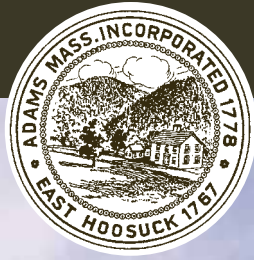


Town of Adams, Massachusetts



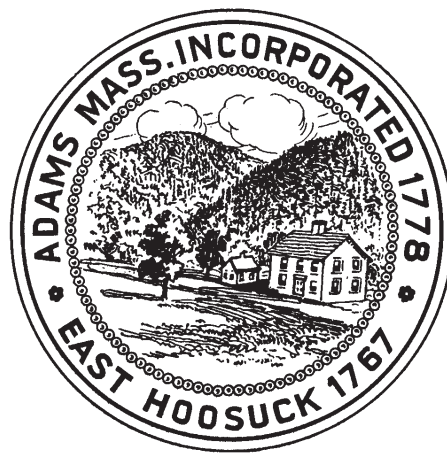
The Berkshire Scenic Railway Hoosac Valley Service

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Town of
ADAMS

MASSACHUSETTS

**REPORT OF THE
TOWN OFFICERS**



**FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31, 2015**

Compiled and Edited by the
TOWN REPORT COMMITTEE
As Authorized by the Special Town Meeting
June 24, 1963

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General Information

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

Population:

Town Census 2015	8,521
Town Census 2014	8,799
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 1990	9,455
Federal Census 2000	8,809
Federal Census 1980	10,385

Registered Voters as of May 2015 **5,624**

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

Tax Rate FY15

Residential and Open Space	\$21.37
Commercial, Industrial & Personal	\$25.38
Total Taxed Assessed	\$10,378,451.00
Total Valuation	\$470,221,030.00

Town Hall:

Open 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Selectmen's Meeting:

Every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
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

The **Ashuwillticook Rail Trail** is a former railroad corridor that was paved to form a path for recreation. Ten feet wide and spanning 11.2 miles through the towns of Adams, Cheshire, and Lanesborough parallel to Route 8, this scenic path boasts views of mountains, the Cheshire Reservoir, the Hoosic River, wetlands, and natural scenery including local wildlife. The name Ashuwillticook is derived from a Native American term meaning “at the pleasant river between the hills.”

Greylock Glen is the area at the base of Mt. Greylock which was formerly farm land, and the future site of a campground, amphitheater and Outdoor Center. This location has many beautiful vistas of mountains, streams and fields.

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.”

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.

The Quaker Meeting House, in the Maple Street Cemetery, is an 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, from 1-4 p.m.

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.

Adams Industries

ADAMS PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

ALADCO LINEN SERVICES

ATLANTIS EQUIPMENT CO.

BROWN PACKAGING

BURKE CONSTRUCTION CO.

CONSERVE THRU CONTROL, INC.

HOLLAND CO., INC.

MRA LABORATORIES, INC.

MULLEN MOVING AND STORAGE

PCA SYSTEMS CORP.

SHINE WIRE PRODUCTS, INC.

SOMMER ELECTRIC, INC.

SPECIALTY MINERALS, INC.

T&A TOOLS, INC.

In Memoriam



ALLYN F. BASEL
Town Meeting Member

STELLA M. BEAUDIN
Adams Cheshire Regional School District Food Service Employee

RICHARD BIROS
Wastewater Treatment Plant Employee

JACQUES N. GAZAILLE
Adams Cheshire Regional School District Maintenance Employee

DOROTHY E. GENTILE
Adams Historical Society Member
Adams Senior Center Member

JOSEPH F. GREENBUSH
Adams Memorial Library Trustee
Adams Zoning Board of Appeals Member

EDWARD M. KONDEL
Adams Finance Committee Member
Berkshire County Traffic Association Member
Traffic Commission Member

PATRICIA A. KELLEY
Adams Cheshire Regional School District Paraprofessional

CLARE E. LANGER
Adams Cheshire Regional School District Teacher

MARILYN D. RANDALL
Adams Cheshire Regional School District Teacher



DEDICATION

The Annual Report is dedicated to



ROY THOMPSON

This year's town report is dedicated to lifetime Adams resident and advocate, **Roy Thompson.**

Starting back in the 1960s, Roy volunteered with a friend to work with a local youth basketball league, which began an interest and a solid career of public service for the citizens of Adams. During subsequent years he officiated at local school basketball, football, and additional youth sports leagues and semi-professional softball.



Roy served as a member and then an officer of the *Adams Alert Hose Company* for 26 years, where he learned to take action in order to get things done. He began service to the Town of Adams when he was appointed to the *Redevelopment Authority* in 1973 to fill a vacancy. Roy was then appointed to the *Board of Health* in 2000 where he served until 2016. In addition to the Board of Health, Roy has been a *Town Meeting Member*, holding this position from 2004 until 2009, where he provided representation for the residents of his district in elections.

As Vice-President and producer of the *Northern Berkshire Community Television Corporation*, Roy continues to be an active voice in politics on the local access television show, "Hardline." He has focused on national and local politics, and interviewed the Adams Town Administrator and candidates for the state House of Representatives and the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office.

In addition to his public service Roy Thompson has always been a strong advocate for animals. He founded the *Adams Friends of Animals*, which provides a food pantry for pets in Adams, and has formed connections with both local businesses and an area animal hospital to receive donations. He has initiated an avenue for the community to help others in need, especially during winter months when there may be higher bills and fewer funds available to feed pets. Most notably, in 2010 Roy received *The Margery and William Barrett Public Service Award*, which represented four decades of public service to the citizens of Adams. With the funds received from this award, as well as money donated to the *Adams Friends of Animals*, Roy created the *Roy Thompson Scholarship Fund* to support students from northern Berkshire County interested in studying veterinary medicine. Roy's love for animals is a legacy that will carry on.

Roy has two lovely daughters, Liz Reeves and Jackie Thompson, and lives with his wife of 55 years, Virginia Thompson. He has served decades of his life to support the Town of Adams, its residents and their pets with knowledge, time, information, and dedication that is well worth gratitude and recognition.

***Thank you Roy Thompson
for your years of service
and dedication to Adams!***



Adams Town Election Results

May 4, 2015

MODERATOR	for a term of One Year
EDWARD J. DRISCOLL, Three hundred forty-five	345*
Write In Votes, Three	3
Blanks, Sixty-five	65
Total	413

TOWN CLERK	for a term of Three Years
HALEY A. MECZYWOR, Three hundred sixty-seven	367*
Blanks, Forty-six	46
Total	413

SELECTMEN	for a term of Three Years
JOHN E. DUVAL, Two hundred eighty-nine	289*
ARTHUR W. HARRINGTON, Two hundred ninety-nine	299*
Write In Votes, Three	3
Blanks, Two hundred thirty-five	235
Total	826

ASSESSOR	for a term of Three Years
DONNA AITKEN MACDONALD, Three hundred twenty-eight	328*
Blanks, Eighty-five	85
Total	413

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBER	for a term of Three Years
BRUCE DALE SHEPLEY, Three hundred thirty-three	333*
Blanks, Eighty	80
Total	413

LIBRARY TRUSTEES	for a term of Three Years
JAMES R. LOUGHMAN, Three hundred twelve	312*
EUGENE F. MICHALENKO, Three hundred sixty-one	361*
Write In Votes, Two	2
Blanks, One hundred fifty-one	151
Total	826

PARK COMMISSIONERS	for a term of Three Years
JAMES J. FASSELL, Two hundred seventy-six	276*
TODD EDWARD SHAFER, Two hundred sixty-seven	267*
MICHAEL V. MECZYWOR, Two hundred fifty-four	254
JASON SNIEZEK, Two hundred sixty-two	262*
Blanks, One hundred eighty	180
Total	1,239

PLANNING BOARD MEMBER	for a term of Five Years
Write In Votes, Two	2
Blanks, Four hundred eleven	411
Total	413
<i>*Failure to Elect</i>	

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER	for a term of Three Years
BRUCE DALE SHEPLEY, Three hundred twenty-eight	328*
Blanks, Eighty-five	85
Total	413

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER	for a term of Two Years
FREDERICK S. HOBART, Three hundred ten	310*
Blanks, One hundred three	103
Total	413

HOUSING AUTHORITY MEMBER	for a term of Five Years
MARY A. ROBERT, Three hundred seventeen	317*
Blanks, Ninety-six	96
Total	413

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEMBER	for a term of Five Years
Write In Votes, Two	2
Blanks, Four hundred eleven	411
Total	413
<i>*Failure to Elect</i>	

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER	for a term of Three Years
AARON M. DEAN, Three hundred thirty-seven	337*
Blanks, Seventy-six	76
Total	413

ADAMS CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE	ADAMS REPRESENTATIVE for a term of Three Years
STEPHEN J. VIGNA, Three hundred twenty-three	323*
Write In Votes, Two	2
Blanks, Eighty-eight	88
Total	413

**Elected Official*

Election Results *(continued)*

ADAMS CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE CHESHIRE REPRESENTATIVE for a term of Three Years

DARLENE M. RODOWICZ, Three hundred fifteen	315*
Write In Votes, One	1
Blanks, Ninety-seven	97
Total	413

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

ADAMS

Adams Representative – Three Year Term

	Adams	Cheshire
STEPHEN J. VIGNA	323	124
Write In Votes	2	0
Blanks	88	35
Total	413	159

CHESHIRE

Cheshire Representative – Three Year Term

	Adams	Cheshire
DARLENE M. RODOWICZ	315	129
Write In Votes	1	0
Blanks	97	30
Total	413	159

Elected Town Officers

Term Expires

Moderator

Edward J. Driscoll	2016
--------------------	------

Town Clerk

Haley A. Meczywor	2018
-------------------	------

Selectmen

Richard Blanchard	2016
Joseph J. Nowak	2016
Jeffrey Michael Snoonian	2017
John E. Duval	2018
Arthur W. Harrington	2018

Treasurer-Collector

Kelly F. Rice	2016
---------------	------

Assessors

Lorraine M. Kalisz	2016
George J. Haddad	2017
Donna Aitken MacDonald	2018

Board of Health

Roy J. Thompson	2016
Allen J. Mendel	2017
Bruce Dale Shepley	2018

Library Trustees

Karen L. Kettles	2016
Jill A. Pompei	2016
Anita L. Jamros (Appointed 12/2/15)	2016
Joseph F. Greenbush (Deceased 6/11/15)	2017
David M. Strzepek	2017
James R. Loughman	2018
Eugene F. Michalenko	2018

Park Commission

Scott E. Cernik	2017
Jacob N. Schutz	2017
James J. Fassell	2018
Todd Edward Shafer	2018
Jason Snizek	2018

Planning Board

David B. Rhinemiller	2016
David C. Krzeminski (Appointed 6/24/15)	2016
Sandra H. Moderski	2017
Martha J. Stohlmann	2018
Barbara Ziemba	2019

Cemetery Commission

Lawrence A. Clairmont	2016
Frederick S. Hobart	2017
Bruce Dale Shepley	2018

Elected Town Officers *(continued)*

	<i>Term Expires</i>
Housing Authority	
Linda Cernik (State Appointee)	2016
Carol A. Roberts	2016
James M. DiCicco (Appointed 10/7/15)	2016
Stephanie L. Melito	2018
Mark A. Covert	2019
Mary A. Robert (Resigned 9/25/15)	2020
Redevelopment Authority	
Vacant (State Appointee)	
Joseph W. Allard	2017
Elizabeth M. Bushey	2018
Vacant	2019
Northern Berkshire Regional Vocational School Committee	
Joseph W. Allard	2016
Daniel J. Maloney, Jr.	2017
Aaron M. Dean	2018
Adams-Cheshire Regional School District Committee	
Elected At-Large	
(Adams)	
Paul K. Butler	2016
Joshua Ryan Demarsico-Birkland (Resigned 7/31/15)	2016
James Ryan (Appointed 9/28/15)	2016
Regina A. Hill	2017
Stephen J. Vigna	2018
Adams-Cheshire Regional School District Committee	
Elected At-Large	
(Cheshire)	
Brian P. Astorino	2016
Edmund R. St. John, IV	2017
Darlene Rodowicz	2018

Appointed by Moderator

	<i>Term Expires</i>
Finance Committee	
Timothy R. Burdick	2015
Craig R. Corrigan	2015
John R. Cowie, Jr. (Appointed 5/14/15)	2015
Paul S. Demastrie	2015
Fred S. Hobart (Resigned 5/12/15)	2015
Jeffrey M. Lefebvre (Appointed 4/28/15)	2015
Gregory E. Tremblay (Resigned 4/1/15)	2015
David Allen	2016
Charles H. Foster	2016
Amy A. Giroux	2016
Brian R. Johnson	2016
Matthew Pitoniak	2016
Mark J. Chittenden (Appointed 7/13/15)	2017
Sandra D. Kleiner	2017
John Lawson (Resigned 6/30/15)	2017
Leon S. Parrott	2017
Joan Smigel	2017
Rachel H. Tomkowicz	2017
Town Report Committee	
Mary Beverly	
Haley Meczywor	
Kelly Rice	
Deborah Dunlap	
David Nuvalle	
Adams Memorial Day Committee	
John Bordeau	
Anthony Donovan	
Joseph Kus	
Clement St. Hilaire	
Ralph Schwarzer	
David Smachetti	

Appointed at Annual Town Meeting

Fence Viewers	
Stanley J. Ziemba, Jr.	2015
Victor Ziemba	2015
Measurer of Wood and Bark	
Donald Delmolino	2015
Walter Slosek	2015

Appointed Town Officials – July 2015

Right to Know Coordinator

Tony Mazzucco

AdHoc Committee on Solid Waste

Gregory DeBlois
Edward Driscoll
Bruce D. Shepley
David Rhoads
Sandy Totter

Agricultural Commission

Gary Alibozek
Peter Levesque
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant
Corinne Case (Alternate)
Timothy Case (Alternate)
Sharyn Alibozek (Alternate)
Vacant (Alternate)

American with Disabilities Coordinator

Tony Mazzucco

Animal Control Officer

Kim Witek

Animal Control Officer (Weekend)

Daniel Lefebvre

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Sandy Moderski
John Duval (Alternate)

Berkshire County Regional Transit Authority

Jeff Snoonian

Capital Improvement Planning Committee

Richard Kleiner
Paul Butler
Michael Mach
Jeff Lefebvre
Jeff Snoonian
David Rhinemiller
George Haddad
Vacant

Chief Procurement Officer

Tony Mazzucco

Code Enforcement Officer

Scott Koczala

Community Development Director

Donna E. Cesan

Conservation Commission

Jason Krzanowski
James Fassell
Anthony McBride
Tom Robinson
Corey Bishop
Vacant
Vacant

