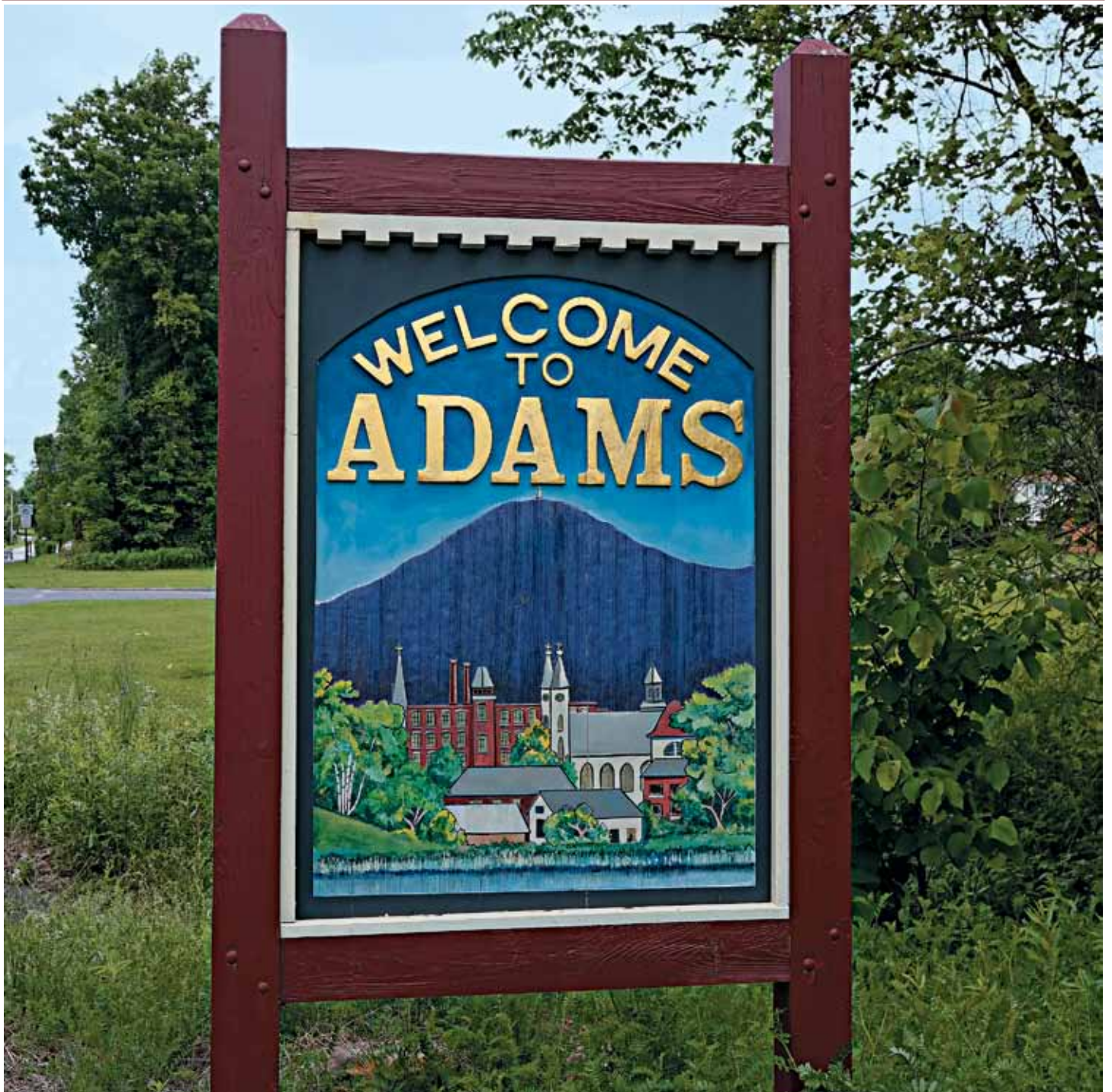


TOWN REPORT 2013

ADAMS MASSACHUSETTS

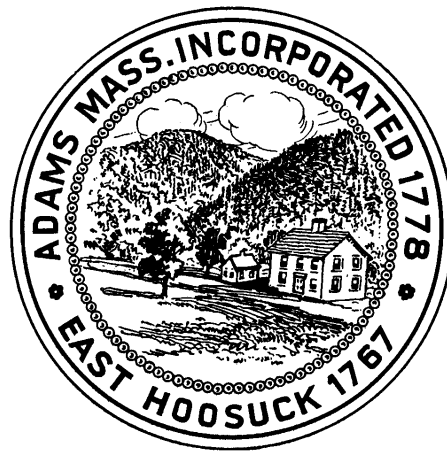


Town of
ADAMS

MASSACHUSETTS

REPORT OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS



FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31, 2013

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 2013	8,914
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 2013 5,851

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 FY13	Residential & Open Space	\$ 18.25
	Commercial, Industrial & Personal	\$ 21.67

Total Taxed Assessed	\$ 9,604,170.97
Total Valuation	\$ 466,302,433.00

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 – Longmeadow

United States Senators:

ELIZABETH WARREN – Cambridge

EDWARD J. MARKEY – Boston

Representative in Congress, 1st Congressional District

RICHARD NEAL – 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 CO.

MRA LABORATORIES

MULLEN MOVERS

SHINE WIRE PRODUCTS, INC.

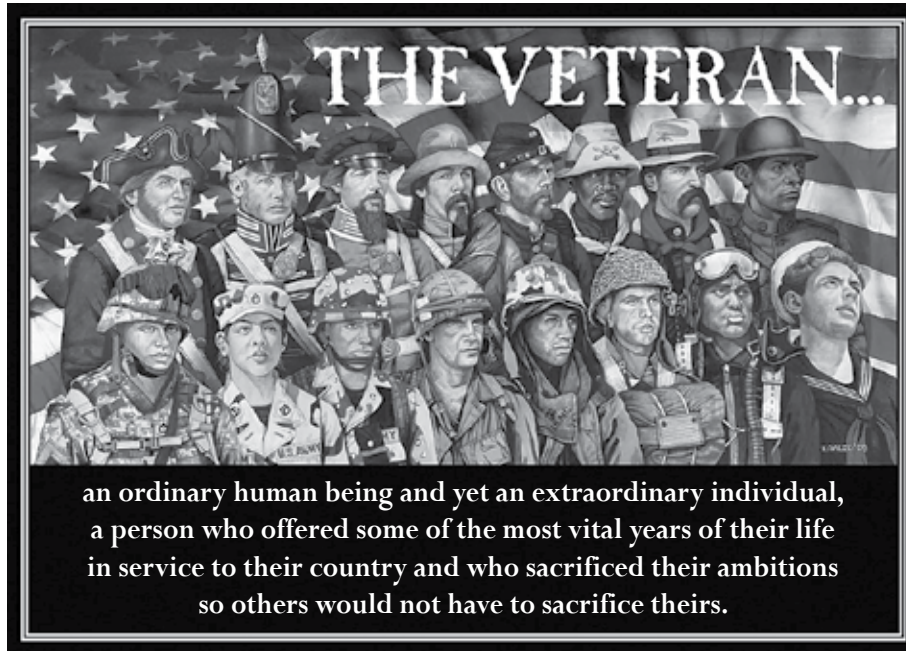
SOMMER ELECTRIC, INC.

SPECIALTY MINERALS, INC.

T & A TOOLS

DEDICATION

The Town Report Committee dedicates the 2013 Annual Report to



**Our veterans were soldiers and saviors;
the defense against what wants to harm us
and the defenders of what we believe.**

**They are nothing more than the finest,
greatest testimony on behalf of the finest,
greatest nation ever known.**

**To those you encounter who have served our country,
express your sincere gratitude.**

**That's all most people need, and in most cases
it will mean more than any medals
they could have been awarded or were awarded.**



In Memoriam



WALTER AVERY

Finance Committee Member

JEAN M. BEAUCHEMIN

Executive Director Council on Aging
Northern Berkshire Council of the Arts Member

ROSE BELISLE

Council on Aging Board of Directors Member

DONALD C. BLANCHETTE

Town Meeting Member
Planning Board Member

LUCY W. BOOTH

Historical Commission Member

DOUGLAS BURNETT

Conservation Commission Member

RICHARD F. GIROUX

Adams Police Officer

ELIZABETH GODEK

Board of Health School Nurse

THEODORE J. KOLIS, SR.

Town Meeting Member

CYRILLA KRZEMINSKI

Board of Health Employee

C. RICHARD LOVE

Principal in Adams Schools

JOHN NOWICKI

Board of Registrars of Voters Member

NELSON R. PHELPS

Town Meeting Member
Personnel Board Member
Council on Aging Volunteer
School Crossing Guard

PERCIVAL E. SHERMAN

Adams Police Officer

JOHN J. SWISTAK

Town Meeting Member
Adams Housing Authority Member
Adhoc Solid Waste Advisory Committee Member

HELEN SZUFNAROWSKI

Adams Cheshire Regional School District
Office Employee

HILDEGARD TANGUAY

Adams Cheshire Regional School District
Cafeteria Employee

LEONARD A. TURGEON

Town Meeting Member
Finance Committee Member
Adams Free Library Trustee

CHARLES J. WELCH

Board of Assessors Member
Adams School Committee Member



Town Clerk

ADAMS TOWN ELECTION RESULTS

May 6, 2013

MODERATOR	for a term of One Year
EDWARD J. DRISCOLL, Six hundred twenty-two	622*
SCOTT F. NICHOLS, Five hundred twenty-five	525
Write In Votes, Two	2
Blanks, Thirty-four	34
Total	1,183

SELECTMEN	for a term of Three Years
RICHARD BLANCHARD, Six hundred sixty-four	664*
JOSEPH J. NOWAK, Eight hundred eighty-eight	888*
DONALD R. SOMMER, Three hundred thirty-seven	337
MICHAEL E. YOUNG, Two hundred thirty-nine	239
Blanks, Two hundred thirty-eight	238
Total	2,366

TREASURER-COLLECTOR	for a term of Three Years
HOLLY M. DENAULT, Nine hundred twenty-five	925*
Write In Votes, Four	4
Blanks, Two hundred fifty-four	254
Total	1,183

ASSESSOR	for a term of Three Years
DENNIS A. GAJDA, Two hundred fifty-six	256
LORRAINE M. KALISZ, Six hundred thirteen	613*
SUSAN M. ROWE, Two hundred twenty-three	223
Blanks, Ninety-one	91
Total	1,183

BOARD OF HEALTH	for a term of Three Years
ROY J. THOMPSON, Nine hundred sixty-three	963*
Write In Votes, Two	2
Blanks, Two hundred eighteen	218
Total	1,183

BOARD OF HEALTH	for a term of One Year
GLEN A. DEMARSICO, Two hundred ninety-five	295
ALLEN J. MENDEL, Seven hundred eighty	780*
Blanks, One hundred eight	108
Total	1,183

LIBRARY TRUSTEES	for a term of Three Years
KAREN L. KETTLES, Nine hundred forty-three	943*
Write In Votes, Eleven	11
Blanks, One thousand four hundred twelve	1,412
Total	2,366

PLANNING BOARD	for a term of Five Years
MARTHA J. STOHLMANN, Nine hundred thirty-six	936*
Blanks, Two hundred forty-seven	247
Total	1,183

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER	for a term of Three Years
LAWRENCE A. CLAIRMONT, Nine hundred fifty	950*
Write In Votes, One	1
Blanks, Two hundred thirty-two	232
Total	1,183

HOUSING AUTHORITY	for a term of Five Years
Write In Votes, Twenty-seven	27*
Blanks, One thousand one hundred fifty-six	1,156
Total	1,183

***STEPHANIE L. MELITO was declared
Housing Authority Member**

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEMBER	for a term of Five Years
ELIZABETH M. BUSHEY, Eight hundred twenty-three	823*
Blanks, Three hundred sixty	360
Total	1,183

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEMBER	for a term of One Year
Write In Votes, Eleven	11
Blanks, One thousand one hundred seventy-two	1,172
Total	1,183

***FAILURE TO ELECT was declared for
REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEMBER**

**Elected Official*

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

for a term of Three Years

JOSEPH W. ALLARD, Eight hundred ninety-four	894*
Write In Votes, One	1
Blanks, Two hundred eighty-eight	288
Total	1,183

ADAMS CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Adams Representative for a term of Three Years

PAUL K. BUTLER, Eight hundred forty-one	841*
JOSHUA RYAN DEMARSICO-BIRKLAND, Seven hundred one	701*
Write In Votes, Two	2
Blanks, Eight hundred twenty-two	822
Total	2,366

ADAMS CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Cheshire Representative for a term of Three Years

BRIAN P. ASTORINO, Eight hundred eighty-eight	888*
Write In Votes, Three	3
Blanks, Two hundred ninety-two	292
Total	1,183

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

ADAMS

Adams Representative – Three Year Term

	Adams	Cheshire
PAUL K. BUTLER	841	163
JOSHUA RYAN DEMARSICO-BIRKLAND	701	137
Write In Votes	2	0
Blanks	822	106
TOTAL	2,366	406

CHESHIRE

Cheshire Representative – Three Year Term

	Adams	Cheshire
BRIAN P. ASTORINO	888	167
Write In Votes (other)	3	2
Blanks	292	34
TOTAL	1,183	203

Elected Town Officers

Term Expires

Moderator

Edward J. Driscoll	2014
--------------------	------

Town Clerk

Haley A. Meczywor	2015
-------------------	------

Selectmen

Michael G. Ouellette	2014
John E. Duval	2015
Arthur W. Harrington	2015
Richard Blanchard	2016
Joseph J. Nowak	2016

Treasurer-Collector

Holly M. Denault	2016
------------------	------

Assessors

Lynn D. Avery	2014
Donna Aitken MacDonald	2015
Lorraine M. Kalisz	2016

Board of Health

Allen J. Mendel	2014
Patricia A. Clairmont	2015
Roy J. Thompson	2016

Library Trustees

Joseph F. Greenbush	2014
David M. Strzepek	2014
James R. Loughman	2015
Eugene F. Michalenko	2015
Karen L. Kettles	2016
Vacant	2016

Park Commission

Vacant	2014
Jacob N. Schutz	2014
James J. Fassell	2015
Barbara A. Meczywor	2015
Todd Edward Shafer	2015

Planning Board

Barbara Ziemba	2014
Michael P. O'Brien	2015
David B. Rhinemiller	2016
Sandra H. Moderski	2017
Martha J. Stohlmann	2018

Cemetery Commission

John J. Swistak III	2014
Robert J. Ciempa	2015
Lawrence A. Clairmont	2016

Housing Authority

Linda Cernik (State Appointee)	2016
Mark Alan Covert	2014
Mary A. Robert	2015
Carol A. Roberts	2016
Stephanie L. Melito	2018

Redevelopment Authority

Vacant (State Appointee)	
Vacant	2014
Ryan Biros	2015
Joseph W. Allard	2017
Elizabeth M. Bushey	2018

Northern Berkshire Regional Vocational School Committee

Daniel J. Maloney, Jr.	2014
Aaron M. Dean	2015
Joseph W. Allard	2016

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

Regina A. Hill	2014
Stephen J. Vigna	2015
Paul K. Butler	2016
Joshua Ryan Demarsico-Birkland	2016

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

Edmund R. St. John IV	2014
Darlene Rodowicz	2015
Brian P. Astorino	2016

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.	2013
Victor Ziemba	2013

Measurer Of Wood And Bark

Donald Delmolino	2013
Walter Slosek	2013

Appointed Town Officials – May 2013

Right to Know Coordinator

Jonathan W. Butler

Jason Krzanowski

Douglas C. Burnett, Jr.

Corey Bishop

AdHoc Committee on Solid Waste

Gregory DeBlois

John Swistak

Edward Driscoll

Leon Parrott Jr.

Constables

Anthony P. McBride

Thomas A. Satko

Herman Bishop

Agricultural Commission

Gary Alibozek

Michael Ziemba

Sharyn Alibozek (Alternate)

Terry Ziemba (Alternate)

Corinne Case (Alternate)

Timothy Case (Alternate)

Council on Aging Director

Erica Samson

Council on Aging Board of Directors

Alete Moncecchi

Michelle Wellspeak

Rose Belisle

Robert Joppich

Karen Matthews

Melissa Schaffrick

American with Disabilities Coordinator

Jonathan W. Butler

Animal Control Officer

Carrie Loholdt

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

Vacant

Animal Control Officer (Weekend)

Daniel Lefebvre

Department of Public Works Director

Thomas A. Satko

Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission

Sandy Moderski

Arthur W. Harrington (Alternate)

Emergency Management Director

Richard Kleiner

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority

Michael Ouellette

Employee Insurance Advisory Group

Mary Beverly

Beth Wojtaszek

Richard Biros

Barbara Lewis

Kathleen Fletcher

Shawn Briggs

Erica Samson

Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Michael Mach

Jeff Lefebvre

Paul Butler

David Rhinemiller

George Haddad

Michael Ouellette

Richard Kleiner

Fair Housing Officer

Donna E. Cesan

Chief Procurement Officer

Jonathan W. Butler

Forest Warden

Richard G. Kleiner

Code Enforcement Officer

Scott Koczela

Hazardous Waste Coordinator

Jonathan Butler

Community Development Director

Donna E. Cesan

Historical Commission

Jody Fijal

Bruce D. Dumochel

Eugene Michalenko

Ryan Biros

Conservation Commission

James Fassell

Anthony McBride

Thomas Robinson

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

Timothy Herrmann

No. Berkshire Solid Waste Management District

Edward Driscoll

Parks, Grounds and Recreation Superintendent

David Nuvallie

Preservation Officer

Eugene Michalenko

Registrar of Voters

Timothy Rowley
Frances Meier
Haley Meczywor

Retirement Board

Patricia Wol

Safety Committee

Scott McWhirt
Scott Koczela
Joseph Fijal
Thomas Satko
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 Meeting - 2013

Precinct 1	June 17	Precinct 2	June 17	Precinct 3	June 17
Baker, Patricia A.	X	Biros, Richard	X	Allard, Joseph	
Baker, Starr D.	X	Biros, Ryan	X	Blanchard, Richard	X
Blanchard, Heather A.	X	Cardin, Bruce E.		Case, Corrine Z.	E
Bush, James	X	Chittenden, Mark J.		Conroy-Shepley, Patricia	X
Butler, Michele	X	DeBlois, Gregory A.	X	Corrigan, Craig R.	X
Clerc, Bruce	X	Delmolino, Donald L.		Cowie, John R. Jr.	X
Daunais, James F.	X	Driscoll, Edward J.	X	Dumouchel, Bruce D.	X
Fijal, Jody A.	X	Duval, John E.		Frost, Richard E.	E
Jette, Richard A.	X	Grandchamp, Jeffrey P.		Frost, Susan K.	E
Kline, Sarah JP		Hanbery, Patrick S.	X	Heritage, David L.	X
Kolis, David	X	Janik, Edward S.	X	Kalisz, Lorraine M.	X
Kolis, Patricia M.	X	Kolis, Dolores J.	X	Kolis, Marilyn Phelps	X
Kupiec, Anne E.	X	Kozik, Michael A.		Kopala, Stanley J.	E
Kupiec, Neil	X	Lefebvre, Jeffrey M.	X	Lawson, John L.	X
Meczywor, Barbara A.	X	Lentine, Joseph A.	X	Mach, Michael J.	X
Meier, Frances O.	X	Meczywor, Paula	X	McBride, Anthony P.	X
Moran, Terence E.		Merlini, Donald J.	X	Moderski, Sandra H.	E
Morin, Norma P.	X	Michalenko, Eugene F.	X	Nichols, Scott F.	
Moyer, Christine A.	X	Odvar, Lisa A.	X	Paciorek, John S.	E
Moyer, John D.	X	Romaniak, Ann L.	X	Parrott, Leon S. Jr.	X
Mucci, Erin	X	Romaniak, Thomas A.	X	Parrott, Nancy A.	X
Neep, Kristin Lynn	X	Schutz, Norman K.	X	Powers, Michael J.	X
Nimmons, Jacqueline F.	X	Skrocki, Mary		Rice, Kelly F.	X
Poirot, Dayne P.	X	Tomkowicz, Rachel H.	X	Schaffrick, Melissa L.	E
Robinson, Brenda	X	Turoczy, Lawrence	X	Schutz, Jacob N.	X
Robinson, Thomas	X	Wilk, Matthew J. Jr.	X	Silvia, Veronica A.	X
Taylor, Judith L.	X			Stohlmann, Martha J.	X
Taylor, Marshall	X			St. Pierre, Barbara	
				Wilk-Chaffee, Juliette J.	X
				Ziembra, Barbara	X

Precinct 4	June 17
Blanchard, Scott	X
Blanchard, William T.	X
Bourdon, Beth L.	X
Bourdon, Wilfred R. III	X
Clairmont, Lawrence A.	X
Davenport, Susan	
Deeley, Susan	
Demastrie, Jacqueline M.	
Demastrie, Paul S.	X
Denault, Ronald	
Dimitropolis, George H.	X
Halek, Jeremy C.	X
Hayer, Joseph P.	X
Koscinski, Joseph P.	X
Lillie, Dolores	
Meczywor, Leona	X
Mendel, Bruce W.	
Mendel, Lisa A.	
Pansecchi, John M.	X
Rymarski, Kateri A.	X
Schrade, Paula G.	X
Sommer, Donald R.	X
Sommer, Donald R. Jr.	
Sommer, Michael J.	
Taylor, James	X
Taylor, Patricia	X
Wilk, Myra L.	
Ziaja, Mark D.	X

Precinct 5	June 17
Bassi, Michael E.	X
Burdick, Timothy R.	X
Byrd, Colleen M.	X
Corrigan, Carol A.	
Corrigan, Thomas J.	
Dean, Aaron M.	X
Doyle, Ann Marie	X
Doyle, Joseph B.	X
Fassell, James J.	X
Gigliotti, Debra Lynn	X
Haddad, Amber J.	
Haddad, George J.	X
Kleiner, Richard G.	X
Kleiner, Sandra D.	X
Kondel, Geoffrey A.	X
Koperniak, Christopher T.	X
LaPlante, Daniel P.	X
Lennon, David J. Jr.	
Levesque, John Joseph	X
Levesque, Lauryn B.	X
Levesque, Tami M.	X
MacDonald, Donna Aitken	X
Meczywor, Donna	X
Melito, Stephen V.	X
Moran, Frederick D.	
Moran, Marilyn A.	
Noyes, Nicholas G.	X
Pinsonnault, Bernard	X
Satko, Thomas A.	X
Whitman, Mary E.	

