew performed 80 hours of community service internship by assisting the Children's Librarian in the weeding and re-barcoding of the children's collection. Cassidy provided energetic and enthusiastic assistance in this project. Two senior tax work-off participants, Emma Morin and Leona Meczywor, also provided over 100 hours of service in the weeding of the adult collection toward the end of the year. This enormous project would not have been completed without the invaluable assistance of Cassidy, Emma and Leona.

The library continues to emphasize the utmost importance of providing quality collections and programs for children and teens in Adams and surrounding communities. The Children's Department remains a focal point of library services and is excellently managed by Children's Librarian Holli Jayko. Ms. Jayko's report follows:

The Children's Department of the Adams Free Library endeavors to offer a variety of high quality and educational programs throughout the year. We provide a well-attended annual Summer Reading Program, a home school research group that meets monthly, weekly story times, book groups, special guest presentations and more.

Our Summer Reading Program themes were "Dream Big," and "Own the Night." A total of 711 youngsters and parents participated in the activities during the summer. The library saw an increase in the number of volunteer hours: in total our seven youth volunteers gave over 110 hours to the library.



Magician Ed Popielarczyk



World of Owls

The library sponsored the following programs: Ed Popielarczyk's Magical Moments for the end of Summer Reading Finale, the Zoo on the Go program from the Zoo in Forest Park which featured live animals, Julie Collier of Wingmasters presented "The World of Owls," with a collection of live owls, and the Interactive World Music Drumming Program was presented by Drummer Aimee Gelin. All of our summer programs were well attended and enjoyed by local families.



Youth Volunteer

The Museum of Science, Boston, Traveling Program presented "One Sky, Many Stories" in their portable planetarium. This program was made possible by a scholarship grant from the Boston Museum of Science saving the library over \$500.00.

The following children's 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. Minstrel



Museum of Science Planetarium



Minstrel and Storyteller Maryjo Maichack

Storyteller Mary Jo Maichack kicked off our Summer Reading Program with “The One You Don’t See Coming-Stories & Music of Sleep, Dreams & Starry Nights.” Nutshell Playhouse presented the “Musical Hat” a delightful performance featuring clowns, puppets, music and more. Davis Bates and Roger Tinknell performed “Imagine That: Celebrating Reading in Story and Song.” The cultural council grant saved programming costs of \$1,000.00.



Nutshell Playhouse and The Musical Hat

In March, middle school students came to research poetry and, in May, kindergarten classes from C.T. Plunkett were brought to the library to learn about all the programs they could attend, the services that they could use and the thousands of items that they could borrow with a library card.

During the April school vacation week the library had Musician & Storyteller Otha Day present his program “Drum to



Drum Circle with Otha Day - April 2012

the Beat.” We had 79 participants drumming away in Memorial Hall where the acoustics were fantastic. In October the Secret World of Bubbles, presented by Keith Johnson, was a program packed with state-of-the-art bubble sculptures. This program was both educational and unforgettable for the 51 attendees.

The Home School Research Group covered a variety of topics including the Dewey Decimal Classification System, library etiquette, as well as planning, organizing, and evaluating information for a research paper. Research topics included the science of illusion, dolphins, chipmunks, Theodore Roosevelt, and the secrets of the Bermuda Triangle. Our attendance increased 17% over last year; we had an average of 23 people each month.

Our story times are still flourishing. We had an average weekly attendance of 18 people. We believe in the importance of reading aloud to children. Experts suggest that “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 Children’s Book to Movie Group read War Horse by Michael Morpurgo. We met for several weeks and for the finale we watched the movie. Our total attendance for this program was 36 young people. We offered a new Book to Movie Group for teens that read the Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins. This group met in March to view the movie and had 15 participants.

One ongoing programming highlight on the adult side continues to be the book discussion group which is so well managed by Administrative Assistant and Interlibrary Loan Librarian Lorraine Kalisz. Nine times during the year books were read and the readers then either participated in an afternoon or evening discussion group, again capably led by Mrs. Kalisz. In coordination with one book that was made into a movie, Mrs. Kalisz arranged an outing to the North Adams Movieplex to see “Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close” with 30 people attending. Everyone had a wonderful time! In March, Margie & Greg Scieszka presented a very interesting and colorful program on their year in Swaziland



Secret World of Bubbles with Keith Johnson

as volunteers in Peace Corps Response, and the book group read a memoir by a woman who grew up in South Africa. In September, the book group read Jodi Picoult's Lone Wolf and Mrs. Kalisz arranged a presentation on wolves, with a live wolf on site! Mrs. Kalisz also organized various wellness programs during the summer reading program to encourage our patrons to take care of themselves. There were demonstrations of yoga and zumba exercises, a time for chair massage, and a program on how to eat healthier which were all very well attended.

In June, a very special concert was performed in the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall by the United States Air Force Baystate Winds Clarinet Trio from Hanscom Air Force Base. This remarkable threesome played a number of classical pieces as well as some patriotic and military numbers to a crowd of seventy appreciative listeners. Another program offered for adults was the annual pastel art workshop in May titled "Que Sera, Seurat! How to Pastel Paint Optically" and marvelously taught by award-winning artist Gregory Maichack.

The Trustees of the Adams Free Library continue to make improvements to the building's interior, both large and small, through the use of State Aid to Libraries award funds. Early in the year, baby diaper changing stations were installed in two public restrooms: one on the main level and one in the restroom off the lower Miller Annex Meeting Room. A second wireless router was installed to boost the signal strength throughout the building. In July a portable air conditioner was purchased to allow it to be moved between the two large meeting rooms, making the air more comfortable for events. A security camera surveillance camera system, one-third of which is to be funded by the Adams Historical Society, was nearly completely installed by the end of 2012.

The building continued to serve as a gathering place throughout the year. In April, iBerkshires held a debate of candidates running for Adams selectmen. Also in April, the library's reading room was the backdrop for a filmed interview by Springfield PBS station WGBY of the town's historian Eugene Michalenko for a segment on Berkshire visits by U.S. Presidents. Other uses included an Eagle Scout review, a joint meeting of the North Adams Regional Hospital and Berkshire Community College, and programs hosted by the Adams Council on Aging and the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum. The Adams Historical Society hosted a number of events throughout the year including two Eagles Band concerts that brought nearly 200 people into the building. Ongoing meetings include exercise classes, a Lyme disease support group, Girl Scout leader meetings, and the town's crime watch group. One very special use of Memorial Hall occurred in June when the monthly meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) was held in Adams.

The members of the Friends of the Adams Free Library, Inc. volunteered many many hours during the year in fundraising efforts and in promotion of the library throughout the community. In April they held a children's book sale, presented a program by a local children's author in May, and provided the refreshments for the MBLC meeting in June. The Friends promoted the library and the annual book sale at the street fair in July. Hundreds of volunteer hours were spent organizing the week-long book sale in August where the Friends also held a book-themed basket raffle and bake sale. In October they handed out candy and bookmarks to

the children marching in the Halloween Parade, and in December mini candy canes and more bookmarks were made available to library visitors. One of the major improvements that the Friends group is funding is the addition of an item return box. Both the Trustees and the Friends are delighted that teacher John Kline and his students in the metal fabrication shop at McCann's Vocational Technical High School are working on the construction of this dual compartment book and non-print drop box. This work by McCann's will save the library at least \$3,000. Installation should be sometime in the early spring of 2013.

The Board of Trustees looks forward to assisting the town with planning for much needed repairs to the exterior of this prominent historic building. With the selection of a project engineer to draw up bid specifications and solicit cost estimates, the Trustees hope that initial work will finally eliminate the chronic leak that has plagued the building's northwest corner and damaged the new ceiling in the Children's Department.

This has been an especially grueling year for all five library employees who have taken on a number of the shared duties with the lay-off of two part-time positions a few years ago. Add to this the weeding / re-barcoding project and their efforts proved herculean. In addition to Mrs. Kalisz and Ms. Jayko, the Circulation Librarian & Cataloger Lyn Wilson has endeavored to maintain efficient services at the main desk while adding new materials to the adult collections. Likewise, Library Aide Christa Sidway has capably assisted with the adult circulation duties and the shelving of returns to the adult collections. All have worked extraordinarily hard to complete this project with as little loss of service as possible. The hard work of the entire staff is so deeply appreciated. The staff and trustees wish to thank our patrons for their understanding and patience during the year, especially when we were forced to close for training and project work.

Department of Public Works Director Tom Satko and Town Custodians Gary Green and Mike Rinaldi also deserve praise and thanks for their help with building maintenance throughout the year. Gary and Mike were also very helpful to the Friends group with the disposal of discarded books that were not stored for the annual book sale. Keeping the library building open and safe for everyone during inclement weather is a challenge that the custodians handled with great efficiency. Mike's talents at interior building repairs are also greatly appreciated.

James R. Loughman, Chairman of
Board of Library Trustees

Deborah G. Bruneau, Director

Fiscal 2012 Library Statistics

Total Number of Volumes as of June 30, 2012:	40,463
Newspaper subscriptions:	7
Periodical subscriptions (including gifts):	60

Registered borrowers:	7,909
Number of borrowers who are Adams residents: 6,017	

Circulation:

Adult and young adult print	33,841
Juvenile print	14,631
Video Cassettes/music CDs/DVDs, museum passes, misc.	17,050
Audio Books	1,943

TOTAL	67,465
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TREASURER'S REPORT

Fees Returned to Town Treasurer:	\$ 1,375.03
✓ Microfilm Printer Receipts	29.00
✓ Internet Printer Receipts	695.23
✓ Miscellaneous	32.60
✓ Photocopier Receipts	618.20
Returned to Revolving Fund via Town Treasurer:	\$ 3,029.91
✓ Fines for Overdue Materials	2,756.91
✓ Damaged or Lost Items Replacement Fees	273.00
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS	\$ 4,404.94

OTHER INCOME

Gifts, Memorial Donations, Used Items Sales	341.25
Grant: No. Berkshire Cultural Council	1,800.00
State Aid to Public Libraries Award	\$ 10,706.23

TRUST FUNDS DIVIDEND INCOME	BALANCE 7/01/11	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS 6/30/12	BALANCE
W.T. Adams	8,875.37	6,098.34	6,870.65	8,103.06
C.N. Miller	2,328.77	138.47	255.96	2,211.28
Plunkett / Saunders	713.10	299.06	420.03	592.13
H. Tiedemann	5,488.02	1,682.28	1,776.77	5,393.53
TOTALS	17,405.26	8,218.15	9,323.41	\$ 16,300.00

Memorial Book Funds	Total as of 12/31/12	\$ 93,226.87
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Memorial Book Fund Investment Values	Total as of 12/31/12	\$ 68,954.41
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Adams Police Department

Serving Since

Chief of Police:	Donald A. Poirot	12-17-81
Sergeants:	David M. Clark	04-01-78
	Richard W. Tarsa, Jr.	04-05-87
	Shawn M. Briggs	04-05-87
	Scott McWhirt	01-30-89
Patrol Officers:	Lawrence Ordyna	08-11-80
	Keith Erdeski	01-01-84
	Donna Malloy	09-20-97
	David Dean	01-28-02
	Gregory Charon	03-30-05
	Michael Wandrei	03-30-05
	Joshua Baker	04-17-08
	Nicholas Dabrowski	04-17-08
	Thomas Cook	04-25-08
	Matthew Wright	05-02-07
	Curtis Crane	05-20-10
Reserve Officers:	Robert Krzanik	
	Travis Cunningham	
	Brenna Dorr	
Special Police:	Allen Mendel	
Animal Control:	Carrie Loholdt	
	Daniel Lefebvre	

With change comes challenge and the Adams Police Department has been faced with both changes and challenges during 2012. Over the past year officers have been faced with a multitude of tasks to include the increase of requests for the safety of our children and citizens. As we now face issues of daily changes in the world of technology this taxes the resources of officers to

conduct investigations and to assist in creating a safe environment for our community.

Several departmental advancements were achieved over the past year to include the installation of the Code Red notification system. Information on this system can be found on the Town of Adams website. The department also has active face book page where notifications are sent out to the community to make citizens aware of activities in town. These are just several advancements that the department has undertaken during the past year.

Though technology has advanced and officers continue to provide the upmost in professionalism to the community. The basis of community policing on which we are grounded has not been set aside. The department still provides the P.A.L. basketball program for both boys and girls grades three through twelve at the newly renovated Hoosac Valley Middle/High School. The department was also fortunate to continue to provide Officer Nicholas Dabrowski as a part time school resource officer and to continue with an active bicycle patrol.

The Town of Adams Events Committee provides a multitude of activities throughout the year and the police department continues to be actively involved in providing officers to be involved in events such as, Community Night and the Park Street Fair to name just a few. With new events comes growth to the community and the group Pro-Adams now hosts two events to include the Ramble-Fest and the Thunder-Fest. All of these activities are a positive way to promote the town and provide events requiring assistance with traffic issues and public safety concerns.

2012 Police Department Activity Report

Calls for Service	12035
Ambulance Calls.....	1689
Fire Department Calls.....	182
DPW.....	67
Animal Control Calls.....	586



(l-r) Selectman Arthur Harrington, Town Administrator Jonathan Butler, Robin Poirot, Chief Donald Poirot, Sgt. Richard Tarsa, Sgt. Scott McWhirt attending the Western Mass Chiefs Annual Meeting on December 12, 2012.



The Adams Police Department at a Memorial Day Service at the Bellevue Cemetery.

Criminal and Custody Activity

Offenses Committed	1205
Arrests	
1. Adults	169
2. Juvenile	14
Summons Served	286

Motor Vehicle Activity

1. Written Warnings	632
2. Civil Charges	432
3. Arrests	122
4. Criminal Complaints	82

Motor Vehicle Accidents

1. Investigated	182
2. Fatalities	0
3. Persons Injured	47

Other Police Activity

Breaking & Entry and Larcenies	98
Alarms Responded	124
Restraining Orders Served	62
E-9-1-1 calls	2,187
Parking Tickets	782
House Checks	564

Police Department Training 2012

February - Detective Lawrence Ordyna attended Meth Lab training in Abington.

March - Sgt. Scott McWhirt, Officers Joshua Baker and Thomas Cook attended Crisis Intervention Training in Pittsfield designed to improve the outcome of crisis situations involving persons with mental illness. Officers Nicholas Dabrowski, Matthew Wright and Curtis Crane attended 40 hours of Sexual Assault Investigator training.

April - Officer Thomas Cook attended a week of Computer Crimes training.

May - Officers Keith Erdeski, and Thomas Cook attended Information Management Corp. (IMC) training. Sgt Scott McWhirt attended Emergency Medical Dispatch training at Western Mass. Academy. Detective Ordyna attended Narcotics Enforcement training. Chief Donald Poirot and Sgt. David Clark attended a debriefing on the Kleen Energy explosion. Sgt. Clark attended Mass. Emergency Management training in Agawam.

June - Sgt. Clark, and Officer Donna Malloy attended EMD training. Sgt. Richard Tarsa attended EMD quality assurance training.

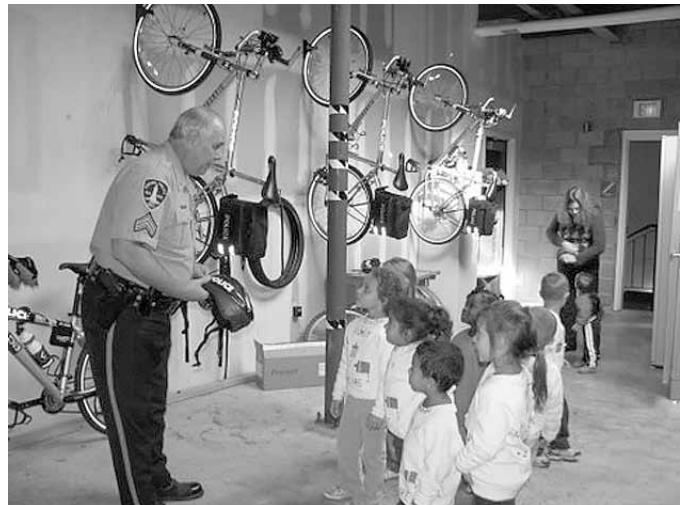
July - Officer Brenna Dorr attended dispatch training at STCC academy. Officer Thomas Cook attended IMC training in Grafton.