Constables

Anthony P. McBride
Tom Satko
Herman Bishop

Council on Aging Director

Erica Girgenti

Council on Aging Board of Directors

Robert Joppich
Karen Matthews
Michelle Wellspeak
Aleta Moncecchi
Melissa Schaffrick
Pam St. John
Lisa Haas
Nancy Lanski
Vacant

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

Vacant
Vacant

Department of Public Works Director

Joseph Bettis

Emergency Management Director

Richard Kleiner

Employee Insurance Advisory Group

Mary Beverly
Richard Biros
Barbara Lewis
Shawn Briggs
Kathleen Fletcher
Erica Girgenti

Fair Housing Officer

Donna E. Cesan

Forest Warden

Richard Kleiner

Hazardous Waste Coordinator

Tony Mazzucco

Historical Commission

Eugene Michalenko
Ryan Biros
Jody Fijal
Bruce D. Dumochel
Vacant

Appointed Town Officials – July 2015 *(continued)*

Housing & Building Inspector

Don Fitzgerald/Jeffrey Clemons

Information Technology Consultant

Rob Wnuk

Inspector of Gas Piping & Appliances

Norman Rolnick

Inspector of Plumbing

Norman Rolnick

Mt. Greylock Advisory Board

Timothy Herrmann

No. Berkshire Solid Waste Management District

Edward Driscoll

Parks, Grounds and Recreation Superintendent

David Nuvalle

Preservation Officer

Eugene Michalenko

Registrar of Voters

John J. Tarsa
Timothy Rowley
Casimer R. Kuza

Retirement Board

Patricia Wol

Safety Committee

Scott McWhirt
Scott Koczela
Joseph Fijal/Robert Rumbolt
David Nuvalle
Richard Tarsa
Deborah Bruneau

Special Police Officers

Allen Mendel

Superintendent of Insect Control

Joseph Bettis

Town Accountant

Mary Beverly

Town Counsel

Edmund St. John, III

Town Scholarship Committee

Kelly Rice
Bernard Pinsonneault
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant

Traffic Commission

Scott McWhirt
Richard Tarsa
Michael O'Brien
Tom Satko
Joseph Bettis
Vacant

Tree Board

Joseph Bettis

Tree Warden

Joseph Bettis

Trench Board

Don Fitzgerald/Jeffrey Clemons
Scott Koczela
Joseph Bettis

Veterans Agent

Stephen R. Roy

Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent

Joseph Fijal/Robert Rumbolt

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

Francis Waterman

Mullen Movers

Martin Mullen, Jr.
Craig Raymond
Mark LaVigne

Specialty Minerals, Inc.

William Donovan
Alan Giroux
James Alibozek
Alicia Foisy
Tim Sutliff
Patricia Markland
Derek Masse

Wire Inspector

David Rhinemiller

Assistant Wire Inspector

Les Rhinemiller

Zoning Board of Appeals

Peter West
Brian Tenczar
Joseph Greenbush
Michael Mach
Anthony Donovan
Peter Gutmann (Alternate)
Robert Krzanik (Alternate)
Vacant (Alternate)

Town Meeting Members – Special and Annual Town Meeting - 2015

Precinct 1	April 30	June 23	Precinct 2	April 30	June 23	Precinct 3	April 30	June 23
Baker, Patricia A.	X	X	Biros, Ryan		X	Allard, Joseph		
Baker, Starr D.	X	X	Cardin, Bruce E.		X	Blanchard, Richard	X	X
Basel, Allyn Faye (Deceased 10/30/15)	X	X	Cernik, Linda A. (Elected 5/4/15)	-	X	Case, Corinne Z. (Term Ex. 5/15)		-
Bush, James	X	E	Cernik, Scott E. (Elected 5/4/15)	-	X	Conroy-Shepley, Patricia	X	X
Butler, Michele	X	E	Chittenden, Mark J.		X	Corrigan, Craig R.	X	X
Charron, Melissa M.	X	X	DeBlois, Gregory A.	X	X	Cowie, John R. Jr.	X	X
Clerc, Bruce P.	X	X	Delmolino, Donald L.		X	Dumouchel, Bruce D.	X	X
Cunningham, Travis (Elected 5/4/15)	-	X	Driscoll, Edward J.	X	X	Frost, Richard E.	X	X
Daunais, James F. (Term Ex. 5/15)	X	-	Duval, John E.	X	X	Frost, Susan K.	X	X
Fijal, Jody A.		X	Filkins, Andrea M.	E	E	Heritage, David L.	X	X
Hoyt, Christine D.	X	X	Grandchamp, Jeffrey P. (Term Ex. 5/15)			Kalisz, Lorraine M.		X
Jette, Richard A.	X	X	Hanbery, Patrick S. (Term Ex. 5/15)			Kolis, Marilyn Phelps		X
Kline, Sarah JP		X	Janik, Edward S.	X	X	Kopala, Stanley J.		X
Kolis, David	X	X	Kolis, Dolores J.	X	X	Lawson, John L.	X	X
Kolis, Patricia M.	X	X	Kozik, Michael A.			Mach, Michael J.	X	X
Kupiec, Anne E.	X	X	Lefebvre, Jeffrey M.	X	X	McBride, Anthony P.		X
Kupiec, Neil	X	X	Lentine, Joseph A.	X	X	Morin, Pamela A.	X	X
Meczywor, Barbara A.	X	X	Meczywor, Michael V. (Elected 5/4/15)	-	X	Norcross, Robert	X	X
Meier, Frances O.	E	E	Meczywor, Paula	X	X	Parrott, Leon S. Jr.	X	X
Moran, Terence E.			Merlini, Donald J.		X	Parrott, Nancy A.	E	X
Morin, Norma P.	X	X	Michalenko, Eugene F.	X	X	Powers, Michael J.	X	X
Moyer, Christine A.	X	X	Moderski, Sandra		X	Rice, Kelly F.	X	X
Moyer, John D.	X	X	Odvar, Lisa A.		X	Satko, Ashley Ruth (Elected 5/4/15)	-	X
Mucci, Erin	X	X	Schutz, Norman K.	X	X	Schaffrick, Melissa L.	E	X
Neep, Kristin Lynn			Shafer, Todd Edward (5/4/15 Elected to Pct. 2)	-	X	Schutz, Jacob N.		E
Nimmons, Jacqueline F.	E	X	Skrocki, Mary (Term Ex. 5/15)		-	Shepley, Bruce Dale (Elected 5/4/15)	-	X
Poirot, Dayne P.		X	Sutliff, Mary Ellen	X	E	Silvia, Veronica A.		X
Robinson, Brenda	X	E	Sutliff, Shaun W.	X	E	Stohlmann, Martha J.	X	
Robinson, Thomas	X	X	Tomkowicz, Rachel H.	X	X	Tinney, Thomas N.		
Taylor, Judith L.	X	X	Turoczy, Lawrence	X	X	Wilk-Chaffee, Juliette J.	X	X
Taylor, Marshall	X	X	Wilk, Matthew J. Jr.	X	X	Ziamba, Barbara	X	X

Precinct 4	April 30	June 23	Precinct 4 (continued)	April 30	June 23	Precinct 5 (continued)	April 30	June 23
Blanchard, Heather A.	X	X	Smachetti, David L. (Elected 5/4/15)	-	X	Doyle, Ann Marie	X	X
Blanchard, Scott M.	X	X	Sommer, Donald R.	X	X	Doyle, Joseph B.	X	X
Blanchard, Steven M.	X	X	Sommer, Donald R. Jr.		X	Fassell, James J.	X	X
Blanchard, William T.	X	X	Sommer, Pamela A. (Elected 5/4/15)	-	X	Gigliotti, Debra Lynn		X
Bourdon, Beth L.	X	E	Spencer, Brenna M. (Elected 5/4/15)	-	X	Girgenti, Erica Meranda (Elected 5/4/15)	-	X
Bourdon, Wilfred R. III		X	Taylor, James	X	X	Haddad, Amber J.		
Clairmont, Lawrence A.		X	Taylor, Patricia	X	X	Haddad, George J.	X	X
Davenport, Susan		X	Wilk, Myra L.	X	X	Kleiner, Richard G.	E	X
Deeley, Susan	X	X	Ziaja, Mark D.		X	Kleiner, Sandra D.	X	X
Dellagheffa, Jessica Ann (Elected 5/4/15)	-	X				Kondel, Geoffrey A.	X	X
Demastrie, Jacqueline M.	X	X				Koperniak, Christopher T.	X	X
Demastrie, Paul S.	X	X				LaPlante, Daniel P.	X	X
Denault, Ronald						Lennon, David J. Jr.	X	
Dimitropolis, George H.	X	X				Levesque, John Joseph	X	X
Hayer, Joseph P.	X	X				Levesque, Lauryn B.	X	
Koscinski, Joseph P.	X	X				Levesque, Tami M.	X	E
Lillie, Dolores		X				MacDonald, Donna Aitken		X
Meczywor, Leona	X	X				Meczywor, Donna		
Mendel, Bruce W.		X				Melito, Stephen V.	X	X
Mendel, Lisa A.		X				Moran, Frederick D.	X	X
Pansecchi, John M.	X	X				Moran, Marilyn A.	X	X
Rymarski, Kateri A. (Term Ex. 5/15)	E					Noyes, Nicholas G.	X	X
Schrade, Paula G. (5/4/15 Elected to Pct. 5)	X	-				Satko, Thomas A.	X	X
Shafer, Todd Edward (5/4/15 Elected to Pct. 2)		-				Schrade, Paula G. (5/4/15 Elected to Pct. 5)	-	X
						Tarsa, Richard W. Jr.		X
						Whitman, Mary E.		X

Town Administrator

2015 started fresh in the Town of Adams with new Town Administrator Tony Mazzucco taking the helm. Energized, and without hesitation he immediately began a movement toward transparency and education with budget meetings presented by Department Heads for the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee which were well attended by the public. Town Meeting Members were given an overview of the process as well as an information session aimed at making the Town Meeting a well-understood and smooth process.



The budget itself presented a challenge, with a structural deficit that outlined that annual revenues were not growing quickly enough to offset operation expenses. A reduction in the stabilization account over the last decade plus the over-reliance of free cash to offset the tax rate reduced available free cash to the lowest amount in about ten years. A robust budget strategy was promptly put in place that included the reduction of staff positions and services in order to adjust the trajectory to a healthier direction over the next several years. Town Meeting passed a local-option meals and lodging tax as part of the budget strategy for economic development.

Several department head positions transferred in 2015 and the departures of DPW Director Joe Bettis, whose position was filled by Interim DPW Director David Nuvalle, and Building Commissioner Don Fitzgerald, whose position was filled by Jeffrey Clemons, were significant. The retirement of Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Joe Fijal and Library Director Deborah Bruneau initiated WWTP Treatment Operator Robert Rumbolt to step into the Superintendent position, and Children's Librarian Holli Jayko to provide Interim Library Director coverage into the new year. A few support staff changes were made as well to replace additional retired and departed staff. The Town expressed gratitude and said a fond farewell to the Events Committee, which disbanded after having coordinated and managed a number of community events for several years. Other individuals and organizations plan to take over some of the events in their wake.

Several new initiatives gained traction in 2015. Blight took a forefront role as a couple of decaying buildings in town were removed, and the Town initiated a plan for a systematic cleanup process to remove inoperative buildings and to prepare for new businesses in town. Regular Community Cabinet meetings with the local schools, public service departments, and staff department heads were put into motion to create unity, communication,

and support among stakeholders in the community. Monthly meetings were established and took a hiatus during the holidays to resume in 2016. The Economic Development Commission was created and local residents showed interest and support by offering their talents on the Commission. The Adams Arts Advisory Board was also established and began immediately to utilize creative energy to support Adams with their first official project on Victory Street which chronicled the history behind the street's name. A partnership was cultivated with the New England Holocaust Museum, and the Adams Free Library offered a display space for historical items. The Town worked diligently to meet stringent criteria that allowed it to earn a Green Communities designation before the end of the year. This designation awarded the Town of Adams the amount of \$166,865 in grant funds toward energy efficiency endeavors taken to reduce costs. The Town will be able to continue applying for Green Communities funds each year going forward to continue the plan for energy efficiency upgrades.

The Town of Adams also took saving citizens' money seriously by initiating a Municipal Energy Aggregation process to enter into a bulk energy purchasing contract with other municipalities to take advantage of lower rates that could be available to residents and businesses. The several-month process began in the fall and is expected to come to fruition in spring of 2016. A parking sticker system for the Renfrew and Kearns Lane parking lots was finalized late in 2015 as well, to assist residents in targeted areas with off-street parking during challenging months.

The most celebrated and highly anticipated event of the year was the launch of the Berkshire Hoosac Valley Service train at the Renfrew station. A Christmas train boasting a visit by Santa Claus was the final gift that Adams received for the year. Though state challenges kept the train from continuing regular operation, it is anticipated to be fully running on a regular service with themed rides in the spring of 2016. The Town is well on its way to creating a solid presence in the Berkshires with the Greylock Glen project by taking steps to receive proposals to start the Greylock Glen Campground. The groundwork has also begun to start the planning process of the second phase of the project, for the 500 car parking area between the Amphitheater and the Outdoor Center. Tangible progress is being made to get this phase of the project underway so the Greylock Glen becomes an active element in recreation and tourism in the Berkshires.

Overall, 2015 brought citizens and the Town staff together to face and solve challenges, to look for innovative solutions and to create new ideas and avenues for vibrancy. Working together, seeds have been planted for the Town of Adams to kindle new growth in the years ahead.

Board of Selectmen



The Adams Board of Selectmen - left to right: Joseph Nowak, Jeffrey Snoonian, Richard Blanchard, Arthur "Skip" Harrington and John Duval - received a Green Communities designation for the town of Adams, including an award of \$166,865 in energy efficiency grant funds.

Board Member Richard Blanchard stepped into the Chair position and Jeffrey Snoonian assumed the Vice Chair seat in 2015. John Duval, Joseph Nowak and Arthur "Skip" Harrington also served as Board Members.

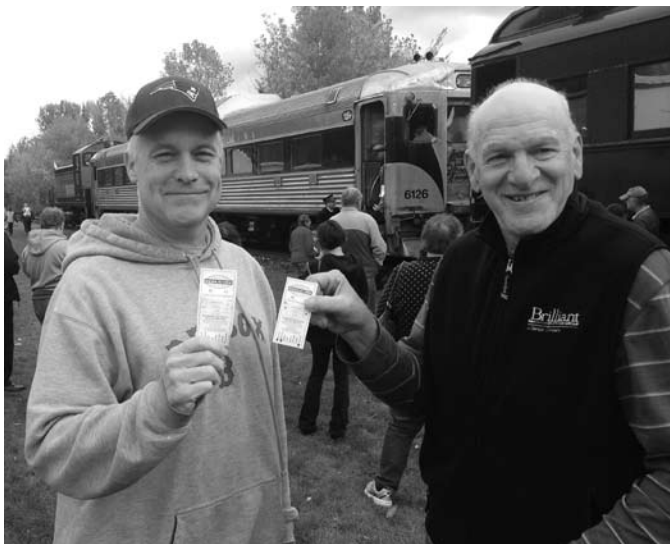
2015 was a fairly busy year for the Board of Selectmen. Board Members volunteered at the Thunderfest and Ramblefest community events and enjoyed connecting with citizens. Soon after reorganizing, the Board of Selectmen established their first annual service project by donating time and materials to provide much needed repairs and paint to the Dog Pound.