Board of Selectmen / Town Administrator

Progress reigned in 2013 in Adams, as continued steps were taken to move the community forward through economic development, expanded tourism and additional downtown events. The Town continues to climb out of the Great Recession budget years, and was able to continue a recommitment to providing modern services and making responsible capital investments, while also beginning to invest more appropriately in our future through projects and new programs. 2013 was also a year for transition with two new members elected to the Board of Selectmen, Joseph Nowak and Richard Blanchard, as well as the appointment of a new Police Chief, Richard Tarsa Jr.



*Selectman John E. Duval,
new appointed Chief of Police Richard W. Tarsa
and Town Administrator Jonathan Butler*

Consistent with the theme of progress, the year began with a bang in January when the Town announced an ambitious, exciting new partnership with the City of North Adams. This partnership also included the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the Berkshire Scenic Rail, and would work to establish the “Housac Valley Rail Service”, a passenger excursion train that would connect Heritage State Park in North Adams to the Adams Visitors Center. The project is projected to bring in thousands of new visitors to the downtowns of both communities, while connecting Adams to its neighbor, via rail, for the first time in nearly 30 years.

Additional initiatives to move the Town forward included the adoption of an Economic Development Strategy by the Board of Selectmen in the fall. This document was the first of its kind for Adams, and provided a detailed vision filled with specific project and program goals for the Town intended to help the community grow as both a destination for visitors to Berkshire County as well a place to do business. The Town also approved the creation of a new post, Tourism Development Director, which was approved at Annual Town Meeting and intended to be filled at the end of the year. Much like the Economic Development Strategy, this post is seen as an evolution in the Town’s efforts to formalize an identity and become ripe for more tourism, development and business stability.

The Town also continued its highly successful slate of annual events including the Susan B. Anthony Days Celebration, Adams Agricultural Fair, Bike Night, Ramblefest, Thunderfest and the Pedal & Plod to name a few. The newest addition to develop in 2013 was the Steel Rail Half Marathon, hosted by the Berkshire Running Center. This event began at the Berkshire Mall and followed the Ashuwillticook Trail all the way to the Adams Visitors Center, ending with a festival where the 500+ runners, along with family and friends, celebrated a successful day on the trail. The event drew a large crowd and seemed poised to become a welcome addition to Adams already exciting event schedule.

Development and projects were not the only focus of 2013, as we also saw a great deal of continued success at the Adams Free Library and the Council on Aging, both departments continuing to be models for what they do in Berkshire County. Our Department of Public Works and Police Departments also continued to perform at a high level, always working to keep our Town secure, clean and safe for community activity.

Every year in Adams is an opportunity for the Town to move itself forward while continuing to be a great place to live and raise a family. 2013 was an example of the Town doing exactly that, working to provide for those of us that live here while being conscious of the need to grow, modernize and work hard to be a bigger destination in Berkshire County.

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 \$20,068.00

Vital Statistics	2013	2012	2011
Births Reported	65	65	37
Marriages Reported	51	42	44
Deaths	102	101	89

Gas Station Renewals 10

Number of Dog Licenses Issued

Males..... 77
Neutered Males 361
Females 48
Spayed Females 388
4 Dogs Kennel License 8
10 Dogs Kennel License 0
25 Dogs Kennel License 1
Transfer Licenses 1
Total 884

Town Census — 8,914

VOTER REGISTRATION

Special State Primary Election — April 30, 2013

Prec.	Dem.	Rep.	Unen	Green/ Rain J	Lib. L	Reform E	Green USA G	Cons. A	Pirate	Totals
1	379	88	609	0	8	0	1	0	0	1,085
2	405	77	670	4	4	1	0	1	1	1,163
3	458	102	649	1	4	0	0	1	0	1,215
4	410	74	650	2	6	0	1	0	0	1,143
5	445	88	706	2	5	0	0	0	0	1,246
	2,097	429	3,284	9	27	1	2	2	1	5,852

Annual Town Election — May 6, 2013

Prec.	Dem.	Rep.	Unen	Green/ Rain J	Lib. L	Reform E	Green USA G	Cons. A	Pirate	Totals
1	379	88	610	0	8	0	1	0	0	1,086
2	405	77	670	4	4	1	0	1	1	1,163
3	458	103	648	1	4	0	0	1	0	1,215
4	408	75	649	2	6	0	1	0	0	1,141
5	444	88	707	2	5	0	0	0	0	1,246
	2,094	431	3,284	9	27	1	2	2	1	5,851

Special State Election — June 25, 2013

Prec.	Dem.	Rep.	Unen	Green/ Rain J	Lib. L	Reform E	Green USA G	Cons. A	Pirate	Totals
1	374	88	618	0	8	0	1	0	0	1,089
2	404	78	673	4	4	1	0	1	1	1,166
3	454	104	647	1	4	0	0	1	0	1,211
4	409	76	657	2	6	0	1	0	0	1,151
5	443	89	708	2	5	0	0	0	0	1,247
	2,084	435	3,303	9	27	1	2	2	1	5,864

Adams Agricultural Fair / Bowe Field

- The 39th annual Adams Agricultural Fair was held on Bowe Field the first weekend in August.
- The following weekend the first POW WOW in town was held. This event drew many participants and hundreds of interested persons.
- The Northern Berkshire Radio Club held their annual flea market on the fairgrounds.
- Cyclists began their ride at Bowe Field for the annual Fall Run sponsored by Custom City Cycle to benefit the Shriners Hospital. The local Mason organization provided breakfast.
- The B4B fundraiser for the Boston Marathon victims was held on the field as well as the Specialty Minerals picnic and the annual “Woof and Wag” Dog Show.
- As a requirement toward achieving his Eagle Badge, Daniel Durant with the assistance of his fellow Boy Scouts and Crew Troop 38 painted and maintained the bleachers.



Elizabeth Randall at the Adams Agricultural Fair



Displays of artwork inside the Exhibition Area at the Fair



Battle of the Bands

Board of Health 2013

The Board of Health has three elected members; Chairman Patricia Clairmont; Vice Chairman Thompson and Member Mendel. 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 16 meetings in 2013.

Code Enforcement Officer Scott Koczela conducted 175 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 \$4330 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 \$550.00.

The Board conducted the following the activity:

- State Sanitary Code orders issued – 29
- Berkshire Housing Court cases, most requiring multiple trips to court – 14
- Soil Perk Tests conducted – 1
- Septic System Installations – 0
- Well Permits issued – 1
- Complaints received and acted upon – 48
- Variance requested – 0
- Non-Criminal Disposition \$50.00 Citations issued – 11

The following permits were issued:

- Food Service Establishments – 27
- Retail Food – 16
- Catering – 3
- Frozen Desserts – 5
- Milk Permits – 38
- Septic Hauler – 3
- Commercial Hauler – 11
- Septic Installer – 3
- Manufactured Housing – 1
- Mobile Vendors – 2
- Temporary Vendors – 22
- Funeral Directors – 3
- Body Art Practitioners – 2
- Body Art Establishment – 1
- Motel – 0
- Residential Kitchen – 3
- Tanning Salon – 1
- Syringe – 1
- Tobacco – 9

2013 Public Health Nursing for Town of Adams VNA & Hospice of Northern Berkshire

Community Blood Pressure Clinics: 4 sites

Under age 65:	67
Over age 65:	153
Male:	42
Female:	<u>178</u>
Total residents:	220

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

Seasonal flu vaccine administered: 311 doses

Communicable Disease Investigations Completed:

81 cases of confirmed, probable or suspect disease status involving giardiasis, group B streptococcus, haemophilus influenzae, hepatitis C, influenza, lyme disease, pertussis, salmonellosis, shigellosis and varicella.

All required investigative reports were completed electronically via the MAVEN reporting system developed by Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Bednarz RN Clinical Supervisor

Inspectors Reports

Building Inspector

During 2013, The Adams Building Inspector's Office issued three-hundred eighty (380) permits for construction, demolition, alterations, additions, repairs, change of use, woodstove/chimney installations, certificate of inspections and curb cut /driveway entrances. A total of \$33,111.67 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.

Two (2) permits were issued for new residential single-family dwellings in 2013. Some three hundred seven (307) permits were filed for residential alterations and renovations. Twenty-nine (29) permits were filed for new commercial/business and non-residential buildings. Fourteen (14) permits were filed for signs, and five (5) permits were issued for curbcuts.

Type of Permits:	# of Permits:
Single Family Dwelling	2
Residential additions, alterations, conversions, repairs, & insulation	307
Commercial/Business/Non-Residential additions, alterations, conversions, and repair	29
Sign Permits	14
Curb-cut/Driveway entrance	5
Total Building Permits	357

Gas Inspector

Number of Gas Fitting Permits Issued	143
Revenue Generated	\$6,270

Plumbing Inspector

Number of Plumbing Permits Issued	58
Revenue Generated	\$2,355

Electrical Inspector

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Commercial Rough-in	52
Final Inspections	155
Furnaces	16
Industrial Rough-in	26
Pools	3
Residential Rough-in	122
Services 100 Amp.	46
Services 150 Amp.	1
Services 200 Amp.	32
Services 400 Amp.	1
Services 600 Amp.	0
Services 800 Amp.	0
Services 1200 Amp.	1
Services Reconnection on Old	3
Services Temporary	4

Miscellaneous Inspections

Board of Health	3
Building Inspector	2
Complaints	33
Fires	4
Insurance Companies	14
Loan Agencies	32
Adams Housing Rehab Program	16
Power Company	30
State Inspectors Office	4
State Police	2
State Police Fire Marshal	2

Inspections Made	604
Permits Granted	122

Respectfully submitted,
D.B. Rhinemiller

Planning Board

The Planning Board convened thirteen (13) public hearings during 2013, at which they addressed three (3) Site Plan applications and two (2) Form A subdivision plans (“Approval Not Required” in the Town’s Subdivision Regulations).

Specific applications reviewed included Site Plan approval for the following: East Road, 217 East Road Solar Project; 19-25 Park Street, REDPM, (Mausert Block); and 223 Columbia Street, 7-Eleven, Inc.

In addition, the Planning Board approved two (2) Form A’s (“Approval Not Required” under the Subdivision Regulations) for properties located at: 90 Howland Avenue, Matthew Saldo, and 63 Park Street, Steepleview Realty

The Planning Board also reviewed and approved a Definitive Subdivision for property located on Sommer Hill Road for Donald R. Sommer, Jr.

Members of the Planning Board are:

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

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 2013. Fourteen (14) Public Hearings were conducted involving six (6) Variance requests and eighteen (18) Special Permit requests, six (6) of which were “Home Occupations” and two (2) administrative appeals of the Building Inspector’s decision. The Board was also required to address the Planning Board’s denial of a site plan approval for 217 East Road Solar Project Company, LLC.

During 2013, 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:

Richard Solomon (*resigned 7-16-13*)
Patricia Folino (*resigned 9-11-13*)
Rob Krzanik.

The Board’s newly appointed alternate member this year:

Peter Gutmann

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

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission has five (5) members. Jason Krzanowski serves as Chairman, James Fassell, serves as Vice Chairman. The other members are Thomas Robinson, Anthony McBride, and Corey Bishop. There are two vacant seats. The Commission deeply regrets the passing of Doug Burnett, a faithful and valuable member for many years.

Eight (8) business meetings were held in 2013. The Commission Acted on two (2) Requests for Determinations and two (2) Notices of Intent.

1. MA Department of Conservation and Recreation for the construction of over 26 miles of multi-use trails, footpaths, snowmobile trails, relocation of the Thunderbolt ski trail, and installation of snowmaking infrastructure.
2. New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid for two geotechnical borings at 2 Zylonite Station Road to support planning and design of overhead utilities.

Order of Resource Area Delineation were issued for the following:

1. Filed by Specialty Minerals to confirm as accurate the depicted resource area boundaries as referred to in the ANRAD previously issued.

Determinations of Applicability were issued for the following:

1. Adams Water District for the replacement of two water mains located on Route 8.
2. East Road Solar Project Company, LLC requested the Commission decide whether the boundaries of resource areas and/or plans referenced are accurately delineated.

Certificate of Compliance were issued for the following:

1. Mass DOT for resurfacing of Route 8 between Duke's Sand & Gravel and the Cheshire line.

Enforcement Orders were issued for the following

1. PanAm Southern Railway for work done without a permit on Zylonite Station Road.

Emergency Certifications were issued for the following:

1. Office of Dam Safety to repair a substantial leak under Fisk Street Brook dam's left side.
2. 169 West Road for repair of a culvert washout due to heavy rains.
3. Adams Fire District to repair bank erosion at a subsurface reservoir.
4. 6 Country Club Avenue Extension for storm related damage along Hoxie Brook.

Department Of Public Works

Highway Division

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
- Installation of new sewer connections (1)
- 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 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 2013 the Town of Adams through the Equipment Maintenance Division purchased the following equipment:

- Elgin "Broom Bear" Sweeper
- Ford F350 4x4 pickup truck with plow
- John Deere front mounted mower

Major Projects

Shoal Removal in the Hoosic River and the Tophet Brook

Several years of material being deposited in both the Hoosic and Tophet after heavy rainstorms and Hurricane Irene made it necessary to remove the shoals. The shoals had to be removed because of the Town's maintenance agreement with the Army Corp of Engineers. At the end of January RC&D, Inc. of Pawtucket, RI started removal of the shoals in the Hoosic River and Tophet Brook. Removal of the shoals took until the third week of February. The large stockpile of material that was temporarily stored on Mill Street Field was hauled away the last week of February. In the spring the Mill Street Field and the Berkshire Gas Company property (point of access to river) were reseeded to restore them to their original condition.

PARKS GROUNDS & CEMETERY DIVISION

CEMETERIES

Maple Street Cemetery

Damaged or dying trees that were identified in the 2012 town report have also been removed. Two 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 six seasonal employees to assist one full time employee this season in maintaining all aspects of cemetery maintenance and assisting in funeral excavations. There were two major water breaks that were repaired by department employees. Special projects this year included repaving of more than 1700 feet of roadways. There are plans for continued paving next year. Major purchases this year included a 60" John Deere riding diesel four wheel drive mower that will be utilized in cemeteries and parks divisions.

FLOOD CONTROL

Again 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 2012 tentative 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 that were identified as needing total removal as they have in the past were completed. 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. Several issues were identified as needing attention and have been included in an ongoing capital improvement report. Item such as tennis court upgrades, field lighting renovations, field house improvements and softball field and general grounds refurbishments.

Valley Street Field

The parks crew edged the baseball diamond and hauled several cubic yards of baseball mix to the field. Both irrigation systems have been turned over to the town. Soccer and little league systems were totally overhauled and up and running. Several dozen cubic yards of sifted loam were hauled to all soccer fields and replanted with athletic grade grass seed. There should be a major noticeable improvement by late spring of 2014.

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. Again the summer parks program was reinstated this year due to funding through the town and administered by Youth Center Inc. of Adams.

Reid Field

As usual Reid Field hosted hundreds of softball players again this year. The skinned field and grounds were in excellent condition. The "NEW" field house has been a hit with the leagues and continues to serve all involved well.

Town Common

The parks employees again 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

2013 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

For 2013 the Town of Adams Wastewater Treatment Plant provided wastewater treatment services for the town residents, commercial and industrial operations within the town plus wastewater treatment for Hardman Industrial Park and the Walmart 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 2013 is as follows:

DEWATERING and CONVEYING EQUIPMENT

- 700 feet of C-110 drag chain and all wear plates replaced on #1 and #2 grit collectors.
- Replaced the top processing belt on the belt dewatering press.
- Polymer mixing machine required the installation of coil suppression devices, control relays, fuses, pilot lights and a new disperser solenoid valve.

VALVES, PUMPS, MOTORS, CONTROLLERS and ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT

- #1 peristaltic bleach pumps were rebuilt with new pump heads, rollers and silastic tubing.
- Pilot lights replaced on channel grinder controller.
- New mechanical seal installed on #1 return activated sludge pump.
- Main back flow prevention valve was rebuilt and passed its semi-annual test and inspection by the town's water department.
- New gate valves, ball valves and pressure gauges were installed on the main water line entering the wastewater treatment facility's building.
- Inspection plate gaskets made for the three return activated sludge pumps.

- The #2 grit channel gate regulator was removed, all moving parts refurbished and gate regulator reinstalled. All work performed by Atlantis Equipment Corp.
- #2 plant water pump was rebuilt with new bearings, grease seals, pump shaft, gaskets and mechanical seal.
- Ball valves installed on water pumps at the Gould Road water pumping station to facilitate draining water from pump housings to prevent freeze damage.
- Grit pump lines and scum pump lines routed and cleaned to reduce plugged lines.

MOBILE EQUIPMENT, STATIONARY EMERGENCY GENERATORS and VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

- 5 gallons of coolant was added to emergency generator at industrial pumping station.
- 2001 Ford F-350 pickup truck was serviced. Oil, oil and air filters, windshield wiper blades and new starting battery were installed. Repairs were made to the exterior dome light wiring.
- The John Deere push mower had its motor oil, air filter, gas line and cutting blade replaced.
- The forklift truck had oil, oil filter, air filter and one hydraulic hose replaced.
- 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, tire tubes, wheel drive belts, idler pulleys, springs and spark plug installed.
- New starting batteries installed on Caterpillar emergency generator at the Harmony Street pumping station.