August - Officers Keith Erdeski, David Dean, Michael Wandrei, Joshua Baker, Thomas Cook, Robert Krzanik, Brenna Dorr and Matthew Wright attended EMD training at the Adams Police Station. Detective Ordyna attended NESPIN training in Pittsfield.

September - Sgt. Shawn Briggs, Officers Wandrei, Wright, Malloy, Dabrowski and Crane attended Sexual Assault Investigator Training.



Head Start Field Trip to Police Department



Officer Curtis Crane with the Head Start children at the Police Dept.



Officer David Clark with the Head Start children.

Community Development Department

The Adams Community Development Department implemented an especially busy work program for 2012, with the implementation of a broad range of community and economic development projects for the Town, including those funded under the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. In addition to other Town projects, Staff work is focused on completing several individual projects for each year of CDBG funding, as well as developing the next year's grant application. Administrative funds from CDBG cover the wages and benefits of the grants staff within the Community Development Department.

ADAMS DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

The Community Development Department continues to implement recommendations in the *Adams Downtown Development Plan* (adopted in 2003). Significant progress on several downtown projects was accomplished in 2012:

Adams Housing Rehabilitation Program

The Adams Housing Rehabilitation Program (HRP) continues to be an important on-going program managed by the Community Development Department. The goal of the program is to improve housing units that are either owner-occupied or investor-owned with at least 51% of the tenants/occupants being low-to-moderate income. Projects typically chosen to participate in the program would have all code violations addressed which can include upgraded electrical systems, lead paint remediation, replacement windows and doors, roofing, structural improvements, modernization of kitchens and bathrooms, etc. The HRP has a waiting list and, for the past several years, the Town has been successful in obtaining grant funding to complete approximately 10-12 units per year, typically managing projects under different grant cycles. Grant funds under FY2011 CDBG totaled approximately \$496,000, with a goal of rehabilitating at least 15 housing units. Rehabilitation of an additional unit was possible under the program with available funds.

Adams Free Library Renovation Project

Initiated during fall 2012, Community Development staff worked toward hiring an architect to design renovations to the historic Adams Free Library building, which was built in 1897. An initial assessment was completed in 2011 by EDM Architects, Inc., an architectural and engineering firm in Pittsfield. Based on this work, the June 2012 Town Meeting appropriated \$75,000 in funds to hire an architect to identify a detailed scope of work with cost estimates, develop construction plans and specifications, and prepare public bidding documents for proposed renovations to the library building.

Community Development prepared the Request for Proposals issued in November 2012 to solicit responses from qualified architectural firms to provide design services for the Library Renovation Project. Three (3) architectural firms responded to the Town's RFP and all three firms were interviewed. Following the interviews, the Town selected **Austin Design, Inc.**, a full service architectural firm in Colrain, MA with particular

expertise in historic building renovations. The selected consultant will now work to assist the Town in defining a scope of work for the proposed renovation project, developing construction plans, and bidding documents, and providing construction supervision after a construction contract is executed. The rehabilitation of the Adams Free Library is a priority community development project given its historic significance and prominent location within the downtown target area. Although the building is accessible, given its important role in hosting community meetings and gatherings, a higher level of universal accessibility is desired. The building's unique architectural character and historic importance makes this especially challenging.

Adams Visitors Center Renovation Project

As part of an effort to consolidate Town operations into fewer buildings, the Board of Selectmen determined to relocate the Adams Council on Aging (COA) from the community center building on East Street to the Adams Visitors Center at 3 Hoosac Street in downtown. Relocation of the COA was key part of a larger Town effort to maintain the building as a Visitors Center along the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail despite the departure of the Berkshire Visitors Bureau in spring 2012, which was headquartered in the building for the past eight years. Interior modifications were needed to create a larger, more flexible space to accommodate the COA's lunches and other events they host. In June 2012, Adams Town Meeting provided \$80,000 in funds to undertake the construction work. The Community Development Department managed the design and construction work involved in the renovation project. The project was put out to bid and the Town executed a contract with Burke Construction Company, Inc. in July for a total contract of \$72,831. Construction proceeded throughout the summer and was completed in advance of the COA's move occurring at the end of September 2012.

Park Street Infrastructure Design Project

The proposed design project for Park Street, funded by CDBG, was concluded in December 2011, culminating in the application for construction funding under the FY2013 CDBG program. The design project carefully assessed the conditions of Park Street, including sidewalks, curbing, pavement, drainage, utilities, and street furnishings. The Town hired Tighe & Bond, Inc. to work with a project steering committee of downtown stakeholders to prepare a concept design, develop a detailed budget for the future construction project, and prepare bid-ready construction plans and specifications should the project be awarded funding. The goal of the project is to eliminate blighting conditions along Park Street and to create a pedestrian environment that is safe and free from barriers. The final design involves such improvements as new curbing, new sidewalks, handicapped ramps and tactile warning pads, street trees, and new street furnishings to include benches, trash receptacles, and decorative lighting. If CDBG funds are awarded, construction is expected to begin in fall 2013.

Kearns Lane Demolition & Parking Improvement Project

The Town was awarded \$244,667 in FY2011 CDBG funding for the Kearns Lane Demolition & Parking Improvement Project.

This project was implemented in two phases: the first, involved demolition of three condemned structures on the property. The second phase focused on the construction and expansion of an existing parking area. The project site is owned privately and the Town executed a thirty (30) year easement on 6,625 square feet of the lot to protect the investment of public funds. Community Development staff developed the scope of work and public bidding documents for the demolition portion of the work. Staff also worked with Hill Engineers to develop the design and public bidding documents for the parking construction project; the low bidder was Northern Foundations, Inc., who began work on the site in October 2012. Before the project was closed down due to winter conditions, the contractor completed all finished grading, drainage, decorative fencing, paving, and installed electrical conduit and decorative lighting fixtures, and the stamped concrete walkway. When completed in 2013, the new “pocket” parking lot will be for public use for the duration of the thirty-year period.

OTHER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Route 8 / Friend Street Intersection Improvement Project

Community Development staff continued working with the Town’s engineer, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB), toward the design of the Route 8 / Friend Street intersection improvements. The Town executed a formal contract with VHB in June 2011 and survey work and an assessment of existing conditions began shortly thereafter. Based on the early design work and an analysis of alternatives, a roundabout design was favored rather than the typical signalization. Work on the design proceeded swiftly throughout the fall, advancing the project toward “25% Design.” However, progress was affected by MassDOT’s reallocation of the Congressional earmark (“Route 8 Corridor Access Management Enhancement Grant”) that provided funding for both design and construction of the Route 8 project. Town leadership aggressively worked to retain the funding, if not from the earmark than from other state and federal sources. The Town is hopeful that design of the project will be completed in fall 2013 so it can be put out for public bidding, with construction beginning in 2014.

Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Phase IV Extension Project

Although the next extension of the popular Ashuwillticook Rail Trail from its current terminus at Hoosac Street in downtown Adams approximately 1.13 miles north to Lime Street (Phase III) has not yet begun, Community Development staff are working on the next two (2) mile extension from Lime Street in Adams to Hodges Cross Road in North Adams. The Rail Trail Extension projects support the goals in both the *Adams Downtown Development Plan* (2003) and the *Adams Open Space & Recreation Plan* (2011). These plans recognize extension of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail as an important element of the Town’s efforts toward tourist-based economic development and promoting Adams as an outdoor recreation destination. Expanding the network of bicycle facilities in Adams is seen as an important factor in enhancing social equity, access, recreational opportunities, and the health of the community.

The Phase IV extension potentially involves some of the most spectacular scenery along the entire trail, if the alignment as proposed continues on the east side of the Hoosic River, once crossing Lime Street. Community Development staff are working closely with their counterparts within the City of North Adams to initiate the design work. The two communities successfully worked together to obtain federal funding for both final design and construction of this phase of the Ashuwillticook.

Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Education Center Project

The Town was awarded \$2 million in state funding for the first phase of needed infrastructure improvements (roadway reconstruction, drainage system repairs, and new water, sewer, gas utility installations) to serve the proposed economic development project at Greylock Glen. Working with MassDevelopment and VHB, the project engineer, Community Development staff received bids from four contractors on April 4, 2012, the bid due date. A careful review of the bids was conducted and the lowest qualified bidder was D. R. Billings, Inc. The Notice of Award was issued on April 18, 2012. A Pre-Construction Conference was conducted on April 26, 2012, involving Town staff, the Contractor, the Project Engineer, regional staff from the MA Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR), the Adams Fire District, and the Town’s Conservation Commission Chairman. The contract was executed between the Town and Billings on April 30, 2012 with the Notice to Proceed issued on May 1, 2012. Work at site began promptly on May 7, 2012.

During the year, work proceeded well – the contractor encountered areas of ledge which slowed progress, but to no significant extent. As part of the project, the Town executed needed agreements with Berkshire Gas and Tennessee Gas Pipeline prior to this portion of the construction.

Town staff did apply for additional funding under the MassWorks Infrastructure Program to complete the road and utility work necessary to support the development project at Greylock Glen so that the site is “shovel-ready.” This work includes the construction of a new 400,000 gallon water tank, new water mains and sewer line improvements along Thiel Road, and a full-depth replacement of the pavement of the remaining sections of Thiel Road.

With assistance from VHB, Community Development staff prepared the Special Permit application to the Town’s Planning Board. Following a public hearing, the Planning Board issued a Special Permit for the project in July 2012. Town staff also prepared the Request for Proposals for the Campground, which is anticipated in the first phase of development. Work on the Master Lease agreement to be between the Commonwealth and the Town proceeded slowly. The Town will need the Master Lease language prior to it being able to issue the Campground RFP. Finally, Town staff continued to work with DCR staff to complete final project permitting for the Glen’s proposed multi-use trails system. Several key meetings were held in 2012 and DCR expects to file a Notice of Intent (NOI) with the Adams Conservation Commission for the trails system by mid-2013.

More Memories of Joe Dean



*Photo from his first campaign
for Selectman in 1975*



*Joe Dean
in the Centennial
group portrait of
the Alert Hose Co.,
1976*



Joe Dean, first time serving as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, 1977. At left, Selectman Joseph Banas on right Josephine Wilk, Administrative Assistant and Selectman Earl Kelly. Photo taken in the conference room of the old town hall.



*Joe Dean at the Centennial Celebration of the
St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, 2002*

Financial Reports

Board of Assessors

TAX RATE SUMMARY FOR FY 2013

a. Total amount to be raised	\$13,596,816.38
b. Total estimated receipts and other Revenue sources	<u>- 4,825,393.00</u>
c. Tax levy	\$ 8,771,423.38

Certified Full and Class Assessments	Fair Cash Value Shares of Total Tax Levy	Percentage Full Value
1. Residential	385,154,436	80.1390%
2. Open Space	0	0.0000%
3. Commercial	32,723,524	8.0861%
4. Industrial	26,102,505	6.4477%
5. Personal Property	21,565,982	5.3272%
Totals	465,558,447	100.0000%

Tax Collector

July 01, 2011- June 30, 2012

Tax	Outstanding July 1,2011	Committed	Payments other credits	Outstanding June 30, 2012
2012 Real Estate		8,288,149.35	7,876,564.99	314774.99
2012 Personal Property		452,072.53	447,693.62	4066.36
2011 Real Estate	287148.49		169,831.36	117317.13
2011 Personal Property	3943.54		1,672.34	2271.20
2010 Real Estate	116,094.37		46,802.90	69291.47
2010 Personal Property	2,380.00		58.20	2321.80
2009 Real Estate	89,287.04		27,302.61	61984.43
2009 Personal Property	2,511.00		0.00	2511.00
2008 Real Estate	54,411.96		5,419.59	48992.37
2008 Personal Property	1,960.00		0.00	1960.00
Prior years RL	103,279.68		2,145.41	101134.27
Prior years Personal	7,799.48		138.96	7660.52
 Prior Years	 30,309.06		 575.43	 29,733.63
2006 Motor Vehicle Excise	6,935.00		288.75	6,646.25
2007 Motor Vehicle Excise	6,102.55		604.28	5,498.27
2008 Motor Vehicle Excise	6,441.60		634.99	5,806.61
2009 Motor Vehicle Excise	8,360.08		2,516.28	5,843.80
2010 Motor Vehicle Excise	13,725.05	4,096.15	12,581.08	5,240.12
2011 Motor Vehicle Excise	75,227.21	63,144.61	126,196.88	12,174.94
2012 Motor Vehicle Excise		687,599.62	617,074.91	70,524.71
TOTALS:	524,824.08	754,840.38	1,013,843.97	265,820.49

TOWN OF ADAMS
TOWN TREASURER

Indebtedness

AS OF JUNE 30, 2007

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	\$1,650,000
Nov. 23, 2004	Water Abatement Trust	Waste Water	2.000%	Aug 1, 2024	Taxes/Stabilization Fund	2,096,610
Nov. 30, 2004	Citizens Bank	Town Building	0.600%	MAR 9, 2013	Taxes/Stabilization Fund	166,000
TOTALS:						\$3,912,610

Treasurer

Revenue Cash Investments

Fiscal Year 2012

End of Year Balance	4,475,479.59
Year to date Interest	19,620.23
Balance June 30, 2012	4,495,099.82

Stabilization Fund

End of Year Balance	463,426.33
Interest	2,985.99
TRANSFERS ATM	(31,332.00)
Balance as of June 30, 2012	435,080.32

Cemetery Maintenance Fund

End of Year Balance	11,206.42
Interest	132.67
Transfers Out	(600.00)
Transfers In	
Subtotal:	10,739.09
Plunkett Maintenance	9,377.60
Transfers Out	
Transfers In	
Interest	114.92
Balance as of June 30, 2012	20,231.61

Trust Funds

(IN CUSTODY OF THE TOWN TREASURER)

Fiscal Year 2012

Stephen Low Arnold Hall School Trust Fund

End of Year Balance	31,642.00
Interest	387.79
Subtotal:	32,029.79
Balance as of June 30 2012	32,029.79

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

End of Year Balance	17,253.91
Capital Gains/(Losses)	36.33
Dividends/Interest	139.10
Balance as of June 30, 2012	17,429.34

C.T. Plunkett Library Fund

End of Year Balance	23,178.21
Interest	284.19
Withdrawals- Paid to Library	(235.85)
Balance as of June 30, 2012	23,226.55

Frank H. Saunders Library Fund

End of Year Balance	5,016.29
Interest	61.51
Withdrawals - Paid to Library	(53.21)
Balance as of June 30 2012	5,024.59

Cemetery Investment Fund

End of Year Balance	220,062.65
Interest	2,711.82
Sale of Lots	1,955.00
Expenses	(30,445.59)
Balance June 30, 2012	194,283.88

Cemetery Perpetual Care Bequests

End of Year Balance	420,384.49
Interest	4,705.82
Bequests	1,230.00
Subtotal:	426,320.31
Transfers to General Fund	
Balance as of June 30 2012	429,321.31

Bellevue Cemetery Endowed Lots Henry L. Harrington Fund

End of Year Balance	15,035.21
Interest	184.28
Transfer to Cemetery Investment Fund	
Balance as of June 30, 2012	15,219.49