Board Members also provided support that assisted The Adams Farmers & Artisans Market to continue for another season, but despite the hard work it was only lightly attended. An autumn Harvest Farmers & Artisans Market offered citizens and local vendors a final chance at the 2015 season, and was held indoors at the former Memorial School gymnasium.

Opening communication was a theme in 2015 for the Board of Selectmen, as quarterly meetings with the Town's Board Chairs were initiated to share information. Regular communication was opened with the neighboring town of Cheshire and other communities to contribute knowledge with each other while actively exploring ways to regionalize services to reduce costs.

The Town's Strategic Plan process launched with a number of public input sessions that mirrored the direction that the Town had been taking, showing solidarity in project importance. The Strategic Plan process should be finalized in 2016 and will be a living document. Chairman Blanchard signed into action a Community Compact agreement on behalf of the Town of Adams with Lt. Governor Polito to form a partnership with the Governor's office to help improve municipal interests and create standards and best practices between the Commonwealth and the Town of Adams. This was a large step forward to having the Berkshires become more influential in decisions made by the current Administration. Individual Board Members took on liaison positions to remain active participants with numerous local committees, agencies, and groups to keep abreast of the evolutionary needs of the community.

The dedication and teamwork of all Board Members was significant and proved helpful to provide valuable communication and collaboration between different committees and boards, the citizens and neighboring communities.



Selectmen John Duval and Joseph Nowak display their tickets for the opening run of the Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum's Hoosac Valley Service at Renfrew Station.

Town Clerk

Revenue Generated –

Application Fees – ZBA and Planning Board,
 Cemetery Lot Deeds, Certified Copies,
 Dog Licenses, Marriage Intentions, Miscellaneous,
 Non-Criminal Fines, Pole Locations,
 Raffle Permits, Storage Tank Permits \$19,210

Vital Statistics	2015	2014	2013
Births Reported	81	62	65
Marriages Reported	26	28	51
Deaths	99	101	102

Storage Tank Renewals..... 8

Number of Dog Licenses Issued

Males..... 80
 Neutered Males 332
 Females 47
 Spayed Females 365
 4 Dogs Kennel License 9
 10 Dogs Kennel License 0
 25 Dogs Kennel License 0
Total..... 833

Town Census — 8,521

VOTER REGISTRATION

Annual Town Election – May 4, 2015

Prec.	Dem.	Rep.	Unen	Green/ Rain J	Lib. L	Reform E	Green USA G	Cons. A	Pirate	Totals
1	372	75	603	0	6	0	0	0	0	1,056
2	395	74	679	4	4	1	0	0	1	1,158
3	438	87	606	1	4	0	0	1	0	1,138
4	366	76	596	4	2	0	2	0	0	1,047
5	431	81	707	2	3	0	0	0	0	1,225
	2,002	393	3,191	11	19	1	2	1	1	5,624

Adams Agricultural Fair / Bowe Field

The Adams Agricultural Fair was held on Bowe Field the first weekend of August. The annual three-day event attracts 4,000 fair goers from a radius of 200 miles. The fairgoers include exhibitors, concessions and entertainers. Many groups are non-profit which benefit from their fundraisers at the fair. Others appreciate the exposure given to them because of the fair.

The Adams Agricultural Fair is a non-profit organization which promotes agriculture, horticulture, the home arts and entertainment in a family atmosphere.

Other events which took place through the year on Bowe Field were the annual Fall Run sponsored by Custom City Cycle for the benefit of Shriners



Hospital, the annual Flea Market for NOBARC. The fair was host to campers attending the WILCO concert sponsored by MassMOCA.

The fair committee continues to maintain Bowe Field and buildings. Many improvements were made including an additional electrical service and repairs as needed. New bleachers were purchased through the warrant article approved by the town meeting.

The community service workers were involved in setting up and dismantling in preparation for the fair.

The all-volunteer committee is planning for the 42nd annual Adams Agricultural Fair August 5, 6 and 7th.



Board of Health 2015

The Board of Health saw significant changes and challenges in the last year. It was with regret that member Patricia Clairmont decided against re-election. Her 18 years of service will be missed. The board welcomed newly elected member Bruce D. Shepley who is serving a 3 year term.

As a cost cutting measure the code enforcement officer's position, held by Scott Koczela, was decreased to a 40% position effective July 1, 2015. This placed a tremendous burden on the department being able to effectively answer the multitude of weekly complaints received in the office, the effectiveness of maintaining an inspection schedule and the necessary follow up that each particular action requires. In addition, long time administrative assistant Susan Foster retired, taking with her 13 years of knowledge. The position went unfilled for 5 months. Pam Gerry, long term Town of Adams Administrative Assistant joined us in the fall of 2015.

Under the direction of Chairman Allen Mendel, the Board held 11 monthly meetings and 2 workshops. Matters of sanitation, complaints, court hearings, citations, inspections and organizational matters were addressed monthly. In an attempt to broaden the public health aspect of the Board of Health, the Board expanded its profile this year by joining social media under the Town of Adams Facebook Page for the dissemination of information including alerts to the community from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health; food recalls, severe weather alerts, and also began posting on the Town of Adams website copies of the monthly agendas and meeting minutes. An email address for citizens to contact the Board was also established, AdamBOH@hotmail.com. In addition, a monthly series of pertinent health information, seasonal flu updates, healthy living tips, elderly issues and other topics of interest has been started at the Council on Aging.

It was with regret that we said goodbye and good luck to Code Enforcement Officer, Scott Koczela. Scott resigned on January 22, 2016 to take a position as Environmental Analyst with the Western Office of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. His 10 years of service has left a significant void.

We look forward to the appointment of a full time code enforcement position in 2016.

The present board members are seeing that necessary coverage of essential services is being provided.

The following permits were issued:

• Food Service Establishments	37
• Retail Food.....	14
• Catering.....	3
• Frozen Desserts.....	4
• Milk Permits	39
• Septic Hauler	2
• Commercial Hauler.....	11
• Septic Installer	2
• Manufactured Housing	1
• Mobile Vendors.....	2
• Temporary Vendors (increased substantially due to Farmers Market.....	57
• Body Art Practitioners	2
• Body Art Establishment.....	1
• Motel.....	0
• Residential Kitchen.....	3
• Tanning Salon	1
• Syringe	1
• Tobacco	8

A total of \$10,826.95 was collected in fees for various permits, dwelling unit inspections, fines and any other matters that came before the Board of Health during the year.

Inspectors Reports

Building Inspector

During 2015, the Adams Building Inspector's Office issued three hundred ninety one (391) permits for construction, demolition, alterations, additions, repairs, and change of use, woodstove/chimney installations, and certificate of occupancies, certificate of inspections, signs and curb cut /driveway entrances.

Of those, two (2) permits were issued for new residential single-family dwellings in 2015. Some two hundred sixty nine (269) permits were filed for residential alterations and renovations. Forty-six (46) permits were filed for new commercial/business and non-residential buildings. A total of \$39,646.90 in filing fees was collected during the year.

The Building Inspector's Office performed numerous inspections associated with issued permits and 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.

Type of Permits:	# of Permits:
Single Family Dwelling	2
Residential additions, alterations, conversions, repairs, & insulation	269
Commercial/Business/Non-Residential additions, alterations, conversions, and repair	46
Sign Permits	5
Curb-cut/Driveway entrance	2
Certificate of Inspections/Certificate of Occupancy	57
Solid Fuel	10
Total Building Permits	391

Gas Inspector

Number of Gas Fitting Permits Issued	83
Revenue Generated	\$3,185

Plumbing Inspector

Number of Plumbing Permits Issued	42
Revenue Generated	\$1,470

Electrical Inspector

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Commercial Rough-in	43
Final Inspections	162
Furnaces	12
Industrial Rough-in	18
Pools	1
Residential Rough-in	158
Services 100 Amp.	60
Services 150 Amp.	2
Services 200 Amp.	54
Services 400 Amp.	1
Services 600 Amp.	1
Services 800 Amp.	0
Services 1200 Amp.	2
Services Reconnection on Old	4
Services Temporary	2
Solar	27
Miscellaneous Inspections	
Board of Health	2
Building Inspector	2
Complaints	22
Fires	2
Insurance Companies	26
Loan Agencies	42
Adams Housing Rehab Program	3
Power Company	28
State Inspectors Office	7
State Police	2
State Police Fire Marshal	2
Inspections Made	685
Permits Granted	194

Planning Board

The Planning Board convened three (3) public hearings during 2015, at which they addressed six (6) Site Plan applications and one (1) "Form A" subdivision plan (Approval Not Required" in the Town's Subdivision Regulations).

Specific applications reviewed included Site Plan approval for the following:

74 Columbia Street, Alternative Motors of Adams, Inc.
4 & 6 Liberty Street, John Zaffis
58-60 Commercial Street, James J. Geary
56 Columbia Street, Amber A. Chalmers
4, 6, & 8 Liberty Street, Robin L. Rapoza Hauser
43 Printworks Drive, Adams Plumbing and Heating, Inc.

In addition, the Planning Board approved one (1) Form A, ("Approval Not Required" under the Subdivision Regulations) for property located at: Walling Road for Douglas & Marilyn Randall.

Members of the Planning Board are Chairman Barbara Ziemba, Vice-Chairman Sandra Moderski, Martha Stohlmann, David Rhinemiller and David Krzeminski who replaced Michael O'Brien on June 24, 2015. Member O'Brien served on the Planning Board for almost thirty years.

Committees represented by the Board are Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Sandra Moderski, Capital Improvement Committee (CIP), David Rhinemiller and Michael O'Brien who resigned on June 30, 2015 after serving on the Traffic Commission for eighteen years.

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 2015. Six (6) Public Hearings were conducted involving six (6) Variance requests and five (5) Special Permit requests, one of which was a continuance.

During 2015, the Adams Zoning Board of Appeals had five (5) permanent members and two (2) 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 are Chairman Peter West, Vice-Chairman Brian Tenczar, Anthony Donovan, Michael Mach, and Peter Gutmann who replaced Joe Greenbush who had passed away on 6/11/15 after serving many years on the Zoning Board. He will be sadly missed by the Town of Adams.

The Board's Current Alternate Members are Rob Krzanik and Francie Riley who was recently appointed as an alternate to replace Permanent Member Peter Gutmann on 9/2/15.

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

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



The Depart of Public Works Building

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.



The DPW's new Ford F450 4x4 dump truck with plow

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

In 2015 the Town of Adams through the Equipment Maintenance Division purchased the following equipment:

- Vehicle under carriage washing machine
- Ford F450 4x4 dump truck with plow

MAJOR PROJECTS

DPW employees performed several repairs to our aging salt shed. The old wooden structure has begun to buckle under the weight of sand and salt storage.



The Town Salt Shed

Hundreds of feet of underground drainage culverts were replaced in several locations throughout town.

Spring into summer pot hole repairs were a major issue due to the severe winter. Hundreds of tons of black top were spread and rolled in all sections of the town.

PARKS GROUNDS & CEMETERY DIVISION

CEMETERIES

Maple Street Cemetery

As usual, many of the aging maple trees are near the end of their life cycle and must be 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 Berkshire County Trial Court also offered their services throughout the summer while supplying us with two work crews every week. The cemetery was in pristine condition for Memorial Day and the entire summer. The department purchased one 36" commercial mower and several weed whackers and grounds equipment.

Bellevue Cemetery

The town was able to hire five seasonal employees to assist one full time employee this season in maintaining all aspects of cemetery maintenance and assisting in funeral excavations. Unfortunately our aging water pipes did not hold up all season without incident. Many pipes needed repairs which required excavating some roadways. Again, as in 2014, the department was not able to continue paving according to the five year plan in place. There are plans for continued paving next year.

FLOOD CONTROL

A joint inspection of the flood control system with the US Army Corps was postponed this year. At the time of this writing the Town has not received the official report from the Army Corps of Engineers for the 2014 season. DPW employees performed the usual vegetation removal and also cleared trees along many portions of the system until winter conditions prohibited such work. The Department of Public Works suspended the herbicide spraying program again which was helpful in controlling unwanted vegetation. All vegetation was removed manually by DPW employees with the assistance of seasonal employees. A BIG thanks again to Berkshire County Trial Court for their assistance with the entire flood control system.

PARKS AND ATHLETIC FIELDS

Russell Field

Many of last year's issues still remain such as flooding, access to facilities, fence replacement, building upgrades and tennis court repairs. The town has budgeted funds this year to perform a feasibility study which will address these issues. We will aggressively seek grant monies based on this report. We are pleased to announce again that this year the Adams Summer Youth Program made Russell Field their home this summer. The program has expanded over the years and hosts dozens of local children, if not hundreds.

Valley Street Field

The parks crew edged the baseball diamond and hauled several cubic yards of baseball mix to the field again this year. The department planted professional grade grass seed and was aggressive with the fertilization and herbicide programs.

Renfrew Field

The field had several applications of fertilizers this year which seems to have improved turf condition. Our facility hosted many leagues this year including Hoosac Valley High School baseball, soccer programs and baseball clinics. Renfrew also hosted the Dana Labbee Basketball Summer Program which is always a huge success.

Reid Field

As usual, Reid Field hosted hundreds of softball players again this year. The skinned field and grounds were again in excellent condition. Several repairs were performed on fences and on ditch maintenance.

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 20-foot pine tree. The gazebo had lights and red bows displayed for the season. The Berkshire County Trial Court performed a major park clean up this fall. The "Common" hosted several community events such as weddings, music festivals and youth based programs.

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

For 2015 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 been reduced to 5 full time employees, due to a retirement and loss of a great co-worker/friend of ours. 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 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 2015 is as follows:

DEWATERING and CONVEYING EQUIPMENT

- Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) which operates the drive motor on the return sludge pump is now up and running.
- Replaced the upper and lower processing belts on the belt dewatering press.
- Several panel meters (gravity belt speed, feed box percent feed) were replaced.
- Seepex polymer pump's stator and rotor were replaced.