OTHER EQUIPMENT

- Air Handling Unit air filters replaced.
- Packing replaced on Hayward micro screen for plant water system.
- 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.
- Boiler room combustion louver linkage was adjusted and lubricated.
- In November all outside chemical solution lines were drained and purged with compressed air to prevent freeze damage from cold weather.
- Desiccant and "coin" batteries to both the influent and effluent Isco samplers were replaced.
- #4 aerator oxygen sensor and float ball were replaced. #5 and #6 aerator oxygen sensors were replaced and calibrated.

- Gearbox lubricants from mechanical aerators and clarifier drives were sent out for wear analysis
- V-belt, sheaves and motor replaced on roof mounted exhaust fan for the wet well area.
- Corroded 1 ½" steam heat piping replaced in alum storage area and a ¾" condensate return line replaced in the same area.
- Toilets and urinal flush valves rebuilt and new lavatory faucet installed in men's locker room.
- Concrete repairs to #6 aerator platform cat walk.
- North reaeration and contact tanks were cleaned. All settle sludge deposits removed.
- V-belts and 1/3 hp motor replaced on bleach room exhaust fan.
- H.B. Smith boiler steam lines located in the boiler room were repaired by Adams Plumbing & Heating.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Laboratory scales were cleaned and calibrated by All State Scale Company.
- The area heater, located in dewatered sludge loading area, require a new fan motor.
- Alarm system insurance certification performed by Alarms of Berkshires. 5 fire alarm pull stations were replaced.
- 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.
- All variable frequency drives (VFD) were inspected using thermography. Two cooling fans were replaced in #4 VFD.
- Annual state inspection of facility's boilers and compressors passed.
- Fume hood in lab inspected and tested annually.
- ½" water line in wet well repaired.
- Laboratory drying oven door latch assembly was replaced.
- Laboratory BOD incubator required a new relay / starter for refrigerant compressor.
- Laboratory water stile was rebuilt with new heating elements, gaskets and tubing connections. The stile was also cleaned and descaled.
- Pressure gauge on compressor in lower pump room replaced.
- National Grid replaced a power line pole that services the wastewater treatment plant. National Grid also replaced the cross arms, line fuses, disconnect assemblies and linkage on that pole.

SUMMARY

The wastewater treatment plant is currently monitoring and inspecting a drinking water pumping station located at the bottom of Gould Road. This station is part of water distribution system that will supply water to the camp area being developed

by the town. The project will be completed once a water storage tank is built and then the Town of Adams Fire District will assume responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the Gould Road water pumping station.

During August of 2013 the wastewater treatment plant accepted treated ground water from remediation work performed by MA DEP and a private contractor to remove fuel oil storage tanks at the former Greylock Fuel and Ice property.

The laboratory technician passed all analytical parameters that were part of the EPA's annual Discharge Monitoring Report Quality Assurance Study 33. 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

The wastewater treatment plant hosted one tour this past year at the end of September for the members of Scout Troop 38 Dick Biros and Joe Fijal explained how the wastewater treatment plant functions to treat and clean the town's wastewater before it is discharged to the Hoosic River.

A review of the 2013 facility's records and reports documents 594.19 million gallons of wastewater was treated and cleaned before being discharged to the Hoosic River. This was an increase of 2.4% above last years (2012) annual flow of 580.18 million gallons.

A total of 160.44 dry metric tons of dewatered sludge was processed and hauled to an incinerator in Waterbury, CT for final disposal in 2013. This was an increase of 9.5% from 2012 sludge disposal total of 146.54 dry metric tons.

The monthly averages for removal of Total Suspended Solids removal ranged between a minimum of 85.5% to a maximum of 98.9% with an overall average for 2013 of 93.3%. Biochemical Oxygen Demand removals ranged from a minimum of 90.3% to a maximum of 98.8% with a twelve month average for 2013 of 96.9%.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation to the entire staff at the Adams Wastewater Treatment Plant for their dedication and hard work 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

In January, it was announced that The Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum, the town of Adams and the city of North Adams partnered to create the Hoosac Valley Service, which will transport passengers on a 25-minute ride from the Adams Visitors Center to Western Gateway Heritage State Park in North Adams. Scenic railroad rides are projected to begin in 2014. To accomplish this the railroad track would have to be laid 6/10th of a mile from the Renfrew Station (now Burke Construction offices) to Hoosac Street. The route will run along side of the extended Ashuwillticook Rail Trail which will be under construction in 2014.

The Mausert Block on Park Street, a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, owned by Stephen Stenson of REDPM has been undergoing renovations. The 90-year-old building had been vacant for several years. In February, three businesses were approved to open in the building by the end of the summer. The owners were granted a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals to allow two restaurants and a dance school there. The real estate development and management company has been working on the former Woolworth's building since purchasing it in 2012. The company hopes to build 11 apartments on the two floors above the commercial space. By the end of the year, work had stalled.

Mr. Stenson attended a Historical Commission meeting and made a presentation of his plans for the building. He also presented a very good and accurate historical account of the prop-

erty which included the original builders, their dealings with the former property owner John Barker, the five owners in the building's history, the former businesses, offices and social clubs that occupied the building.

Support was requested from the commission by Mr. Stenson when the National Grid electric company planned to install an unsightly 15 meter panel, an assortment of conduit and gray boxes at a prominent location near the new entrance to the building. The Commission sent a letter to the proper authority informing them that the proposed location of these meters was definitely not appropriate for this building. We stated in our letter that the developer had a designated, easily-accessible location for these meters in the basement of the building.

In August, a public auction was held for two National Register listed properties on Park Street. The Jones Block and the adjacent Carlow building (also known as the Tri-S Block or Armory Block) were purchased by the bank that holds their mortgages. The buildings had been owned by Gerard Sanchez, operating as Samuel Adams Enterprises LLC, who filed for bankruptcy protection in January, the day before the buildings were scheduled to be auctioned off for foreclosure. The Jones Block has been vacant since a fire in 1996 that took the life of an individual.

After several months of renovations, The Firehouse Cafe was scheduled to open in January, 2014 in the former Adams Fire Station on Park Street. The building is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Constructed in 1890, the building originally housed the fire equipment and meeting rooms for the town's volunteer fire department. William Kolis purchased the building in 2011 and has hired a manager for the restaurant.

As in previous years, members of the Historical Commission along with members of the Adams Historical Society staffed the Quaker Meeting House when it was opened to the public on Sundays between July 7th and Columbus weekend, October 13, 2013.



The Mausert Block was completed and filled with tenants by 1901. Through its history, it survived a small gas explosion fire and a threat of Urban Renewal demolition in the mid '60s.



The Jones Block and the Armory Block are pictured in a postcard view circa 1949. Both buildings have been on Park Street since the late 1890s.

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.

Adams had the third largest 55 and over population in all of Berkshire County with 2,672 people recorded in the 2000 US Census. Pittsfield and North Adams held first and second, then us and Williamstown with 2,395, followed by Great Barrington, Lenox, Dalton, Lee and so on. According to the 2010 US Census, we remain to have the 3rd highest population with 2,798 55-plus older adults. That is an increase of 332 people or 38.1% increase from 2000 to 2010.

In 2013, we were able to assist, for one or more reasons, an additional amount of 277 people. Broken down further: January (11), February (37), March (16), April (8), May (8), June (4), July (18), August (11), September (56), October (40), November (39) and December (29). Some of these may be for services and others in events but we are finding that those who attend the larger events come back for services. These numbers only reflect the amount of people we were able to record. It is nearly impossible for us to track all our phone calls and walk-ins.

Transportation

Our two vans are leased from the BRTA, they are handicap accessible/para-transit vehicles. Van drivers Rita Clarke and Terry Moran are working very well together, assisting the other when needed. In 2013 they have provided transportation to an

additional 120 rides. Both continue to go above and beyond their duties to fill the needs of their riders. Thanks to Chet Cyrulik 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.



Between the affordable suggested donation for ridership and our dedicated team we continue to transport, on average, 98 unduplicated amounts of seniors per month with a total of 11,597 trips provided in 2013, an increase of 1,074 trips from 2012. Also offered are day trips with van driver, Rita Clarke. Our busiest month was in October with 1,082 unduplicated trips for 109 different people.

Months & Unduplicated Trips Below

Jan: 914	May: 1025	Sept: 921
Feb: 842	June: 1018	Oct: 1082
Mar: 877	July: 1023	Nov: 923
Apr: 994	Aug: 928	Dec: 1040

Months & Unduplicated People Below

Jan: 93	May: 78	Sept: 98
Feb: 96	June: 94	Oct: 109
Mar: 102	July: 91	Nov: 106
Apr: 103	Aug: 102	Dec: 104

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 29-years now, with long-time volunteer Ralph Farrar for 27-years. Other volunteers include, Art & Peg Theil, Laura Sunn, Pat Boisvert, Debbie Coody, Diana Reeves, and Bill Grielech. In 2013, they served 5,722 meals to 168 unduplicated seniors. That is an increase of 57 new people and 1,539 additional meals served.

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.



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 Lansborough meet at the Adams site to bag and deliver their own brown bags to their residents. People receive a 15lb 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 65 ½ 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 Girgenti.

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 assisted in filling out federal and Massachusetts tax forms and filing them electronically. In 2013, sixty tax returns were done out of the Adams site.

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

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".



Annual Holiday Gathering

Adams Council on Aging Holiday gathering was held on December 18 at the Bounti Fare in attendance was 130 guests. All enjoyed Prime Rib or Stuffed chicken dinner; our hosts from the Bounti Fare made our evening a delight.

We also hosted a successful auction table and 50/50 raffle in which many local business owners contributed to. The proceeds were donated to the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation; in the end we raised \$580.00. After dinner all enjoyed music by CJ Field and a group of young children that joined him in a few holiday songs, this brought out the holiday spirit for all. We would like to say thank you to all of our local businesses and volunteers who supported and played an important role in the success of this event.

Fix-It-Friends Program

A group of volunteer 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 Visitor Center/Council on Aging. Food was available, music by CJ Field and Chris Samson, over 30 vendors, and over 100 people in attendance.

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*
- *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.*
- *Quilting Club, Senior Club*
- *Travel Opportunities*
- *"Buckets of Sand" Program*



- *Free Tai Chi with 20-plus students*
- *Three SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Everyone) counselors, Lou Yarter, and Outreach Coordinator Linda Cernik*
- *Yoga*
- *Highlighted in Greylock Credit Union's quarterly newsletter*



- *Employment Access Availability & Job Fair*
- *Meet & Greet opportunities with various clubs, housing authorities and emergency response teams*
- *Free 'File of Life' cards*
- *Kentucky Derby Social, complete with best hat competition*
- *Art Classes*
- *"Baby Shower" fundraiser for Pope John Paul Charity Center*
- *Halloween Parties: With 70 people in attendance and 30 people who dressed up. Judging was done by the Bart School Ambassador students*
- *Veteran's Day Event co-sponsored by Craneville, Springside & Sugar Hill. Event has entertainment, flag raising, firing squad and balloon release*



Anniversaries

Volunteer photographers will take professional photos at no cost for those celebrating milestone anniversaries. The program was very successful for several couples this year.

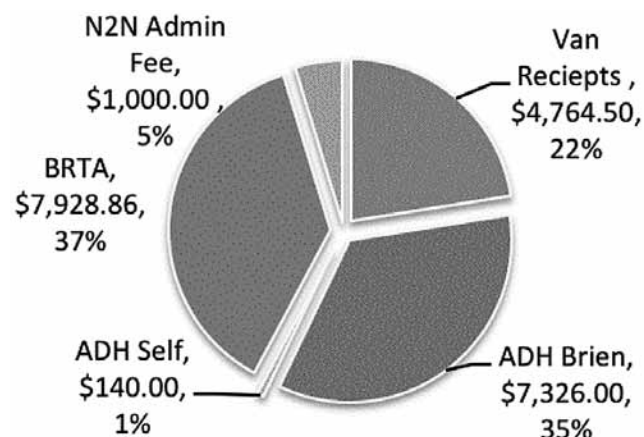
Conferences/Trainings Attended

- I. MCOA Fall Conference: Massachusetts Council on Aging
 1. Job Search Skills Program for Mature Workers
- II. CPR & First Aid
- III. Passenger Sensitivity
- IV. Wheelchair Lift & Securement
- V. Defensive Driving
- VI. S.H.I.N.E. Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders
- VII. Arrearage Programs: Updates on programs including, Energy Assistance, Weatherization, Credit & Collection Issues, Heating & Safety, and other resources available.
- VIII. BCAC's Networking Breakfast with a wide range of providers and government officials.
- IX. Home Instead's Networking Breakfasts
- X. Passenger Service and Safety (PASS) Trainer and Driver Certification

Grant Opportunities

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. **Formula Grant** provided through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs in the amount of \$17,440 to assist in operation costs and programming.
3. Various amounts from the **Cultural Council on Northern Berkshire.**

Total Deposits of \$20,259.36 into Elder Care Receipts:



Represented here (clockwise) are 50% of donations collected from van ridership, transportation fee to and from Adult Day Health (ADH) in North Adams through the Brien Center, self-

pay transport to the ADH, HST funds given by BRTA for transporting ADA riders in Adams and the %5 Administration Fee for the Neighbor to Neighbor Grant distribution. The remaining 50% of van ridership donation goes into the Gift Account to assist with programming/activities.

The staff at Adams CoA:

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

Board of Directors:

Rose Belisle
 Bob Joppich
 Karen Mathews
 Michelle Wellspeak
 Aleta Moncecchi
 Mellissa Schaffrick
 Lisa Haas

Volunteers:

The numbers indicated below are the lowest amount of recorded hours of service. Not everyone records their time consistently.

Volunteer Service Type	Hours	Pay Equivalent
AARP Tax Greeter Volunteer	33.50	837.50
AARP Tax Volunteer	94.50	6,615.00
Administrative Support	1,153.30	11,718.50
Bridge	37.50	318.75
Brown Bag	43.00	387.00
Computer	149.25	2,985.00
Grocery Shopping	97.00	873.00
Senior Tax Worker	130.50	1,044.00
SHINE	73.33	2,566.67
Van Driver	6.50	84.50
Totals	1818.3	27429.92

Office of Veterans' Services

Annual Report

The Adams 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 leads the nation in providing financial assistance to eligible veterans by delivering a measure of 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 should seek the services provided by Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Stephen R. Roy. Many veterans and their families have been rescued from hunger and homelessness by the services provided by VSO Roy, who works closely with the Massachusetts Department of Veteran Services in Boston to ensure the community, is reimbursed for the expenses these services entail.

Veteran Services also assists a great number of veterans with filing claims through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This intimidating process can be extremely difficult to accomplish successfully; we support these folks by 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 veteran 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 towns of 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. The VSO also makes frequent duty calls to hospitals and skilled nursing/assisted living facilities in the area to help our most vulnerable veterans with their needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Roy
Veteran Service Officer

Emergency Management

2013 Report

The function of the Town of Adams Emergency Management Director is to co-ordinate the Emergency Management Program; to make all routine decisions and advise the Chairman of the Adams Board of Selectmen on courses of action available for decision making. During emergency operations, the Emergency Management Director is responsible for the proper functioning of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and acts as a liaison with other local, state and federal agencies.

The Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) is updated annually, or earlier, if personnel changes occur within the year.

The Town of Adams continues to maintain MEMA'S A+ rating.

WebEOC, an electronic reporting tool, is used to communicate with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. WebEOC was installed, tested and is fully operational.

The Town of Adams had one significant weather event this year: the winter storm NEMO on February 8th and 9th. On February 8th Governor Patrick declared a State of Emergency; a Travel Ban was issued at 4:00 pm the same day.

By order of the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, the Town declared a State of Emergency at 3:00 pm February 8th. The Emergency Operations Center opened at 3:00 pm and monitored the event until its operation was deactivated at 5:00 am Saturday, February 9th.

The Town of Adams was awarded a grant from MEMA to open a permanent Emergency Operations Center. A room on the third floor of the Police Station was made available by Police Chief Richard Tarsa. The Emergency Management Director used the grant money to furnish the room with equipment necessary to make it a fully functional Emergency Operations Center. The EOC should be completed in early 2014.

I also thank the heads of all Town agencies involved in making the Emergency Management Plan work. Without everyone's co-operation this would not happen.

It is with great pleasure that I serve as the Emergency Management Director. My goal is to insure the Town of Adams and its citizens are safe during a disaster.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Kleiner
Emergency Management Director

Forest Warden

2013 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

Chapter 48 of the Massachusetts General Laws state the duties and responsibilities of the Forest Warden

The volunteer members of the Forest Warden Department train weekly in Wildland Fire Suppression, Tanker Water Shuttle and Relay, Wildland Urban Interface and Search & Rescue.

2013 MT. GREYLOCK RAMBLE:

For the past 42 years, the Forest Warden Department provided communications and safety on the trails.

BURNING PERMITS ISSUED: 313

CALLS AND EVENTS:

- 13 – Wildland Fires
- 93 – Illegal Burns and Smoke Investigation
- 3 – Mutual Aid
- 1 – Search and Rescue
- 6 – Community Events
- 5 – Community Service/Details

The Department also participated in the following:

- Town of Savoy's Annual Parade
- The Annual Fall Foliage Parade
- EMS EXPO at the Berkshire Mall
- Adams Fire Department Open House
- Provided support to the Adams Agricultural Fair

THANKS TO THE RESIDENTS OF ADAMS FOR A SAFE BURNING SEASON.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Kleiner
Town of Adams Chief Forest Warden

Adams Free Library

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

For the first four months of the year, the Adams Free Library staff worked non-stop to ready for full circulation on the Central /Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing (C/W MARS) network. This consortium of 151 public, academic and special libraries contains a database of more than 14 million items and has over 1.2 million registered borrowers. It brings a wealth of information and access to all members of the Adams Free Library, greatly expanding the resources for all our members. In January, the staff received training to register our borrowers in the system. In February, the talented staff at the C/W MARS Cataloging Center loaded the library's 32,000 items into the C/W MARS database. Due to the excellent work of the catalogers at the Adams Free Library, the match rate was more than 90 %! However, that left nearly 3,200 items that had to be retrieved and entered manually into the system by either finding a match to an existing record in the database or by submitting a request to C/W MARS. Needless to say, this has been a very labor intensive, on-going project.

On April 26, 2013, after all-day staff training the previous day, the Adams Free library began full circulation on C/W MARS. It has been exciting for both the staff and for our patrons, a little frustrating for both as well, but in general it has improved the services we offer, especially the much quicker filling of hold requests. Instead of placing a hold on one Adams Free Library copy, depending on the title there may be 80 copies available, and the title may be found in regular print, large print or as an audio book or even an e-book.

Children's Librarian Holli Jayko continues to excellently manage the library's services to our younger borrowers. Her arrangement of the Children's Room continues to receive many, many compliments. Ms. Jayko works tirelessly to constantly improve the collections services we offer to our youngest users. Holli'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 have a well-attended Summer



Paulette Morin entertained a full house with her "Fun with Fossils and Dinosaurs" program.

Reading Program, a home school research group that meets monthly, weekly story times, book groups, special guest presentations and more.

The Summer Reading program themes for 2013 were "Dig into Reading," and "Beneath the Surface." A total of 983 youngsters, teens and parents participated in the activities during the summer; this is a 38% increase over last year. The library had 7 youth volunteers who donated 59 hours to the library during the summer reading program. The library sponsored the following programs for our patrons and the surrounding community: Paulette Morin's "Fun with Fossils and Dinosaurs;" Magician Scott Jameson; a puppet show presentation of "Caps for Sale" by VT PuppeTree; singer/songwriter Tom Sieling and the "Zoo on the Go" from the Zoo in Forest Park. All of our summer programs were well attended and enjoyed by local families.