Maple Street Cemetery Endowed Lots Margaret H. Hall Fund

End of Year Balance	4,113.18
Interest	48.62
Expenses	(470.00)
Balance as of June 30, 2012	3,691.80

Town of Adams Scholarship Fund

End of Year Balance	9,198.75
Interest	113.01
Subtotal:	9,311.76
Deposits	35.91
Awards	(1,021.88)
Balance as of June 30, 2012	8,325.79

Quaker Meeting House Endowment Fund

End of Year Balance	16,576.81
Interest	203.16
Transfer to general fund	
Balance as of June 30, 2012	16,779.97

Town of Adams, Massachusetts
Office of the Town Accountant - Statement of Operating Revenues
Budget and Actual - General Fund
for the year ended June 30, 2012

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
LOCAL RECEIPTS:		
Real Estate Taxes	8,343,755	8,107,832
Personal Property Taxes	452,072	449,602
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	720,474	763,480
Payments In Lieu Of And Other Taxes	136,131	195,982
Penalties And Interest	60,260	84,778
Sewerage Charges	66,094	26,831
Other Departmental Revenue	110,071	128,752
Licenses And Permits	62,385	61,590
Alcoholic Beverages	25,000	26,077
Fines & Forfeitures	32,445	28,242
Investment Income	21,656	7,431
Miscellaneous Revenues	0	13,997
STATE RECEIPTS:		
Unrestricted General Government Aid	1,837,004	2,002,273
Abatements To Vets, Elderly/Blind	55,233	32,688
State Owned Land	53,717	53,717
Veteran's Benefits	11,401	22,588
Urban Redevelopment Excise		89,955
Total Revenues	11,987,698	12,095,815
OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS:		
Operating Transfers and Other Financing Sources:		
Stabilization Fund	187,885	187,885
Council On Aging Fund Receipts	49,000	49,000
Parking Meter Funds	15,000	15,000
Technology Funds	10,000	10,000
Federal Grant Reimbursement	0	8,657
Perpetual Care Funds - From Interest	5,000	5,000
Revenue Appropriation	500,000	
Operating transfers and Other Financing Sources	766,885	275,542
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	12,754,583	12,371,357

Town of Adams, Massachusetts
Office of the Town Accountant - Statement of Operating Expenditures
Budgetary And Actual - General Fund
For The Year Ended June 30, 2012

	Budget as Revised	Actual Expended	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Selectmen	131,308	128,165	3,143
Employee/Retiree Benefits	1,173,538	1,042,129	131,409
Moderator	610	324	286
Town Administrator	242,339	161,115	81,224
Finance Committee	57,087	2,023	55,064
Accountant	168,485	163,526	4,959
Assessors	150,476	146,085	4,391
Treasurer	163,232	156,024	7,208
Town Counsel	42,928	36,880	6,048
Technology	106,929	96,294	10,635
Town Clerk	115,987	114,582	1,405
Elections	17,980	16,835	1,145
Registrations	2,004	1,699	305
Codification	2,500	1,195	1,305
Property Insurance	57,430	46,552	10,878
Town Report	2,600	2,520	80
Debt Service	490,379	466,095	24,284
Liability Insurance	53,800	53,800	-
Conservation Commission	1,578	1,450	128
Planning Board	7,743	6,567	1,176
Zoning Board	6,981	6,191	790
Community Development	140,183	104,827	35,356
Building, Gas, Wire, Etc. Inspection Services	167,570	161,300	6,270
Historical Commission	557	243	314
Agricultural Commission	900	310	590
Police Station	46,585	34,651	11,934
Registry of Deeds	1,500	1,673	(173)
Police	1,507,575	1,389,696	117,879
Emergency Management	1,565	741	824
Animal Control Officer	37,361	32,340	5,021
Forest Warden	10,947	7,176	3,771
Hazardous Waste	150	150	-
Parking Ticket Dept.	5,150	2,868	2,282
Council on Aging	200,587	183,031	17,556
Veteran Services	164,710	157,836	6,874
Library	276,448	270,364	6,084
Town Hall	77,069	65,619	11,450
Community Center	35,025	29,325	5,700
Public Buildings/Prop Maintenance	155,000	154,268	732
Tree Warden	19,421	14,996	4,425

Statement of Operating Expenditures
Budgetary And Actual - General Fund
For The Year Ended June 30, 2012 *(continued)*

	Budget as Revised	Actual Expended	Surplus/ (Deficit)
DPW Administration	148,481	144,987	3,494
Highways, Snow & Ice, Equipment Maint.	1,821,135	1,545,852	275,283
Landfill	56,669	37,580	19,089
Wastewater Treatment	291,519	216,164	75,355
Wastewater Collection	4,950	2,646	2,304
Cemetery, Parks & Grounds	39,602	37,493	2,109
Recreation Program	10,500	10,500	-
Celebrations - Seasonal	2,200	1,810	390
Visitor's Center	11,125	6,726	4,399
Board of Health	59,279	55,142	4,137
Adams-Cheshire Regional School	3,940,208	3,940,208	-
Northern Berkshire Regional Tech	622,968	622,968	-
State Assessments	44,413	41,273	3,140
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS/EXPENSES	12,897,266	11,924,664	972,602
ALLOWANCE FOR ABATEMENTS & EXEMPTIONS	117,661	117,661	-
GRAND TOTAL	13,014,927	12,042,325	972,602

Town of Adams, Massachusetts

Office of the Town Accountant - Consolidated Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2012

(UNAUDITED)

ASSETS									
	General Fund	Stabilization Fund	Special Revenue	Special Revenue Small Cities	Special Revenue T/S Irene	Trusts Funds	Agency Funds	Long-term Debt Group	Total Memo only as of 06/30/2012
Cash									
Petty Cash	490								490
Cash in Savings and Money Market Account	3,632,264	512,419	105,955	30,001		578,885	32,013		4,891,537
Investments									0
Accounts Receivable									
Personal Property Taxes	20,824								20,824
Real Estate Taxes	814,134								814,134
Allowance for Abatements & Exemptions	-674,913								-674,913
Motor Vehicle Excise	145,943								145,943
Tax Titles									
Tax Possessions	455,626								455,626
Departmental - PD Off Duty - Due from Vendors							6,327		6,327
Departmental - Industry Sewer									0
Departmental - Sewer/Water Liens AFD							10,736		10,736
Departmental - Veterans Services	114,043								114,043
Checks returned - ISF	-344							-344	
Departmental - Emergencies Agencies					494,715				494,715
Departmental - Federal Grant Receivable				45,299					
Departmental - Comm of Mass Grants			351,265						
Due from SRF T/S Irene Storm Damage	684,195				-684,195				
Amounts to be Provided for									
Payment of Bond								3,948,513	3,948,513
Debt Authorized & Unissued								565,000	565,000
Total Assets	5,192,262	512,419	457,220	75,300	-189,480	578,885	49,076	4,513,513	11,189,195

Consolidated Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2012

(UNAUDITED) (cont.)

LIABILITIES and FUND BALANCES	General Fund	Stabilization Fund	Special Revenue	Special Revenue Small Cities	Special Revenue T/S Irene	Trusts Funds	Agency Funds	Long-term Debt Group	Total Memo only as of 06/30/2012
Current Liabilities									
Warrants Payable	335,604			40,054					375,658
Payroll Payable	61,687								61,687
Health Insurance Withheld	80,555								80,555
Workmans Comp/PD Accident Payable	14,151								14,151
Taxes Withheld/Payable	4,121								4,121
Unemployment Payable									0
Misc. Withheld	5,104								5,104
Cafeteria Plan Withheld	9,623								9,623
Retirement Withheld	558								558
Miscellaneous							4,224		4,224
Off-Duty Work							27,789		27,789
Deferred Revenues									
Real Estate & Personal Property Tax	160,045								160,045
Tax Liens	455,626								455,626
Motor Vehicle Excise	145,943								145,943
Tax Possessions									
Departmental	114,043				494,715		6,327		615,085
Special Assessments							10,736		10,736
Due from Federal Government				45,299					45,299
Due from Comm of Mass Grants				351,265					351,265
Unreserved Fund Balances	2,240,369								2,240,369
Fund Balances Reserved for Encumbrances	242,693								242,693
Fund Balances Reserved for Compensated Absences	352,024								352,024
Fund Balances Reserved for Trust Funds									
Restricted Trust Funds		512,419							423,547
Unrestricted Trust Funds									155,338

LIABILITIES and FUND BALANCES	General Fund	Stabilization Fund	Special Revenue	Special Revenue Small Cities	Special Revenue T/S Irene	Trusts Funds	Agency Funds	Long-term Debt Group	Total Memo only as of 06/30/2012
Fund Balances Reserved for Fed/State Grants			-327,119	-10,053					-337,172
Fund Balances Reserved for Appropriation	500,000								500,000
Fund Balances Reserved for Gifts/Bequests/Revolving			90,978						90,978
Fund Balances Reserved for Special Purposes									
Reserved for Expenditure	470,085		342,096						812,181
Reserved for Emergency Spending - T/S Irene					-684,195				-684,195
Bonds Payable									
Inside Debt Limit - Town Hall/PD Station								1,650,000	1,650,000
Inside Debt Limit - Old Town Hall/Library								166,000	166,000
Inside Debt Limit - MWPAT								2,132,513	2,132,513
Bonds Authorized & Unissued								565,000	565,000
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	5,192,262	512,419	457,220	75,300	-189,480	578,885	49,076	4,513,513	11,189,195

Town of Adams, Massachusetts
Office of the Town Accountant - Combining Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
and Changes in Fund Balances - Special Revenue Funds - for the year ended June 30, 2012
(UNAUDITED)

	Fund Balance 06/30/11	Revenue	Expenditure	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditure	Operating Transfer In	Operating Transfer Out	Fund Balance 06/30/12
FEDERAL GRANTS							
Federal Community Develop Block Grant	25,568.00	688,726.00	(715,690.00)	(26,964.00)		(8,657.00)	(10,053.00)
Massachusetts Small Cities Program	27,615.00		(27,549.00)	(27,549.00)			66.00
Federal ARRA - Public Works Grant							
Total Federal Grants	53,183.00	688,726.00	(743,239.00)	(54,513.00)	0.00	(8,657.00)	(9,987.00)
STATE GRANTS							
State Aid to Libraries	33,379.00	10,706.00	(4,487.00)	6,219.00			39,598.00
Public Works Economic Development - Signal Project	(0.00)		(40,790.00)	(40,790.00)			(40,790.00)
PWED - FY12 MassWorks	0.00		(341,517.00)	(341,517.00)			(341,517.00)
Energy Conservation	5,391.00	4,086.00	(636.00)	0.00			5,391.00
MEMA	(2,788.00)			3,450.00			662.00
Feasibility Study - Regional Dispatching	0.00		(33,000.00)	(33,000.00)			(33,000.00)
Public Safety	24,564.00	36,771.00	(44,460.00)	(7,689.00)			16,875.00
Elderly	787.00	13,273.00	(14,052.00)	(779.00)			8.00
PWED - Cemetery Pres/Stormwater	13,109.00			0.00			13,109.00
Municipal Incentive - Riverways	5,550.00			0.00			5,550.00
Board of Health - Local Prep Grant	3,991.00		(1,014.00)	(1,014.00)			2,977.00
43D Grant - Greylock Glen	18,496.00		(16,889.00)	(16,889.00)			1,607.00
Conduit Grant	2,343.00			0.00			2,343.00
Total State Grants	104,822.00	64,836.00	(496,845.00)	(432,009.00)	0.00	0.00	(327,187.00)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS							
Parking Meter	71,750.00	7,130.00		7,130.00		(15,000.00)	63,880.00
Council on Aging	63,184.00	29,408.00		29,408.00		(49,000.00)	43,592.00
Technology Fund	26,425.00	23,915.00		23,915.00		(10,000.00)	40,340.00
Free Cash used for Dispatching Services	0.00		(82,115.00)	(82,115.00)	82,115.00		0.00
Cemetery Sale of Lots	215,718.00	12,212.00	(33,646.00)	(21,434.00)			194,284.00
Tropical Storm Irene	0.00	109,007.00	(793,202.00)	(684,195.00)			(684,195.00)
Other Special Revenue & Gifts & Donations	103,290.00	42,671.00	(54,982.00)	(12,311.00)			90,979.00
Total Other Special Revenue Funds	480,367.00	224,343.00	(963,945.00)	(739,602.00)	82,115.00	(74,000.00)	(251,120.00)
TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	638,372.00	977,905.00	(2,204,029.00)	(1,226,124.00)	82,115.00	(82,657.00)	(588,294.00)

Town of Adams, Massachusetts
Office of the Town Accountant - Combining Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
and Changes in Fund Balances - Trust Funds - for the year ended June 30, 2012
 (UNAUDITED)

	Fund Balance 06/30/11	Revenue	Expenditure	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditure	Operating Transfer In	Operating Transfer Out	Fund Balance 06/30/12
NONEXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS							
Cemetery Perpetual Care Principal Only	389,961	5,335		5,335			395,296
Library - Plunkett Fund	23,456	294	(524)	(230)			23,226
Library - Saunders Fund	5,077	113	(165)	(52)			5,025
Total Nonexpendable Trust	418,493	5,742	-689	5,053	0	0	423,546
EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS							
Stabilization	619,979	2,986		2,986	77,339	(187,885)	512,419
Cemetery Perpetual Care - Interest Only	31,319	4,706		4,706		(5,000)	31,025
Cemetery Maintenance	10,606	133		133			10,739
Cemetery Endowed Lots - Harrington/Hall/Plunkett	28,296	348	(240)	108			28,404
Scholarship - Hall/Low	31,641	388		388			32,029
Scholarship - Kruszyna	17,254	176		176			17,430
Scholarship - Town	9,235	1,492	(2,400)	(908)			8,327
Conservation Trust	10,604			0			10,604
Historical Preservation - Quaker Meeting House	16,577	203		203			16,780
Total Expendable Trust	775,511	10,432	(2,640)	7,792	77,339	(192,885)	667,757
TOTAL TRUST FUNDS	1,194,005	16,174	(3,329)	12,845	77,339	(192,885)	1,091,304



The New Hoosac Valley Middle & High School



Main Entrance and Atrium in front of the Resource Center



Students work on iMacs in the Resource Center.



View of the Computer Lab

*New technologies support student learning
in modern classrooms.*



*John Breen and students learn on iMacs
using OS X.*

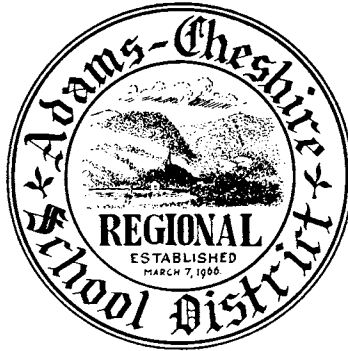


The High School Gymnasium



Students have lunch in the sunlit cafeteria.

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



**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012**



***Adams-Cheshire Regional School Committee
(l-r) Joshua DeMarsico-Birkland; Steven Vigna; Principal Vinnie Regan;
Superintendent Kristen Robinson-Gordon; Chair Paul Butler;
Regina Hill; Vice-Chair Darlene Rodowicz; Edmund St. John IV***

Report of the Chairman

Adams-Cheshire Regional School District

Paul K. Butler, Chairman
Darlene Rodowicz, Vice-Chair
Ed St. John
Regina Hill
Steve Vigna
Joshua DeMarsico-Birkland

(Adams, appointed 09/00, elected 05/01, re-elected 05/04, 05/07, 05/10)
(Cheshire, appointed 09/04, elected 05/06, re-elected 05/09, 05/12)
(Cheshire, elected 05/11)
(Adams, appointed 09/10, elected 05/11)
(Adams, appointed 06/11, elected 05/12)
(Adams, appointed 04/12)

As most of you are aware, the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District has seen tremendous change over the past year. The newly renovated middle and high school project is complete, Superintendent Al Skrocki has retired, and there are a number of administrative and staff changes that have occurred this school year. The district is in the process of re-accreditation as of this writing. Also, the school committee is working to fill the committee seat left vacant by the departure of Gloria Lewis, who went on to become a member of the Board of Selectmen in the Town of Cheshire.