VALVES, PUMPS, MOTORS, CONTROLLERS and ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT

- #'s 1 & 3 peristaltic Hypochlorite pumps were replaced with a new pump assembly.
- Compression fittings and new tubing installed on all of the Hypo pumps.
- New mechanical seal installed on #1 Return Activated Sludge pump.
- #2 plant water pump was rebuilt with new bearings, grease seals, pump shaft, gaskets and mechanical seal.
- Hypochlorite calibration cylinders replaced due to leaks.
- #'s 1 & 2 Grit pump packing's readjusted.
- New cooling fans (plenum, heat sink & stirring fans) were cleaned and serviced in all Square D Variable Frequency Drives to raw sewage pump motors, activated sludge return pump motors and aerator motors.
- #2, 5 hp motor at Harmony Street pump station removed and serviced

MOBILE EQUIPMENT, STATIONARY EMERGENCY GENERATORS and VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

- The John Deere push mower had its motor oil, air filter, gas line and cutting blade replaced.
- John Deere 60" riding lawn mower had new tires/tubes, starting battery and cutting blades installed. An oil change and oil filter replacement was also done.

- 2001 Ford F-350 pickup truck was serviced. Oil and air filters, windshield wiper blades, oil dip stick and brakes were installed. Repairs were made to the tailgate and the left and right tail light lenses were replaced. Vehicle passed 2015 state vehicle inspection.
- The forklift truck had oil, oil filter and air filter replaced. A new starting battery was purchased and installed.
- Semi-annual 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 and spark plug installed.
- New starting batteries installed on Kraft emergency generator at the Industrial pumping station.



OTHER EQUIPMENT

- Air Handling Unit air filters replaced.
- All fire extinguishers at the wastewater treatment plant and the three pumping stations were tested and inspected.
- Five Magnetic Flow Meters were cleaned and calibrated.
- In November all outside chemical solution lines were drained and purged with compressed air to prevent freeze damage from cold weather.
- #5 aerator oxygen sensor and float ball was replaced.
- Gearbox lubricants from mechanical aerators and clarifier drives were sent out for wear analysis.
- V-belt and motor overload heaters were replaced on roof mounted exhaust fan for the wet well area.
- Wastewater plant's main back flow prevention valve was inspected and tested by the town's water department. Back flow valve passed all test parameters.
- A new SC 200 Hach dissolved meter and probe installed at the headwork's of the plant.
- The beaching ramp/scum trough was raised up to insure removal of floating debris.
- A complete rebuild of a hydrant on the North/West side of the building was needed.
- A 6" check valve was replaced at the Domestic pump station.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Laboratory scales were cleaned and calibrated by All State Scale Company.
- Various area heaters 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.
- A new Microscope was purchased to replace the antiquated one.
- The Adams Highway Department used their street sweeping machine to clean the roadways at the wastewater treatment plant in the spring, and also patched pot holes with blacktop.
- Lawn damage from snow plowing repaired in the spring.
- Annual state inspection of facility's boilers and compressors passed.
- Fume hood in lab inspected and tested annually.
- Lighting ballasts were replaced in laboratory and pump room areas.
- A new "block" heater was installed on the generator at the Industrial pump station.
- New Surge protector was replaced, due to an electrical surge (under warranty).

SUMMARY

The wastewater treatment plant is still monitoring and inspecting a domestic water pumping station located at the bottom of Gould Road. Adams Fire District will assume responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the Gould Road water pumping station upon completion of project.

The laboratory technician passed all analytical parameters that were part of the EPA's annual Discharge Monitoring Report Quality Assurance Study 35. The performance study insures the data we submit in our monthly, quarterly and annual reports to the Federal and State regulatory agencies are verified as accurate.

A review of the 2015 facility's records and reports documents 555.08 million gallons of wastewater was treated and cleaned before being discharged to the Hoosic River. This was a decrease of 3.1 % from last years (2014) annual flow of 572.62 million gallons.

A total of 178.86 dry metric tons of dewatered sludge was processed and hauled to an incinerator in Waterbury, CT, for final disposal in 2015. This was an increase of 26.4% from 2014 sludge disposal total of 141.41 dry metric tons.

The monthly averages for removal of Total Suspended Solids removal ranged between a minimum of 93.3 to a maximum of 97.3% with an overall average for 2015 of 95.4%. Biochemical Oxygen Demand removals ranged from a minimum of 94.3% to a maximum of 99.0% with a twelve month average for 2015 of 97.8%.

CONCLUSION

As of March 23, 2015 there was a changing of the guard at the plant. Joe Fijal retired after 36 years of dedication to the town, and I (Robert Rumbolt) took over the reins. The transformation has been somewhat interesting. I would like to personally thank Joe for dedicating his time, after retiring, to help me through this process. I also would like to express my appreciation to the entire staff at the W.W.T.P. for working diligently to protect our receiving waters (the Hoosic River) and keep our ecosystem healthy.



Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District

www.nbswmd.com

For Calendar Year 2015, tons of paper, glass, cans and plastic was slightly down with 905.64 tons recycled District-wide. The Town of Adams recycled 124.23 tons of paper and 52.79 tons of glass, cans and plastic at the Recycling Station on East Road.

The District contracted with PSC/Stericycle for a one-day hazardous waste collection that was held on May 30, 2015 at the Adams DPW Yard at 92 North Summer Street in Adams. This location is central to the residents of our twelve member towns and we appreciate the Town of Adams allowing us the use of the property for that day. Residents from every member town, 157 households in all, took advantage of the opportunity to rid their homes of hazardous chemicals. The cost for this one day event was \$7,900. Peace of mind for residents: Priceless.

Twelve paint collections were held from June until the end of September. We shipped out 1,100 gallons of latex paint, 928 gallons of oil-based stains, varnishes and paint, and two 55-gallon drums of spray paint at a cost of \$8,125. Bulk packing the latex and box packing the oil-based paints is a messy job. Special thanks to Toni Alizio, Mickey Biagini, and Rick Salvi for their volunteer efforts and hard work. Thanks also to the Cheshire, Hinsdale and Williamstown DPW crews who provide us with assistance and storage space for our machine and supplies.

We began the Paint Program in 1998 to meet a need. It is now consuming more and more of our program budget. We are currently working with Paint Care (paint manufacturers group), the Product Stewardship Institute and Massachusetts Product Stewardship Committee to pass legislation that would have the paint manufacturers pay for paint collection, either at retail stores or municipal transfer stations. As this is written, Bill #S2109 has passed in the State Senate and is currently in the Mass. House Ways and Means Committee. We are actively advocating its passage.

The District, with town volunteers, held bulky and electronic waste collection days in Adams, Clarksburg, and Lanesborough. Total material collected at Adams: 11,980 pounds of electronics, 3,540 pounds of scrap metal, and 4,240 pounds of furniture, etc. Total collected at Lanesborough: 17,890 pounds of electronics, 3,980 pounds of scrap metal, and 3,700 pounds of furniture, etc. Total collected at Clarksburg: 5,860 pounds of electronics, 5,000 pounds of scrap metal and 2,140 pounds of furniture, etc. Thanks to Ed Driscoll, Greg DeBlois, Sean Wright and crew, Carl McKinney, Joe Szczepaniak, Hank Sayers, Bob Ericson, John Goerlach, Michael Donahue and Toni Alizio. The schedule for 2016 will be listed on our website and flyers will be available at the transfer stations as soon as dates are finalized.

This year NBSWMD filed grant applications and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection awarded "Small Initiative Grants" to every town in the District. The Commissioners voted to pool the grants and purchase a new shipping container for paper. This container will rotate among the towns and every town will benefit.

Cheshire, Williamstown and Windsor were again recognized and awarded additional funds under the Massachusetts DEP Recycling Dividends Program. This program awards points for achievements. Cheshire and Windsor received \$1,200 to further enhance their recycling and solid waste programs. Williamstown was awarded \$1,400.

The waste stream continues to evolve and our programs will continue to evolve as well. Our efforts in the coming year will be aimed at collecting textiles, clothing and household linens, and keeping them out of the trash.

Earth machine compost bins are available from the District at cost, \$50 each. Call the District Office at 413-743-8208 to have one delivered to you.

Waste not, want not,

Sandy Totter
NBSWMD Program Coordinator

Edward Driscoll
NBSWMD Commissioner
for the Town of Adams

Adams Historical Commission

There were no major losses or threats to historic properties in the town of Adams. The on-going development projects that affected proposed Historic Districts were completed: the Park Street Improvement Project and the Adams Free Library. There were no historical exhibits or anniversaries to commemorate.

There is a noteworthy trend of arts-related people purchasing historic properties in Adams. It started in September 2012 when George LeMaitre and Patricia Fietta, of Yerington, NV, purchased the former Krutiak Construction building. It is in an interesting location off of Grove Street (Route 8) sandwiched between the Adams Bros. Warp Mill, the Ashuwillticook Bike Trail and the Hoosic River. They are refurbishing it for studio space and residence.

The trend accelerated in 2015 when three more properties were purchased. In May, John and Robin Rapoza Hauser purchased the former McBride Funeral Home which has been attached to the former Sayles house on Liberty Street. They plan to use the buildings for arts education and a residence. Both those properties are in the Summer Street National Historic District. The funeral home existed there for many decades. It was originally the residence of H. H. Wellington. The Sayles house was owned by a member of a pioneer family in Adams and a veteran of the Civil War. It also served as a rectory for St. Mark's Episcopal Church and was the residence of former superintendent of schools, J. Franklin Farrell. Both those houses pre-date the Civil War.

In July, Michael Augspurger and Leni Fried purchased The Old Stone Mill at the corner of Grove and Leonard Street. A landmark in Maple Grove and highly visible on Route 8, the stone factory was built in the early 1860's as a woolen mill by Peter Blackinton and Benjamin Phillips. Oral history, though not

verified, claims that the stone came from the excavation of the Hoosac Tunnel. The building had a succession of owners: The Renfrew Mfg. Co., and The Collins Bros., two cotton manufacturers; and the Alanson Products Co., a wallpaper printing company. The new owners, known as Old Stone Mill Center, LLC, plan to establish an art studio/educational center working in metal fabricating and printmaking. The owners are currently living in Cummington, Mass.

In November, a third property was purchased for its historic character. Timothy and Carlene Smith, formerly of California acquired the former Masonic Temple on Center Street. The building is also in the Summer Street National Historic District. It was originally built in 1894 as the Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church and served as that church until 1968. The Berkshire Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons have owned it since that time. In 2015, The Masons moved across the street and are meeting at the Elks Lodge, the former St. Paul's Universalist Church (1872).

The trend of people relocating here, appreciating and acquiring historic properties in town is a good one. The preservation of these buildings is always a concern of the Historical Commission and we hope this trend continues in the future.



- Top -

*The Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church
on 62 Center Street,
photo taken circa 1900*

- Left -

*The Old Stone Mill
at the corner of
Leonard and Grove Streets (Route 8),
photo taken circa 1890*

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.

In 2015, the COA took a budget cut when we lost our full time Outreach Worker. However, we were able to replace our full time staff person with two qualified part-time Outreach Workers. Our new staff has done a great job at trying to keep and maintain services, maximize participation and create some new and meaningful programs. However, a full time staff person did provide the department with a level of flexibility that is now missing. As a result, it has been difficult but not unsuccessful to maintain relationships and participation rates.



Our CoA's mission is:

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

The leading edge of boomers started reaching 65 in 2011 – and every day for the next 20 years, 10,000 Americans will celebrate their 65th birthday! By 2020, 22.9% of Adams will be 65-plus and by 2030 the population will make up almost 30% of our community. We're trying to address this boom by doing a number of things.

Transportation

Our two vans are leased from the BRTA and are handicap accessible/para-transit vehicles.

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 rides to and from the Adult Day health system for a fixed rate.

In 2015 we provided over 41,000 rides to over 100 different individuals.

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 30-plus years now. In 2015, they served 3,791. Meal service was slightly down this year from last due to our difficult winter and variety of catered meals which are not captured in this number.

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 a suggested \$2 donation per 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. Currently 68 Adams residents are benefiting from this program.

With a team of volunteers, the Councils on Aging of Cheshire and Lansborough meet at the Adams site to bag and deliver their own brown bags to their residents. People receive a 15 lb. bag of non-perishable groceries once a month for a suggested donation of three dollars. Volunteers are available to deliver bags to individuals who cannot get out of their homes independently.

Senior Citizen Property Tax Work Off Program

This program was implemented in August 2008 and continues to be a success. Eligible senior homeowners have the opportunity to receive a real estate tax exemption. Program participants will be entitled to a reduction of \$500.00 for their real estate bill in exchange for performing 65.5 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 two 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, Karen DeOrdio, Marsha Mikuszewski, Bernie Abramson, Geoff King, Marian Roper 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 2015, one hundred and two 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

With our 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 16 at the Bounti Fare. In attendance were 152 guests. All enjoyed Roast Beef 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 to which many local business owners contributed. The proceeds were donated to the Friends of the Adams Council on Aging and Louison House. After dinner all enjoyed music by Tom Corrigan. We would like to say thank you to all of our local businesses and volunteers who supported this event and played such an important role in its success.

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 the newsletter off of the Town Hall's webpage, pick it up in local spots or asked to be added to the mailing list, all you'll need to do is provide us with a book of stamps. Our newsletter covers COA programming, as well as local events. We distribute over 600 newsletters that reach all over Berkshire County.

Health & Wellness

In September a Health & Wellness fair was held at the Adams Visitor Center/Council on Aging. Food was available and music was provided with over 30 vendors participating.



We also offer informational classes and other exercise programs, including but not limited to, yoga, chair yoga, spinning, dance, walking groups, and tai chi all servicing over 223 Adams residents.

Fuel Assistance

Funds are still available for Adams residents in need of emergency fuel assistance. A result of 2011's Annual Holiday Gathering. These funds are used as a last resort.

We also work with Berkshire Community Action Council to assist Adams residents who struggle with transportation. We can do their fuel assistance applications in our offices. Last year we assisted with 65 applications and re-certifications.

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
- Homebound Grocery Shopping
- Laundry Delivery Service
- Assistance with Code Red sign-ups
- April buttered lamb workshop
- 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 137 Adams and Savoy residents.
- Quilting Club, Senior Citizens Club
- Travel Opportunities
- "Buckets of Sand" Program
- Free Tai Chi with 20-plus students
- SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Everyone) counseling
- Yoga
- Chair Yoga
- Caregiver Resource Guides
- Highlighted in Greylock Credit Union's quarterly newsletter
- Meet & Greet opportunities with various clubs, housing authorities and emergency response teams
- Informative Friday
- Free "File of Life" cards
- Kentucky Derby Social, complete with best hat competition
- Art Classes
- Various Holiday Socials
- Veteran's Day Event co-sponsored by Craneville, Springside & Sugar Hill. Event has entertainment, flag raising and balloon release
- Mass in Motion walking group "Active Agers"

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.