The puppet show "Caps for Sale" was presented by VT PuppeTree.



Magician Scott Jameson attracted a crowd to the Miller Annex.



The Zoo in Forest Park brought "Zoo on the Go" with its ambassadors from the animal kingdom to the Library Summer Program.

The following summer reading programs were supported by a grant from the Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. "Digging Dinosaurs and other Tales" by Storyteller Diane Edgecomb and Jim Manning of Jungle Jim-Boston presented "Wild about Reading Balloon Show." This grant saved the library \$770.00.

In February the library hosted Fidel Moreno's program "The Drum Speaks." He shared traditional teachings from both African American and Native American traditions about drumming. During the April school vacation week the library had "Spin, Pop, Boom" presented by Mad Science. Participants enjoyed the science behind cotton candy, and watched the room disappear in a cloud of dry ice. Then in October "Mysterious Massachusetts" was presented by paranormal buff Sarah Hodge-Weatherbe. Attendees were introduced to seaside ghosts, UFOs over the Berkshires, paranormal legend, odd events and strange denizens. Every state has its ghost stories, but no other state has the Dover Demon or the Bridgewater Triangle.

The Home School Research Group covered a variety of topics including the Dewey Decimal Classification System, library etiquette, and planning, organizing, and evaluating information for a research paper. Research topics included Nanotechnology,



The Summer Program kicked off with Jim Manning of Jungle Jim-Boston and his "Wild about Reading Balloon Show."



A dry ice demonstration from Mad Science's "Spin, Pop, Boom" program entertained and educated the audience.

Wild Horses, Wind Turbines, Fast Food vs. Home Cooking and Molly Pitcher. Our research group had an average attendance of 17 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. "Research shows the development of early literacy skills through early experiences with books and stories is critically linked to a child's success in learning to read" - Catherine Snow, *The Contacts of Literacy*.

The month of May marked the retirement of Interlibrary Loan Librarian/Administrative Assistant Lorraine Kalisz after nearly 26 years of service to the Town of Adams. Lorraine, an employee of the town since 1987, began working at the library in August 1999. Ms. Kalisz is a very hard worker whose attention to detail and high level of efficiency have been invaluable assets to the jobs she performed here. As Interlibrary Loan Librarian, she was our expert on all aspects of C/W MARS for many years and offered her co-workers invaluable assistance

in learning the new circulation system. Lorraine also organized a number of excellent summer reading programs for our adult patrons during her tenure here. She developed the book discussion group in 2006 that continues to be the envy of our neighboring public libraries due to its large number of participants. The library trustees and her co-workers wish Lorraine a long, healthy and happy retirement with family, especially her gorgeous grandchildren. She earned it!

Christa Sidway, a part-time Library Aide here since 2006, was promoted to the full-time position of Interlibrary Loan Librarian/Administrative Assistant. As the library had just begun circulating in the new C/W MARS system, which changed the workflow both in Interlibrary Loan and at the circulation desks, this allowed Christa to establish a new routine in Interlibrary Loan that is running very smoothly. Christa has also capably continued the book discussion groups, with their first monthly meetings under her charge beginning in October.

Anthony Archambault began work as Library Aide replacing Christa in June. Local educator Lynn Waltermire was hired for the summer as a temporary employee to cover while full-time Cataloger / Circulation Librarian Lyn Wilson was out on sick leave for major surgery. Both Lynn and Anthony were an enormous help in keeping circulation services running smoothly during Lyn's absence. Anthony, who has many interests and also works as a substitute teacher, has brought a unique demeanor to the library whenever he is on duty. We are enjoying this opportunity to use his talents to best benefit the services at the library. Lyn Wilson has recovered quickly from her successful surgery and has continued to perform her various duties well, especially the transition to cataloging functions on the C/W MARS system.



New Comfy Chair for the Children's Room.

The Friends of the Adams Free Library, Inc. have provided many, many hours of volunteer work for the library. They worked especially hard on a children's book sale in April, and on the annual book and bake sale in August. They have also worked with local artist Len Stomski to use his image titled "Below Greylock" to create note and holiday cards with a lovely view of the memorial library building. These cards are available for purchase at the library. They have sponsored a local author's program, participated in the Adams Street Fair, the RambleFest and also handed out candy and bookmarks to youngsters who participated in the Children's Halloween Parade. Their fundraising efforts have resulted in the purchase of a two-bin hydraulic cart and the materials to build an item return box that now sits near the Melrose Street entrance. Huge thanks go to Charles H. McCann Technical School Metal Fabrication Shop teacher John Kline and students Jacob Wendling and Brodie DiGennaro for the actual work on the two-slotted return box that is now available to patrons for item returns 24 hours a day. The Friends of AFL also funded two of the library museum passes this year and financed gift cards that were used as incentive prizes for the children's summer reading program. Another wonderful improvement to the services in the Children's Room was the purchase of a large, comfortable upholstered chair that is roomy enough to allow an adult with a young child to sit



Dedication of the new Item Return Box, courtesy of McCann Technical School students Jacob Wendling and Brodie DiGennaro and their Metal Fabrication Shop teacher John Kline.

and read together. These hard-working volunteers have done a tremendous job to better the services of the Adams Free Library, and we thank them so very much!

Improvements made to the interior by the trustees through the use of State Aid to Libraries funds included the installation of a large oak multi-shelfed unit in the Children's Room to allow easy access storage of the many materials needed throughout the year in this very busy department. The 12-camera surveillance system was put into use in March. The system has brought added security to both the patrons and staff. Two task chairs and a neat seat were also purchased for the Teen Center.

In February, the Adams Free Library Trustees and Director met with Town Administrator Jonathan Butler and Community Development Director Donna Cesan where they learned that Austin Design of Colrain, MA was selected to evaluate the building needs and to draft plans and bid documents for repairs to the building. Throughout the year, the project committee met with Austin Design to work on draft plans. Revised plans were presented at a joint meeting of the trustees and town officials in December. In priority order, the project includes: replacement of the membrane roof, masonry and stone repairs, reconstruction of the main entrance, interior accessibility alterations, installation of an accessible main level rest room, basement renovations to provide an emergency exit, and installation of a gas-fueled burner. The goal is to bring the request for funding to a Special Town Meeting in March 2014 with the anticipation of project completion by fall of 2014.

Building use for meetings by outside groups include political caucuses, Adams Historical Society programs, senior ladies exercise classes, a children's Lego group, and professional development workshops by the Massachusetts Library System. The library director also gave building tours to various groups throughout the year. The annual pastel art workshop, led by award-winning artist Gregory Maichack, was held in May with the capacity crowd once again extolling Mr. Maichack's teaching skills. This program was also funded in part by the Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire.

After fifteen years of service to the Adams Free Library, Trustee Juliette Wilk-Chaffee did not seek re-election in May. We will miss Ms. Wilk-Chaffee's valuable opinions as an educator when discussing many issues at board meetings as well as her wonderful sense of humor. At the time of her retirement, Julie also served as the trustee liaison to the Friends group where she offered many helpful suggestions, especially fund-raising ideas. In December, active library user, and another local educator Jill Pompei was appointed to the Board of Trustees. Ms. Pompei has also agreed to serve as the liaison to the Friends



The popular Gregory Maichack pastel art workshop held in May.

group. Other members of the Board of Trustees are Chairman James Loughman, Treasurer Joseph Greenbush, Building Maintenance Chairman David Strzepek, Karen Kettles, and Eugene Michalenko.

Special thanks go to Department of Public Works Director Tom Satko, his Assistant Marilyn Kolis and the DPW workers for their helpful assistance throughout the year, especially in creating the concrete pad for the item return box and providing muscles whenever major pieces of furniture needed moving. We are especially thankful for the hard work of the town's Maintenance Custodians Gary Green and Dana Labbee in keeping the building operational, clearing walks of snow and ice, and mowing the lawn. Dana replaces Mike Rinaldi who retired in March. Mike started his work for the town here at the library in 1999 and also made many needed repairs to the building's interior. We so appreciate his beautiful finish work that can be found throughout the building.

So many accomplishments this year would not be possible without the many helpful, hard-working volunteers who have assisted in the library this year. We are extremely thankful to Carleen Butler who has given of her time to cover and prepare the new books added to the juvenile collection. This has been of enormous help to the Children's Librarian. Senior tax workers Emma Morin and Judy Blair have also assisted the staff in the conversion process by not only helping with the deletion of discarded items but also in the re-barcoding of a number of items for proper circulation within C/W MARS. The trustees are extremely appreciative of the number of memorial donations and monetary gifts made during the year as well as the donation of a number of excellent books. Those books and other items that not added to the collection have been given to a great cause - the Friends group for the annual book sale fundraiser!

James R. Loughman, Chairman of
Board of Library Trustees

Deborah G. Bruneau, Director

Fiscal 2013 Library Statistics

Total Number of Volumes as of June 30, 2013: 31,560

Newspaper subscriptions: 7

Periodical subscriptions (including gifts): 60

Registered borrowers: 7,543

Number of borrowers who are Adams residents: 5,743

Circulation:

Adult and young adult print 32,084

Juvenile print 14,458

Video Cassettes/music CDs/DVDs, museum passes, misc. 17,808

Audio Books 2,833

TOTAL 67,183

TREASURER'S REPORT

Fees Returned to Town Treasurer: \$ 1,156.65

✓ Microfilm Printer Receipts 12.75

✓ Internet Printer Receipts 652.30

✓ Miscellaneous 16.10

✓ Photocopier Receipts 475.50

Returned to Revolving Fund via Town Treasurer: \$ 3,011.65

✓ Fines for Overdue Materials 2,309.00

✓ Damaged or Lost Items Replacement Fees 702.65

TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS \$ 4,168.30

OTHER INCOME

Gifts, Memorial Donations, Used Items Sales 311.12

Grant: No. Berkshire Cultural Council 1,000.00

State Aid to Public Libraries Award \$ 11,014.45

TRUST FUNDS DIVIDEND INCOME	BALANCE 7/01/12	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS 6/30/13	BALANCE
W.T. Adams	8,103.06	4,651.02	7,632.98	5,121.10
C.N. Miller	2,211.28	102.48	1,320.25	993.51
Plunkett / Saunders	592.13	235.95	82.00	746.08
H. Tiedemann	5,393.53	1,667.06	3,615.00	3,445.59
TOTALS	16,300.00	6,656.51	12,650.23	\$ 10,306.28

Memorial Book Funds Total as of 12/31/13 \$ 93,012.55

Memorial Book Fund Investment Values Total as of 12/31/13 \$ 83,729.44

Adams Police Department

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

<i>Full Time Since</i>		
Chief of Police:	Richard W. Tarsa Jr	04/05/87
	Donald A. Poirot	12/07/81
	<i>Retired</i>	04/26/13
Sergeants:	Shawn M. Briggs	04/05/87
	Scott McWhirt	01/30/89
	David M. Clark	04/01/78
	<i>Retired</i>	01/02/13
Patrol Officers:	Lawrence Ordyna	08/11/80
	Keith Erdeski	01/01/84
	<i>Retired</i>	02/07/13
	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
	Travis Cunningham	01/24/13
Reserve Officers:	Brenna Dorr	
	Colby Clark	
	Robert Krzanik	
Special Police:	Allen Mendel	
Animal Control:	Carrie Loholdt	
	Daniel Lefebvre	

During 2013 The Adams Police Department experienced change on many different levels. January allowed us to welcome Officer Travis Cunningham as a fulltime officer with the department. However, at the same time Senior Sergeant David Clark walked down the road of retirement. Chief Donald Poirot

followed in April while Officer Keith Erdeski announced that he too would retire in February of 2014. Combined they have close to 100 years of experience between them. Chief Poirot, Sgt. Clark, and Officer Erdeski served the department, the Town of Adams, and its residents with pride and dedication. Other changes within the department saw Officer Joshua Baker becoming the department's representative on the County SRT (Special Response Team).

Another new addition, provided by funding from the Stanton Foundation, later in the year was a K-9 Patrol. Officer Curtis Crane became the department's first K-9 handler and his new partner is a German Sheppard named Kumar. Both would attend training in early 2014. The addition of a K-9 patrol enables the department to not only expand on the services that we already provide but it brings them to a new level. A K-9 Patrol is an invaluable resource for tracking purposes, missing persons, and drug detection.

The Adams Police Department has always been a proactive department with its roots based on Community Policing. Making arrests and solving crime are regarded as being equally important but just as important is helping the community ease its fears of crime, helping them solve their problems, reducing and preventing disorder. Neighborhood Crime Watch, Special Persons Identification Program, RUOK Reassurance Program, Police Athletic League, School Resource Officer, Seatbelt/Child Restraint Awareness demonstrations are just a few ways that the department is able to interact with the community. Department personnel also participate in numerous events sponsored by the Town of Adams and non-profit organizations such as the Elks Safety Fair, Pro-Adams Functions (Thunderfest/Ramblefest/ Street Fair), Community Night, and National Night Out. The local driver's education school also makes field trips to the department as part of their driver's education. Officers are now able to form bonds on a more personal level than that of a



“uniformed presence”. This type of quality interaction between police officers and the public facilitates a greater trust while at the same time reducing citizens’ fear of crime.

2013 Police Department Activity Report

Calls for Service	14,239
Ambulance Calls.....	1,714
Fire Department Calls	188
DPW.....	76
Animal Control	625

Criminal and Custodial Activity

Offenses Committed	1,199
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Arrests

1. Adults.....	191
2. Juvenile.....	9
Summons Served	293

Motor Vehicle Activity

Written Warnings	494
Civil Charges	83
Arrests	80
Criminal Complaints.....	52

Motor Vehicle Accidents

Investigated.....	208
Fatalities.....	0
Persons Injured	59

Other Police Activity

Breaking and Entries / Larcenies	118
Alarms Responded.....	135
Restraining Orders Served	69
E9-1-1 calls.....	2,420
Parking Tickets Issued	572
House Checks	602

Police Department Training

January – All uniformed officers attended training in Tazer utilization and deployment.

February – Officers Crane, Malloy, Cunningham, Cook, and Krzanik attended In-Service training for Defensive Tactics. Sgt. Briggs, Officers Baker, Dean, Charon, and Dabrowski attended In-Service Training for Legal Updates. Sgt. Tarsa, Sgt. McWhirt, Officers Erdeski, Wright, and Wandrei attended In-Service Training for 1st Responder/CPR.

March – Sgt. Tarsa, Sgt. McWhirt, Officers Cunningham, Wandrei, Dispatchers Romaniak, and Pansecchi attended 9-1-1 Customer Service Training. Officers Crane, Cook, Malloy, Cunningham, and Krzanik attended In-Service Training for 1st Responder/CPR. Sgt Tarsa attended 16 hrs. of Multi-Hazard and Emergency Planning for Schools Training.

Sgt. Briggs, Officers Wandrei and Crane attended 40 hrs. of Crisis Intervention Training. Sgt. McWhirt, Officers Cook, Malloy, Cunningham, and Krzanik attended In-Service Training for Legal Updates.

April – Sgt. Tarsa, Sgt. Briggs, Sgt. McWhirt and Dispatcher Piscioneri attended the Northern Berkshire Regional Emergency planning Council’s Functional Drill Exercise. Sgt. Briggs, Officers Baker, Dean, Charon, and Erdeski attended In-Service Training for Defensive Tactics. Sgt. Tarsa, Officers Crane, Erdeski, Wright, and Wandrei attended In-Service training for legal Updates. Officers Dean, Malloy, Cook, Dispatchers Piscioneri, Pansecchi, and Romaniak attended 9-1-1/PowerPhone Training in EMD Active Shooter Response. Officer Wandrei attended training in Investigating Cases Involving Victims with Special Needs and the Elderly.

May – All officers attended Roll Call Training regarding domestic violence sponsored by the Elizabeth Freeman Center. Sgt. Briggs, and Officers Baker, Dean, Charon, and Dabrowski attended In-Service Training in 1st Responder/CPR. Chief Tarsa and Sgt. McWhirt attended a training seminar on Juvenile Procedures. Detective Ordyna attended the LEOA Conference. Officer Clark attended 40 hrs. of 9-1-1 Training and 32 hrs. of Emergency Medical Dispatching.

June – Officer Clark attended 16 hrs. of Vesta Palles Training and 20 hrs. of Level III Firearms Training.

August – Officer Cunningham attended, starting date August 19th, the 48 MPOC Academy for full time officers. He graduated on January 17, 2014 completing 800 hrs. of training. Chief Tarsa, Officers Baker, Crane, Wright, and Clark attended PowerPhone/9-1-1 training for Active Shooter Response

September – Sgt. Briggs attended Survivors of Domestic Violence Training at Smith College. Officers Crane and Wright attended recertification for breathalyzer testing. All officer attended firearms qualification.

October – Detective Ordyna attended training in the Prescription Management Program.

Respectfully submitted,
Chief Richard Tarsa, Jr.



Community Development Department

The Adams Community Development Department continued to implement a busy work program in 2013, with the implementation of a wide range of community and economic development projects for the Town. These projects included those funded under the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, as well as developing grant applications for future funding. As in past years, 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 (2003). Significant progress on several downtown projects was accomplished in 2013:

Park Street Infrastructure Improvement Project

Reconstructing Park Street, the Town's "Main Street," will result in the elimination of approximately 1,200 linear feet of blighted roadway and approximately 2,400 linear feet of blighted sidewalks. The project is designed to transform the commercial core of the downtown and create an attractive, pedestrian-friendly environment that is conducive to new retail business growth and development. Final design for the project was completed by the Town's project engineer, Tighe & Bond, Inc. The project is to include the following: i) demolishing / removing existing sidewalks; ii) milling existing roadway pavement with approximately two (2) inches of material to be removed; iii) installing new and retrofitting existing drainage structures (modifying catch basins with deep sumps); iv) installing 300 feet of sewer line to repair poorly functioning existing line; v) removing and installing new curbing; vi) re-grading and compacting street base prior to installing two (2) inches of new bituminous concrete pavement; and vii) installing new sidewalks with pedestrian curb extensions, handicapped ramps and tactile warning pads, one new street tree, and new street furnishings to include benches, bollards, trash receptacles, and decorative pavers. In addition, the project will install a new hydrant and provide bike accommodations (lane striping), consistent with MassDOT's "Complete Streets" policy.

In July 2013, CDBG funds were awarded by the Commonwealth for construction of the project. Town staff expects to bid the project early in 2014 with construction expected to begin in summer 2014.

Adams Housing Rehabilitation Program

The Adams Housing Rehabilitation Program (HRP) continues to be an important on-going program for residents of Adams that is 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 will have code violations addressed and undertake improvements such as those involving 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. For the past several years, the Town has been successful in obtaining grant funding to complete approximately 10-12 units per year. Grant funds under FY2013 CDBG totaled approximately \$256,000, with a goal of rehabilitating at least 10 housing units.

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 initial assessment work by EDM Architects, the 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. The Town selected Austin Design, Inc., a full service architectural firm in Colrain, MA with particular expertise in historic building renovations.

Austin Design met throughout 2013 with a Steering Committee (on which, representatives from the Selectmen, Library Trustees, and Town staff participated) to define a scope of work for the proposed renovation project, develop construction plans, and bidding documents. The building's unique architectural character and historic importance made this work especially challenging, but in December 2013 the proposed scope of work was generally approved. Work to refine the scope will continue in early 2014, and the Town will seek an appropriation for the renovation work once a final budget is in place. Actual construction could begin as early as summer 2014.