Certainly the topic that generates the most interest has to be the building project that was completed just prior to the 2012/2013 school year at what is now known as Hoosac Valley Middle and High School. Late in the summer prior to the start of school there were a number of public tours held at the school. I was personally involved in giving tours and while I had been familiar with the layout of the building, I was at a handicap since I had not fully been involved in the building project itself. In a way, I feel that was a wise decision. Like many from our communities who were able to take the tours, I was immediately struck by the absolutely stunning job that had been completed at our flagship building. I think the community will be very pleased with the changes and improvements that have taken place at the campus. For those of you who have not had opportunity to tour the school, please take some time to visit the district website or the Hurricane Pride Facebook site to see some photos of the construction and the completed project. For clarification, the newly renovated building has become a middle and high school servicing grades 6 thru 12 from the member towns in our district. Both Cheshire and C.T. Plunkett School have become K thru 5 elementary schools. These changes will also help alleviate the overcrowding condition at Plunkett School while having some impact on future renovation needs at Cheshire elementary. But always remember that it is not the building that makes a district what it is, it is the people inside; the staff, the students, and the community members. It is who we are that always determines how great we can be.

One of the most important responsibilities of the school committee is setting the school budget. Funding for public education has, by and large, been a contentious issue over the years. As of this writing, the school committee, along with the superintendent and business manager, are conducting preliminary budget talks with officials of both member towns. One major area of concern is the loss of federal grants that have funded several teachers and other staff members within our district. To keep current levels of programming, these personnel will need to be incorporated into our budget. Soon the preliminary budget from the governor's budget will be released. While this is very early into the state

budget process, it may give us some insight into where our district stands in terms of state chapter 70 funding. Even with this information, the budget process in our district, as well as every other district, becomes a bit of a guessing game. We must pass our local school budget long before the state sets their final budget. As such, the budget we pass may be significantly different in the amounts of state revenue that what the state sets as final reimbursement. Our first and foremost responsibility is to put a budget together that represents a quality education for our students. We do, however, want the community to know that our budgets also represent our sensitivity to the economic realities that exist in our towns and with our taxpayers. We believe that this budget will still represent good overall value to the two member towns and more importantly will still deliver a well rounded and quality education for the students of the district.

Maintenance and technology continue to improve throughout the district. Certainly the newly renovated Hoosac Valley Campus will be the most modern and up to date school in our district with fuel efficient furnaces, energy saving building materials and windows, along with the solar panel installation on the building grounds. New technology has been built into the school that will improve and enhance the educational experience of our students. There has been a number of ongoing issues related to the new technology, primarily involving the new Apple computers and the networking software. Personnel from these two groups have been on sight in January and the results seem positive at this point. Installation of technology at this level is sure not to be without issue and many of us are frustrated at the pace of progress. It seems as though we have indeed turned the corner on this and hopefully it will stay that way. Be assured that even though this will be basically a new building, maintenance costs are factored into our operating budget as part of our ongoing district wide maintenance program. The use of technology in the classroom helps improve the learning environment both for students and teachers alike. Most of our students will look forward to a workplace dominated by the use of technology. We feel it is important to integrate technologies in the classroom at every feasible opportunity. Kids today grow up surrounded by electronics. It is only natural for them to also embrace an educational environment that incorporates technology in the learning process. Many of you know that the district instituted on-line grade books a couple of years ago and it has been instrumental in allowing 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.

This past year has been one of great change in leadership within our district. After 14 years as superintendent and 38 years as an employee, Alfred Skrocki retired at the end of October. We thank Al for his years of dedicated service to the students of this district and we all wish him the best in his retirement. It is well deserved. Taking over for Al is Kristen Gordon. She has been principal at C.T. Plunkett for the past 8 years. Taking over for Mrs. Gordon is Michelle Colvin. Changes have also taken place at Hoosac Valley. Former principal Henry Duval has stepped down to take the position of vice principal of the middle school wing. Taking over as principal of the entire building is Vinnie Regan. New hire Brooke Kamienski is now the vice principal of the high school wing. So far things are moving forward very smoothly. Welcome aboard to all of you.

As I had reported to you last year, the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District was selected to be one of the first schools in Massachusetts and in the nation to be part of the national education initiative called Race To The Top. This program is a federally funded program in which is designed to improve education in all grade levels. We have already implemented new curriculum throughout the district including some major investment in textbooks and technologies. One of the pieces of Race to the Top is a new evaluation system for all administrators and teachers. This evaluation system is designed to help each staff member improve through a system of enhanced observation, goal setting, and more objective evaluation. We are in the process of implementing this new system and that includes negotiating with the teachers as to the specifics of how it fits into their contract. I believe this will have the end result of making our district a better organization with an improved educational environment.

The chairman's report would not be complete without a few words about our students. Most of the members of the school committee are 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 simply want to say go out and enjoy an event involving students. Perhaps take in a football, baseball, or basketball game. Attend a soccer game or a ski meet. Wave to the band as they march in one of the local parades. Go see the high school musical or one of the concert and jazz band and chorus performances. Students enjoy being supported by their communities and you will probably be amazed by the level at which our students perform.

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. With the recent investment in our buildings and in technology along with some key personnel changes, the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District seems well poised to take on the educational challenges that lay ahead. Our mission is clear; the education of all of our children is of utmost importance. After all, they represent the future for all of us.

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

Superintendent of Schools

ANNUAL REPORT - 2012

In compliance with policy of the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District, I respectfully submit the school district annual report for the year 2012. We have created a new mission statement as well as a continued commitment to a new set of beliefs and values. We also will begin the process of a new 5 year strategic plan in 2013.

The mission of the A.C.R.S.D, a partnership of schools, parents, and community, is to prepare children for the future by providing knowledge and skills to achieve academic excellence, personal growth, and success in a safe, positive and mutually respectful environment.

District Beliefs and Values:

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.

NEW HOOSAC VALLEY MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

The two towns and the school district should be extremely proud of the full opening of the newly renovated Hoosac Valley Middle/High School. Hoosac Valley is green school with state of the art equipment and cutting edge educational programs. We offer more diverse electives and courses than we have seen in quite some time. The black box allows for a choreography class that is extremely popular. The drama program has increased resources and space. Our technology has tripled and we will be offering an engineer track for students in the fall of 2013.

ACADEMICS AND INSTRUCTION

Common Core Standards Initiative was conceived of by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). They wanted to get all the states together to come to agreement on what a quality education looks like in the United States and a common formula for assessing mastery of those standards.

It was not an easy task to undertake. States had widely varying standards of their own and although coming to consensus like this had been talked about for years, it wasn't until this initiative that states really sat down and brought all stakeholders to the table to come to an agreement. Why did it work this time? Probably it is because the US is no longer the best in education in the world. In fact, our students have been falling progressively

behind other countries in comparative tests. Also, the nature of the work environment is changing. Most jobs in the next century will require a college degree. That means students need to be prepared for higher levels of learning.

The group set out to research the best practices not only in the US, but around the world. They found that the countries that were besting us taught fewer concepts, but went much deeper into the subject area. So the foundation was formed. After much discussion and research, the initiative determined that the standards must be aligned with college and work expectations; clear, understandable and consistent; include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills; build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards; be informed by other top performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and are evidence-based.

Our district is working very hard to completely align our curriculum to the Common Core. We have purchased new ELA and Math textbooks at the Elementary and some Middle School levels. This curriculum aligns well to the Common Core. The ACRSD received a grant award with other districts in Berkshire County with a goal of teachers working together throughout the curriculum to complete alignment.

DISTRICT LITERACY PLAN

This we can say with certainty: If a child in a modern society like ours does not learn to read, he doesn't make it in life. If he doesn't learn to read well enough to comprehend what he is reading, if he doesn't learn to read effortlessly enough to render reading pleasurable, if he doesn't learn to read fluently enough to read broadly and reflectively across all content areas, his chances for a fulfilling life, by whatever measure- academic success, financial success, the ability to find interesting work, personal autonomy, self-esteem- are practically nil! *Learning to Read: Schooling's First Mission. American Educator, 1995*

Literacy is one of the pillars of learning and it is critical that our school district has a comprehensive plan for improving literacy for ALL students. Language development in the early grades is a key indicator of future success in school. Research has shown;

- Letter naming fluency in kindergarten is a huge predictor of how easily a child will learn to read.
- Students who do not reach benchmark levels on oral reading fluency tests in mid first grade often do not pass the grade 3 MCAS.
- 90% of students with reading difficulties will achieve grade level in reading if they are given support in grade 1; 75% will continue to struggle throughout the years if help is delayed until age 9 (R. Lyon)
- In MA, 39% of Grade 3 students are not proficient in reading according to the 2012 MCAS scores; scores have been stagnant since 2001 (Early Ed for All)
- In MA, up to 60% of students from low income families are not proficient in reading according to 2012 MCAS scores (Early Ed for All)

- 33-50% of students entering college need to take remedial courses to catch up to their peers (National Commission on Writing)

Last spring the district purchased the Scott Foresman Reading Street curriculum for ELA for grades K-5. Teachers are implementing it during the 2012-2013 school year to enhance attainment of reading skills and learning strategies. This program is just one element in the district's effort to improve literacy. In addition, supplemental programs such as Lexia are in place at the elementary level as is the DIBELS assessment for grades K-5. All teachers in the ACRSD must see themselves as teachers of literacy and must be well versed in the five components of reading. The five components of literacy must be taught with fidelity at the appropriate levels; teachers must be provided strategies to support students, and extended time must be provided for students who need it in order to achieve at high levels. As we move to adopt the mantra that "all teachers are teachers of literacy" adults need to recognize that students are still mastering literacy skills when they exit elementary school. Teachers need support in helping students develop rich vocabulary in specialized content areas such as math, science and social studies. Teachers in all subject areas at the upper levels must teach comprehension and fluency particular to their discipline. While we have already provided training for some teachers through the Keys To Literacy Company in the area of vocabulary and comprehension strategies, we need to create a plan that will support ALL teachers as they strive to help their students become productive citizens in the 21st Century.

The assessment of student understandings needs to be a large part of the district literacy plan. Assessments should be conducted a minimum of three times per year with additional progress monitoring for those at risk. While this is happening at the elementary level with DIBELS, it must be an integral part of the district's educational program at all levels. In addition, all teachers, even those at the elementary level using DIBELS, need on going professional development to show them how to administer assessments, and how to analyze the data, and how to create comprehensive learning plans for students in need. There needs to be a common intervention toolbox for teachers to provide a consistent and persistent approach to learning over time. The district is responsible for the education of each individual child and needs to determine what supports should be in place at each level to create a uniform model for student growth and achievement. A long range district literacy plan that will take several years to implement is the best way to create a model for success for all. Over the next five years, the district will implement a long range plan that supports higher levels of literacy for all.

TECHNOLOGY

The School District continues to work on the development of our local technology plan for submission to the state for approval in January 2013. An online report card was implemented and produced at the elementary level, bringing online report cards for all students of the district. The District received a large number of infrastructure upgrades with the newly renovated middle/high school which includes a fiber optic network within the building and a managed wireless network. Over 250 computers and 5 iPad carts were added for use at the 6-12 grade level. All high school teachers were trained in utilization of new Mac OS X laptops and the ratio of students to 'Type A' computers was significantly improved according to Massachusetts DESE recommendations. The School District continues to utilize different elements of technology to communicate and engage the school and local community.

COMMUNICATION/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

We will be launching a brand new user-friendly website in March 2013. We also hope to get community representation on the committee to develop our new 5 year strategic plan. The communities have been extremely supportive of our schools and it is very much appreciated. Communication and collaboration continue between the school district and the towns in the development of the 2014 school budget through a sub-committee of officials from all entities. The Adams-Cheshire Educational Foundation (ACE) added three new members to the executive board of the organization and continues to provide grants in response to project proposals from school district stakeholders. Each of the district buildings continues an on-going commitment to community service through several initiatives and activities conducted by groups including the high school LEO Club. The district continues to use technology in the form of e-mail, Facebook and Gradebook to communicate with students, parents and stakeholders in the communities of Adams and Cheshire.

SAFETY

The school district conducted its annual review and revision of the crisis manual with local police, fire and emergency response personnel, in October of 2012 and again in February 2013. State and local police and fire provided comprehensive support in conducting lock-down, fire and evacuation drills for all staff and students of the district. The district has committed to anti-bullying curriculum at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

Kristen Robinson-Gordon
Superintendent of Schools

Hoosac Valley Middle & High School

2012 Annual Report

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

The 2012-2013 Hoosac Valley Middle & High School was one of great change. Our newly renovated campus and facilities are top-notch and will support student achievement for many years to come. There were so many people integral to the building project from start to finish that it is impossible to name them all, but a special thank you to HVMHS Building Committee, Custodial and Support Staff, and Berkshire County Sheriff's Office to ensure we opened on time successfully. This state of the art campus will be a benefit to HVMHS students for generations to come.

Hoosac Valley welcomed the 6th grade to make its grades 6-12 Middle and High School. Principal Vinnie Regan joined the HVMHS staff joining with newcomer Vice Principal Brooke Kaminski and veteran administrator Vice Principal Henry Duval. We added a many new teachers who will be an asset to our school for many years to come. We are building a culture of continuous improvement and accountability, and are proud that we serve our member towns by fulfilling the ACRSD Mission “to create a partnership of our schools and communities that develops all of our students into educated, responsible and productive citizens.” Please visit our newly designed webpage at HV.ACRSD.NET for more information. Also be sure to read about our wonderful student-athletes and their achievements in the Athletics section of this town report.

Hoosac Valley faculty, students and stakeholders developed new core values this school year. We believe if students and staff master these it will improve climate, learning outcomes and future success. HVMHS demonstrates Hurricane PRIDE daily, with the acronym meaning:

- Perseverance* conquers all challenges
- Respect* for each member of our learning community
- Integrity* in all the choices we make
- Dedication* to learning and achievement
- Excellence* is a result of hard work and effort

This winter Hoosac Valley students performed Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol under the direction of educators Kate Frissell, Jake Keplinger, Tim Rougeau and Jamie Lamour. This musical was a major success and was enjoyed by many students, faculty and community members. There were excellent exhibitions by the Band, Chorus and Dance programs in the Winter Concert and Recital respectively.

The Hoosac Valley Leo Club continued its fundraising, charitable activities and service learning for our communities with over 100 students. The National Honor Society increased its membership to 45 students with numerous leadership and service projects supporting the Adams-Cheshire Regional School district and member communities. It was great to have our Keynote speaker at the NHS Induction Ceremony be alumnus Al Skrocki fresh out of retirement in the Alfred W. Skrocki Performing Arts Center.

Many our proud traditions continued this year. In football Hoosac Valley defeated Drury 14-0 at Del Negro Field, with Jake Anderson-Hall being name the Mike Rysz Award winner for his outstanding performance in the annual game. We had an outstanding Pep Rally with the whole student body to cheer on the team. This year's Freshman Reception and SnoBall were a success with many students participating. The Art Hathaway Dinner was a success returning to Hoosac Valley, with the Student Council doing a great job serving our community.