The Staff at Adams CoA:

Erica Girgenti, Director (35 hours)
Linda Cernik, Outreach Coordinator (35 hours)
Barbara Proper (18 hours)
Nicole Leighton (18 hours)
Rita Clarke, Van Driver (35 hours)
Terry Moran, Van Driver (35 hours)
Chet Cyrulik, Per Diem Van Driver & Volunteer
Don Bettis, Per Diem Van Driver
Gary Green, Custodian
*Susan Kerr, ESBC Senior Aid (20 hours)
*Dee Dee O'Bryan, ESBC Meal Site Coordinator
* *Funded by Elder Services of Berkshire County*

Board of Directors:

Lisa Haas, Chair
Pam St. John, Vice Chair
Bob Joppich
Michelle Wellspeak
Aleta Moncecchi
Mellissa Schaffrick
Nancy Lanski
Pam Wildes

Volunteers

We currently have over 43 volunteers who have offered the Town over \$63,000 in in-kind services. They help us to run our tax program, brown bag, meal site, computer classes, homebound grocery shopping, art classes, health insurance counseling, data entry, and reception, just to name a few. In 2015, our volunteers logged over 3,550 hours.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

***We simply would NOT be able to do
the work we do without your assistance!***

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission has seven (7) members:
Jason Krzanowski, Chair, James Fassell, Vice-Chair,
Thomas Robinson, David Lipinski, Tammie Shafer,
Anthony McBride, and Corey Bishop.

There were a total of three business meetings held in 2015, with the Commission considering the Adams Roundabout project and the extension of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, and also evaluating the appropriateness of the Intensely Developed Areas designation provided for in the Wetlands Protection Act for portions of the Town along the Hoosic River. The Commission formally acted on one (1) Amendment to the Order of Conditions and one (1) Notice of Intent for the following projects:

- 1) Massachusetts Department of Transportation for the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail Extension
- 2) Adams Plumbing & Heating, Inc. for the extension and paving of a driveway serving a loading dock and new parking area.

Emergency Management

2015 Report

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

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

The Town retained MEMA's A+ rating. This was accomplished by attending quarterly meetings provided by MEMA in Agawam, MA. The meetings and seminars provided new and updated information to help improve the Emergency Management Plan of the Town.

The Town of Adams provided additional funds for the purchase of emergency shelter equipment.

Funds from a MEMA grant were used to purchase a Repeater for improved radio communications.

The Town experienced several significant snow events. The Emergency Operations Center was not, but personnel were on standby.

The Emergency Management Director designated the Adams Memorial School on Columbia Street an overnight shelter for Adams residents in time of need.

Thanks to Town Department Heads, Fire, Police and EMS in their joint effort to provide for the safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Adams.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Kleiner
Emergency Management Director
Town of Adams

Forest Warden

2015 Report

SMOKEY SAYS ... “ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRES!”

The Town of Adams Forest Warden is charged with:

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

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

2015 MT.GREYLOCK RAMBLE:

The Forest Warden Deputies provided communications and safety on all trails as they have done for the past 44 years.

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

BURNING PERMITS ISSUED: 208

CALLS AND EVENTS:

- 6 – Wildland Fires
- 96 – Illegal Burns and Smoke Investigations
- 7 – Mutual Aid Calls
- 2 – Search & Rescue Calls
- 9 – Community Events
- 4 – Community Service Details

The Department also participated in the Following:

- EMS EXPO at the Lanesboro Mall
- Provided support to the Adams Agricultural Fair for the three day event
- Provided manpower for traffic control

THANKS TO THE RESIDENTS OF ADAMS FOR A SAFE BURNING SEASON

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Kleiner
Chief Forest Warden
Town of Adams

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

Adams Free Library

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Since the Library opened on January 2, 1899, the building has served two purposes: as the home of the town's public Library, and as a memorial to America's veterans. Over the last eight years, using the combination of State Aid to Libraries award funds, and appropriation and low-interest loans through the Town of Adams, a number of improvements have been made to the interior. These include the relocation of the Children's Room to a larger space, the creation of the Teen Center and the re-establishment of the Reading Room. Major projects culminated last fall with repair work to the building's brick exterior, the reconstruction of the front entrance and further interior renovations which included the installation of a fully accessible restroom on the main level. With the completion of this latest project, we are proud to say that this historic building is in the best condition to provide library services to residents of all ability levels in Adams and the surrounding communities.

On May 23, 2015 the Library held an Open House and Re-dedication of the memorial library building. The Friends of the Library provided refreshments and flowers for the event. We had several guest speakers: Commissioner Mary Kronholm of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners; Margot Malachowski, President of the Executive Board of the Massachusetts Library System; Selectman Richard Blanchard of the Adams Board of Selectmen; Austin Design Architect Tom Chalmers; and General Contractor Allegrone Companies Representative Mike Mucci.

The dedication and vision of Ron Bishop was remembered and his family was thanked during the Re-dedication ceremony. Ron became a member of the Board of Library Trustees in 1995 and the Building's Maintenance Chairman as well. Ron immediately immersed himself in the restoration of and improvements to the Library building. Great progress was made with improvements to this very extra-ordinary architectural gem. Ron chaired a committee that worked non-stop for fifteen months to organize a grand Centennial Celebration of the building in 1997. Ron's leadership efforts and his fervor made the celebration one of the most memorable events in the Town's recent history. Ron served on the Library's Board of Trustees until his death on May 4, 2006. The Library Trustees, staff and Director are very thankful for the eleven years that Ron devoted to the Adams Free Library.

At the closing of Re-dedication, trustees, employees and Friends of the Adams Free Library made the following commitment: We, the trustees, staff and Friends of the Adams Free Library do hereby renew our commitment to provide the best possible public library services to all citizens of the Town of Adams and to the surrounding communities; and do hereby re-dedicate this beautifully restored building to house the public library and continue to serve as a memorial to all military veterans.

Even with this major project wrapping up, maintaining quality library service to the community remains our highest priority. Children's Librarian Holli Jayko once again operated the Children's Room with maximum efficiency while creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for our youngest patrons and their families. Holli's report follows:

The Children's department of the Adams Free Library aims to stimulate a love for learning and reading, while promoting early literacy, critical thinking, and information seeking in a safe and welcoming environment. To this end, we offer a variety of high quality and educational programs throughout the year. We currently run a Summer Reading Program, a home school research group that meets monthly, weekly story times, special guest presentations and more.



Julie Collier of the "Wingmasters Birds of Prey" program

The Summer Reading program theme for 2015 was "Every Hero has a story." This year Children's Librarian Holli Jayko and summer mascot "Super Duck" visited C.T. Plunkett Elementary School and St. Stanislaus Kostka School to introduce Summer Reading to their students. Through this collaboration, between the schools and the library, over 550 school age children heard about the summer programs offered at the library. The library had 3 teen volunteers who donated fifty hours to the library during the summer. The library sponsored the following programs: "Wingmaster's Birds of Prey Program", the "Zoo on the Go", "Motion Man", and "Ed the Wizard." The following summer reading programs were supported by a grant from the Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire, a local agency that is supported



"Zoo on the Go" from the Zoo in Forest Park

by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency: Musician/Storytellers Davis Bates and Roger Tincknell, Artist Paul Merklein, and Storyteller Tom McCabe. This grant saved the library \$1,000.00. All of our summer programs were well attended and enjoyed by local families.



"The Motion Man" performs in the Miller Annex

During the library's Open House in May we rented an inflatable obstacle course from UFO party rentals. The children who attended enjoyed the course for hours. The obstacle course was run by volunteers Tony Jayko, Pam Havens and several of our Friends members. Magician Greg McAdams did "mini" magic shows for the children and families in attendance. He was funny, talented and engaged a large variety of ages. His magic was inventive, silly, and perfect for the variety of youngsters we had. In October the library hosted ScienceTellers "Dragons and Dreams." This spectacular adventure swept us away to a world where dragons were real, dreams come true, and only the most daring of people survive to tell the tale! The audience learned about the science of Fire & Ice by using experiments with flash paper, exploding bottles, "cool" dry ice, and much more.



"Dragons and Dreams" presented by ScienceTellers

The Home School Research Group covered a variety of topics including the Dewey Decimal Classification System, library etiquette, as well as planning, organizing, and evaluating information for a research paper. Research topics included Dangers of the Amazon, the Battle of Iwo Jima, and the Effects of Poaching in the Rainforest. Our research group had 15 students enrolled in the program.

You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives.

~ Clay P. Bedford.

In November, Adams resident Phyllis Huttie donated 5 Victorian Style Birdhouses to the library. The birdhouses were hand-crafted by her and her late husband. These beautiful pieces are on display in the Children's area of the Library.

Our weekly Story Times were well attended and enjoyed by all. In December we had a joint STEM Story Time with the Family Center of Northern Berkshire County. This was a wonderful morning listening to stories and having STEM engineering fun building a gingerbread house. 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 Library is indebted to the Friends of the Adams Free Library for all their efforts throughout the year. This year was once again a busy and industrious year for the Friends. The Friends were able to make numerous purchases for the library through their fundraising efforts. They were able to help with the cost of the Children's Summer Reading Program. They purchased passes for Arrowhead, the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum and The Mount. The Friends covered the annual cost of the computer program, Ancestry.com and purchased a table and a hand cart for use in their fundraising events.

The Friends were sponsors for the Savoy Loop and a presentation by writer Joan Duris and photographer Gillian Jones on their book, "B is for Berkshires." The Friends were proud to present a performance by Samantha Talora and Ron Ramsey, "An Evening of Song", and hope to have them return for another performance. They handed out book marks and bags of candy at the Children's Halloween Parade and set up the little Christmas tree in the library with bookmarks and candy canes.

The Friends also set up and ran the Annual Book Sale for three days. Prior to the sale they spent numerous hours setting up. This event was a great success due to the generous time donated by the library staff and the Friends who worked this event, baked and donated raffle baskets, gift cards and solicited local merchants for raffle items. The Friends also volunteered to work at one of the movie nights sponsored by the Adams Events Committee. The trustees, staff and patrons are so very thankful for the hard work of all the Friends, and for their many, many hours of voluntary service.

Use of the building as a community gathering place for meetings and events remained steady for 2015. The meeting rooms were used for political caucuses, Family Childcare Provider meetings, Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum events, the

senior ladies' exercise group, a STEM Storytime by the Family Resource Center, Health Webinars and Nutrition workshops, author visits and the Eagles Ensemble sponsored by the Adams Historical Society. In August the New England Holocaust Institute & Museum took up temporary residence in the second floor South Meeting Room of the library to allow a small portion of the collection to be displayed. NEHIM has one of the largest collections of authentically Holocaust artifacts in North America, on loan from collection owner and NEHIM curator Darrel English.

State Aid to Libraries funds were used during the year to provide museum passes not funded by the Friends and for a number of programs offered to our patrons of all ages. In May the annual pastel art workshop, expertly run by award-winning pastel artist Gregory Maichack was offered, and in September Millie Calesky presented her "Break through your writing obstacles" workshop.

In October the Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of Library Director Deborah Bruneau. Debbie has served this community as Library Director for over 23 years. Debbie was involved with many projects and programs which benefited the library during her tenure. Debbie was instrumental in automating the library; this entailed using computers to automate the typical procedures of the library such as cataloging and circulation. Through her efforts the Friends of the Adams Free Library was established. Debbie also saw that the major renovations listed earlier were completed.

In addition to the excellent work of Children's Librarian Holli Jayko, who was appointed Interim Director upon Deborah Bruneau's retirement, the trustees are indebted to the dedicated hard work of the library employees: Lyn Wilson who capably handles main desk operations as well as the cataloging and processing of adult and teen materials; Christa Sidway who efficiently manages the interlibrary loan and delivery process for the many thousands of items that flow in and out of the building during the year while also adeptly handling administrative assistant duties and skillfully running the very successful monthly book discussion groups; part-time employee Jessica Trimmer who shelves all the adult materials and maintains the periodical storage system and assists at the main desk; and temporary Children's Library Aide Susan Szpila, who returned to the Library to help out during the transition. The members of the Board of Trustees are Chairman James Loughman, Treasurer Eugene Michalenko, Building Maintenance Chairman David Strzepek, Karen Kettles, Jill Pompei, and Anita Jamros.

The trustees, administration and staff wish to extend sincere appreciation to the many town departments that have provided assistance this year. The effort needed to undertake and complete the renovation project was made so much easier by the cooperation of not only the Department of Public Works but by the administration and the Community Development Department. We wish to extend special thanks to Maintenance Workers Gary Green and Kyle Wilson. The routine management of the physical plant and grounds would not be possible without their hard work.

James R. Loughman
Chairman of the
Board of Library Trustees



Retiring Library Director Deborah Bruneau at the May, 2015 Open House and Re-Dedication of the Adams Memorial Library

Fiscal 2015 Library Statistics

Total Number of Holdings as of June 30, 2015: **31,177**

Magazine and Newspaper Subscriptions (including gifts): **62**

Registered borrowers: **2,405**

Circulation:

Adult and young adult print	17,350
Juvenile print	7,680
Video Cassettes/music CDs/DVDs, museum passes, misc.	11,103
Audio Books	2,094
E-books	532
Downloadable Audio (audiobooks, music)	194
Downloadable Video	13
Materials in Electronic Format	37

TOTAL **39,003**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Fees Returned to Town Treasurer: **\$ 1,162.17**

✓ Microfilm Printer Receipts	13.00
✓ Internet Printer Receipts	737.61
✓ Miscellaneous	6.00
✓ Photocopier Receipts	405.56

Returned to Revolving Fund via Town Treasurer: **\$ 2,430.66**

✓ Fines for Overdue Materials	1,848.38
✓ Damaged or Lost Items Replacement Fees	582.28

TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS **\$ 3,592.83**

OTHER INCOME

Gifts, Memorial Donations, Used Items Sales	\$ 719.55
Grant: No. Berkshire Cultural Council	\$ 1,000.00
State Aid to Public Libraries Award	\$ 13,798.79

TRUST FUNDS DIVIDEND INCOME	BALANCE 7/01/14	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	BALANCE 6/30/15
W.T. Adams	\$ 4,805.43	\$ 3,324.00	\$ (5,623.10)	\$ 2,506.33
C.N. Miller	843.24	427.80	(136.75)	1,134.29
Plunkett / Saunders	22.97	0.00	(0.00)	22.97
H. Tiedemann	3,269.22	1,818.60	(2,694.25)	2,393.57
TOTALS	\$ 8,940.86	\$ 5,570.40	\$ (8,454.10)	\$ 6,057.16

Memorial Book Funds **Total as of 12/31/15 \$ 49,797.91**

Memorial Book Fund Investment Values **Total as of 12/31/15 \$ 135,598.13**

Adams Police Department

2015 Activity Report

Calls for Service	15,116
Ambulance Calls.....	1,753
Fire Department Calls.....	175
DPW.....	71
Animal Control Calls.....	546

Criminal and Custodial Activity

Offenses Committed	725
	(281 Felonies)

ARRESTS

Adult	214
Juvenile	15
Summons Served	189
Protective Custody.....	9
<i>18% of arrests involved alcohol while</i>	
<i>12.8% involved drugs</i>	

Motor Vehicle Activity

Written Warnings	528
Civil Offenses	103
Arrests	47
Criminal Complaints.....	88

Motor Vehicle Accidents

Investigated.....	235
Fatalities.....	1
Persons Injured	37

Other Police Activity

B&E / Larcenies	114
Alarms Responded to.....	278
Restraining Orders	111
E9-1-1 Calls Received	1,469
Parking Tickets issued	459
House Checks	

FULL TIME SERVICE

Chief of Police:	Richard W. Tarsa Jr.	04/05/87
Sergeants:	Shawn M. Briggs	04/05/87
	Scott McWhirt	01/30/89
	Donna Malloy	09/20/97
	Matthew Wright	05/02/07
Patrol Officers:	Lawrence Ordyna	08/11/80
	David Dean	01/28/02
	Gregory Charon	03/30/05
	Michael Wandrei	03/30/05
	Joshua Baker	04/17/08
	Nicholas Dabrowski	04/17/80
	Curtis Crane	05/20/10
	Travis Cunningham	01/24/13
	Brenna Dorr	06/05/14
	Colby Clark	06/05/14
	Gregory Onorato	01/12/15

Administrative

Assistant Melissa Schaffrick

Special/

Reserve Officer: Robert Krzanik

Special/

Police Officer: Allen Mendel

Animal Control: Kimberly Witek

Daniel Lefebvre

2015 Training/Seminars/Community Events

January – Chief Tarsa attended a training seminar sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

February – Sgt. Briggs, Sgt. McWhirt, Sgt. Malloy, Sgt. Wright, Detective Ordyna, Officers Dean, Charon, Wandrei, Baker, Dabrowski, Crane, Cunningham, Dorr, Clark, Onorato, and Chief Tarsa attended Legal Updates as part of In-Service Training.