30 Columbia Street-Roof Replacement Project

The Memorial School Building Improvement Project is a public facilities project within the Downtown Target Area involving replacement of approximately 35,000 square feet of failed membrane roof covering key elements of the building, including the gymnasium and auditorium. Replacement of the roof, which has been leaking and causing some damage to interior spaces, will stabilize and secure the building envelope and allow temporary lease of the space for community use and potentially private business. The size and prominent location of the Memorial School building creates opportunities for innovative reuse, while retaining some building elements for private

or nonprofit enterprise and community use. In 2013, the Town was awarded \$600,000 in CDBG Reserves funding for the repair and replacement of the building roof. The proposed project should go out to bid early 2014.

Over the next year with assistance from MassDevelopment, the Town will evaluate the feasibility of various long-term uses of the building and assess specific rehabilitation needs associated with a preferred reuse strategy. In particular, this evaluation will determine whether the classroom end of the building can be reused for senior housing or other residential use, or should this portion of the building be demolished. The Town is also evaluating whether to lease portions of the building on a short term basis providing activity within the structure and allowing continued public use of certain facilities – particularly, the gymnasium and auditorium.

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. Based on the early design work and an analysis of alternatives, a roundabout design was selected and approved by MassDOT. Work on the design preceded throughout 2013 and achieving the 100% design phase is expected in early 2014. The roundabout design is more complex and there have been issues in securing the funding needed to complete the project. The Town is hopeful that design of the project will be completed in summer 2014 so it can be put out for public bidding, with major construction work occurring in 2015.

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 continue working with the City of North Adams on the next two (2) mile extension from Lime Street in Adams to Hodges Cross

Road in North Adams. 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, Hill Engineers, and Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. to complete the preliminary 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

Community Development staff continued to make steady progress on implementation of the Town's Greylock Glen project. Staff continued efforts to complete all required permitting for project components and ensure necessary infrastructure improvements are in place to make the project "shovel ready." The first phase of needed infrastructure improvements (roadway reconstruction, drainage system repairs, and new water, sewer, gas utility installations) necessary to serve the proposed economic development project at Greylock Glen was completed by the Town's construction contractor, D. R. Billings, Inc., in May 2013. This work was funded by \$2 million in state funding awarded to the Town. The infrastructure project was successfully closed out by Town Community Development staff in June. During the year, Community Development staff continued efforts to obtain the remaining funding needed to complete all project infrastructure from state and federal funding resources.

In August 2013, Town staff formally began negotiations with the Commonwealth on the Master Lease Agreement for Greylock Glen. The Master Lease Agreement needs to be in place prior to Town issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the campground or any other component of the resort project.

DCR staff formally filed a Notice of Intent with the Adams Conservation Commission for the proposed multi-use trails system at Greylock Glen in late summer 2013.

Financial Reports

Board of Assessors

TAX RATE SUMMARY FOR FY 2014

a. Total amount to be raised	\$14,288,125.97
b. Total estimated receipts and other Revenue sources	- 4,683,955.00
c. Tax levy	\$ 9,604,170.97

Class	Certified Full and Fair Cash Value Assessments	Percentage Full Value Shares of Total Tax Levy
1. Residential	385,704,188	80.1227%
2. Open Space	0	0.0000%
3. Commercial	33,727,472	8.3180%
4. Industrial	25,301,905	6.2400%
5. Personal Property	21,568,868	5.3193%
Totals	466,302,433	100.0000%

Town of Adams, Massachusetts
Office of the Town Accountant - Statement of Operating Revenues
Budget and Actual - General Fund
for the Year Ended June 30, 2013

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
LOCAL RECEIPTS:		
Real Estate Taxes	8,304,089	8,196,557
Personal Property Taxes	467,335	426,392
Local Meals Tax	4,928	4,720
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	750,285	739,127
Payments In Lieu Of And Other Taxes	131,000	247,814
Penalties And Interest	75,000	143,727
Sewerage Charges	25,000	66,275
Other Departmental Revenue	116,587	122,656
Licenses And Permits	60,923	64,802
Alcoholic Beverages	26,077	27,167
Fines & Forfeitures	28,000	29,776
Investment Income	7,200	3,171
Miscellaneous Revenues	0	52,627
STATE RECEIPTS:		
Unrestricted General Government Aid	1,989,267	1,989,267
Abatements To Vets, Elderly/Blind	54,769	54,140
State Owned Land	53,734	53,734
Veteran's Benefits	105,212	137,856
Total Revenues	12,199,406	12,359,808
OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS:		
Operating Transfers and Other Financing Sources:		
Bond Proceeds	350,000	350,000
Stabilization Fund	184,310	184,310
Council On Aging Fund Receipts	25,000	25,000
Parking Meter Funds	15,000	15,000
Technology Funds	20,000	20,000
Perpetual Care Funds - From Interest	5,000	5,000
Revenue Appropriation	590,000	
Operating Transfers And Other Financing Sources	1,189,310	599,310
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	13,388,716	12,959,118

Town of Adams, Massachusetts
Office of the Town Accountant - Statement of Operating Expenditures
Budgetary and Actual - General Fund
for the Year Ended June 30, 2013

	Budget as Revised	Actual Expended	Surplus/ (Deficit)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
Selectman/Moderator/Town Report	19,731	16,991	2,740
Town Administrator	268,215	242,996	25,219
Financial - Accounting/FINCOM	222,470	215,042	7,428
Assessors	140,633	138,336	2,297
Treasurer/Collector	157,212	156,549	663
Town Counsel	43,666	37,617	6,049
Technology	119,785	97,987	21,798
Town Clerk/Elections/Registrations/Codes	148,762	145,151	3,611
Property/Liability Insurance	120,800	120,747	53
Total General Government	1,241,274	1,171,416	69,858
PUBLIC SAFETY			
Police	41,050	37,736	3,314
Police Station	1,644,927	1,587,273	57,654
Emergency MGM/Forest Wardens/Haz Waste	10,800	10,312	488
Animal Control	34,820	32,385	2,435
Parking Management	6,500	5,079	1,421
Total Public Safety	1,738,097	1,672,785	65,312
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT			
Conservation/Agriculture/Historical Commission	3,540	2,622	918
Planning/Zoning Board	13,070	10,213	2,857
Community Development Department	170,004	138,633	31,371
Building Inspector	154,742	152,771	1,971
Inspection Services/Wire/Gas/Plumbing/Etc.	16,744	15,869	875
Total Community Development	358,100	320,108	37,992
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES			
Council On Aging	211,973	210,340	1,633
Veterans Services/Memorials	153,639	151,137	2,502
Board Of Health	63,866	54,947	8,919
Total Health And Human Services	429,478	416,424	13,054
Education - Regional School Districts			
Adams - Cheshire Regional School	3,964,097	3,964,097	0
Northern Berkshire Regional Technical	622,788	622,788	0
Total Education	4,586,885	4,586,885	0
Library	284,867	282,547	2,320

Statement of Operating Expenditures
Budgetary And Actual - General Fund
For The Year Ended June 30, 2013 *(continued)*

	Budget as Revised	Actual Expended	Surplus/ (Deficit)
PUBLIC WORKS			
Public Buildings	557,223	476,428	80,795
Dpw Administration/Tree Warden	170,825	161,653	9,172
Highways	1,400,438	1,340,023	60,415
Snow & Ice Control	231,000	177,600	53,400
Flood Control	2,250	-	2,250
DPW Garage/Equipment Maintenance	368,680	346,932	21,748
Recycling Center	56,603	43,965	12,638
Wastewater Treatment/Collection	317,415	235,506	81,910
Total Public Works	3,104,434	2,782,107	322,327
EMPLOYEE/RETIREE BENEFITS	1,131,435	1,103,752	27,683
CEMETERY, PARKS & GROUNDS			
Cemetery, Parks & Grounds	46,166	41,896	4,270
Recreation	12,500	12,500	0
Celebrations - Seasonal	3,600	3,581	19
Total Cemetery, Parks & Grounds	62,266	57,977	4,289
STATE CHERRY SHEET CHARGES	35,222	39,862	(4,640)
COURT JUDGEMENT	16,250	16,250	0
DEBT SERVICE	481,450	477,271	4,179
Principal	324,120	323,119	1,001
Interest	157,330	154,152	3,178
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	13,469,758	12,927,384	542,374

Town of Adams, Massachusetts

Office of the Town Accountant - Consolidated Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2013

(AUDITED)

ASSETS	General Fund	Stabilization Fund	Special Revenue	Special Revenue Small Cities	Capital Projects	Trusts Funds	Agency Funds	Long-term Debt Group	Total Memo only as of 06/30/2013
Cash									
Petty Cash	490								490
Cash in Savings and Money Market Account	3,690,239	380,258	475,881	52,521	73,108	574,051	41,178		5,287,236
Investments									0
Accounts Receivable									
Personal Property Taxes	20,137								20,137
Real Estate Taxes	679,658								679,658
Allowance for Abatements & Exemptions	-576,206								-576,206
Motor Vehicle Excise	207,543								207,543
Tax Titles									
Tax Possessions	489,567								489,567
Departmental - PD Off Duty - due from Vendors	37,192						11,145		37,192
Departmental - Industry Sewer									11,145
Departmental - Sewer/Water Liens AFD									0
Departmental - Veterans Services	154,965						12,988		12,988
Checks returned - ISF	848								154,965
Special Assessment - Demolition Lien	1,199								848
Departmental - Emergencies Agencies									1,199
Departmental - Federal Grant Receivable									0
Departmental - Comm of Mass Grants			43,967						0
Due from SRF T/S Irene Storm Damage									43,967
Amounts to be Provided for									
Payment of Bond								4,166,394	4,166,394
Debt Authorized & Unissued									0
Total Assets	4,705,632	380,258	519,848	52,521	73,108	574,051	65,311	4,166,394	10,537,123

Consolidated Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2013

(AUDITED) (cont.)

LIABILITIES and FUND BALANCES	General Fund	Stabilization Fund	Special Revenue	Special Revenue Small Cities	Special Revenue Capital Projects	Trusts Funds	Agency Funds	Long-term Debt Group	Total Memo only as of 06/30/2013
Current Liabilities									
Warrants Payable	68,768			17,269					86,037
Payroll Payable	69,366								69,366
Health Insurance Withheld	93,297								93,297
Workmans Comp/PD Accident Payable	6,904								6,904
Taxes Withheld/Payable	4,133								4,133
Unemployment Payable	5,411								5,411
Misc. Withheld	3,779								3,779
Cafeteria Plan Withheld	9,254								9,254
Retirement Withheld	558								558
Contract Retainage	31								31
Miscellaneous							5,237		5,237
Off-Duty Work							35,941		35,941
Deferred Revenues									
Real Estate & Personal Property Tax	123,589								123,589
Tax Liens	489,567								489,567
Motor Vehicle Excise	207,543								207,543
Tax Possessions	37,192								37,192
Departmental	154,965						11,145		166,110
Special Assessments	1,199						12,988		14,187
Due from Federal Government									0
Due from Comm of Mass Grants			43,967						43,967
Unreserved Fund Balances	2,099,018								2,099,018
Fund Balances Reserved for Encumbrances	226,828								226,828
Fund Balances Reserved for Compensated Absences	270,330								270,330
Fund Balances Reserved for Trust Funds									
Restricted Trust Funds		380,258							426,794
Unrestricted Trust Funds									147,257

Consolidated Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2013

(AUDITED) (cont.)

LIABILITIES and FUND BALANCES	General Fund	Stabilization Fund	Special Revenue	Special Revenue Small Cities	Special Revenue Capital Projects	Trusts Funds	Agency Funds	Long-term Debt Group	Total Memo only as of 06/30/2013
Fund Balances Reserved for Fed/State Grants			49,513	35,252	32,382				117,147
Fund Balances Reserved for Appropriation		500,000							500,000
Fund Balances Reserved for Gifts/Bequests/Revolving			93,047						93,047
Fund Balances Reserved for Special Purposes									
Reserved for Expenditure	333,900		331,770		40,726				706,396
Reserved for Emergency Spending - T/S Irene			1,551						1,551
Bonds Payable									
Inside Debt Limit - Town Hall/PD Station								1,540,000	1,540,000
Inside Debt Limit - Old Town Hall/Library								83,000	83,000
Inside Debt Limit - Water Channel Improvements								350,000	350,000
Inside Debt Limit - T/S Irene								191,000	191,000
Inside Debt Limit - MWPAI								2,002,394	2,002,394
Bonds Authorized & Unissued									0
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	4,705,632	380,258	519,848	52,521	73,108	574,051	65,311	4,166,394	10,537,123

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, 2013
(UNAUDITED)

	Fund Balance 06/30/12	Revenue	Expenditure	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditure	Operating Transfer In	Operating Transfer Out	Fund Balance 06/30/13
FEDERAL GRANTS							
Federal Community Develop Block Grant	(10,053.00)	623,573.00	(571,928.00)	51,645.00		(6,340.00)	35,252.00
Massachusetts Small Cities Program	66.00			0.00		(66.00)	0.00
Federal ARRA - Public Works Grant							
Total Federal Grants	(9,987.00)	623,573.00	(571,928.00)	51,645.00	0.00	(6,406.00)	35,252.00
STATE GRANTS							
State Aid to Libraries	39,598.00	11,014.00	(18,702.00)	(7,688.00)			31,910.00
Public Works Economic Development - Signal Project	(40,790.00)	85,335.00	(54,810.00)	30,525.00			(10,265.00)
PW/ED - FY12 MassWorks	(341,517.00)	1,900,000.00	(1,590,217.00)	309,783.00			(31,734.00)
Energy Conservation	5,391.00			0.00			5,391.00
MEMA	662.00			0.00			662.00
Feasibility Study - Regional Dispatching	(33,000.00)	33,000.00		33,000.00			0.00
Public Safety	16,875.00	72,873.00	(59,150.00)	13,723.00			30,598.00
Elderly	8.00	15,252.00	(15,257.00)	(5.00)			3.00
PW/ED - Cemetery Pres/Stormwater	13,109.00			0.00			13,109.00
Municipal Incentive - Riverways	5,550.00		(358.00)	(358.00)			5,550.00
Board of Health - Local Prep Grant	2,977.00						2,619.00
43D Grant - Greylock Glen	1,607.00		(1,607.00)	(1,607.00)			0.00
Condiut Grant	2,343.00			0.00			2,343.00
Visitor Center Grant	0.00	13,000.00	(13,673.00)	(673.00)			(673.00)
Total State Grants	(327,187.00)	2,130,474.00	(1,753,774.00)	376,700.00	0.00	0.00	49,513.00
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS							
Parking Meter	63,880.00	10,881.00		10,881.00		(15,000.00)	59,761.00
Council on Aging	43,592.00	20,654.00		20,654.00		(25,000.00)	39,246.00
Technology Fund	40,340.00	25,789.00		25,789.00		(10,000.00)	56,129.00
Cemetery Sale of Lots	194,284.00	7,656.00	(25,305.00)	(17,649.00)			176,635.00
Tropical Storm Irene	(684,195.00)	685,746.00		685,746.00			1,551.00
Other Special Revenue Revolving & Gifts & Donations	90,979.00	81,758.00	(78,651.00)	3,107.00		(1,044.00)	93,042.00
Total Other Special Revenue Funds	(251,120.00)	832,484.00	(103,956.00)	728,528.00	0.00	(51,044.00)	426,364.00
TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	(588,294.00)	3,586,531.00	(2,429,658.00)	1,156,873.00	0.00	(57,450.00)	511,129.00

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, 2013
(UnAUDITED)

	Fund Balance 06/30/12	Revenue	Expenditure	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditure	Operating Transfer In	Operating Transfer Out	Fund Balance 06/30/13
NONEXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS							
Cemetery Perpetual Care Principal Only	395,296	3,200		3,200			398,496
Library - Plunkett Fund	23,225	233	(194)	39			23,264
Library - Saunders Fund	5,025	50	(42)	8			5,033
Total Nonexpendable Trust	423,546	3,483	-236	3,247	0	0	426,793
EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS							
Stabilization	512,419	3,349		3,349	48,800	(184,310)	380,258
Cemetery Perpetual Care - Interest Only	31,025	3,185		3,185		(5,000)	29,210
Cemetery Maintenance	10,739	243		243			10,982
Cemetery Endowed Lots - Harrington/Hall/Plunkett	28,404	285	(240)	45			28,449
Scholarship - Hall/Low	32,029	321	(5,589)	(5,268)			26,761
Scholarship - Kruszyna	17,430	1,126		1,126			18,556
Scholarship - Town	8,327	1,419	(2,100)	(681)			7,646
Conservation Trust	10,604			0			10,604
Historical Preservation - Quaker Meeting House	16,780	168	(1,900)	(1,732)			15,048
Total Expendable Trust	667,757	10,096	(9,829)	267	48,800	(189,310)	527,514
TOTAL TRUST FUNDS	1,091,303	13,579	(10,065)	3,514	48,800	(189,310)	954,307



Hoosac Valley Middle and High School, the solar array, and the Middle School Gym



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



**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013**



Adams-Cheshire Regional School Committee

*Back row (l-r): Joshua DeMarsico-Birkland, Steven Vigna, Chair Paul Butler, Principal Vinnie Regan
Front row (l-r): Superintendent Kristen Robinson-Gordon, Regina Hill,
Vice-Chair Darlene Rodowicz, Edmund St. John IV*

Report of the Chairman

Adams-Cheshire Regional School District

Paul K. Butler, Chairman	(Adams, appointed 9/00, elected 5/01, re-elected 5/04, 5/07, 5/10, 5/13)
Darlene Rodowicz, Vice-Chair	(Cheshire, appointed 09/04, elected 5/06, re-elected 5/09, 5/12)
Edmund St. John IV	(Cheshire, elected 5/11)
Regina Hill	(Adams, appointed 9/10, elected 5/11)
Steve Vigna	(Adams, appointed 06/11, elected 05/12)
Joshua DeMarsico-Birkland	(Adams, appointed 04/2012, elected 05/13)
Brian Astorino	(Cheshire, appointed 2013, elected 05/13)

The 2013/2014 school year has been one of status quo for the most part. The school committee has filled its vacant Cheshire seat as we welcome Brian Astorino as the newest member of the committee. While the 2012/2013 school year was one of great change, the current school year has been one that has become more stable. As you remember, the 2012/2013 school year was the first year of operation for the newly renovated Hoosac Valley Middle and High School. It was also a year of tremendous personnel changes, including the superintendent, two principals, two vice principals, and several other staffing positions as well. Comparatively, this year has been one of few changes. Hoosac Valley is in its second year of operation and the superintendent and our two new principals are in year two as well and certainly settling in to their roles. There was some turnover at Hoosac as we welcome our two new vice principals, Marty McAvoy and Jeremiah Ames. Welcome to the district and best wishes as you acclimate to your new roles.

I don't normally have opportunity to let the voters of our towns know exactly who represents them on the school committee except for their names as listed above. As the current chairman and the most senior member of the committee, I can say that we have a wonderful working group of men and women representing our two member towns and the students who attend school in our district. We have three with military backgrounds. Two members work in the field of finance. One is a teacher while another is an attorney. Three work in private industry in various capacities. Several of us volunteer in other ways in our communities or on other boards. Almost all of us are parents and have children who attend school in this district. We come to meetings with a diverse set of experiences and opinions but work collaboratively to formulate decisions that best serve the students in our schools. It is an absolute delight to work with these people in the important mission we have.