In the classroom staff utilized new technologies to support student learning and achievement including class size iPad carts, Eno interactive white boards, projectors, ELMOs, and related software and technology. Considering the challenges our students will face in the 21st Century, we adopted 21st Century Learning Expectations to support all of our students being successful as adults. They are as follows:



Learning & Innovation Expectations

- ***I. Creativity & Innovation***

Students will apply creative and technological knowledge and skills to create an original and thoughtful product.

- ***II. Critical Thinking & Problem Solving***

Students will think critically by researching, analyzing, evaluating, and synthesizing to demonstrate content knowledge to solve complex problems.

- ***III. Communication & Collaboration***

Students will communicate effectively, verbally and in writing, and demonstrate the ability to work independently as well as collaboratively.

- ***IV. Information & Technology Literacy***

Students will use multiple methods of technology to access, evaluate, and effectively apply information appropriate for authentic tasks.

Life & Career Expectations

- ***V. Flexibility & Adaptability***

Students will develop and maintain skills, strategies, competencies, and qualities to succeed personally, interpersonally, and professionally.

- ***VI. Initiative & Self-direction***

Students will exhibit self-initiative and self-advocacy to meet needs, make good decisions, and succeed academically for future success.

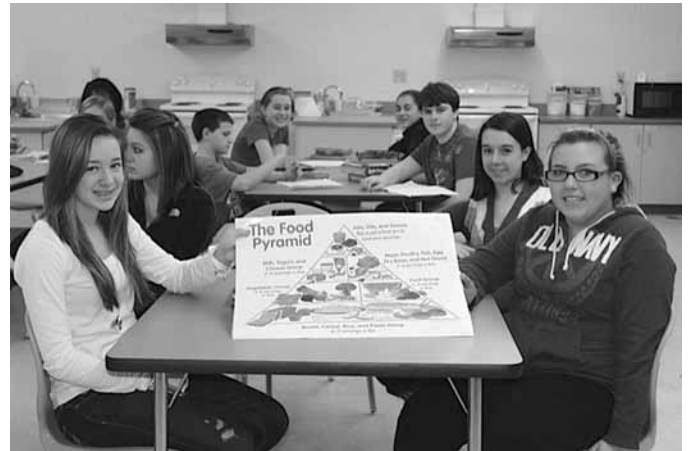
- ***VII. Social & Cross-Cultural Skills***

Students will demonstrate respect and understanding for individual differences.

- ***VIII. Leadership & Civic Responsibility***

Students will demonstrate leadership through social and civic responsibility through school and community involvement and service.

Vinnie Regan, Principal



C.T. Plunkett Elementary School

The Mission of the ACRSD is to create a partnership of our schools and communities that develops all of our student into educated, responsible and productive citizens.

District Beliefs

- I believe all children are capable of learning.
- I believe all students deserve the best instruction and the best resources.
- I believe a safe, respectful, and organized environment creates the ideal climate for learning.
- I believe that people who share responsibility and accountability enhance success.
- I believe that learning is increased when everyone has high expectations.
- I believe providing a variety of approaches leads to individual success and growth.
- I believe that on-going assessment and adjustment is necessary for growth.

C.T. Plunkett Elementary School has the largest enrollment of any elementary school in Berkshire County. Currently we service students in grades Pre-K - 5. The school is located on Commercial Street in downtown Adams housing seven grade levels with between 65-95 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.

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	07-08	08-209	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13
Pre-K			61			
K	84	71	97	67	86	87
1	84	84	80	94	75	78
2	80	90	78	81	91	65
3	90	80	91	71	81	90
4	94	93	85	85	72	84
5	104	89	90	85	90	78
6		77	81	75		
Totals	536	507	598	564	570	543

STAFFING:

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

Pre-Kindergarten

Kelly Reichers & Laura Ziemba

Kindergarten

Kristi Bachli, Roberta Urquhart, Mary Whitman, and Mara Woolley

Grade 1

Amy Anderson, Ann Atwell, Susan Biros, Mary Tanner

Grade 2

Elizabeth Alibozek, Dawn Bombardier, Kelly Ryan and Barbara Steuer

Grade 3

Beth Bourdon, Jennifer Downey, Anne Prudhomme, and Sarah Sookey

Grade 4

Dawn Bishop, Laurie Cantarella, Cynthia Vadnais, and Noella Wotkowicz

Grade 5

Justin Lucciani, Kathleen McGrath, Nancy Parrot and Jill Pompei

School-Wide

Principal Michelle S. Colvin

Dean of Students Patricia Misiuk

Title I Director & Literacy Coach: Jill Pompei

Art: Terry Cooper, Wendy Lamberton **Music:** Jen Taylor
Physical Education: Fran Cariddi, Dan Wehle **Title I:** Deb Langner, Kale Skrocki **School Adjustment Counselor:** Nicole Seyerlein **Speech/Lang:** Diane Arduini, Heather DiSanti, Jamie Tooley **Occupational Therapy:** Suzanne Harnick, Deb Silveira
Interpreter: Judy Miller **Administrative Assistant:** Julie Little
Main Office Para: Holly Field **Autism Specialist:** Kim Biagini
Library: Laurie Gavazzi **Nurse:** Jennie Pierce **Cafeteria:** Kimberly Briggs, Carole Carlow, Ann Conroy, Amy Garner, Frances Jamros, Laurie Malloy, Cindy Ziarnik **Daycare:** Sharon Girard, Miriam Serrano **Custodians:** Chad Carpenter, Mark McCarthy, Paul (Tito) Sniezek

Paraprofessionals:

Pat Alibozek, Susan Barthe, Marissa Boggins, Kathleen Bradbury, Shannon Briggs, Susan Burzimati, Deb Ciempa, Vanessa Cook, Brandon Crouse, Barbara Czerwinski, Michael DiLego, John Duval, Laura Fitzgerald, Laurie Gamari, Jeanne Garafano, Zach Gordon, Deanna Guettler, Jessica Jennings, Aimee Kelly, Jennifer Kline, Susan Knapp, Dan Kondel, Donna LaBonte, Patricia LaFrance, Julie Lech, Karen Levesque, Geeta Lipinski, Barbara Mallett, Kathy Malloy, Paula Meczywor, Donna Mullaney, Mary Murray, Mike O'Keefe, Karri Schonger, Lisa Waltermire, Becki Zaleski, Jackie Ziarnik

Preschool Update:

C.T. Plunkett welcomed Pre-K to our school for the 2012-2013 school year. The Preschool had the opportunity to go out into the community and explore Lakeview Apple Orchard. This was a culminating activity to our Fall units focusing on apples and pumpkins. This hands-on experiment, featuring what we learned in the classroom corresponds to each area of the Common Core and provided real life experiences; seasons of an apple tree, shape/size and color of apples, uses for apples, and tastes of various apples. Upon returning to the classroom, the students were able to illustrate their experience at the orchard and dictate a sentence about the visit. This was then composed into a class book. The New Year brings a new curriculum to the preschool. We have started implementing Scott Foresman's Opening Worlds of Learning, (OWL) which aligns the preschool with district's elementary curriculum. The students are being immersed in literacy and mathematics this year. We look forward to seeing Ollie and his "amazing" words each week!

Kindergarten Update:

Kindergarten is a time of exploration, awareness, making friends, and expanding one's learning. Our classes learn these skills by attending different field trips throughout the year. The Kindergarten classes go on such field trips as; Whitney's Farm, Apple Orchard, Big Y Super Market, Colonial Theater, Adams Post Office, Adams Fire Department, Adams Police Station, Adams Ambulance, Adams Free Library, Maple Sugaring, Mass MoCA, Mt. Greylock Greenhouses, Norman Rockwell, nature walks, and more!

During the 2012-2013 school year, our district has implemented a new language arts and math series. The Scott Foresman series both aligns with the common core and Massachusetts State Frameworks. Children are engaged in learning letters, sounds, high frequency words, nouns, verbs, adjectives, cause and effect relationships and more.

Our Kindergarten classes work on two phonics/reading computer programs. Lexia is an interactive educational software program that provides children with games to help them read and learn. The program has a home/school connection where each child can access the program at home. We also have Accelerated Reader which provides personal reading practice to each student's current level.



Each spring our school holds a Kindergarten screening for each incoming Kindergarten student. The screening tool is the "Battelle Developmental Inventory". This screening tool looks at each child's developmental level. The screening results help us to closely monitor the individual progress and adapt our instruction to meet each child's individual needs. We believe that all children are capable of learning. The Kindergarten day is set up with time periods of whole group instruction, small group language and math support, and one to one assistance.

The Kindergarten classes are NAEYC, (National Association of the Education of Young Children) accredited. This accreditation is reapplied for every five years. We are an exemplary program. The accreditation helps secure funding through State and federal grants.

The William and Margery Barrett Fund and the Adams Community Bank have funded and helped our Kindergarten summer transition program for the past six years. This funding has purchased t-shirts for the incoming Kindergarten students, books for summer reading, school supplies for summer readiness activities and book bags.

Grade 1 Update:

This has been a huge year for change! We have been very busy working with all of our new curriculum materials purchased this year. Along the way we have been able to expose our students to many interesting science and social studies topics through the non-fiction selections provided with the Reading Street program. Math is new too! We begin with exploratory activities as an introduction to each new skill and concept presented. Our students enjoy these new activities. Then we follow up with modeled lessons and independent practice.

All first graders are given a homework packet at the beginning of each week aimed at increasing parent involvement in their child's education. Parents are asked to play games with their children that help to reinforce the skills/concepts presented in class, listen to their children read, and supervise some written practice sheets. More than 80% of our families participate in these homework activities each week.

Grade 2 Update:

The second grade classes at C.T. Plunkett have been very busy! In January, we went to the Colonial Theater and watched an amusing and funny story called, *Going on a Bear Hunt*. Thank you PTG!

For the month of February, we have been very busy with our Accelerated Reader challenge! If our 2nd grade classes read, take, and pass 100 Accelerated Reader books by the end of February, we will have a pizza lunch party! Our students have really stepped up their reading and their love of books surely shows!

Each class has been working hard on mastering all of our addition and subtraction facts, as well as learning and applying problem solving strategies. Thank you Bev Favreau for coming into our classes and working with us!

At the beginning of November, 2nd grade initiated our "Team Up for Kids" parent involvement program. One day per month is set aside for parents to come into our classes for either an ELA lesson or Math lesson and work side-by-side with our students.

We are hoping to have an increase in the number of parents who take part in this program as the year progresses!

We are looking forward, once again, to participating in “Alex’s Lemonade Stand.” Second grade students and their families supply us with lemonade and cups. Second grade students and their teachers work diligently to sell the lemonade to our students and staff of C.T. Plunkett. We then make a donation, on behalf of C.T. Plunkett’s Second Grade, to “Alex’s Lemonade Stand” and/or any local child who is battling childhood cancer. The date is yet to be determined, but is normally scheduled for the first week in June.

Grade 3 Update:

The third grade has been extremely busy this year. Present class sizes range from 23 to 24 students. All students are working with new curriculum in both reading and math. The new reading series that has been adopted is the Scott Foresman Reading Street Common Core Program. In math, the students are working with the Envision Math Common Core Program. The students are finding both curriculums interesting and extremely challenging. Teachers have also been providing a great deal of practice and instruction in preparation for the ELA MCAS test that will be administered in March and for the Math MCAS test that will be administered in May. Particular focus is being placed on open response question practice and instruction.

Over the summer, the third grade teachers wrote a grant to the Adams Cheshire Educational Partnership Fund for an “Appreciating Berkshire Wildlife” project. An award of \$600 was granted by ACE and the C.T. Plunkett parent group also granted the third grade \$1,600.00 to fund the remainder of the fee. Gayle Raser, from the Massachusetts Audubon Society is presenting 14 class sessions with each third grade that focus on native Berkshire Wildlife and all third graders will benefit from a field trip to Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in June.

Grade 4 Update:

Fourth Grade is busy exploring a variety of topics across the curriculum. In Social Studies the students are enjoying reading about the different regions of the US. This ties in very nicely with our new ELA series. In Science, our students have thoroughly enjoyed a unit on matter. Since 4th grade is the first year



that students are able to participate in actual experiments they are very enthusiastic! In mathematics, of course, our students are busy preparing for the upcoming MCAS assessments. The new math series teaches 2-3 different approaches for solving the same concept. Finally, in the area of English/Language Arts, our students are enjoying an array of nonfiction stories. The new reading series is helping students to further develop their higher level thinking skills.

Grade 5 Update:

Fifth grade seems to be flying by this year with the students actively engaged in many educational activities. We have been very busy with the implementation of the new math and language arts curriculum based on the mandated Common Core. Our students have transitioned nicely using our new math and reading series. During the fall semester, they spent time learning about rocks and minerals. The culmination of this unit was a trip to a local industry, Specialty Minerals, Inc. Students were given the opportunity to see, first hand, how the mining industry works. They were amazed at the size of the quarry located here in Adams.

To compliment their student of Early American History, a trip to Sturbridge Village was planned. Once there, they found themselves immersed in the lifestyle of an early nineteenth century community. They discovered a life very different from their own.

During the week of March 11th - 15th the fifth grade students will participate in the annual week-long Nature’s Classroom trip. The time they spend on this trip is truly one of the highlights of the students’ elementary experiences. It is filled with hands-on, multidisciplinary learning experiences that the children remember for the rest of their lives. The 5th grade at CTP has had a year filled with varied and exciting educational experiences!

Library

The C.T. Plunkett Library houses over 15,000 books, videos and magazines. The automated circulation and cataloging system makes it possible for students and staff to access the electronic card catalog. Approximately 12,000 items were checked out during the school year. Students visit the library once a week and have the opportunity to listen to stories and 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 more than \$78,000. 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 seven years the committee has also sponsored a Literacy Fair which has been extremely successful.

Anti-Bullying Program:

C.T. Plunkett Elementary School is proud to announce the launch of our bullying prevention program for all students in grades K-5!

Second Step: A Violence Prevention Curriculum is a research-based curriculum that teaches social and emotional skills for violence prevention. The program is user-friendly and contains parent education components. It aims to reduce impulsive and aggressive behaviors and increase protective factors and social competence in children from preschool through junior high.

Children learn how to respond empathically to others and practice skill steps for calming down, reducing anger, and solving problems. The classroom-based curriculum, organized by grade level, teaches children to practice empathy, problem-solving skills, risk assessment, decision-making, and goal-setting.

Second Step lessons are organized into three skill-building units that focus on: (1) empathy, (2) impulse control and problem solving, and (3) anger management. Lessons are sequential, developmentally appropriate and provide opportunities for modeling, practice, and skills reinforcement.

The curriculum includes discussion, teacher modeling, coaching skills, and role plays. Stories are used to demonstrate important peer relations skills, and to teach affective, cognitive, and behavioral social skills. Lessons can be incorporated into health, science, math, social studies, and language arts.

The Second Step elementary curriculum consists of 15-22 thirty-five minute lessons per grade level taught once per week. Group discussion, modeling, coaching and practice are used to increase students' social competence, risk assessment, decision-making ability, self-regulation and positive goal setting.

The addition of this new program will be worked into our existing schedule. Students who have art or music classes 2-3 times per week will now have Second Step during one of those special class periods or during an additional library time. Many, many thanks to Mrs. Lamberton, Mrs. Cooper, Ms. Taylor and Mrs. Gavazzi for their willingness to be trained and lead our students in this valuable programming!

Parent Group (PTG)

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
- MassMOCA events
- Musician and songwriter

Family-Focused Events

- Bingo Nights

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
- Graduations, picnics and t-shirts
- Audobon science program
- Field Day events

Appreciation Days

- Staff Appreciation Day in May
- Bagels & Books for faculty and staff during Book Fair
- Classroom Pizza Party to award top sellers in fundraiser

School Improvements/Equipment Maintenance:

- Air conditioning project
- Bulletin Boards

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.