March – No Trainings attended.

April – Sgt. Briggs, Sgt. McWhirt, Sgt. Malloy, Sgt. Wright, Detective Ordyna, Officers Dean, Charon, Wandrei, Baker, Dabrowski, Crane, Cunningham, Dorr, Clark, Onorato, and Chief Tarsa attended CPR / 1st Responder Training as part of In-Service Training. Officer Wandrei attended Crime Intel and CopLink Training. Officer Charon attended Human Trafficking and Mental Illness training as part of In-Service Training.

May – Sgt. Briggs, Sgt. McWhirt, Sgt. Malloy, Sgt. Wright, Officers Dean, Wandrei, Baker, Dabrowski, Cunningham, Onorato, and Chief Tarsa attended Human Trafficking and Mental Illness training as part of In-Service Training. Officer Charon participated in the Elks Safety Day Event. Sgt. Malloy and Sgt. Wright attended ICS 300 Training. Sgt. Briggs, Sgt. McWhirt, Sgt. Malloy, Sgt. Wright, Detective Ordyna, Officers Dean, Charon, Wandrei, Baker, Crane, Cunningham, Dorr, Clark, Onorato, and Chief Tarsa attended Taser Recertification Training. Sgt. Briggs, Sgt. McWhirt, Sgt. Malloy, Sgt. Wright, Officers Dean, Charon, Wandrei, Baker, Dabrowski, Crane, Cunningham, and Onorato attended Defensive Tactics training as part of In-Service Training.

June – Chief Tarsa attended EOC (Emergency Operations Center) Preparedness & Planning training. Officer Crane and K-9 Kumar attended the MCLA Career Convention and participated in a demonstration of K-9 Kumar's abilities. Detective Ordyna and Officer Crane attended Hidden Compartment training. Officer Crane and K-9 Kumar gave a presentation at the Cheshire Elementary School. Chief Tarsa and Massachusetts State Police Trooper Andrew Canata presented a Summer Safety Assembly at CT Plunkett School. Sgt. Malloy and Sgt. Wright attended Suicide Prevention training.

July – Sgt. McWhirt, Sgt. Malloy, Sgt. Wright, Officers Dean, Charon, Wandrei, Dabrowski, Cunningham, and Chief Tarsa attended Breathyalyzer Recertification training. The Adams Police Department sponsored a Gang Intelligence training that was attended by all department personnel and numerous officers from Northern Berkshire County. Officer Crane and K-9 Kumar gave a presentation at the Congregational Church's Summer Bible School.

August – Officer Crane, K-9 Kumar and Chief Tarsa attended National Night Out. Officer Wandrei attended DNA/Codis training. Officer Crane and K-9 Kumar gave a presentation at the Adams Agricultural Fair.

September – Sgt. Briggs and Officer Baker attended Breathyalyzer Recertification training. Chief Tarsa attended a Chief's Training Conference. All department personnel attended yearly Firearms Requalification.

October – Officer Crane and K-9 Kumar gave a presentation to the Adams Council on Aging and the Northern Berkshire County Triad.

November – Officer Cunningham presented Coffee with a Cop.

December – No trainings attended.

In January Officers Brenna Dorr and Colby Clark successfully completed the Full Time Police Academy located at the

Springfield Technical Community College. The academy started in August 2014 and 800 hours of training later they graduated with the highest praise and respect of their training officers. Also in January, Officer Gregory Onorato successfully made a lateral transfer to Adams from the North Adams Police Department. Officer Onorato had over five years of full time experience and he brought with him a strong sense of community and professionalism. Officer Onorato was extremely active in the aspects of Community Policing and will continue to do so while in Adams. The addition of these three fine officers not only enforces our sense of Community Policing but they will help strengthen our enforcement efforts to make Adams safer.

Animal Control Officers Kimberly Witek and Daniel Lefebvre attended mandatory training and certification. This was accomplished over a twelve week period beginning in March and ending in June. State Mandate dictates that animal control officers needed to be certified and trained before July 1, 2015, if not, each community would be at risk and possibly fined for non-compliance. Such certification reduces liability while enhancing professionalism. The training that each received benefits the Town of Adams on numerous levels.



Chief Richard Tarsa Jr. reads to a class for the School Reading Program

During the course of the year Chief Tarsa would read to the students of the Berkshire County Head Start Program. While school was in session he would go in monthly and read a book to the students. The program has now been extended into the Preschool Program of St. Stanislaus School. This not only promotes the concept and importance of reading, but it allows the students to see that the police are not only there to help you but

they are also your friend. Chief Tarsa and MSP Trooper Canata continued working with The Adams - Cheshire Regional School District, St. Stanislaus School, Berkshire County Head Start, and the BaRT Charter School on School Crisis Management and Safety. The safety of our students, staff, and the surrounding community is of paramount importance. By working with the schools we are better able to strengthen their security, enhance safety, and promote a positive working atmosphere of cooperation and interoperability between schools, students, staff and community.

On July 4, 2015, agents from the FBI and ATF, with the assistance of local law enforcement, arrested Adams resident Alexander Ciccolo on weapons violations. The arrest made national attention because of the terrorist ties that Ciccolo had. The matter is still in the Federal Court system and Ciccolo is still awaiting trial.

Law Enforcement always relies upon the eyes and ears of the community it serves. It is imperative that if you see something, or hear something, that is out of the ordinary or out of place in your community, that you call law enforcement and report it.

In 2013 opioid related deaths, which includes heroin, went from 668 to 978. In 2015 this number far exceeded 1000 opioid related deaths. The most recent numbers show that Berkshire County had 24 such deaths in 2015 – one death is one too many! Berkshire County, much like the rest of the state and nation, has

seen an increase of unusual proportions in the use of opioids. As of this writing, Governor Baker is working on legislation to help combat this growing concern. At one time, it was believed, that drug use such as opiates was confined to one specific class of society – this is not true. The opiate problem affects each and every class of society from the poor to the rich. Heroin is cheaper to purchase than the gateway drug marijuana. Prescription medications are the leading contributor to opiate addiction. Massachusetts has taken a multipronged approach that involves treatment programs and reintegration programs but it must also involve law enforcement efforts aimed at suppliers and distribution. The Adams Police Department is a member of the Berkshire County Law Enforcement Task Force which is comprised of numerous agencies including local and state police, along with members of the sheriff's department. There is still a war on drugs and law enforcement is working together to try and combat it. However, we are not alone in our efforts and we ask that the public report any thing that they may see or hear. A strange car in the neighborhood that appears on a regular basis over time, a person that does not fit into a neighborhood, or any activity that raises awareness, these are the things that should be reported. No matter what the circumstance may be, if it looks out of place or the ordinary, please report it to the police. We rely on your help to make our community a safer place.

As always, I am grateful to the members of the Adams Police Department and appreciate their hard work. I applaud their professionalism, dedication, and fidelity to duty. To the residents of the Town of Adams, "Thank You" for having the faith and confidence in all that we do. We will always strive to provide you with the quality of service that you desire while maintaining a high standard of professionalism, courtesy, and respect.

Respectfully submitted,
Chief Richard W. Tarsa Jr.



*Above:
The Adams Dog Pound
before renovation.*



*Right:
K-9 Kumar inspects the
newly painted Pound.*

Community Development Department

During 2015, the Adams Community Development Department had an aggressive work program, involving several 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 several other grant funding programs. Completing and closing out the Town's FY 2013 CDBG program was a major focus of the department, as well as, the startup and implementation of the Town's FY 2015 CDBG program during the 2015 calendar year. The \$900,000 in CDBG funds awarded under FY13 was directed at two major projects – continuation of the Adams Housing Rehabilitation Program and the Park Street Improvement Project. A total of \$580,728 was awarded for FY15 CDBG for the ongoing Adams Housing Rehabilitation Program as well as fund the design for the Adams Visitors Center parking lot. As in past years, administrative funds from CDBG cover the wages and benefits of the grants staff within the Community Development Department.

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 for the program address code violations and undertake improvements to upgrade electrical systems, remove lead paint, replace windows and doors, or complete roofing, structural improvements, and the 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 housing units per year. Grant funds under FY2013 totaled \$256,000, with the goal of rehabilitating 9 units. All 2013 HRP work was successfully completed and closed out by September 30, 2015. Grant funds that were awarded to the Town under FY2015 total \$428,572, with the goal of rehabilitating at least 14 units. Implementation of the HRP is expected to be a continued focus for Community Development staff for the next several years.

Park Street Infrastructure Improvement Project

For FY 2013, the Commonwealth awarded CDBG funds to the Town for the reconstruction of Park Street. In 2014, public bidding took place and the Town entered into a contract with J. H. Maxymillian, Inc. Underground work involving water, sewer, and drainage began in late summer 2014, and curbing, handicapped ramps, and sidewalks followed through the fall. The project was completed in 2015, resulting in the elimination of approximately 1,200 linear feet of blighted roadway and about 2,400 linear feet of blighted sidewalks. Final punch list items were addressed and the project was successfully closed out in June. Construction of the final project design by the Town's project engineer, Tighe & Bond, addressed the following: i) installing 300 feet of sewer line to repair poorly functioning existing line; ii) installing new drainage; iii) re-grading and compacting street base prior to installing two (2) inches of new bituminous concrete pavement; and vii) installing new curbing and sidewalks with pedestrian curb extensions, handicapped ramps and tactile warning pads, and new street furnishings including benches, bollards, planters, trash receptacles, and decorative pavers.

ADAMS DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

The Community Development Department continues to implement recommendations in the *Adams Downtown Development Plan*. Significant progress on several downtown projects was accomplished in 2015:

Adams Free Library Renovation Project

Another important multi-year project that was completed in 2015 was the Adams Free Library Renovation Project. Initiated in the fall of 2012, the Town hired Austin Design as the architect to develop a scope of renovation work, detailed cost estimates and assist the Town in public bidding of the construction work. The March 24, 2014 Special Town Meeting approved a borrowing of \$970,000 for improvements to the Adams Free Library and the Invitation for Bids was issued in May 2014 with bids opened in June. The Town entered into a contract with



*The Budd Car operated by the
Berkshire Scenic Railroad Museum*

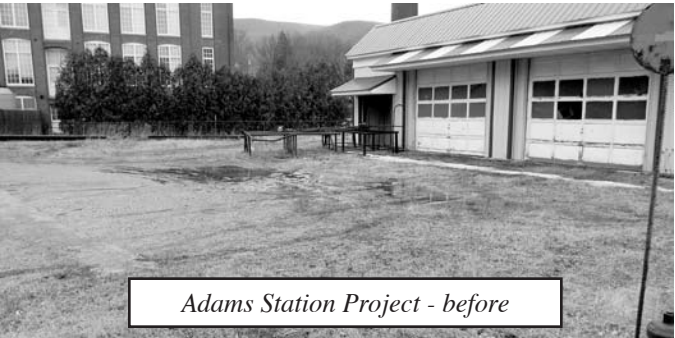
Allegrone Construction Company, the lowest responsible bidder. Construction began in September 2014 and continued through the end of the year and into 2015. The project was completed in June of 2015. Improvements to the library have been a priority project for the department and the Board of Selectmen, given the building's historic significance and prominent location of the structure within the downtown.