Certainly the topic that generates the most interest has been the renovation of the Hoosac Valley Middle and High School building. One of the driving goals was to have the building serve as a community center for various purposes. That goal continues to be realized as events happen almost continually at the campus. Certainly the buildings and grounds have been host to our typical sporting teams; football, basketball, baseball, track & field, cross country, etc. The new middle school gym now hosts PAL basketball. The new performing arts center

includes the renovated auditorium as well as the amazing new arts lab for dance. Several events have taken place there including the musical performance "RENT", choral performances, band concerts, dance recitals, junior prize speaking contests, along with other community based events. And all of these are open to the public. The beautifully redesigned cafeteria continues to be the setting for the annual Art Hathaway holiday dinner that takes place between Thanksgiving and Christmas. This has been a wonderful coming together of our community that includes students, teachers and staff, The Big Y supermarket which has been very generous in their support for this dinner as we continue this tradition of giving back to the elderly in our community. I continue to be amazed at the changes that have taken place at the high school building. 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. Always one of the largest hurdles is the fact that we need to vote on our school budget long before finalized aid numbers are posted from the state. We must budget around preliminary figures. For the upcoming fiscal year, which begins on July 1st of 2014, Adams-Cheshire Regional School District is slated to receive about \$36,000 more in state chapter 70 aid than it did in the current year. However, many of the costs associated with running a school district have gone up. The cost of health insurance alone has increased by 9%, or about \$325,000. Contractual wage increases for employees has risen by around \$200,000. Heat and utilities has also seen a significant increase due to rising energy costs and a colder than normal winter. 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. The budget that will be voting on will continue to represent a good value for the taxpayers as we continue to have the lowest per pupil spending in Berkshire County. However,

this is certainly coming at a cost to the students. It is getting to a point where we as a community must decide how to move forward in providing education to our young people. If the math holds up, the increase in fixed costs to our school district will be more than ten times the increase we will be receiving in state aid. I would strongly suggest that our citizens, parents, and taxpayers let the elected officials of our schools and our towns know their feelings on this matter.

Maintenance of the three buildings within our district continues to be an enormous task. Even with a newly renovated building, maintenance issues do happen and must be dealt with in addition to the daily and routine work being done in each building. As with other areas of our operation, budget cuts over the last several years have led us to run very lean in this department. Still, we are committed to have buildings that at the very least offer clean and comfortable environments for our students and staff. 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 few 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. This is such an important asset to the schools and to the students and their families.

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 have

implemented this new evaluation system and are working with it this year. I believe this will have the end result of making our district a better organization with an improved educational environment. Additionally, the state of Massachusetts has mandated that its schools conform to the new federal Common Core standards. This has been a subject of considerable controversy both locally and nationally and has become the subject of news and talk shows and has also become somewhat of a political football. Essentially, Common Core is a framework that helps schools throughout our country teach its students academic materials in a similar fashion. The implementation and curriculum are still left to state and local entities so long as they fit within the framework. We will certainly be keeping a close eye on how this works for our district.

The current 2013/2014 school year will be the final year of three year contracts with all but one of our union groups. We have begun negotiations with some of them and hope to have all contracts finalized before the start of school in the fall. Also, the district is in the process of re-accreditation at the high school as of this writing.

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 and there are many. 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. Are there challenges that lie ahead? Absolutely there are. But 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 - 2013

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

Introducing the Administrators of the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District:

Kristen Gordon	Superintendent
Lisa Bresett.....	District Administrative Assistant
David Hinkell	Business Manager
Erika Snyder	Assistant to the Business Manager
Jacqueline Fortier	Director of Pupil Services
Mary Ellen Sutliff.....	Administrative Assistant to the Director of Pupil Services
Jill Pompi.....	Literacy Director
Peter Bachli	Principal of Cheshire Elementary School
Michelle Colvin.....	Principal of C.T. Plunkett Elementary School
Vinnie Regan	Principal of Hoosac Valley Middle High School
Jeremiah Ames	Vice Principal of Hoosac Valley Middle High School
Martin McEvoy	Vice Principal of Hoosac Valley Middle High School

Support Staff:

Laurie Vachereau	Payroll
Sharyn Alibozek	Insurance, Grants, Retirees

Adams Cheshire Regional School Committee

The School Committee is an elected body that oversees the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District. Members work with the Superintendent to set broad policies, develop a recommended budget for submission to the towns, and monitor the overall operation of the School Department. The Committee is composed of seven elected members for a two year term. Three school committee members live in Cheshire and four school committee members live in Adams.

Adams-Cheshire Regional School Committee Members:

Paul Butler	Chairperson - Adams
Darlene Rodowicz	Vice Chairperson - Cheshire
Brian Astorino.....	Cheshire
Josh Demarsico-Birkland.....	Adams
Regina Hill	Adams
Ed St. John	Cheshire
Steve Vigna	Adams

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the ACRSD, in partnership with families and community members, is to promote meaningful learning in a safe environment that prepares our youth to be creative thinkers, motivated learners, and positive, productive members of society.

GUIDING BELIEFS

At the foundation of our vision for the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District are a set of beliefs about learning that guide our planning, decision-making and actions.

We believe that:

- All children are capable of learning.
- All students deserve the best instruction and the best resources.
- A safe, respectful, and organized environment creates the ideal climate for learning.
- People who share responsibility and accountability enhance success.
- Learning is increased when everyone has high expectations.
- Providing a variety of approaches leads to individual success and growth.
- On-going assessment and adjustment is necessary for growth.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the ACRSD is to provide valuable instruction to all students while motivating each child to achieve educational excellence. Through opportunities inside and beyond the school walls, enhanced digital learning opportunities, dedicated staff, and invested parents and community, we will ensure that students are college and career ready upon graduation.

The Adams-Cheshire Regional School District has something for everyone!!

Whether a student is interested in the arts such as drama; musicals; band; chorus or the fine arts such as sculpting; art shows at all levels; art through technology or STEM or athletics or AP courses--We have something for everyone!

We have consistent curriculum in both of our elementary schools and we continue to improve in this area at Hoosac Valley Middle High School.

ACADEMICS AND INSTRUCTION

All district efforts focus on improving student learning. Elementary staff continues to work together to monitor individual student progress in reading, writing and math. Multiple literacy assessments for fluency, decoding, vocabulary development and comprehension are administered to monitor progress for reading benchmarks. Teachers use grade level writing rubrics to analyze student writing with a greater emphasis on student's ability to work with informational texts and to write persuasive and informational pieces.

At the middle and high school levels, we will begin the process of creating common assessments. Teachers work to best meet the needs of all students. More clubs, activities, and sports have successfully been offered to our middle school students. We plan to continue on this path. New Math and a new ELA series were purchased for our middle school and various high school courses. This curriculum better matches the common core. Many of our middle and high school teams and teachers open their doors to homework help and extra help as needed.

All teachers continue to work diligently to align the curriculum with the Common Core Standards. Data is analyzed in grade level meetings and with individual teachers and instruction is adjusted to provide targeted skills for struggling learners.

The 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.

Our district is working very hard to completely align our curriculum to the Common Core. The ACRSD received a grant award with other districts in Berkshire County with a goal of teachers working together with the curriculum to complete alignment.

TECHNOLOGY

We have completed our technology plan and the goals that are included in the plan are as follows. We feel that these goals are attainable and very relevant to the work that is being done in the district. The district technology committee consists of three school committee members, the technology department and various staff members as needed. This committee meets monthly or every other month.

Goal 1: Teachers will become more proficient in implementing, assessing, and supporting the development of digital-age skills. Teachers will integrate technology and facilitate participation of information sharing, collaboration, and user-centered design on the Internet throughout the curriculum and content areas to improve student achievement. At least 90% of teachers will use technology every day.

Goal 2: The district will make efforts to improve communication with parents, students and community members. At least 90% of teachers will use technology to communicate with parents, students and community. District website will be used more frequently.

Goal 3: All students will have access to technology that allows them to utilize the PARCC testing. District will review existing technology to see if there is need to purchase more equipment. If need is determined, the district will purchase technology by utilizing grants/general funds.

Goal 4: Develop a strong working knowledge of the technology required by the common core standards by June

2014 for all educators involved in direct instruction with students as demonstrated by documented educator trainings.

ACE

The Adams-Cheshire Educational (ACE) Foundation has been in existence since 2002. The Adams Cheshire Educational Partnership (ACE) is an endowed fund whose purpose is to enhance and enrich the educational experience of the students and teachers in the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District (ACRSD). The goal of ACE is to ensure the highest level of achievement for the students and enhance their capacity to achieve excellence both in school and in the community. Through the generosity of the Barrett Fund and individual and corporate contributions, the fund balance today is at \$331,836 (April 2014). ACE has provided nearly 90 grants totaling over \$107,000 over the last 12 years. Those grants have positively impacted the educational experience of more than 8,000 students (clearly with double and triple counts) in the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District. We are very appreciative of the hard work that ACE does for our district and students.

RACE TO THE TOP

“Providing a high-quality education to every young American is vital to the health of our nation’s democracy and the strength of our nation’s economy. In a 21st century world, education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity and success – it is a prerequisite.” (Race To The Top Advocates)

The Obama Administration made a commitment to reform America’s public schools to provide every child access to a complete and competitive education. Approximately 4 years ago, President Obama presented states with an unparalleled challenge and the opportunity to compete in a “Race to the Top” designed to urge systemic reform and embrace innovative approaches to teaching and learning in America’s schools. Backed by a \$4.35 billion investment, the reforms contained in the Race to the Top, the goal is to help prepare America’s students to graduate ready for college and career, and enable them to out-compete any worker, anywhere in the world. ACRSD is proud to be a Race To The Top district. We are completing our final year with all goals achieved.

The Race to the Top emphasizes the following reform areas (*Taken directly from the Race To The Top Initiative*):

Designing and implementing rigorous standards and high-quality assessments,

by encouraging states to work jointly toward a system of common academic standards that builds toward college and career readiness, and that includes improved assessments designed to measure critical knowledge and higher-order thinking skills.

Attracting and keeping great teachers and leaders in America’s classrooms,

by expanding effective support to teachers and principals; reforming and improving teacher preparation; revising teacher evaluation, compensation, and retention policies to

encourage and reward effectiveness; and working to ensure that our most talented teachers are placed in the schools and subjects where they are needed the most.

Supporting data systems that inform decisions and improve instruction,

by fully implementing a statewide longitudinal data system, assessing and using data to drive instruction, and making data more accessible to key stakeholders.

Using innovation and effective approaches to turn-around struggling schools,

by asking states to prioritize and transform persistently low-performing schools.

Demonstrating and sustaining education reform,

by promoting collaborations between business leaders, educators, and other stakeholders to raise student achievement and close achievement gaps, and by expanding support for high-performing public charter schools, reinvigorating math and science education, and promoting other conditions favorable to innovation and reform.

COMMUNICATION/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

We all know that schools alone cannot prepare our youth for productive adulthood. The ACRSD works closely with the community and various community agencies as well as our families in an effort to meet the needs of all of our students.

Our website assists in the communication between our families and community. Collaboration is the key to success and we strive to strengthen this every day. It is a goal of the ACRSD to work closely with our families and the community. We can all gain from this.

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 2013 and again in February 2014. 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.

All schools work to prevent school violence and to create safe schools for all. All schools are locked during the school day and a “check-in” system is in place to ensure the safety of all.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

We have created a new strategic plan that addresses current and important areas.

All ACRSD curricula will be aligned to the current MA Curriculum Frameworks.

- 1.1: Examine and revise standards for student placement and courses to maximize student learning in K-12 classes.
- 1.2: Align curriculum to current state standards by implementing a review and update process.
- 1.3: Provide updated courses, as a means to fill gaps in curriculum offerings, especially electives.
- 1.4: Ensure continually updated technology, textbooks, and equipment are integrated into the curriculum.

TEACHING AND LEARNING GOAL:

ACRSD Students will be effective learners by reaching or exceeding established benchmark standards. Highly qualified, professionally trained staff will provide instruction that challenges and meets the needs of all learners.

- 2.1: Professional development that reflects the needs of the district and the staff will be high quality, and meet the requirements of our district state and federal mandates.
- 2.2: Provide opportunities for students to recognize and develop their unique abilities, talents, and interests.
- 2.3: Provide up to date technical instruction at all grade levels.
- 2.4: Provide challenging educational PreK-12 programs with instructional resources are modern and aligned to the current curriculum and frameworks and that meet individual learning needs.
- 2.5: Increase student achievement in all grades.
- 2.6: Using current data assessment, student instruction will be differentiated to meet the needs of multiple learning styles.

COMMUNITY GOAL:

ACRSD will continue to establish and cultivate productive, collaborative partnerships with the communities.

- 3.1: Develop a comprehensive community wide marketing campaign to position the district as a preferred educational system and employer.
- 3.2: Enhance media relation activities by increased positive coverage of schools and the district and by providing community links on the district website, through televised and social media.
- 3.3: Continue programming on local access channel to support district initiatives, opportunities for parental involvement, and professional development for staff.
- 3.4: Each of the schools will hold at least one event each school year that will bring community members into our schools and provide an interactive environment.
- 3.5: Each school will make contact with local businesses to establish community partnerships for the purpose of sponsorship for student events and professional development.

STUDENT SAFETY AND WELLNESS GOAL:

Given a safe, supportive environment, students will develop skills to improve their physical, emotional and social well being.

- 4.1: Strengthen student services addressing the social and emotional needs of the students from PreK-12. (SAC role, Brien outreach, SS curriculum, PBIS).
- 4.2: Continue to promote our anti-bullying and prevention program.
- 4.3: Develop and expand nutritional/PE programming in district schools (My Plate, SPARK, free healthy snack program, breakfast/lunch summer, Fuel Up for 60).
- 4.4: Integration of safety and wellness into district-wide curriculum.
- 4.5: Annual revision of crisis plan and maintaining Crisis teams that meet regularly.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kristen Robinson-Gordon
Superintendent of Schools

Hoosac Valley Middle & High School

2013-2014 Annual Report

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

The 2013-2014 Hoosac Valley Middle & High School held many improvements and student achievements. We were pleased to have new Assistant Principals Marty McEvoy, with experience in Pittsfield, Springfield and Lee, as well as Assistant Principal Jeremiah Ames, with experience in Lenox, join our leadership team. We added 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, check out our award winning newspaper online there and a link to our Youtube page. Additionally, 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 lived our 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 spring Hoosac Valley students performed RENT: School Edition under the direction of educators Kate Frissell, Jake Keplinger, 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, and had many charitable contributions including hosting two blood drives for the American Red Cross. 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 Dan Hogan, a great champion for our students and school community.



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.

Hoosac Valley faculty implemented a Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) Team with a grant from the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). PBIS is an evidenced based process to improve student performance by setting high expectations for students and providing supports to ensure all students are successful in school. This will be an integral component of Hoosac's progress forward to ensure all students are ready for college, career and citizenship.

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 one of the largest enrollments of any elementary school in Berkshire County. Currently we service students in grades K - 5. The school is located on Commercial Street in downtown Adams housing six grade levels with between 69-92 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	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14
Pre-K					61	
K	71	97	67	86	87	92
1	84	80	94	75	78	78
2	90	78	81	91	65	73
3	80	91	71	81	90	69
4	93	85	85	72	84	88
5	89	90	85	90	78	83
6		77	81	75		
Totals	507	598	564	570	543	483

STAFFING:

The following people help to provide a high quality educational program and a supportive learning environment for the students at our school:

Kindergarten

Kristi Bachli, Roberta Urquhart, Christine Kirchner, and Mara Woolley

Grade 1

Amy Anderson, Bethany Ricci, 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, Antoinette Esposito, Cynthia Vадnais, and Noella Wotkowicz

Grade 5

Justin Luciani, Kathleen McGrath, Kale Skrocki and Jennifer Taylor

School-Wide

Principal Michelle S. Colvin

Dean of Students Patricia Misiuk

Title I Director & Literacy Coach Jill Pompei

Special Education: Mary Whitman, Dawn Daniels, Joann Kingsbury, Sara Laing, Travis Poirot **Art:** Terri Cooper, Wendy Lamberton **Music:** Timothy Rougeau **Physical Education:** Kathleen Hill, Dan Wehle **Title I:** Deb Langner, Ann Atwell **School Adjustment Counselor:** Nicole Seyerlein **Speech/Lang:** Diane Arduini, Heather DiSanti **Occupational Therapy:** Suzanne Harnick, Deb Silveira **Physical Therapy:** Lora McGrath **ESL Specialist:** Joshua Kellogg **Reading Specialist:** Michelle Johnson **Interpreter:** Judy Miller **Teacher of the Deaf:** Eileen Daneri **Administrative Assistant:** Julie Little **Main Office Para:** Cheryl Steuer **Autism Specialist:** Kim Biagini **Library:** Laurie Gavazzi **Nurse:** Linda Biros **Cafeteria:** Kimberly Briggs, Carole Carlow, Ann Conroy, Amy Garner, Frances Jamros, Laurie Malloy, Cindy Ziarnik, Betty Cousoule **Daycare:** Sharon Girard, Miriam Serrano **Custodians:** Chad Carpenter, Mark McCarthy, Paul (Tito) Sniezek

Paraprofessionals:

Pat Alibozek, Susan Barthe, Kathleen Bradbury, Susan Burziamati, Deb Ciempa, Brandon Crouse, Barbara Czerwinski, Ashley Davis, Laura Fitzgerald, Kim Galli, Laurie Gamari, Brenda Greer, Deanna Guettler, Shelley Jenkins, Aimee Kelly, Jennifer Kline, Susan Knapp, Dan Kondel, Donna LaBonte, Ryan La-

hey, Patricia LaFrance, Karen Levesque, Barbara Mallet, Paula Meczywor, Donna Mullany, Mary Murray, Shannon Speed, Lisa Waltermire, Becky Zaleski, Jackie Ziarnik, Monica Zustra

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; Jaeschke's Apple Orchard, The Colonial Theater, Adams Fire Department, Adams Police Station, Adams Free Library, and Mass MoCA. We have been fortunate to partner with Mass MoCA and Kid's Space which offers hands on activities that enhance creativity and knowledge of art.

We continue to use the Scott Foresman Reading series which 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 Core 5 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 every 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. This year we have implemented the state mandated Curriculum Gold Assessment. This monitors student progress in social/emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, mathematics, art, science and social studies. 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 year we were awarded another 5 year certificate. 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, school supplies for summer readiness activities and home activity bags.

Grade 1 Update:

We are working with our new curricula for a second year and feeling so much more comfortable with the wealth of materials and information they provide. We are working to improve fam-

ily involvement and have held evening events to bring families in for fun activities centered on reading, and science. We have had Bingo for Books, Family Fun Night (ELA), Science Night, as well as participating in our annual Literacy Fair, Art Fair, and Meet the Teacher Night. These have been very well attended and greatly applauded by our students and families.

This year we have the opportunity to visit Mass MoCA and participate in a multiyear grant to bring our students to the museum and stretch their artistic skills in Kid's Space. Something this wonderful in our own backyard is being made available to our students and faculty. Our students have enjoyed learning new ways to stay active, alert and healthy through the new curriculum implemented by our PE educators. With so many wonderful ways to help us build strong minds and bodies, we feel so lucky!

Grade 2 Update:

The second grade classes at C.T. Plunkett have been very busy! In January, we went to Mass Moca to look at the wonderful art exhibits. Then the children were able to create their own art using shaving cream and food coloring. This was a huge success!

In the month of March, Dr. Seuss's Birthday kicked off our annual Accelerated Reader challenge! If our 2nd grade classes read, take, and pass 10 accelerated reader tests, we will have a pizza lunch party! Our students have stepped up to the challenge and are trying very hard to reach the goal.

There has been a big push for writing in 2nd grade. Our new Literacy Coach has been instrumental in assisting in modeling exceptional lessons teaching the traits of writing a paragraph. Students have increased their abilities to write interesting and fluent prompts.

The students and teachers have been involved in many family activities this year including Books for Bingo and Movie Night. Looking in the future, we have a Science Night planned for the end of March and a 2nd grade Math Night planned for April 15th.

On March 18, 2nd grade will be traveling to the Colonial Theater to watch the presentation of the familiar children's book titled "Swimmy". Thank you PTG!