Title I

Title I is an entitlement grant supporting school-wide academic support for all Plunkett students. Through Title I funding, classroom teachers and interventionists are able to use assessment data in ELA and math throughout the year to inform instructional routines. In addition, instructional assistants work under the guidance of classroom teachers to reinforce instruction in reading, writing and math through small group differentiated instruction. Title I also supports extended day academic activities through the Homework Help program. In addition, Title I funds support a school-wide assessment team. This team meets monthly to analyze data, prioritize student needs, and identify successful instructional strategies that will meet the expected rigor of the new Common Core Frameworks.

Because it is known that increased family involvement in school activities translates into higher student achievement, the Title I director sends home monthly newsletters. Topics include the five components of reading, along with helpful tips for home activities. These newsletters are posted on the district website. In addition, a yearly survey invites parents and staff to report on their impressions of school climate, academic preparation, communication, and family concerns. Topics suggested by parents and staff are addressed throughout the year through informational meetings and workshops as well as at evening programs such as Curl Up & Read and Math Night.

This year, a newly formed District Literacy Team, comprised of teachers and administrators and led by the Title I Director, is working to create a multiyear District Literacy Plan. This plan will guide the work in the District as we prepare students for success in school and in life.

Reading Is Fundamental

RIF is a federally funded program whose goal is to give children access to books and discover the joys and value of reading. C.T. Plunkett qualifies for this grant due to the percentage of free and reduced lunch students attending. Additional funding is provided by the C.T. Plunkett Library Fund. Three times a year each student at C.T. Plunkett can choose a book from a wide selection of books, based on their own interests. The book distributions are enhanced by fun reading-motivational activities. Past themes have included "Get on Board with Reading" (trains). "Warm up with a Good Book" (winter). And "Books on the Beach" (summer reading). Volunteers are a big part of RIF, helping make bookmarks, stamp and inventory books, and helping on distribution day by reading with students, stocking books, and even handing out hot chocolate and cookies. This program is vital for children who have no books in their homes, have limited access to bookstores, and who, without RIF would not experience the thrill of owning their own books.

Music Program:

Jennifer Taylor teaches general music at CT Plunkett. In music classes students are introduced to musical notation, musical terminology, families of instruments, and major composers and different musical genres. Students in grades Pre-K-2 focus on singing and movement activities, while students in grades 3-5 have the opportunity to learn the basics of guitar and keyboard.

All students have hands-on experience with different instruments such as drums, maracas, rhythm sticks and tambourines.

Art:

The C.T. Plunkett Art Department will welcome the public to our annual Art Show on Monday, April 1, 2013 from 5-7 PM. Over 600 pieces of student artwork from grades Pre-K through 5th grade will cover the first floor hallways. Additional pieces of framed art will be on display in the cafeteria on the first floor.

All artwork is literacy based with an emphasis on exploring various mediums including: collage, printmaking, sculpture, calligraphy, design and clay projects, as well as drawing and painting. The Art Show is an exciting culmination of the endless amount of creativity that our students exhibit throughout the year.

Physical Education:

Students have been engaged in a vast array of different activities while participating in physical education at C.T. Plunkett. Students at the fourth and fifth grade levels have learned sport skills in the areas of soccer, football, and basketball while also learning how to better communicate with classmates during our cooperative games unit. Students at the younger grade levels have been learning many different gross motor skills required to participate in team sports and noncompetitive games. These skills include the overhand and underhand throw, kicking, jumping rope, loco-motor movements and gymnastics. Students at all levels are making progress in understanding the value of teamwork, cooperation, effort, and sportsmanship. C.T. Plunkett physical education classes work to both actively engage a student's mind and body while conveying the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle.

Technology

Our school focuses on developing critical 21st Century skills for all students in pre-K through grade 5. 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 continue to have an active committee of dedicated staff from each building, Path Team, who act as an advisory group to district administrators along with being liaisons between staff and administrators. Presently we are reviewing the hardware and software utilized at CTP to identify areas of strength as well as ways to improve student access to today's ever changing technology.

As in the past we have been using the LEXIA on-line software program to reinforce all areas of phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, and spelling in grades pre-K -5. 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, research-based lessons to improve ELA skills. Teachers monitor student progress and print reports to allow for differentiated instruction to reinforce any problem areas. We continue to offer this program to our families for at home use. Students in grades four and five have access to a cart of iPads for internet access, as well as a variety of apps for academic practice in areas of math and ELA skills.

Each teacher was 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 Lexia activities, perform research, or use the word processor. 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.

The district's web site (www.acrsd.net) is being rebuilt and will soon be ready for use. It will continue to provide information about our school and the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District. 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. An all call option has been added to our phone system. This allows us to contact families and staff by phone to share important information concerning upcoming events, changes in schedule, and other announcements.

21st Century After School Program

The 21st Century Grant currently operating in its eleventh year is sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Early and Secondary Education and the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District. We also were awarded the 245 Special Education grant that provides extra special education support to our identified students in the program. The Exemplary CT Plunkett 21st CCLC grant-funded program offers children in grades one through five the opportunity to be involved in STEM focused, project-based after school activities that begin at the end of the school day and run until 5:00 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 are led by a certified teacher and paraprofessional and SEPD support staff. The program is free and provides snack, homework help, and multi-modal indoor and outdoor projects and activities. This year we offered many hands-on activities like dance, pottery, the Creative Minds art curriculum, cooking, computers, and sewing. Adams Youth Center Inc. also provides staff once a week to do projects that are science and fitness-based. Lego simple machine 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)
- McCann Technical High School (hygienists for classroom visits)
- Hillcrest Dental (hygienists for classroom visits)
- 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
- 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.

“Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.”

~John F. Kennedy

C.T. Plunkett is a dynamic, child-centered school where our students' safety and academic achievement are our top priorities. We are so thankful for all of the continued support we receive from our parents, families, volunteers and community friends. The hard work we do each day could not be possible without you as our partner in the education of our children!

Submitted by,

Michelle Colvin, Principal

Cheshire Elementary School

2012 - 2013 School Year

It is my pleasure to once again be submitting this report as the principal of Cheshire Elementary School for a fourth year. We are currently at an enrollment of 174 students in grades K through 5. 2012-2013 has been a very busy year for Cheshire School. With the construction completed at the Hoosac Valley Middle and High School Campus, we have some added space. Our sixth grade has moved to that site and our pre-school moved to C.T. Plunkett Elementary School in Adams. The District Offices, including the Superintendent, business office and Special Services office are now permanently located in Cheshire School. At the time of the writing of this report, the Adams Cheshire School Committee recently voted to move the pre-school classes back to Cheshire Elementary School as of the start of the 2013-2014 school year. We are excited to have our friends return and to help C.T. Plunkett with their space constraints.

The educational staff at Cheshire School has remained somewhat stable after some significant cuts a few years ago. We have been fortunate to have a half time paraprofessional to work in the library along with parent volunteers. This has allowed us to continue to schedule a library time for each class during the week and the children are able to check out books weekly. We have a new physical teacher, Daniel Wehle, who replaced longtime Cheshire teacher Jay Sniezek who moved to the middle school level. We also have a new Speech/Language Pathologist on board following the retirement of Lucinda Rancourt in late September. Her name is Jamie Tooley. Another new face at Cheshire School is Timothy Rougeau, who is the music specialist. Tim replaced Wavelyn Hine who retired at the end of the 2012 school year. Another former Cheshire School teacher, Jan Charbonneau joined the ranks of the retirees in December. Jan previously taught sixth grade. We wish all of our departing and arriving staff all the best in their new roles in life.

The Cheshire Parent Teacher Group (PTG) meets monthly to provide financial support to programs for the children and to plan events throughout the year. Any parent is welcome to join this organization. They meet on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the school. Please feel free to call the school to find out more about being a part of this helpful group. You can also find a great deal of information through the PTG web site at cheshireptg.org.

As has been done in the past years, teachers contributed the following paragraphs of this report in order to give you a little snapshot of what happens at Cheshire Elementary School. I hope you find them informative and feel free to come visit us sometime if you would like to see the school and learn more about what we do to educate the children in our community.

KINDERGARTEN 2012-2013

Submitted by Teachers: Robin Poirot and Heather Emerson

This year we have implemented new Reading and Math series. Our stories for Literature are innovative and exciting. We learn new words each week in order to expand our vocabulary. We call

these our "Amazing Words". We are doing additional work in our Lexia computerized reading program which is connected to our homes as well. This is a fantastic tutorial program to enrich the phonetic base for all of our students at their different levels.

In November, our Cheshire children were in the Transcript with their "How to Cook a Turkey" renditions. They were also captured wearing their Pilgrim hats in a photo of a giant replica of the Mayflower which they helped to construct!

We visited our Post Office and mailed handmade cards home at Christmas. Our classes were able to attend three performances at the Colonial Theatre. Most recently we saw a musical called *The Bear Hunt*. It was an awesome interactive play enjoyed by all.

Community members and parents are invited to come in and read to the children on a regular basis. We have our Secret Reader Program and allow guests to come and surprise the children with a reading!

One of our favorite programs is our Fifth Grade Buddies. Each week a Kindergartener and a Fifth Grader are paired to work together on various activities. It is wonderful to watch the bond form between these two buddies.

In the spring, our classes will attend a field trip to Hancock Shaker Village in order to view and handle the baby animals. We will also have our Mexican Fiesta as a culminating celebration for the end of the year, as we showcase the Spanish that we have learned in preparation for the performance for our families.

Once again, we have had a full productive year and are proud of the accomplishments of each and every one of our students.

FIRST GRADE 2012-2013

The first graders have had many educational and fun experiences while working with our brand new reading and math series. Around Thanksgiving, we wrote a book about the Pilgrims and the Native Americans. We spent the month of December creating a 2013 calendar. For science, we intend to study nutrition and the food pyramid over the next few months.

Reading is a large focus in first grade. We set a grade-level reading achievement goal of reading to fill a bulletin board snowman with snowballs. For a spring reading goal, we will be reading to fill a bulletin board flower with petals. When the reading goals are reached, we will celebrate with a reading marathon celebration.

We also spend much of our time practicing addition and subtraction math facts. Students practice their facts by partnering up and playing whole-class math games.

Last year the first grade studied the U.S. Presidents, mapping skills, continents and oceans, American symbols, and



Kindergartners having fun and learning...



folktales. These academic units will be carried out annually in the spring.

Teachers: Mrs. Katie Chenail & Mrs. Melissa Rusek

SECOND GRADE

There are a total of 31 children in our second grade. The students are working hard to become strong readers. Like the rest of the elementary level, we are using our new reading and math curriculum materials. This curriculum has a strong focus on informational text and the children are enjoying reading about real world facts. Vocabulary and comprehension building has taken off through read alouds of literature along with the “Amazing Words” that are worked on in the reading units.

The boys and girls are developing their writing skills as part of the reading and writing connection. The second grade has successfully implemented new methods aiming toward developing mastery of addition and subtraction math facts, as well as problem solving. Learning good character traits and developing respectful social skills is also a key part of a second grader’s education. Our second graders are working hard to be prepared for third grade.

Teachers: Ms. Stephanie McCarthy & Mrs. Kim Trimarchi

THIRD GRADE 2012-2013

A look at third grade!

This year is going by so fast. We have a new curriculum series in both Math and Language Arts. We are taking advantage of the new technology piece this year which includes interactive videos and games to promote learning. In Language Arts we have been enjoying various chapter books in class as well. Some of our favorites are *100 Dresses*, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*, *Stone Fox*, and *The Magician’s Nephew*. Math is exponentially enjoyable in third grade because we are starting multiplication. This becomes a hands on experience as they create their own flashcards with helpful poems and pictures provided by retired educator, Bev Favreau. They also especially love the opportunity to show their math expertise playing the Timez Attack. It is wonderful to see the enthusiasm in students that apply these new found skills.

This spring we will be having our postponed fundraiser which will, in turn, lead to our class field trip to the Plymouth Plantation. We have been reading about the Native Americans and the Pilgrims and how they lived. We look forward to experiencing a little of what life was like for them. We also are excited to be learning about our town and state. We will read about the people who contribute to our local community. With our Native American unit, we will be talking about the three sisters and planting our own classroom garden. This will lead to the beginning of our nature journaling. Cheshire offers an amazing amount of natural beauty through the Ashuwillticook Trail. We will take several field trips and admire our surroundings through drawing and describing the plant and animal life. This will be very helpful in our study of life cycles. It’s wonderful seeing students thrive in

all the challenging, creative & stimulating environments we have the privilege of introducing to them to throughout the year.

Teachers: Mr. Eric Brown & Ms Danielle Taylor

FOURTH GRADE 2012-2013

The fourth grade class has been busy this year! In November, we took our annual field trip to Howe Caverns to see first-hand what the earth looks like underground as part of our science and social studies lessons. It was great to actually see things we had been talking about in class such as stalactites and stalagmites and the layers of sedimentary rock. The students had to fund-raise for the field trip and they certainly raised enough money at a Sunday Pancake breakfast that they hosted at St. Mary’s Parish. One of our fund raising efforts that we do throughout the year is collecting bottles and cans to cash in. We ask everyone from the school to donate all year long and then on a sunny spring day, we will bring ALL of the bottles and cans out into the school courtyard to count and tally. Once counted, the children will have to do “practical” hands on math and figure out how much money we have earned!!! We will also be pulling all of the can tabs off this year to donate to the Shriners Children’s Hospital.

This year, we will be using our fund raised money to take our annual trip to New York City to see Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. This field trip also corresponds with our social studies curriculum in studying the geography and landmarks/historical sites of North America. For some of the students, it is a once in a lifetime trip and one that is remembered long after the day is finished.

Fourth grade learned the important lesson of “paying it forward” during the holidays as they accepted a challenge from their teacher. They were each given \$5.00 with the caveat that they couldn’t keep it for themselves, but rather had to use it to help someone or something that needed it more than them. They raised \$768.00 for over 14 charities and organizations!!! They each gave a presentation about their experience.....and they were all so proud of the work they had done for others.

In keeping with the theme of community service and paying it forward, the fourth grade will once again create “Trail Magic” bags for the Appalachian Trail thru-hikers. These bags of goodies will be left at St. Mary’s for hikers in June to enjoy while they rest for the night. In return, the hikers fill out a questionnaire for the students which we use in the classroom as part of our social studies work. The fourth grade students have also done school wide projects to honor our Veterans and Dr. Martin Luther King. Fourth grade is a great year to encourage students to look “outside of themselves” and show appreciation for the people and world around them.

The students have been working very hard to master the basic facts in math and they are devoting a lot of time to writing. Fourth grade is the year that the students take the long composition portion of the state MCAS tests. A lot of time goes into the writing of a good composition, a skill that they will need throughout their educational lives.

There is never a dull moment in fourth grade!!!!

Teacher: Mrs. Michelle Gajda

FIFTH GRADE

2012-2013

Fifth Grade at Cheshire Elementary School is a tremendous 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. 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 students' multiple intelligences.

Special events that take place in the fifth grade are Nature's Classroom, Berkshire Theatre Festival's Artist in Residence Program and Kindergarten Buddies. These programs allow students to grow creatively and see themselves in new and exciting ways. As students gain more responsibility throughout the year, they learn to view themselves as young adults who will be entering their middle school years.

Teachers: Dawn & Tom Prokopowicz

ART

2012-2013

All students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 are introduced to many methods, materials, and techniques in the creation of their Art work. Lessons are designed to incorporate the Massachusetts Art Curriculum Frameworks and the Common Core. Students develop their skills in painting, drawing, print-making and ceramics. Students also create multi-media projects and collages using a variety of materials such as oil and chalk pastels, and pen and ink.