**Adams Station Park Project and
BSRM's "Hoosac Valley Service"**

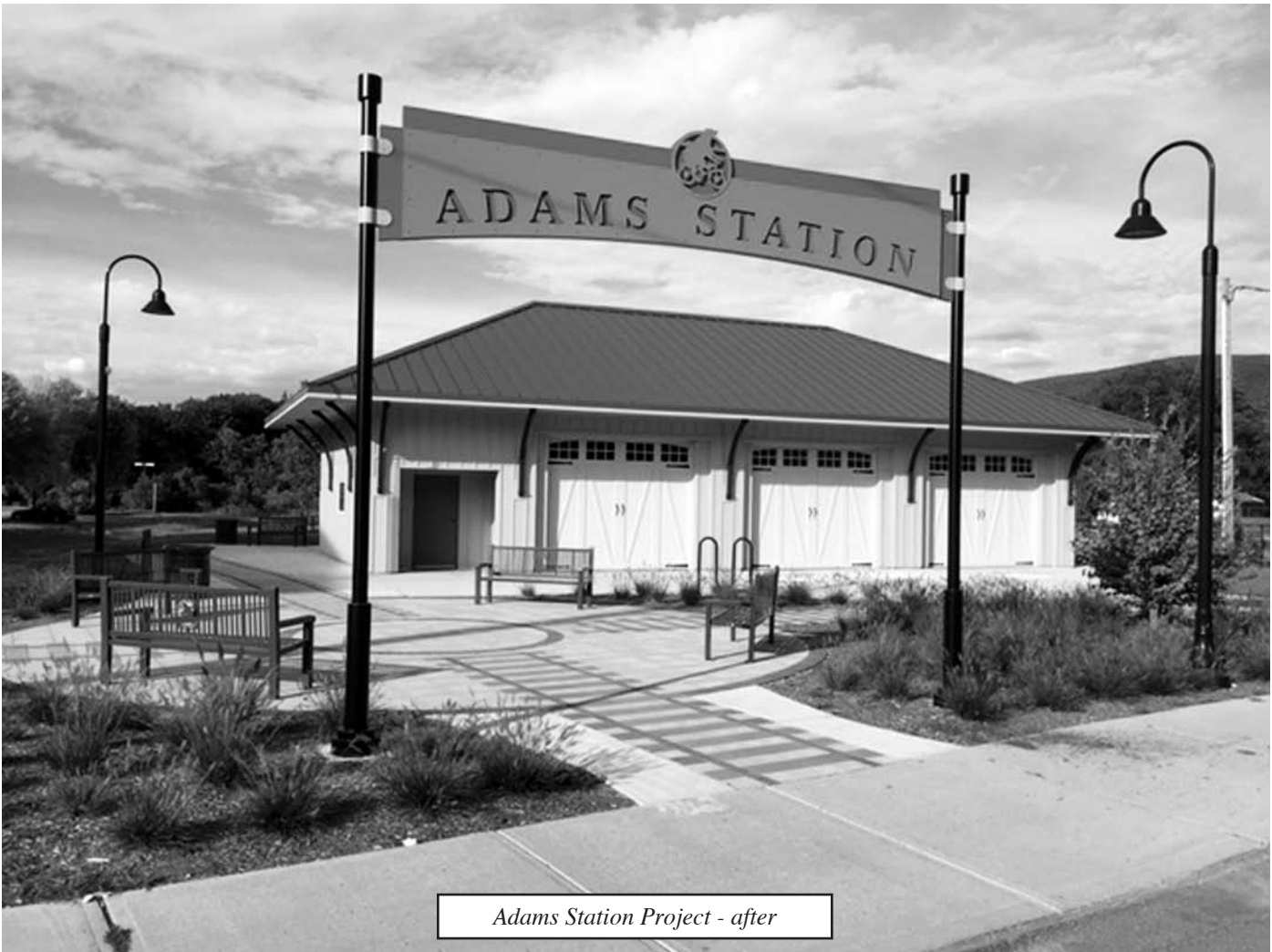
The Town was awarded \$387,000 in funding under the 2014 Parkland Acquisition and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant Program administered by the Division of Conservation Services for acquisition and construction of the new "Adams Station" Park on Hoosac Street. Improvements to the grounds were undertaken in 2014 and completed in April 2015. Landscaping, decorative pavers, and furnishings were designed to transform the property, which had been one of the most blighted and unattractive sites in the downtown. Work to improve the grounds included the installation of new benches, trash receptacles, and picnic tables (including one handicapped picnic table), landscaping, and decorative pavers which together greatly enhance the Adams Station park site.

Perhaps affecting the most positive change to the property was renovation of the three-bay concrete block structure (formerly

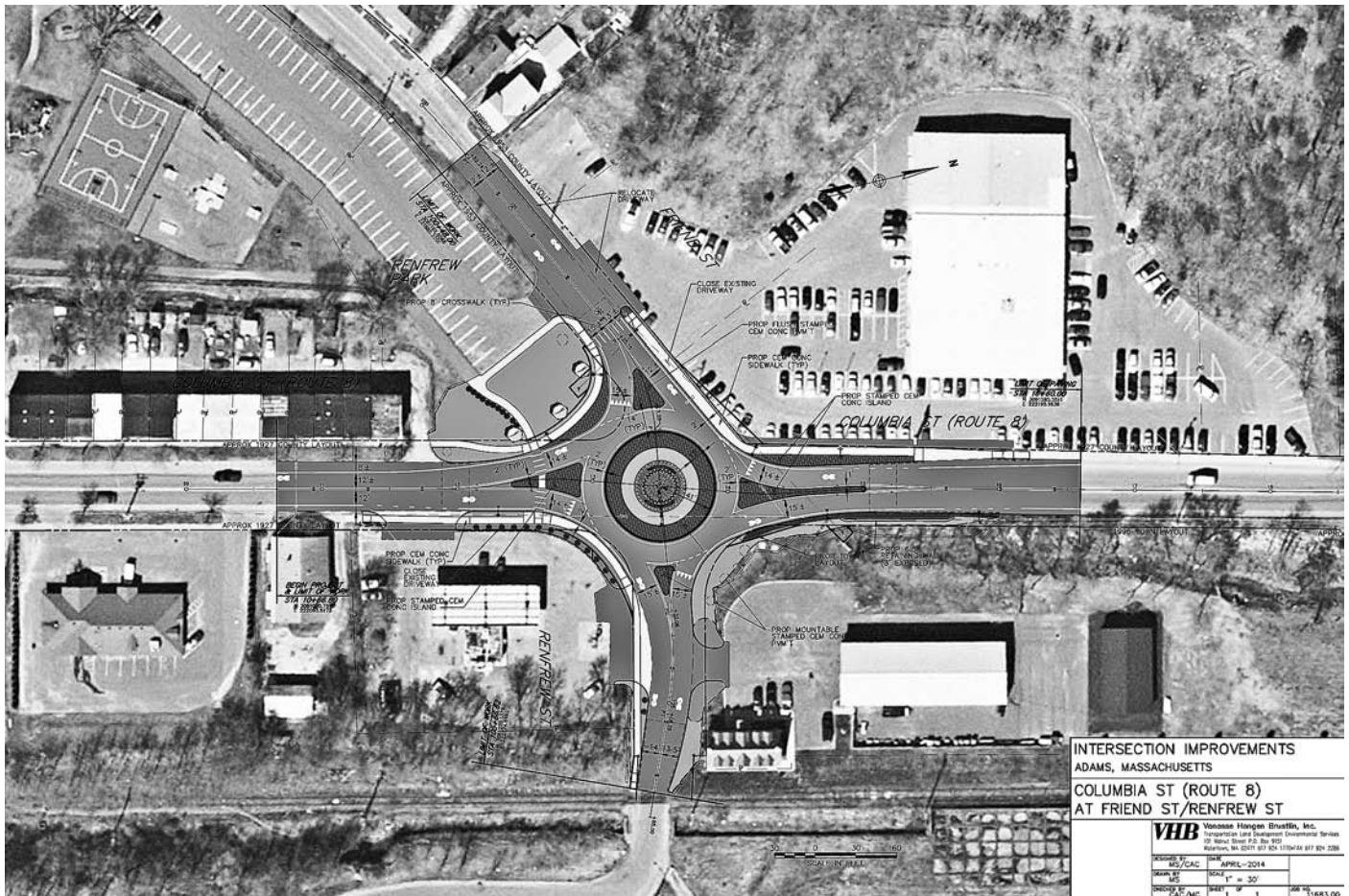
a car wash) undertaken by Sommer Electric, Inc. in May 2015. This work involved the installation of a new standing seam metal roof, new exterior wood siding, lighting, and decorative overhead doors. The cheerful and upbeat appearance of the site is designed to welcome visitors to downtown Adams – particularly those riding the new Hoosac Valley Service, the tourist train service between Adams and North Adams to be operated by Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum. While MassDOT anticipates funding to complete the additional six-tenths of a mile of new track, the Town of Adams is poised to offer an attractive and open park facility for residents, tourists and bike trail enthusiasts. The facility is adjacent to the popular Ashuwillticook Rail Trail. A Phase III extension of the trail is set to be constructed in 2016 and will run alongside the Adams Station Park.



Adams Station Project - before



Adams Station Project - after



Engineering schematic for the new Roundabout at the intersection of Route 8 and Friend Street

OTHER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Route 8 / Friend Street Intersection Improvement Project

Although Community Development staff managed the initial design contract and secured all necessary rights-of-way and easements allowing the project to go forward, the long-sought effort to complete intersection improvements at Route 8 and Friend Street is a state project. The Route 8 Roundabout Project was advertised for public bidding by Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) in fall 2014. C & A Construction Co., Inc. from Ludlow was awarded the construction contract. Construction of the project was initiated in spring 2015 and progressed smoothly through the remainder of the calendar year. Deterioration of the existing box culvert under the Friend Street/Route 8 intersection caused delays until repairs and replacement of sections of the culvert were completed in the fall. Completion of the \$1.4 million intersection project is expected to occur prior to the end of the 2016 construction season. When complete, the project will be the first modern roundabout in Berkshire County.

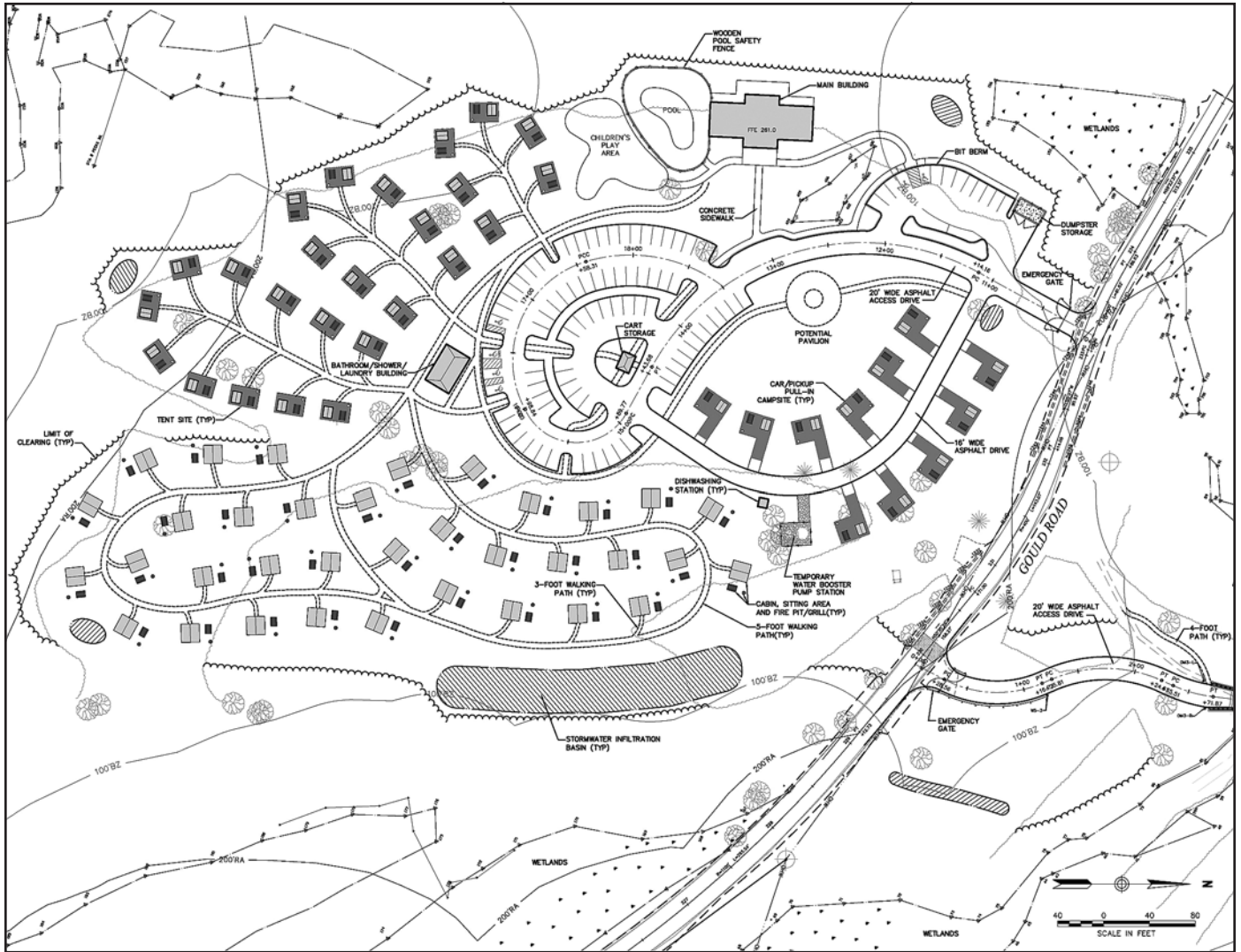
Ashuwillticook Rail Trail – Phase III Extension Project

Community Development staff worked throughout much of 2015 to secure the required rights-of-way, including both temporary and permanent easements, to allow construction of

the next extension of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail to advance to bidding. This third phase is approximately 1.2 miles from Hoosac Street to Lime Street in Adams. Although most land owners were supportive, the Town was unsuccessful in securing the necessary easements and executing required rights-of-way documentation from two landowners. Obtaining these easements required an exercise of the power of eminent domain by the Board of Selectmen in August 2015. The owners of these small land areas were justly compensated for the public use of their property. In completing this work and recording all required legal instruments by early September 2015, the Town was able to meet the deadline imposed by MassDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (the source of construction funding for the project) for advertising of the project. Public bidding by MassDOT was completed in the late fall of 2015 and a contract award is expected in early 2016.

Greylock Glen Resort Project

The Town continued to work on implementation of the Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Education Center project, the proposed four-season resort development located at Greylock Glen on the base of Mount Greylock. After achieving the major milestone in October 2014 of executing the Master Lease for the Greylock Glen project, the Town continued its partnership with the Commonwealth to successfully



Plans for the Greylock Glen Campground

redevelop 56 acres of land, as stipulated in the executed Master Lease. Now in control of the development portion of the Glen property, the Town has the ability to focus on development of the individual resort components.

In 2015, Community Development staff developed a grant application requesting support from the MassWorks Infrastructure Program in the amount of \$4.6 million. This investment would have completed all utility improvements for the project and constructed a 500-space event parking area, enabling the Town to fully capitalize on the development potential of the Greylock Glen property. The application's narrative emphasized that in order for the site to be attractive to private interests, the infrastructure must be in place. The Town was not successful in receiving an award but was encouraged to apply again when a developer partner for one or more of the components was secured.

During the next calendar year, the Town anticipates issuing the Request for Proposals for the campground developer/operator and it will also work to commence the design of the Outdoor

Center at Greylock Glen. The Town's preliminary building program suggests the new structure will be approximately 11,000 square feet and perform as a "zero net energy building." The building will include a welcome center, exhibit areas, four (4) classrooms, a multi-media room, concessions, and restrooms. The indoor welcome/orientation area will consist of a large open lounge with a large stone fireplace. It will include an information desk, exhibit spaces, maps of the site and nearby areas, and will offer brochures of regional attractions. A four-season cafe will open out onto the lounge allowing hikers, skiers, cyclists and the general public a place to find sustenance before or after their outdoor explorations. Classrooms and a multi-purpose room (lectures, film presentations, etc.) will provide facilities for environmental education programming. The Center will have a general public focus but may also be the location of a field station for the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts' growing Environmental Studies program.