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:

Third grade continues to work with the new curriculum in both reading and math. The new reading series that was adopted is the Scott Foresman Reading Street Common Core Program and in math, the students are working with the Envision Math

Common Core Program. The students continue to find both curriculums interesting and extremely challenging. A variety of instructional methods are being implemented including a “walk-to-read” program in which all students travel to various classrooms for instruction targeted to their specific need. 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 math problem solving. In addition, two third grade classrooms have been randomly chosen to participate in a trial run of the PARCC (Partnership of Assessment of Readiness for College and Career) performance-based math test. This test will be administered at the beginning of April.

Over the summer, the third grade teachers wrote a grant to the Adams Cheshire Education Partnership Fund for an “Appreciating Berkshire Wildlife” project. An award of \$1,200 was granted by ACE and the C.T. Plunkett Parent Group also granted the third grade \$1,000 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 other scientific topics. All third graders will benefit from a field trip to Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in June.

Recognizing that a positive home-school connection is beneficial, third grade teachers welcomed parents and families to a potluck dinner that was held in the school cafeteria in October. This night was a wonderful opportunity to invite community members into the school and all participating families enjoyed the event.

Grade 4 Update:

Fourth Grade is busy exploring a variety of topics across the curriculum. In Social Studies the students have begun studying the different regions of the U.S. In Science, our students are enjoying a unit on magnetism and electricity. They love the hands on experience of the activities that go along with these units! EnVisions Math exposes students to learning one concept in multiple ways. 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. Writing thorough responses is emphasized in all subject areas as students prepare for upcoming MCAS.

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 math and language arts curriculum based on the mandated Common Core. Our students have transitioned nicely using our 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 month of March 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 18,500 books, videos and magazines. The automated circulation and cataloging system makes it possible for students and staff to access the electronic card catalog. Approximately 6,200 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 approximately \$5,000 annually. 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 once 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 of our continued use of the Second Step 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: empathy and skills for learning, emotional management, and problem solving. 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 22-25 thirty-five minute lessons per grade level taught once per week. The younger grades, including K-1, use puppets to engage the students in the lessons. The older grades 2-5 allow the use of DVDs that include music videos and kids acting out relatable situations. 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 artclass 2-3 times per week will now have Second Step during one of those special class periods. Many thanks to Mrs. Lamberton and Mrs. Cooper for their continued work implementing this program to all students at C.T. Plunkett.

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:

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

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
- Graduation, picnics and t-shirts
- Audubon science program
- Field Day treats

Appreciation Days

- Staff Appreciation Day in May
- Muffins with Mummy for faculty and staff during Book Fair
- Pizza/Ice Cream parties to reward top collectors of BoxTops

School Improvements/Equipment Maintenance:

- Playground fundraising and maintenance

School Council

A School Council is a representative, school building-based committee composed of the principal, parents, teachers and community members. 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 Bingo for Books, Grade 1 Family Fun Night, Grade 2 Math Night and Science Night.

The District Literacy Plan which was created last year by a team comprised of teachers and administrators and led by the Title I Director, continues to guide the work in the District as we prepare students for success in school and in life. The newly formed District Strategic Plan and School Improvement Plans are aligned with the Literacy Plan.

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. One time per 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:

Tim Rougeau 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 K and 1 focus on singing and movement activities along with hands on experiences with drums, maracas and other classroom instruments while students in grades 2-5 have the opportunity to learn the basics of keyboards and drums. Students in grades 4 and 5 study the recorder in order to prepare them for instrument instruction in 6th grade.

Art:

The C.T. Plunkett Art Department will welcome the public to our annual Art Show on Thursday, April 3, 2014 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:

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. Physical education at our school is both fun and challenging to all students, no matter their ability or skill level. A student engaged in our physical education class learns how to physically perform a skill; the rules involved with that certain activity or sport, and the social aspect surrounding that activity or sport.

Students have been engaged in a vast array of different activities while participating in physical education at C.T. Plunkett. Students enrolled in the 3rd - 5th grade levels have learned sport skills in the areas of soccer, football, and basketball while also learning how to better communicate and resolve conflicts with classmates during our recess games and teambuilding units. Students at the K - 2nd grade levels have been learning many different gross motor skills required to participate in large group activities and non-competitive games. These skills include the overhand and underhand throwing technique, kicking a stationary and moving object, jumping rope, locomotor movements, and fleeing and dodging type activities.



The school children participated in Read across America.

Students at all grade levels have participated in our “Kidnas-tics” unit which is an age-appropriate version of gymnastics, as well as, our Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser event. They are also engaged in a cross-curricular warm-up that requires them to recognize and pronounce words that start with the first letter of the physical education instructors choosing. When a student says a correct word they earn a washable hand stamp which eventually adds up to earn motivational prizes at certain milestones.

Students with special needs have been actively engaged in our adaptive PE program where they get one on one attention focusing on their specific physical needs through the use of modified equipment and lesson plans. All students are making progress in understanding the value of teamwork, cooperation, effort, and sportsmanship.

Please continue to follow what we are doing in physical education by looking at our monthly newsletter on the C.T. Plunkett website.

Technology

We continue to focus 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. The district technology plan will guide us as we explore ways to strengthen our technology offerings to our students.

This year the district was able to provide new Macbook Pro’s to every teacher at the elementary level. These laptops are equipped with Office for Mac 2011, Pages, Keynote, and Numbers which are Apple’s version of Office. We also have a new Mac Pro server which assists in running the new Mac laptops. To help attain our goal of improved wireless coverage we have added multiple Airport Expresses, two Airport Time Capsules, as well as the new server. These changes/additions have improved internet accessibility in the gym, cafeteria, library, and south wing.

Over this past year we have introduced the new district and individual school web pages, gradually adding content and improving communication between school/community/families. Currently we have group pages available for P.E, Art, Library, Technology, Music and Pre-k. Our technology staff assists educators in these areas to update their group pages regularly sharing information with our families. The second phase of the web page roll out will allow teachers the option to create their own webpages. We see this as an opportunity to give families direct access to homework assignments, classroom calendars, information on upcoming events, classroom policies and procedures, etc... Finally the inclusion of Call Now messages (same as the phone messages sent through the ‘All Call phone system”) , provides updates relating to school delays and closings and a current monthly calendar upon opening the page. These have been well received by our school community.

In the beginning of the year we rolled out the new Lexia CORE 5 in grades Pre-K to 5. This updated on-line software is based on the 5 Components of Reading and is compliant with the CCSS (Common Core State Standards) which guides curriculum throughout the grade levels. It provides individual students with opportunities for practice of acquired skills, guided

practice in newly presented skills, as well as direct instruction when a student is in need of more support. Data is collected and reviewed by educators to guide instructional practices and monitor student progress. This program can be downloaded on the iPad, desktop, android, or used within your web browser. In the school we have CORE 5 on iPads, computer lab desktops, and on teacher laptops through both their desktop applications and web.

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 (school resource officer)
- Mass MoCA (Grant funded program for all students K-5 to attend performances/tour spaces)
- 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

2013-2014 School Year

It is my pleasure to once again be submitting this report as the principal of Cheshire Elementary School for a fifth year. We are currently at an enrollment of 230 students in grades Pre-K through 5. 2013-2014 has been another very busy year for Cheshire School. Our enrollment took a big jump with the return of the district's pre-school program to our school. It is nice to have those students and staff back with us. With their return, our building is once again at full capacity. We have one extra classroom that we are using for our conference room, but that will be utilized as a fifth grade classroom next year.

The educational staffing level at Cheshire School has remained about the same after some significant cuts about 4 years ago. We have been able to maintain a half time paraprofessional to work in the library. This allows us to continue to schedule a library time for each class during the week and the children are able to check out books weekly. Over the course of the last year, Mrs. Laurie Cantarella joined our teaching staff in the fourth grade filling the position left by Ms. Michelle Gajda's resignation. Laurie had previously taught at C.T. Plunkett and is an energetic addition to our team. Through grant funding, we were able to add a ½ time Special Education Teacher for this year. Mrs. Michelle Johnson joined our staff and has been able to help with the large caseload of students with individualized educational plans. For the second year in a row, we have a new Speech/Language Pathologist on board following the resignation of Jamie Tooley in January. Her name is Judy Sirard. One of our longtime paraprofessionals, Donna Murdock, made the decision to retire in December. We hope she is enjoying her down time!! Also joining the ranks of the retired life is our school administrative assistant, Nancy Chaput. Nancy retired at the beginning of September and Paula Ciskowski took over that position. We hope Nancy is loving life as well. While we will miss those people who were a vital part of the Cheshire School Community, we welcome the new staff aboard.

The Cheshire Parent Teacher Group (PTG) meets monthly to provide extra programs for the children and to plan fun events throughout the year. Any parent is welcome to join this orga-

nization. They meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00p.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.

PRE-SCHOOL

2013-2014

Preschoolers have been working hard on our first full year of the OWLs curriculum. The children enjoy the daily activities presented such as blending sounds to create words, segmenting, rhyming and learning letter sounds. For math students have enjoyed patterning, sorting and number recognition. Using small group instruction we are able to integrate the Handwriting Without Tears and Telian Lively Letters curricula in order to best meet the needs of diverse learners. The preschool teachers have been working on aligning the curricula with the Common Core Curriculum standards.

The Preschoolers have been busy working on Lexia Core5, an interactive computer game that helps children strengthen their Literacy and Language Arts skills. In addition to the OWLs the preschoolers have enjoyed several hands on experiences including walking to the post office, guest readers on Read Across America Day, and will hopefully be hatching some chicks this spring, which we will then bring to Broadlawn Farms. Once again we have had an enjoyable and productive year in Pre-school.

Pre-School Teachers: Laura Ziemba & Kelly Riechers



KINDERGARTEN 2013-2014

Submitted by Teachers: Robin Poirot and Heather Emerson

Cheshire School has adopted a new Comprehensive Assessment Solutions for Early Childhood Programs. It is an ongoing assessment of children in an early childhood program. Its purpose is to assist in planning appropriate learning experiences in order that all children succeed.

This year we continued to use our new Reading and Math series. The new series are aligned with Common Core and have some very exciting and innovative activities. We are doing additional work in our Lexia Core 5 computerized reading program which has a home/ school connection. This is a fantastic tutorial program to enrich the phonetic base through differentiated instruction.

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, we will 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.



FIRST GRADE

2013-2014

The first graders have had many educational and fun experiences, while working on our second year with the 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 2014 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 up to 20. Students practice their facts by partnering up and playing whole-class math games. We will



also be addressing the topics of place value, time (to the hour and half hour), basic geometry (shapes and solids), graphing, and fractions.

Last year the first grade studied the U.S. Presidents, mapping skills, continents and oceans, American symbols, and folktales. These academic units will be carried out annually in the spring.

Teachers: Mrs. Katie Chenail & Mrs. Melissa Rusek

SECOND GRADE

2013-2014

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

2013-2014

A look at third grade!

This year is going by so fast. We are continuing to use our new series in Math and Language Arts. We are taking advantage of the new technology piece this year, which includes interactive videos and games to promote learning. Another exciting new piece to our technology curriculum is the updated version of Lexia, an interactive explicit, systematic, personalized learning program in the six areas of reading instruction. The kids are engaged in it and look forward to "playing" it. In Language Arts we have been enjoying various read alouds books in class as well. Some of our favorites are *According to Humphrey*, *Percy Jackson* and the *Lightening Thief* 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 Bev Favreau. They also especially love the opportunity to show their math expertise playing the *Timez Attack*. We continually work diligently on preparing for our assessments including the state MCAS tests.

We recently just had our spaghetti dinner fundraiser to allow us go on our class field trip to the Plymouth Plantation. The kids worked really hard to provide a wonderful experience to our

guests. In Social Studies we will be 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 have also begun learning about our town and our state. 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 there and admire our surroundings through drawing and describing our local plant and animal life. This will be very helpful in our study of life cycles. It's nice to see the students' progress through the curriculum.

Teachers: Mrs. Dawn Prokopowicz & Ms Danielle Taylor

FOURTH GRADE

2013-2014

The fourth grade classes have 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.

This year, we used our fund-raised money to take our class to the Barnes and Nobel bookstore in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. The student received a tour of the section highlighting specific age-appropriate genres. We raised enough money that each student was able to receive a \$10 gift certificate towards the purchase of a chapter book. This book was to be used in connection with their weekly reading logs.

Fourth grade attended The Colonial Theatre in February to enjoy an exciting and informative science show, "Doktor Ka-boom". Our students watched a series of thrilling live experiments about the energy of motion. The children learned some fun mental math tricks as well! They will also be taking a trip in the month of April to Mass MoCA in North Adams to see a musical and enlightening show about Greek mythology! This will tie in nicely to the types of genres that have been taught this year in language arts.

In the interest of collaborative learning, a group of juniors from Hoosac Valley High school will be joining us for a morning of statistics/probability and MCAS review in the month of April. The fourth grade will be broken into small groups, and receive instructions/guidance by their new high school friends! It will be an entertaining and appealing way to cover relevant math MCAS related topics.

Speaking of multi-grade level tutelage, a select group of fourth graders will be spending some time being read to by first graders who need some extra direction/practice with their fluency skills. This will be a beneficial experience for both grades. It will also continue to foster a positive school environment throughout the grade levels.

The students have been working very in the review of all 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 compo-

sition 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.

Our students are working very hard this year, and having a great time in the process!

Teachers: Mr. Eric Brown and Mrs. Laurie Cantarella

FIFTH GRADE

2013-2014

Fifth Grade at Cheshire Elementary School is a tremendous opportunity for students to develop academically and personally. Along with academic work, students are prepared for entry into the middle school and the responsibilities that go along with that. A strong emphasis is placed on Language Arts and Math. Students complete several Language Arts projects that are designed to challenge their multiple intelligences.

Special events that take place in the fifth grade are Nature's Classroom, Berkshire Theatre Festival's Artist in Residency 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.

Teacher: Tom Prokopowicz

ART

2013-2014

Students in Pre-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

2013-2014

Cheshire Elementary physical education classes work to both actively engage a student's mind and body while conveying the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle. Physical education at our school is both fun and challenging to all students, no mat-

ter their ability or skill level. A student engaged in our physical education class learns how to physically perform a skill; the rules involved with that certain activity or sport, and the social aspect surrounding that activity or sport. Students have been engaged in a vast array of different activities while participating in physical education at Cheshire.

Students enrolled in the 3rd-5th grade levels have learned sport skills in the areas of soccer, football, and basketball while also learning how to better communicate and resolve conflicts with classmates during our recess games and teambuilding units. Students at the Pre-K-2nd grade levels have been learning many different gross motor skills required to participate in large group activities and non-competitive games. These skills include the overhand and underhand throwing technique, kicking a stationary and moving object, jumping rope, locomotor movements, and fleeing and dodging type activities.

Students at all grade levels have participated in our "Kidnastics" unit which is an age-appropriate version of gymnastics, as well as, our Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser event. They are also engaged in a cross-curricular warm-up that requires them to recognize and pronounce words that start with the first letter of the physical education instructors choosing. When a student says a correct word they earn a washable hand stamp, which eventually adds up to earn motivational prizes at certain milestones.

Students have also been enrolled in the Mighty Milers program through the New York Road Runners where they can earn medals and other prizes for accrued mileage and check their distance online.

Students with special needs have been actively engaged in our in-class adaptive PE program where they receive increased attention focusing on their specific physical needs through the use of modified equipment and lesson plans.

All students are making progress in understanding the value of teamwork, cooperation, effort, and sportsmanship. Please continue to follow what we are doing in physical education by looking at our student news and photos on the Cheshire Elementary School physical education website.

Thank you.

CES Physical Education Specialist: Dan Wehle

MUSIC

The students at Cheshire Elementary School also participate in weekly Music classes. Annually, there is a musical performance where the children's talents are showcased. The children learn the basics of reading musical notes as well as learning to play some instruments like the keyboard, recorder and sometimes the guitar. They also enjoy singing many different songs and learning about the different types or genres of music.

Music Teacher: Mr. Timothy Rougeau

THE REST OF OUR CHESHIRE SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TEAM

Administrative

Assistant – Paula Ciskowski

Special Education – Christine Harrington
Michelle Johnson (1/2 time)

**Speech & Language
Pathologist –** Judy Sirard

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

Technology
(Mon. & Weds.) – Geoff Kondel

Building & Grounds – Dave Richards
Stash Cote

School Nurse – Philip Grover

Cafeteria – Cindy Gajda
Denise Moncecchi
Flossie Hoellerich

Extended Care – Linda Giroux
Jon-Luc Goodrich
Clara Wilusz
Haley Maloy

Paraprofessionals:

Linda Bonnivier
Shannon Briggs
Karen Drain
Judy Gaylord
Linda Giroux
Jon-Luc Goodrich
Susan Halverson
Noreen Hoag
Susan McLearn
Susan Randall
Kathy Malloy
Clara Wilusz
Julie Lech

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 like 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. Greylock Credit Union and the Adams Community Bank provided scholarship funds for students to attend Nature's Classroom in March. Waterman Excavating Company consistently helps to provide support to our school. 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. 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!

Cheshire is a wonderful family oriented community and the staff and students at Cheshire Elementary School work hard each day to teach and learn to the best of our ability. Our School Motto is "Kids First, Learning Forever!"

Respectfully submitted;

Peter J. Bachli
Principal

Athletic Director

Hoosac Valley High School

The 2013 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 cooperative teams in swimming, nordic skiing and wrestling.

In the spring, the boys baseball team qualified for Western Mass. The girl's softball team qualified for Western Mass., only to be defeated by Drury in the first round. The boys and girls track teams qualified for Western Mass. and State meets and were led by the Hoosac 4x100 relay team who set a new school record. Hoosac boys and girls lacrosse had another successful year, with the girls getting their first win under.

In the fall, the boys football team had an excellent season under the direction of Coach Dayne Poirot and his staff. The team won the Division 5 Western Mass tournament, defeating Easthampton and finished the season as State Semi-finalists, playing Northbridge in the inaugural D5 State Semi-Finals in Fitchburg. The girls soccer team won the southern divisional title and earned a Western Mass playoff game at home. The boys soccer team also became divisional champions and excelled under the coaching of Camillo Bermudez, who was highlighted twice in county newspapers for his help in turning around the Hoosac Valley soccer program. The boys played two Western Mass. tournament games. The boys and girls cross-country running team did very well; they both qualified for the Western Mass. and state tournaments. The golf team competed in the Northern Division, and despite a schedule that kept them away from Forest Park for more than half the season, two golfers qualified for the Berkshire County championship tournament.

In the winter, the boys and girls nordic ski teams competed in both Western Mass. and State championship skiing. The girls swim team had a remarkable season with the best record in the Southern Division and competed in Western Mass. Division



I, and placed 9th overall as a team in the Div. I State meet. Eight of our swimmers made the All-Berkshire team. Both boys and girls basketball teams had remarkable seasons. The girls basketball team won the Western Mass tournament, defeating number one seed Sabie at The Cage. They continued on to the State Championship game in Worcester, where they played the State Champions, St. Mary's of Lynn. The boys also had a great showing at the Western Mass. Tournament where they defeated the top-seeded Renaissance. The hockey team, which is a cooperative team with Wahconah, was beat in the state 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.

Respectfully submitted;

Michael Heneault
Athletic Director



Director of Food Services

In 2013, the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District continued to participate in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, Special Milk, USDA Commodity Distribution Program, 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 the bread, dairy and paper products on a county wide basis.

For the 2012-2013 school years, the food service department had a profit of \$30,000.00 on revenues of \$681,810.00. Government subsidies represented 58% of the total revenue.

The percentage of students who qualified for free/reduced meals was 45% at the end of May 2013. USDA commodities valued at \$40,583.36 were received in 2013.

Labor costs for the 2012-2013 school years decreased with the elimination of one managers position and one cooks position. Staffing increased by one four hour position for a total of 17 permanent positions, a clerk and a director.

No price increase was initiated for 2012-2013 school year.