During the School year students are asked to select their favorite piece of work to be displayed at the annual Spring Art Show, held at the Cheshire School auditorium, and open to the public.

Art Teacher: Cheryl Sykes

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education classes at Cheshire Elementary School are taught by Daniel Wehle and cover a wide variety of activities and sports that adhere to the guidelines set forth in the Massachusetts Health Curriculum Frameworks. K through grade three students practice many gross motor, manipulative, coordinative, and social skills that they will develop and use in a more structured team-oriented atmosphere as they move into higher grades. Grades four and five students gain knowledge and skills in traditional sports such as soccer, football, hockey, basketball, baseball, volleyball, and badminton. They also are exposed to non-traditional sports such as bowling, orienteering, Frisbee, cross country skiing, and many Project Adventure team building activities. Physical education at Cheshire School is dynamic and constantly changing as new ideas and trends provide students with an exciting and challenging curriculum.

MUSIC

The students at Cheshire Elementary School also participate in Music classes. Annually, there is a musical performance where the children's talents are showcased.

Music Teacher: Mr. Timothy Rougeau

THE REST OF OUR CHESHIRE SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TEAM

Administrative Assistant – Nancy Chaput

Special Education – Christine Harrington

Speech & Language Pathologist – Jamie Tooley

School Adjustment Counselor (Tues. & Thurs.)
– Nicole Seyerlein

Technology (Mon. & Weds.) – Geoff Kondel

Building & Grounds – Dave Richards
Stash Cote

School Nurse – Linda Biros

Cafeteria – Cindy Gajda
Denise Moncecchi
Nanciann Klammer

Extended Care – Sherry Goodrich
Clara Wilusz

Paraprofessionals:
Linda Bonnivier
Karen Drain
Judy Gaylord
Linda Giroux
Sherry Goodrich
Susan Halverson
Noreen Hoag
Susan McLear
Donna Murdock
Susan Randall
Shannon Speed
Clara Wilusz

Karen Isbell – **Library Paraprofessional**

District-wide personnel who also work in Cheshire School include:

Kim Biagini – **Autism Specialist**
Suzanne Harnick and Deb Silverio – **Occupational Therapy**
Lora McGrath – **Physical Therapy**

Cheshire School also works with many organizations in Berkshire County. We are business partners with the Berkshire

County Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's office helps to scholarship students to special events like the trip to Nature's Classroom. They have also assisted with school events like Field Day. Sheriff Thomas Bowler has also helped to schedule work release programs during the summer months that have greatly helped us with maintenance of our school building. We are very grateful for all of their help.

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 with the various safety drills that are conducted throughout the year. 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. The Cheshire Lions Club generously provided gifts to families for the holiday season as well as school supplies. The Lions also provided scholarships for students to attend Nature's Classroom in March. Waterman Excavating Company consistently helps to provide support to our school. We sincerely thank them for their

generosity. Bedard Brothers Auto dealership sponsored a literacy outreach project that provided books to many of the Cheshire School students. We have also applied and received grant funding from the ACE Foundation, The Taconic Foundation, and the Northern Berkshire Cultural Council. In these times of very tough budgets, it is so wonderful to have support for children and education. Without these funding sources, our children would not be able to attend the cultural enrichment events they have been attending. They also would not have funding for the homework help program last year and the intervention that we have done to help struggling learners. While we are very grateful for the support of our tax payers through the annual school budget, it is just not enough to provide all that we need to for our students to be 21st century learners. So, Thank you to all of the organizations that do provide these opportunities for our children!

Respectfully Submitted;

Peter J. Bachli
Principal

Athletic Director

Hoosac Valley High School



The 2012 athletic program had over 400 student athletes participate in 31 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 spring, the Boys' baseball team qualified for Western Mass and defeated Drury both meetings. The Girls' softball team qualified for Western Mass with a 15-7 record, only to be defeated by Drury in the first round. The boy's and girl's track teams qualified for Western Mass and State meets. The tennis team, which co-ops with Drury, qualified for the Western Mass Tournament.

In the fall, the Boy's Football team had an excellent season under the direction of new Head Coach Dayne Poirot, with a berth in the Western Mass tournament finishing as a semi-finalist. The Girls' Soccer team came on strong placing second in the southern divisional title and earning a playoff game. The Boys' Soccer team totted an improved season gaining 5 victories. The Boys' and Girls' Cross-Country running team did very well both qualifying for the southern division and states lead by Travis Ciempa and Kalyn Alibozek respectively. The golf team had one athlete finish second in Western Mass and sixth in the state competition. Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse was added this year as a coop with Drury. The Boys' program (both Varsity and Junior Varsity) finished 6-7.

In the winter the Boys' and Girls' Nordic Skiing season was extended based on a lack of snow. All skiers participated in and had a strong showing in the State competition. The Girls' Swim team had a successful season with the best record in the Southern Division 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. The Girls' Basketball team qualified for Western Mass tournament play. Hockey, which is cooperative team with Wahconah was beat in semi-finals of Western Mass Division 3A.

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.

Jacob N. Schutz
Athletic Director

Director of Food Services

In 2012, the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District continued to participate in the National School Lunch, School Breakfast Program, Special Milk, After School Snacks, USDA Commodity Distribution, the Summer Food Service Program and the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. Berkshire Head Start continues to receive breakfast and lunch from Plunkett School. The food service department remains a member of the Berkshire County Food Service Purchasing Cooperative. This co-op puts out to bid our bread, dairy and paper on a county-wide basis.

For the 2011-2012 school years, the food service department had a loss of \$78,019.52 on revenues of \$685,195. Government subsidies represented 55.7% of the total revenue. The percentage of students who qualified for free/reduced meals was 42.8% at the end of December 2011. USDA commodities valued at \$29,529 were received in 2012.

Labor costs for the 2011-2012 school years increased with staffing levels being maintained with 16 permanent positions, a director and a clerk. Daily, the food service department operated with 96.5 hours. Meals per labor hour for the department averaged \$14.43.

We did raise prices for the 2011-2012 school years due to tougher nutritional standards implemented by the federal government and the lack of reimbursement rate for full pay lunches. We are still tracking \$.25 below the cost per meal rate for this year which was \$2.76. Prices are:

Paid Student Lunch (CES & CTP)	2.25
Paid Student Lunch (HVHS & ND)	2.50
Paid Student Breakfast	1.25
Reduced Student Lunch	.40
Reduced Student Breakfast	.30
Paid Adult Lunch	3.50

Participation in the reimbursable school lunch program for 2011-2012 school years dropped to 64.7%. Previous years were:

2007-2008	74.9%
2008-2009	72.9%
2009-2010	72.5%
2010-2011	71.3%

This 6 – 7% loss is due to seniors being permitted to eat lunch off campus.

Breakfast participation for the 2011-2012 school years was 18.3%. Previous years were:

2007-2008	18.4%
2008-2009	18.6%
2009-2010	19.1%
2010-2011	18.8%

We operated four kitchens in 2011-2012. We spent money from the food service budget on moving of equipment and maintenance in 2 really old kitchens with really old equipment. We spent additional monies on daily labor to operate the 4 kitchens. We also spent money on the packing, cleaning and setup of 2 kitchens at the beginning of the school year and then additional money on the re-packing and setup of the high school kitchen at the end of the year. Meals per labor hour dropped from \$15.03 in 2010-2011 to \$14.43 in 2011-2012 to maintain service for the lunch periods at all 4 schools.

With the new Lunchtime point of sale hardware and software we were unable to complete a direct certification until January 2012 so we lost revenue in the number of students who qualified for free and reduced meals for the first four months of the school year. The food service department absorbed the costs for additional hardware that was needed and maintenance contracts with the Lunchtime Company.

Not a good year financially for us. The \$50,000 transfer was taken for the third year from the food service department to supplement costs of health insurance for the food service employees. We had a 6 to 7% sales loss and yet spent more on labor and expenses. We have stayed ahead on nutritional guidelines that are coming our way in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. Healthy choices cost more money.

Marsha McAlpine,
Food Service Director

Special Services

Annual Report

The Special Services Department continues to support and develop programs to meet the needs of our students. It is the mission of the Special Education Department to provide an appropriate public education in the least restrictive setting. We aim to minimize the impact of a disability for our students and maximize achievement, independence, and participation in the community. The Special Services Department works collaboratively with general education colleagues to develop in-district programs that can successfully support all our students, especially those students with diverse needs. In that regard, we continually explore creative program development and evaluate existing programs to ensure their effectiveness. 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 of our students develop into educated, responsible, and productive citizens.

We are fortunate to be able to provide services to Middle and High School students at the newly renovated Hoosac Valley Middle High School. We encourage our parents and community members to tour the building and see our programs. Among the many benefits of the new building are ample space, state of the art technology and a redesigned school store.

The ACRSD offers a full continuum of programs and services from the least restrictive full inclusion and academic support offerings through substantially separate self-contained models for our most needy at-risk populations. Academic support programs that offer direct, systematic instruction and remediation in reading and math are part of the resource room and inclusion support that students receive during the school day. Other services for students are provided by Speech and Language Pathologists, Speech Assistants, Occupational Therapist, Occupational Therapist Assistant, Sign-Language Interpreter, and ESL instructor allowing us to provide services on site thereby ensuring minimal disruption to the academic day for students. We continue to contract the services of a Physical Therapist, Willie Ross School for the Deaf, as well as, Perkins School for the Blind, to provide services on site for students who have the need.

We have maximized the opportunity to provide expanded support services for students. In addition to Resource Room programs for academic support and specialized instruction in reading, writing and mathematics; paraprofessionals provide individualized small group assistance under the guidance and consultation of certified teachers. The Exceptional Program (EP) is safe, structured and predictable environment that provides multiple supports, rigorous social skill training and specific focus on preparing students to successfully transition to post graduation life in the working world. Therapeutic and behavioral supports augment a case management model that provides significant outreach to home, family and community ensuring a holistic model for educating these youth.

Similar programs exist at the Elementary and Middle School levels. Instruction is designed to be developmentally appropriate

and varies based on student needs; however, the goal of transitioning students to less restrictive settings through a system of scaffolding supports remains constant. A variety of supports are also available for students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The collaboration extends to teachers and parents through our Autism Specialist and Special Education Teachers.

The Life Skills Program at Hoosac Valley has evolved into a comprehensive offering for students to develop more independence and functional life skills in a structured, caring setting. The program is dedicated to educating students with developmental disabilities. Vital components of the curriculum include adaptive daily living skills, social skills, health and wellness, cooking, functional academics, pre-vocational instruction and leisure training. The Life Skills Program aims to integrate students into the community to their maximum potential and is actively involved in volunteering at several community sites including the Adams Community Center, Food Pantry, Youth Center Inc., Free Public Library and Town Hall to name a few. Most students in the program are engaged and participate in the Special Olympics as well as many of Hoosac Valley's extracurricular functions. The Life Skills Program is also completely responsible for operating the school store. Students in the program manage and staff the store. This program has become an integral part of the culture of HVMHS – just ask a student (or staff member) about “Popcorn Fridays.”

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 from an early age to graduation. Our preschool programs operate side-by-side and welcome students with special needs and their typical peers. The primary purpose of the program is to integrate three and four year old children with special needs in a preschool classroom with typically developing (non-special needs) children serving as role models.

Extended year programs continue to be available during the summer months to assist students who prove to be at risk for substantial regression of their educational progress both academically and socially. A program for our younger students balances academic growth with “camp like” experiential projects to foster social emotional development. The summer program for older students combines academic support and pre-vocational skill development with community and recreational outings. These programs provide diverse offerings for students pre-K through age 22 at C.T. Plunkett Elementary.

Our efforts to develop and sustain programs which support students within their communities have had a dramatic impact on reducing the cost of out of district placements and keeping kids at home. Nevertheless, we periodically have the need to place an intensive needs student due to severe at-risk behavior or because the Department of Children and Families or Department of Mental Health has made the placement.

Recognizing the important role that they play in the lives of all students, we are striving to reach out and become active members on our Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). The purpose of the SEPAC is twofold: to help guide the district in making programmatic decisions and to serve as a resource for parents of children with special needs. 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 SEPAC. The board has developed and implemented by-laws for their organization and governance.

The district is proud of our successes in the area of special education. We continue to move forward to fulfill the beliefs and values that serve as a 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.

Christopher Sposato
Interim Director of Special Services

2012 Special Services Report				
Grade	Cheshire	Plunkett	Hoosac	T/O
PK		26		
K	3	13		
1	7	8		
2	8	15		
3	4	18		
4	3	24		
5	3	18		
6			16	
7			17	1
8			20	
9			14	
10			16	
11			14	1
12			14	1
+			4	
Totals				
School	28	122	115	3
District	268			



Business Administrator

At the end of fiscal year 2012, the general fund reported an ending balance of \$1,514,053, of which \$110,016 was reserved for Encumbrances, \$600,000 was reserved for Expenditures and \$804,037 was unassigned.

The assessments to member towns for FY2012 were as follows:

Town	Transportation	& Capital	Total
	Foundation		
Adams	\$ 3,474,752	\$ 465,456	\$ 3,940,208
Cheshire	1,890,786	238,899	2,129,685
Total	\$ 5,365,538	\$ 704,355	\$ 6,069,893

The Department of Revenue has certified the District's Excess and Deficiency (E&D) as \$823,151 on June 30, 2012. A significant portion of these funds will be reserved as a funding source for the FY14 budget.

FY12 revenues totaled \$45,190,370, which included \$21,203,483 in reimbursements from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).

Total expenditures from all Governmental Funds were \$53,842,039. The Hoosac Valley Middle & High School Building Project was a large part of the financial activity during FY12. Total expenditures during FY12 on the HVMHS Building Project were \$30,006,761. The District issued a total of \$12,318,126 in bond anticipation notes during FY12 to finance the town's share of the building project.

It has been and will continue to be the District's goal to maintain a healthy fund balance. During these difficult financial times, this has been an increasingly difficult task. However, as a result of this policy, the District has consistently received a MIG-1 rating from Moody's Investors Service for short term borrowing. More importantly the District has maintained an A-1 rating for long term borrowing. This bodes well for the member towns when bids are solicited for the long-term General Obligation Bonds to finance the building project.

Total long-term debt on June 30, 2012 was \$548,872. This is a decrease from the prior fiscal year balance of \$445,459, primarily the result of the final pay-down of principal on the 1992 CT Plunkett Elementary School Building Project. The remaining debt is for the Cheshire Elementary School boiler project, the CT Plunkett HVAC project and borrowing for technology purchases.

Total investments in capital assets (net) at year end totaled \$40,914,936. This is an increase of \$29,421,736 over the prior year mainly due to the addition of \$30,014,174 in Construction in Progress.

The HVMHS Building Project will be completed during FY13 and will be subject to a final review and audit by the MSBA. We expect to issue General Obligation School Bonds in both March 2013 and August 2013 totaling \$12,318,126. That is the amount approved by the towns as their share of the project after receiving reimbursement from the MSBA of 78.37%. The GOB's will pay off the BAN's and will be redeemed over a period of twenty years.

David E. Hinkell, Business Administrator
Adams-Cheshire Regional School District
February 26, 2013

ADAMS-CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
BALANCE SHEET
June 30, 2012

	HVMHS General Fund	Building Project	School Choice	Non-Major Funds	Totals
ASSETS					
Cash and Short Term Investments	\$2,885,063	\$ 2,215,286	\$ 745,337	\$ 404,735	\$ 6,250,421
Due from State - MSBA Reimbursement	409,154	1,957,966	-	27,510	2,394,630
Inventory	-	-	-	29,334	29,334
Due from Other Governments	60,257	-	-	-	60,257
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,354,474	\$ 4,173,252	\$ 745,337	\$ 461,579	\$ 8,734,642
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES					
LIABILITIES					
Accounts Payable	\$ 12,085	\$ 1,986,851	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,998,936
Accrued Teachers Payroll	1,288,926	-	-	-	1,288,926
Def Revenue-MSBA Reimbursement	409,154	-	-	-	409,154
Deferred Revenue - Town of Cheshire	60,257	-	-	-	60,257
Accrued Interest Payable	69,999	-	-	-	69,999
Bond Anticipation Notes Payable	-	12,318,126	-	-	12,318,126
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$1,840,421	\$ 14,304,977	\$ -	\$ -	\$16,145,398
FUND BALANCES					
NonExpendable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,334	\$ 29,334
Restricted	-	-	745,337	432,245	1,177,582
Assigned	710,016	-	-	-	710,016
Unassigned	804,037	(10,131,725)	-	-	(9,327,688)
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	\$1,514,053	\$(10,131,725)	\$ 745,337	\$ 461,579	\$ (7,410,756)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$3,354,474	\$ 4,173,252	\$ 745,337	\$ 461,579	\$ 8,734,642

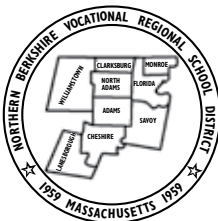
ADAMS-CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes In Fund Balance
For The Year Ended June 30, 2012

	HVMHS General Fund	Building Project	School Choice	Non-Major Funds	Totals
REVENUES:					
Assessments to Member Towns	\$ 6,069,893	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,069,893
Tuition	103,071	-	-	-	103,071
Charges for Services	1,000	-	-	562,661	563,661
Inter-governmental	14,813,515	21,203,483	357,401	1,922,525	38,296,924
Investment Income	4,416	7,529	-	-	11,945
Miscellaneous	101,202	28,386	-	15,288	144,876
TOTAL REVENUES	\$21,093,097	\$ 21,239,398	\$ 357,401	\$ 2,500,474	\$45,190,370
EXPENDITURES:					
Administration	\$ 582,812	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 582,812
Instruction	6,583,945	-	266,928	1,130,949	7,981,822
Other School Services	371,441	-	-	691,312	1,062,753
Operations and Maintenance	1,259,203	-	-	75,063	1,334,266
Transportation	708,916	-	-	-	708,916
Inter-governmental	1,173,788	-	-	-	1,173,788
Debt Service	610,267	-	-	-	610,267
Special Education	1,751,643	-	-	564,331	2,315,974
Capital Outlay	43,709	30,006,761	-	-	30,050,470
Employee Benefits	8,020,971	-	-	-	8,020,971
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$21,106,695	\$ 30,006,761	\$ 266,928	\$ 2,461,655	\$53,842,039
Excess (Deficiency) Revenues Over Expenditures	\$ (13,598)	\$ (8,767,363)	\$ 90,473	\$ 38,819	\$ (8,651,669)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):					
Note Proceeds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Transfers In	162,000	-	-	(162,000)	-
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	\$ 162,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (147,000)	\$ 15,000
CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE	148,402	\$ (8,767,363)	\$ 90,473	\$ (108,181)	\$ (8,636,669)
FUND EQUITY, AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,365,651	(1,364,362)	654,864	569,760	1,225,913
FUND EQUITY AT END OF YEAR	\$ 1,514,053	\$(10,131,725)	\$ 745,337	\$ 461,579	\$ (7,410,756)

ADAMS-CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Other Uses
- Budget And Actual -
For The Year Ended June 30, 2012

	Budgeted Amounts			
	Original Budget	Variance Final Budget	Actual Amounts	Positive (Negative)
REVENUES:				
Assessments to Member Towns	\$ 6,069,893	\$ 6,069,893	\$ 6,069,893	\$ -
Tuition	150,000	150,000	103,071	(46,929)
Intergovernmental	10,723,173	10,723,173	10,705,820	(17,353)
Investment Income	32,000	32,000	4,416	(27,584)
Miscellaneous	15,000	15,000	102,202	87,202
Transfers In	175,000	175,000	162,000	(13,000)
Other Sources	516,462	516,462	516,462	-
TOTAL REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES	\$17,681,528	\$17,681,528	\$17,663,864	\$ (17,664)
EXPENDITURES:				
Administration	\$ 607,240	\$ 607,187	\$ 586,736	\$ (20,451)
Instruction	6,475,490	6,629,216	6,596,640	(32,576)
Other School Services	359,009	380,864	372,531	(8,333)
Operations and Maintenance	1,303,293	1,346,501	1,367,609	21,108
Transportation	685,706	685,706	708,916	23,210
Intergovernmental	1,109,859	1,201,000	1,173,788	(27,212)
Debt Service	584,030	584,030	540,268	(43,762)
Special Education	2,034,401	2,102,877	1,751,500	(351,377)
Capital Outlay	52,000	4,091,166	3,913,276	(177,890)
Employee Benefits	4,470,500	52,981	43,966	(9,015)
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES	\$17,681,528	\$17,681,528	\$17,055,230	\$(626,298)
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES OVER EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 608,634	\$ 608,634

Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District



The Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District, McCann Technical School, students, faculty and staff continued their record of noteworthy accomplishments in fiscal year 2012 and this report highlights some of these accomplishments.

As the national and regional economic recession continued to affect the Commonwealth, McCann officials reduced expenditures while protecting our hallmark high quality vocational-technical and academic programs for our students. Our unanimously approved FY12 budget contained a modest .19% increase.

We are most proud of our 1958 district agreement which created the first vocational regional school district in the Commonwealth. A thorough review of the agreement resulted in the formation of a district study committee to modernize the agreement to reflect current laws and regulations and to add the new communities of Cheshire and Lanesborough with the assistance of a Community Innovation Challenge Grant. This new agreement was unanimously approved by the original seven communities and with overwhelming margins in our new communities.

Our mission is to graduate technically skilled, academically prepared, and socially responsible individuals ready to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Our mission and educational philosophy are implemented by adhering to the following core values:

- Communication strengthens partnership development and teamwork.
- Achievement is attained through a strong work ethic.
- Respect from all guarantees a safe learning environment.
- Ethics ensure a dedication to honesty and integrity.

During the last sixteen years we have witnessed a dramatic transformation in vocational technical education especially in our application of technology and STEM subjects. We are very proud of the academic and technical achievement of our students and as each succeeding class raises the bar of accomplishment, the next class seeks to surpass it. Our students continue to excel in the technological and STEM areas as evidenced by our Science Fair team who earned a trip to the MIT Science Fair as a result of their efforts. Additionally, two of our information technology students qualified to compete at the national level in the CISCO Networking "Netrider" competition where students put their networking and IT skills up against the best IT students from across the country. The integration of our technical and academic curriculum has prepared our graduates well for their future and we appreciate you, our member communities, for your support in making it happen. Two of our automotive technology students

finished in the top 5 in the Massachusetts Automotive Dealers Competition.

The accomplishments of our students reflect the McCann culture of learning:

- The Class of 2012 became the ninth class in a row to attain 100 percent competency determination on the MCAS tests.
- Twenty-five of the Class of 2012 earned the prestigious John and Abigail Adams Scholarship awarded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education having scored at the advanced or proficient level in MCAS testing.
- The results of the spring 2012 MCAS test once again echoed the continuous progress of our students through their dedication and that of our terrific faculty. Once again McCann has achieved its goal measured by AYP and is ranked by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, DESE, as a Level 1 school.

GRADE 10 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Performance Level	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Advanced	8%	17%	11%	14%	21%
Proficient	55%	56%	61%	73%	67%
Needs Improvement	36%	25%	25%	13%	11%
Failing	1%	3%	2%	1%	0%

GRADE 10 - MATHEMATICS

Performance Level	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Advanced	23%	35%	30%	41%	33%
Proficient	41%	39%	35%	37%	42%
Needs Improvement	27%	22%	32%	20%	23%
Failing	9%	5%	3%	3%	3%

GRADE 10 - SCIENCE AND TECH / ENG

Performance Level	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Advanced	1%	9%	9%	11%	9%
Proficient	40%	55%	51%	64%	54%
Needs Improvement	52%	30%	28%	22%	30%
Failing	7%	6%	12%	3%	7%

McCann competes in the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association which we joined 15 years ago. In 2011- 2012 our sports teams continued to represent their school in a manner that makes us proud of their sportsmanship and effort. The 2011 football team made it to their first ever Superbowl, the boys' basketball team qualified for the state vocational tournament, and the McCann students participating on the cooperative Mount Greylock wrestling team put on an impressive performance at the state wrestling meet.

Our 105 2012 graduates saw 64% continue their education in a variety of colleges and universities, 34% enter the workforce and 2% proudly enter into military service.

The New England Association of School and Colleges, Inc. conducted our decennial accreditation visit in October and we received overwhelming accolades from the 25 member team resulting in continued accreditation through 2022.

Our use of educational technology continued to evolve throughout the year as we upgraded five of our computer labs, added 48 laptops on two carts, and continued to add on line course modules that will be used for on-time remediation. We added Mimio software program to be used by all departments and upgraded a number of manufacturing, design and animation 3D software systems.

Community service projects continue to provide us with an excellent opportunity to allow our students to exhibit their skills and support community activities. Projects included renovations at Windsor Lake involving CAD, carpentry, metal fabrication and electrical students as well as a variety of handicap ramp projects. Our culinary students were very busy supporting a number of community groups including Relay for Life, families in need, and military family groups to name a few.

For the past 11 years our students have participated in SkillsUSA. We maintain 100% enrollment in the program, which has provided the opportunity for our students to earn scholarships, tools for their trade, opportunities for employment and awards in recognition of their accomplishments. Over the last 11 years, our secondary and postsecondary students have earned 20 gold medals at the national competitions. At the SkillsUSA state competition McCann high school students earned gold medals in 3-D visualization and animation and postsecondary students in dental assisting and medical assisting. High school silver medals were awarded in customer service and automated manufacturing technology and customer service. Postsecondary bronze medals were awarded in cosmetology and job interview.

Seven years ago, students from our business technology and information technology programs began participating in Business Professionals of America competitions. In that short time, our students have earned 100 awards in four categories at the State Leadership Conference and 28 awards in four categories at the national competition. During the 2012 national competition in Chicago 6 of our students finished in the top ten in these competitions. Three of our welding students earned ASME certifications at the Notch Pipe Welding Challenge and 3 others their entry level AWS certification.

Project Lead the Way, the leading provider of STEM education curriculum programs for middle and high schools in the U.S., certified the program at McCann in 2007. Students in the program complete four courses. Since the time of certification, 58% of participating students have become eligible for college credit through Rochester Institute of Technology and New Hampshire Technical Institute as a result of their performance on the national engineering examination. During 2012, 21 more students became eligible to receive college credits for their PLTW coursework. Since the inception of the program 84 students have earned between 4 and 12 college credits.

The success of our student body continues to be measured by our 100% competency determination, high career placement, high college matriculation rate and technical expertise in national skills competitions.

The district continues to operate on sound financial management principals and incorporates technology in this process to ensure maximum benefit for all of our programming. In FY12 we continued to operate, as we have for the past 17 years, with the municipal minimum recommended assessments for all of our member communities. Additional requirements were assessed for student transportation and the capital rehabilitation debt service for the gymnasium project. At the end of the fiscal year we returned \$60,595.50 of unused transportation monies to our communities. The district continues to search out grants to support our educational funding to improve instructional services and vocational equipment.

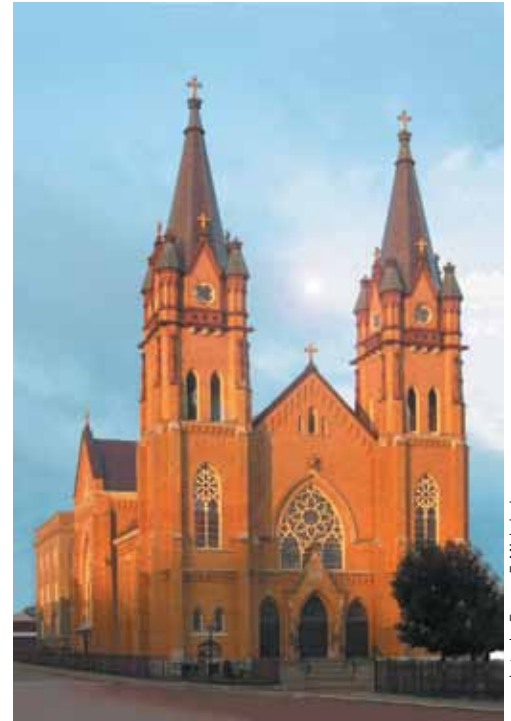
During the summer we repaved our driveways and parking lots, upgraded electrical systems in machine technology and metal fabrication, installed new student lockers, and renovated our cosmetology salon.

FY12 Budgeted Revenues	Original	Actual
City & Town Assessments		
Municipal Minimum	\$2,076,564.00	\$2,030,421.75
Capital	121,875.00	121,875.00
Transportation	211,627.00	211,627.00
Ch. 71 Transportation	141,085.00	214,589.00
Ch. 70 General School Aid	4,195,758.00	4,195,758.00
Tuitions	1,217,714.00	1,217,671.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	8,390.00	8,662.71
Total Revenue Received	\$7,973,013.00	\$8,000,604.46
Additional Transportation Charges	(12,865.50)	
Member City & Town Transportation Refunds	(60,595.50)	
Misc. Revenue Balance to Surplus E & D	(272.71)	
A/P Assessment Payable (Received in July)	46,142.25	
	\$7,973,013.00	\$7,973,013.00

Source	Grant	Amount
(Stimulus Funds)		
ARRA	ARRA Title II D	\$ 38,076.00
SFSF	Education Jobs	119,627.00
(Federal Entitlement)		
Fed	Sped 240	113,887.00
Fed	Title I	163,467.00
Fed	Title II A	20,548.00
Fed	Perkins	68,272.00
Fed	SPED Improvement	5,479.00
Fed	Postsecondary Perkins	5,811.00
(State Entitlement)		
State	Big Yellow School Bus	200.00
(Competitive/Private)		
Private	Olmsted	4,300.00
Private	BHG Wellness	2,000.00
Private	BCREB: Connecting Activities	2,000.00
Private	BCREB Northern Tier PV	30,276.00
Private	BCC-Solid Works	2,500.00
Private	Community Innovation Challenge	21,578.00
Private	City of Chicopee Nurse Grant	3,000.00
Private	Target – Taking Care of Education	147.17
Private	Hannaford Supermarkets	15.00
Private	Ohiopyleprints	67.80
TOTAL GRANTS		\$601,250.97

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cover photos by Eugene F. Michalenko

NEW LEASES ON LIFE

In 2012, dramatic changes took place that affected three structures associated with the Town of Adams.

On the cover, the Adams Visitor Center (2002) has been remodeled to include the center for the Council on Aging and the Thunderbolt Ski Museum. The Council on Aging moved in on September 24. The museum opened on October 7. On display are vintage skis, boots, clothing, pictures, films and awards from both the heyday of skiing in Adams to modern races held annually.

On this page, the Hoosac Valley High School (1970) was expanded and improved to include middle school grades six through eight which now makes it the Hoosac Valley Middle and High School. The building is environmentally sensitive and LEED certified which means it conserves energy, reduces water consumption, and has improved indoor air quality.

Although not a town property, the St. Stanislaus Kostka Church (1905) reopened after being closed for 1150 days. In a lengthy appeal process, local residents retained a canon lawyer to represent them at the Vatican's Congregation of the Clergy. During that time, the church was occupied around the clock in shifts by over 200 "vigilers." It drew national and international attention to our town. In the end, the Vatican court ruled in favor of the local church and worship services resumed there at the beginning of Holy Week.