Prices remained at:

Paid Student Lunch (CES & CTP)	2.25
Paid Student Lunch (HVMHS)	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 the 2012-2013 school year was 66.6%. Previous years were:

2008-2009	72.9%
2009-2010	72.5%
2010-2011	71.3%
2011-2012	64.4%

Breakfast participation for the 2012-2013 school year was 17.0%. Previous years were:

2008-2009	18.6%
2009-2010	19.1%
2010-2011	18.8%
2011-2012	18.3%

We operated three kitchens in 2012-2013. With the new equipment in the high school running more efficiently, money for supplies was decreased by \$7,800.00. Staying current with the times, we now have online payment for those parents who want to put money on their child's account, which has been well received. In 2012, the first year, deposits totaled \$6,000.00, and in 2013, deposits totaled \$22,000.00

Respectfully submitted;

Rosanne Schutz
Food Service Director

Special Services

2013 Annual Report

The ACRSD 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 a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive setting. We aim to minimize the impact of a disability for our students and maximize academic achievement, independence, and participation in the community. The Special Services Department works collaboratively with general education colleagues to develop in-district supports that allow students to access the curriculum successfully. In that regard, we continually explore creative program development and evaluate existing programs to ensure their effectiveness. These intentional 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.

The ACRSD Special Services Department 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 intensive 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, tutors, 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, the Carroll School as well as Perkins School for the Blind, to provide services on site for students who have the need.

Child Find is an important component of the Special Services Department. We work cooperatively with community agencies, families, and health care providers to help identify students in need of services from an early age to graduation. The Special Services Department also conducts preschool and kindergarten screenings annually using a team of teachers and specialists. The results of these screenings inform parents of their child's developmental strengths and weaknesses. If a child indicates the need for further evaluation, our team will refer the child for testing, and if found eligible, a plan will be developed to provide services. In this way, district children are offered early intervention in order to prevent future school failure.

When a student is referred for special education, an evaluation is set up. The district has hired a .2 school psychologist, Michael Vecchia, to assist in the intake and identification of students who may qualify for special services and provide recommendations for teachers working with them. He is a great addition to our diagnostic prescriptive specialists and outside evaluators that the district uses to determine eligibility and design programming individualized for a student.

Our National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) approved preschool program has relocated to Cheshire Elementary in the fall of 2013. The Preschool staff welcomes families and provides preschoolers a half-day of developmentally appropriate activities. The primary purpose of the program is to integrate three and four year old children with special needs in a preschool setting with typically developing (non-special needs) children serving as role models. Students receive therapies and specialized instruction according to their individual plans as developed by a multidisciplinary team which include the parents. The Preschool teachers provide English and Language Arts as well as Math instruction using the Scott-Foresman OWLS curriculum. Early Childhood staff also serves on committees for curriculum, community and family outreach, and maintaining high quality, NAEYC-approved status.

The Elementary Level of Special Services provides experienced special education teachers and support staff to students with special needs in both Cheshire School and CT Plunkett. Special Education teachers review students' individualized plans and work with the principals and teachers to set up programming to best meet student needs. Instruction is designed by specially trained staff in order to provide access to the grade level curricula as well as demonstrate progress toward individual student goals. Currently, reading and math remediation services can occur in the classroom as well as in a smaller setting. Paraprofessionals also support students in inclusive classrooms as well as in unstructured settings. The number of students with significant special needs has been increasing, and two programs have been designed to assist them. The Autism Specialist, Kim Biagini, has worked closely with the director of special services and special education teachers to set up a therapeutic setting at CT Plunkett for students requiring a higher level of support and intensive therapies. Travis Poirot, a special educator, also facilitates a substantially separate program at CT Plunkett for students with extensive behavioral needs. The special education elementary staff work closely with regular education staff to ensure students are successful academically and supported in all areas of elementary school.

In the fall of 2013, Mary Whitman left her position as Kindergarten teacher and joined our special education staff at CT Plunkett at the Kindergarten/Grade 1 level. She has expertise in early childhood and working with students with significant delays. We also welcomed Michelle Johnson as a half-time special education teacher at Cheshire Elementary. Her position was funded by a grant in order to assist Cheshire's special education program to serve students with reading and math remediation needs.

At Hoosac Valley Middle and High School, special education students' needs are met through a variety of programs available. Inclusive classrooms provide the opportunity for team teaching with special and regular education staff and/or paraprofessional support to the classrooms. Other students' individualized plans

require remedial reading and math instruction and/or content support. These services occur in a smaller, more structured setting with a special educator and may include paraprofessionals who are trained and supervised by the teachers. For students with a higher level of need other substantially separate models have been developed.

One of these models in HVMHS is The Exceptional Program (EP), which is a 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 including 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. Dino Sookey and Elizabeth Wood provide instruction that is designed to be developmentally appropriate and varies based on student needs in the high school and middle school respectively. However, the goal of transitioning students to less restrictive settings through a system of scaffolding supports remains constant.

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. 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.”

Extended year programs continue to be available during the summer months to assist students who have shown documented substantial regression of their educational progress both academically and socially following vacations and or long illnesses. A program for our younger students balances academic growth with “camp like” experiential projects to foster social emotional and language 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 in pre-K through age 22.

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 residential 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 to parents to 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. The board has developed and implemented by-laws for their organization and governance. Because we have a rather transient population, the ACRSD has joined together with neighboring SEPACs in North Adams, McCann, and Northern Berkshire School Union to share resources and maintain continuity of contact with families.

Finally, as the new director of ACRSD Special Services, I would like to say how proud I am of the hardworking and dedicated staff that I inherited. The Administrative Assistant of Special Services, Mary Ellen Sutliff, has kept the program on a course of smooth transition and efficiency. The Supervisor of Special Services, Christopher Sposato, not only filled in as interim director, but also has supported our students and staff through the our program review and summer services. All of the Special Educators and paraprofessionals in ACRSD strive to maximize their students' potentials to be college and career ready.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquelyn Fortier
Director of Special Services

2013 Special Services- Special Education Population as of Oct 1, 2013				
Grade	Cheshire	Plunkett	Hoosac	Tuitioned Out
PK	17			
K	4	19		
1	2	11		
2	6	12		
3	7	16		
4	4	18		
5	5	23		
6			26	
7			21	
8			20	
9			13	
10			21	
11			22	
12			12	2
12+(to age 22)			3	
Totals School	45	98	138	
Total District	281			

ACRSD SPECIAL SERVICES STAFF

STAFFING	POSITION	STAFFING	POSITION
Jacquelyn Fortier	— Director of Special Services (as of July 1, 2013)	Christine Harrington	— Special Education Teacher Cheshire Elementary
Christopher Sposato	— Special Services Supervisor	Michelle Johnson	— Special Education Teacher Cheshire Elementary
Mary Ellen Sutliff	— Administrative Assistant	Rebecca Cohen	— Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Diane Arduini	— Speech Language Pathologist CT Plunkett	Lisa Folino	— Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Jamie Tooley	— Speech Language Pathologist Cheshire Elementary/HVMHS	Nancy Carista-Coral	— Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Suzanne Harnick	— Occupational Therapist	Elizabeth Wood	— Transitional Program-EP HVMHS
Deb Silveira	— Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant	Jamie Lamour	— Special Education Teacher Inclusion HVHS
Lora McGrath	— Physical Therapist	Dino Sookey	— Transitional Program-EP HVMHS
Mary Whitman	— Special Education Teacher K-1 CT Plunkett	Christopher Tamburrino	— Life Skills Program HVMHS
Dawn Daniels	— Special Education Teacher 2-3 CT Plunkett	Other Related Services:	
Joann Kingsbury	— Special Education Teacher 4-5 CT Plunkett	Rick Ely	— The Carroll Center for the Blind -Teacher of the Visually Impaired
Sara Laing	— Special Education Teacher 4-5 CT Plunkett	Greg Delisle,	— Willie Ross School for the Deaf
Travis Poirot	— Transitional Program CT Plunkett	Director	— Teacher of the Deaf
Kim Biagini	— District Specialist	Eileen A. Daneri	— Interpreter/Sign Language
Laura Ziemba	— Preschool/Special Education Teacher District	Judy Miller	— ESL Program
Kelly Riechers	— Preschool/Special Education Teacher District	Andrew Clark	



Business Administrator

The following are the highlighted results do the Adams Cheshire Regional School District's unaudited financial activity for the year ended June 30, 2013.

As of June 30, 2013, Governmental Funds reported a combined needing balance of \$2,985,524.

On June 30, 2013 the Unreserved/Undesignated Fund Balance was \$659,052. This is a decrease of \$144,985 from the previous year. This is primarily due to the continued reduction of contingency in the operating budget during the past several years.

The Department of Revenue certified the District's Excess and Deficiency (E&D) on June 30, 2013 as \$823,151. The ACRSD used \$600,000 of this amount to reduce the member town's assessments.

The long term debt was \$7,780,000 at the end of the year. There were two Bond Anticipation Notes payable totaling \$6,600,000. 20 year notes will be sold to pay off the \$5,000,000 BAN in August 2013 and the anticipated reimbursement from the MSBA will provide funds to pay off the \$1,600,000 temporary note.

Total investment in capital assets totaled \$47,758,230 (net of accumulated depreciation). This is a significant increase over the prior year due to the HVMHS building project. There were no other fixed asset additions during the year other than the HVMHS project.

The HVMHS building project is complete. The District is currently working with the MSBA to secure the final reimbursement and close out the project.

The FY2014 Operating Budget decreased by \$364,152 or 2.1% from the previous year. This was an extraordinary reduction of the operating budget by the ACRSD in the effort to meet the towns requirements for FY2014. There were no significant reduction in programs or staff. We were fortunate that we had some flexibility in the budget to be able to do this. Unfortunately, I do not anticipate this flexibility to be available going forward. The budget is extremely tight and any contingency that was once available has now been depleted. However, the District understands the financial situation in the towns and will continue to work cooperatively with both towns during future budget development without losing sight of the fact that the primary mission of the District is to provide sound, quality educational programs for the students of Adams and Cheshire.

Respectfully submitted;

David E. Hinkell
Director of Business
Adams Cheshire Regional School District

ADAMS-CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

BALANCE SHEET

JUNE 30, 2013

	General Fund	HVMHS Building Project	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash	\$ 2,413,305	\$ 188,634	\$ 1,563,104	\$ 4,165,043
Due from State - MSBA Reimbursement	-	1,600,000	-	1,600,000
Inventory	-	-	38,546	38,546
Due from Other Governments	60,156	-	68,494	128,650
Due from Town of Savoy - Tuition	57,762	-	-	57,762
Amount to be Raised	-	5,000,000	-	5,000,000
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,531,223	\$6,788,634	\$1,670,144	\$10,990,001
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES				
LIABILITIES:				
Accounts Payable	\$ 4,150	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,150
Accrued Teachers Payroll	1,080,570	-	52,627	1,133,197
Other Accrued Liabilities	83,566	-	-	83,566
Accrued Interest on Bonds	2,467	-	-	2,467
Deferred Revenue - Town of Cheshire	30,129	-	-	30,129
Employee Withholding	139,220	-	-	139,220
Bond Anticipation Notes Payable	-	1,600,000	-	1,600,000
Bonds Payable	-	5,000,000	-	5,000,000
Retiree Payments Received in Advance	-	-	11,748	11,748
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$1,340,102	\$6,600,000	\$ 64,375	\$ 8,004,477
FUND BALANCE				
FUND BALANCES:				
Designated Fund Balance	\$ -	\$ 188,634	\$ 1,567,223	\$ 1,755,857
Undesignated/Unreserved Fund Balance	659,052	-	-	659,052
Reserve for Encumbrances	82,069	-	-	82,069
Reserve for Inventory	-	-	38,546	38,546
Reserve for Petty Cash	-	-	-	-
Reserve to Reduce Town Assessments	450,000	-	-	450,000
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	\$1,191,121	\$ 188,634	\$1,605,769	\$ 2,985,524
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$2,531,223	\$6,788,634	\$1,670,144	\$10,990,001

ADAMS CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT GENERAL FUND

Statement Of Revenues and Other Sources, and Expenditures and Other Uses - Budget and Actual - June 30 2013

	BUDGETED AMOUNTS			Variance
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual Amounts	Final Budget Positive (Negative)
REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES				
Assessments to Member Towns	\$ 6,192,808	\$ 6,192,808	\$ 6,192,808	\$ -
Tuition	175,000	175,000	135,821	(39,179)
Intergovernmental	10,911,587	10,911,587	10,990,098	78,511
Investment Income	10,000	10,000	3,615	(6,385)
Miscellaneous	15,000	15,000	222,776	207,776
Transfers In	141,000	50,000	-	(50,000)
Other Sources	600,000	600,000	600,000	-
TOTAL REVENUE & OTHER SOURCES	\$18,045,395	\$17,954,395	\$18,145,118	\$190,723
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES				
Administration	\$ 527,522	\$ 524,488	\$ 542,251	\$ (17,763)
Instruction	7,016,838	6,856,155	6,997,267	(141,112)
Other School Services	402,938	352,008	364,654	(12,646)
Operation & Maintenance	1,205,999	1,252,614	1,158,127	94,487
Transportation	794,652	794,653	796,778	(2,125)
Intergovernmental	1,498,510	1,504,010	1,440,512	63,498
Debt Service	278,399	278,398	243,162	35,236
Special Education	2,296,455	2,371,987	2,290,791	81,196
Employee Benefits	4,010,082	4,006,082	4,026,483	(20,401)
Capital Outlay	14,000	14,000	1,500	12,500
Transfers Out				-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	\$18,045,395	\$17,954,395	\$17,861,525	\$ 92,870
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES OVER EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES				
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 283,593	\$283,593

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 2013 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 FY13 budget contained a modest .02 % increase.

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 seventeen 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. 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.

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

- Two of our automotive technology students finished in the top 5 in the Massachusetts Automotive Dealers Competition.
- The Class of 2013 became the tenth class in a row to attain 100 percent competency determination on the MCAS tests.
- Twenty-nine of the Class of 2014 earned the prestigious John and Abigail Adams Scholarship awarded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for their academic record and MCAS achievement..
- The results of the spring 2013 MCAS test once again echoed the continuous progress of our students through their dedication and that of our terrific faculty. Once again McCann posted solid scores highlighted below.

GRADE 10 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Performance Level	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Advanced	17%	11%	14%	21%	15%
Proficient	56%	61%	73%	67%	76%
Needs Improvement	25%	25%	13%	11%	8%
Failing	3%	2%	1%	0%	1%

GRADE 10 - MATHEMATICS

Performance Level	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Advanced	35%	30%	41%	33%	35%
Proficient	39%	35%	37%	42%	39%
Needs Improvement	22%	32%	20%	23%	17%
Failing	5%	3%	3%	3%	9%

GRADE 10 - SCIENCE AND TECH/ENG

Performance Level	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Advanced	9%	9%	11%	9%	13%
Proficient	55%	51%	64%	54%	53%
Needs Improvement	30%	28%	22%	30%	24%
Failing	6%	12%	3%	7%	9%

McCann competes in the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association which we joined 16 years ago. In 2012- 2013 our sports teams continued to represent their school in a manner that makes us proud of their sportsmanship and effort. The 2012 boys and girls soccer teams qualified for the state soccer tournaments. The percentage of students participating continues to rise with record high participation in soccer, golf, x-country and football.

Our 96 2013 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 Council on Occupational Education conducted an accreditation visit in March and we received overwhelming accolades from the team resulting in continued candidacy accreditation.

The integration of educational technology into our programs continues to be a priority. Over the past year we received a donation of CimatronE software to be used in our manufacturing programs. The software is the current industry standard and valued at just under 1 million dollars. Our business technology program is training students using Office14, the newest Microsoft program. We have also upgraded our internal network to be able to handle the greater bandwidth anticipated being delivered to the school through the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative.

Community service projects continue to provide us with an excellent opportunity to allow our students to exhibit their skills and support community activities. The installation of a handicap ramp at the Lanesborough town hall involved CAD, carpentry, metal fabrication and electrical students. 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 12 years our students have participated in SkillsUSA a national organization with more than 300,000 members. It is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. McCann is 100% member of SkillsUSA 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. Our secondary and postsecondary students have earned 20 gold medals at the national competitions. At the 2013 SkillsUSA state competition McCann high school students earned gold medals in technical computer applications and postsecondary students in dental assisting and medical assisting. Silver medals were awarded to postsecondary students in job interview and bronze medals to high school students in automated manufacturing technology, diesel equipment technology, and internetworking,

Business Professionals of America, BPA, is the leading CTSO (Career and Technical Student Organization) for students pursuing careers in business management, office administration, information technology and other related career fields. The Workplace Skills Assessment Program (WSAP) prepares students to succeed and assesses real-world business skills and problem solving abilities in finance, management, IT and computer applications. Students from our business and information technology departments have been participating in BPA since 2005. During this time, our students have earned numerous awards at state competitions and have qualified for the National

Leadership Conference every year. Current award counts from State Leadership Conferences consist of 46 awards in administrative events, 18 in finance events, 25 in information technology events, and 24 in human resources/marketing/management. National level awards consist of 16 in administrative events, 10 in information technology events, 3 in human resources/marketing/management events, and 2 in finance events.

Project Lead the Way is the leading provider of rigorous and innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education curricular programs for middle and high schools across the U.S. Students enrolled in the program take as many as 4 four courses above and beyond their graduation requirements. Since its inception over 60% of participating students – over one hundred – have become eligible for between 4 and 12 transcribed college credit through Rochester Institute of Technology or New Hampshire Technical Institute as a result of their performance on the national engineering examination. In last year's grade 9 engineering class alone, 92% of the students achieved this eligibility. Through a Williams College Olmsted Grant, three teachers completed graduate-level intensive training at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Rochester Institute of Technology last summer, bringing the total number of PLTW program-certified engineering instructors to eight.

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 FY13 we continued to operate, as we have for the past 18 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 \$37,304.00 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.

We upgraded our kitchen electrical service and installed a new cafeteria serving line. added 3 new CNC milling machines and new welding equipment.

Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District (continued)

FY13 Budgeted Revenues	Original	Actual
City & Town Assessments		
Municipal Minimum	\$2,057,940.00	\$2,057,940.00
Capital	117,188.00	117,188.00
Transportation	195,000.00	195,000.00
Ch. 71 Transportation	175,000.00	213,284.00
Ch. 70 General School Aid	4,211,358.00	4,206,358.00
Tuitions	1,340,191.00	1,351,751.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	18,172.00	11,716.00
Total Revenue Received	\$8,114,849.00	\$8,153,237.00

Additional Transportation Charges	(980.00)
Member City & Town Transportation Refunds	(37,304.00)
Misc. Revenue Balance to Surplus E & D	(104.00)
A/P Assessment Payable (Received in July)	0.00
	\$8,114,849.00
	\$8,114,849.00

Source	Grant	Amount
(Federal Entitlement)		
Fed	Sped 240	\$113,443.00
Fed	Title I	154,602.00
Fed	Title II A	20,060.00
Fed	Perkins	73,833.00
Fed	SPED Improvement	3,466.00
Fed	Postsecondary Perkins	4,236.00

(Federal Grants Other)

REAP	39,378.00
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Source	Grant	Amount
(State Grants)		
Big Yellow School Bus		200.00
STEM at Scale	19,700.00	
Community Innovative Challenge		2,399.00
MA Cultural Council		1,855.00

(Competitive/Private)

Private	Olmsted	4,300.00
Private	BHG Wellness	2,000.00
Private	BCREB: Connecting Activities	2,000.00
Private	City of Chicopee Nurse Grant	4,618.00
Private	Target – Taking Care of Education	85.00
Private	Hannaford Supermarkets	15.00
Private	Ohiopyleprints	125.00

TOTAL GRANTS	\$446,315.00
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