The proposed Nordic Ski and Sport Center, to be operated by a private entity, will occupy approximately 3,000 square feet of the building and will include a rental area, locker rooms, storage, and office space.

Financial Reports

Board of Assessors

TAX RATE SUMMARY FOR FY 2016

a. Total amount to be raised	\$ 15,350,135.81
b. Total estimated receipts and other Revenue sources	- 4,620,116.00
c. Tax levy	\$ 10,730,019.81

Class	Certified Full and Fair Cash Value Assessments	Percentage Full Value Shares of Total Tax Levy
1. Residential	395,861,354	78.9152%
2. Open Space	0	0.0000%
3. Commercial	35,065,859	8.4963%
4. Industrial	27,933,752	6.7682%
5. Personal Property	24,021,368	5.8203%
Totals	482,882,333	100.0000%

Properties purchased by the State (FY2015):

Fritz property – East Mountain Road -	\$ 357,000 Valuation	263 Acres
Burke property – East Mountain Road -	\$ 6,400 Valuation	18 Acres
Alibozek property – East Mountain Road -	\$ 106,900 Valuation	102 Acres

The Board of Assessors would like to remind residents that a ten year revaluation is being conducted through 2016. The Department of Revenue mandates that cities and towns re-inspect and check the accuracy of the assessment data of all property approximately every nine to ten years. We would like to thank the residents of the Town of Adams for their continued cooperation.

Town of Adams

Schedule of Taxes Receivable

for the Year Ended June 30, 2015

	Uncollected Tax July 1, 2014	Add Commitments	(Add) Deduct Abatements and Adjustments	Add (Deduct) Prior years Tax Title Account	Deduct Collections	Correct Uncollected Tax June 30, 2015
REAL ESTATE						
2006 and older	71,621			(2,281)		73,902
2007	17,386			(5,509)		22,895
2008	41,469			(5,791)		47,260
2009	37,119			(5,076)		42,195
2010	21,752			(4,974)		26,726
2011	37,346			(5,365)	3,300	39,411
2012	65,342			(5,646)	10,248	60,740
2013	122,111				23,962	98,149
2014	388,623				177,427	211,196
2015	-	9,902,174	102,727		9,417,659	381,788
Total Real Estate	802,769	9,902,174	102,727	(34,642)	9,632,596	1,004,262
PERSONAL PROPERTY						
2008 and older	9,142					9,142
2009	2,333					2,333
2010	2,124					2,124
2011	961					961
2012	939					939
2013	1,296					1,296
2014	9,132				1,577	7,555
2015	-	544,804	1,513		537,972	5,319
Total						
Personal Property	25,927	544,804	1,513		539,549	29,669
Total Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes	828,696	10,446,978	104,240		10,172,145	1,033,931

Town of Adams

Schedule of Taxes Receivable

for the Year Ended June 30, 2015 *(continued)*

	Uncollected Tax July 1, 2014	Add Commitments	(Add) Deduct Abatements and Adjustments	Add (Deduct) Prior years Tax Title Account	Deduct Collections	Correct Uncollected Tax June 30, 2015
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE				REFUNDS		
2008 and older	45,770		70		958	44,742
2009	4,878				118	4,760
2010	3,548				439	3,109
2011	5,141				783	4,358
2012	8,663		94		2,864	5,705
2013	19,855	24	547		10,620	8,712
2014	112,220	96,347	14,928	8,682	186,329	15,992
2015		834,754	25,376	7,594	713,535	103,437
Total Motor Vehicle Excise	200,075	931,125	41,015	16,276	915,646	190,816
Grand Total Tax Receivables	1,028,771	11,378,103	145,255	(18,366)	11,087,791	1,224,747

Town of Adams

Reconciliation of Treasurer's Cash

June 30, 2015

As of June 30, 2015 cash consisted of the following balances:

Cash in savings, checking accounts and short-term investment accounts:

TD Bank	\$ 42,296
Adams Community Bank	2,142,295
Unibank	1,553,948
Keator Group	122,392
Century Bank	34,252
Value Line	9,125
Total	3,904,308
Petty cash	590
Total cash and short-term investments	\$ 3,904,898

Indebtedness

June 30, 2015

	Serial Maturity		Outstanding June 30, 2014	Addition	Retirement	Outstanding June 30, 2015
	Through	Interest Rates				
Town Hall/Police Station/Library	2028	2. - 3.00%	1,430,000	775,000	110,000	2,095,000
WWT Plant renovations	2028	2.00%	1,867,393		140,230	1,727,163
Tropical Storm Irene	2018	2.00%	152,700		38,300	114,400
Water Channel Improvements	2018	2.40%	280,000		70,000	210,000
TOTAL			3,730,093	775,000	358,530	4,146,563

Town of Adams, Massachusetts
Office of the Town Accountant
Statement of Operating Revenues and Expenditures
Budgetary and Actual - General Fund
for the year ended June 30, 2015

	Budget as Revised	Actual Expenditures/ Revenue	Surplus/ (Deficit)
REVENUES			
Property Taxes	10,378,450	10,272,485	(105,965)
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	774,000	912,867	138,867
Departmental receipts, licenses and permits	449,140	486,162	37,022
Earnings on invested funds	2,600	4,544	1,944
Total locally raised revenue	11,604,190	11,676,058	71,868
Intergovernmental revenues/Net of offsets	2,370,602	2,347,742	(22,860)
Total Revenues	13,974,792	14,023,800	49,008
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
Selectman/Moderator/Town Report	36,931	34,969	1,962
Town Administrator	233,008	220,252	12,756
Financial - Accounting/FinCom	228,102	223,113	4,989
Assessors	145,751	142,168	3,583
Treasurer/Collector	167,624	140,417	27,207
Town Counsel	39,688	39,137	551
Technology	152,786	149,028	3,758
Town Clerk/Elections/Registrations/Codes	149,412	134,880	14,532
Property/Liability Insurance	140,660	137,745	2,915
Total General Government	1,293,962	1,221,709	72,253
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT			
Conservation/Agriculture/Hist Commission	3,035	1,818	1,217
Planning/Zoning Board	11,557	9,366	2,191
Community Development	172,463	139,619	32,844
Building Inspector	160,362	157,503	2,859
Inspection Services/Wire/Gas/Plumbing/etc.	5,485	4,290	1,195
Total Community Development	352,902	312,596	40,306
PUBLIC SAFETY			
Police	1,709,078	1,564,019	145,059
Police Station	31,150	25,189	5,961
Emergency Mgm/Forest Wardens/Haz Waste	14,748	10,975	3,773
Animal Control	35,716	33,876	1,840
Parking Management	4,950	593	4,357
Total Public Safety	1,795,642	1,634,652	160,990
HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES			
Veterans Services/Memorials	149,138	147,333	1,805
Council on Aging	232,322	225,353	6,969
Board of Health	48,134	46,732	1,402
Total Health and Human Services	429,594	419,418	10,176

Town of Adams, Massachusetts
Office of the Town Accountant
Statement of Operating Revenues and Expenditures
Budgetary and Actual - General Fund
for the year ended June 30, 2015 *(continued)*

	Budget as Revised	Actual Expenditures/ Revenue	Surplus/ (Deficit)
EDUCATION - REGIONAL SCHOOLS			
Adams-Cheshire Regional School	5,243,351	5,243,351	-
Northern Berkshire Regional Technical	718,169	718,169	-
Total Education - Regional Schools	5,961,520	5,961,520	-
LIBRARY	293,833	278,641	15,192
PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDINGS, HIGHWAYS			
Public Buildings	429,903	396,544	33,359
DPW Administration/Tree Warden	157,985	145,355	12,630
Highways	1,434,292	1,408,831	25,461
Snow and Ice Control	231,000	230,487	513
Flood Control	600	-	600
Equipment Maintenance	272,640	246,298	26,342
Recycling Center	53,082	51,850	1,232
Wastewater Treatment/Collection	314,485	296,470	18,015
Total Public Works, Buildings, Highways	2,893,987	2,775,835	118,152
Employee/Retiree Benefits	1,082,984	1,055,896	27,088
CEMETERIES and OTHER			
Cemetery, Parks and Grounds	58,470	54,050	4,420
Recreation	14,000	14,000	-
Celebrations - Seasonal	2,200	2,199	1
Total Cemeteries and Other	74,670	70,249	4,421
Court Judgment	16,250	16,250	-
DEBT SERVICE			
Principal	358,530	358,530	-
Interest/fees	157,383	154,729	2,654
Total Debt Service	515,913	513,259	2,654
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS/EXPENDITURES	14,711,257	14,260,025	451,232

Town of Adams, Massachusetts

Office of the Town Accountant - Consolidated Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2015 (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 06/30/2015
Cash									
Petty Cash	590								590
Cash in Savings and Money Market Account	2,468,216	214,650	503,998	-2,956	77,619	601,610	41,076		3,904,213
Investments									
Accounts Receivable									
Personal Property Taxes	29,669								29,669
Real Estate Taxes	1,004,262								1,004,262
Allowance for Abatements & Exemptions	-555,554								-555,554
Motor Vehicle Excise	190,814								190,814
Tax Titles									
Tax Possessions	401,215								401,215
Departmental - PD Off Duty - due from Vendors							3,420		3,420
Departmental - Industry Sewer									
Departmental - Sewer/Water Liens AFD							5,558		5,558
Departmental - Veterans Services	138,250								138,250
Checks returned - ISF	823								823
Special Assessment - Demolition Lien	1,155								1,155
Departmental - Emergencies Agencies									
Departmental - Federal Grant Receivable			83,998	2,956					2,956
Departmental - Comm of Mass Grants									83,998
Departmental - Comm of Mass Chapter 90					437,876				437,876
Due from SRF - Federal Grant Small Cities I	17,550								17,550
Due from SRF - PARC St Grant	83,998								83,998
Due from SRF - Chapter 90	437,875								437,875
Amounts to be Provided for									
Payment of Bond								4,146,563	4,146,563
Debt Authorized & Unissued								215,000	215,000
Total Assets	4,218,863	214,650	587,996	0	515,495	601,610	50,054	4,361,563	10,550,231

Consolidated Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2015 (AUDITED) (Continued)

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 06/30/2015
Current Liabilities									
Warrants Payable	152,461								152,461
Payroll Payable	67,541								67,541
Health Insurance Withheld	80,554								80,554
Workmans Comp/PD Accident Payable	1,048								1,048
Taxes Withheld/Payable	2,861								2,861
Unemployment Payable	8,894								8,894
Misc. Withheld	11,597								11,597
Cafeteria Plan Withheld	130								130
Retirement Withheld	558								558
Contract Retainage	31								31
Due to General Fund			83,998	17,550	437,876				539,424
Due to Deputy Collector							17,422		17,422
Due to Commonwealth of Mass - F & G/FID							-404		-404
Miscellaneous									
Off-Duty Work							24,058		24,058
Deferred Revenues									
Real Estate & Personal Property Tax	478,377								478,377
Tax Liens	401,215								401,215
Motor Vehicle Excise	190,814								190,814
Tax Possessions									0
Departmental	138,250						3,420		141,670
Special Assessments	1,155						5,558		6,713
Due from Federal Government				2,956	437,876				440,832
Due from Comm of Mass Grants			83,998						83,998
Unreserved Fund Balances	1,477,724	214,650		-20,506					1,671,868
Fund Balances Reserved for Encumbrances	240,007								240,007
Fund Balances Reserved for Compensated Absences	157,646								157,646
Fund Balances Reserved for Trust Funds									
Restricted Trust Funds						468,544			468,544
Unrestricted Trust Funds						133,066			133,066

Consolidated Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2015 (AUDITED) (Continued)

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 06/30/2015
Fund Balances Reserved for Fed/State Grants			-6,740						-6,740
Fund Balances Reserved for Appropriation	580,000								580,000
Fund Balances Reserved for Gifts/Bequests/Revolving			102,651						102,651
Fund Balances Reserved for Special Purposes									
Reserved for Expenditure	228,000		322,538						550,538
Reserved for Emergency Spending - T/S Irene			1,551						1,551
Fund Balances Reserved for Capital Projects									
Reserved for Chapter 90					-437,876				-437,876
Reserved for Water Channel Improvements					28,244				28,244
Reserved for Old Town Hall/Library					12,419				12,419
Reserved for Library Renovation					36,956				36,956
Bonds Payable									
Inside Debt Limit - Town Hall/PD Station/Library							2,095,000		2,095,000
Inside Debt Limit - Water Channel Improvements							210,000		210,000
Inside Debt Limit - T/S Irene							114,400		114,400
Inside Debt Limit - MWPA							1,727,163		1,727,163
Bonds Authorized & Unissued							215,000		215,000
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	4,218,863	214,650	587,996	0	515,495	601,610	50,054	4,361,563	10,550,231

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, 2015

(AUDITED)

Excess	Fund Balance 06/30/14	Revenue	Expenditure	(Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditure	Operating Transfer In	Operating Transfer Out	Fund Balance 06/30/15
FEDERAL GRANTS							
Federal Community Develop Block Grant	1,807.00	1,041,735.00	(1,046,499.00)	(4,764.00)			(2,957.00)
Massachusetts Small Cities Program							
Total Federal Grants	1,807.00	1,041,735.00	(1,046,499.00)	(4,764.00)	0.00	0.00	(2,957.00)
STATE GRANTS							
State Aid to Libraries	26,444.00	13,799.00	(14,675.00)	(876.00)			25,568.00
Solarization/Energy Conservation	3,697.00		(2,879.00)	(2,879.00)			818.00
MEMA	662.00	4,884.00	(5,074.00)	(190.00)			472.00
Public Safety	29,868.00	60,097.00	(66,648.00)	(6,551.00)			23,317.00
Elderly	0.00	24,702.00	(23,683.00)	1,019.00			1,019.00
PWED - Cemetery Pres/Stormwater	8,410.00		(7,015.00)	(7,015.00)			1,395.00
Municipal Incentive - Riverways	0.00			0.00			0.00
Board of Health - Local Prep Grant	2,455.00			0.00			2,455.00
PARC - Grant - Train Station	(29,668.00)	302,792.00	(357,122.00)	(54,330.00)			(83,998.00)
Conduit Grant	2,343.00			0.00			2,343.00
Visitor Center/Events Committee	18,160.00	34,143.00	(32,433.00)	1,710.00			19,870.00
Total State Grants	62,371.00	440,417.00	(509,529.00)	(69,112.00)	0.00	0.00	(6,741.00)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS							
Parking Meter	59,054.00	4,695.00		4,695.00		(15,000.00)	48,749.00
Council on Aging	34,748.00	23,294.00		23,294.00		(25,000.00)	33,042.00
Technology Fund	52,619.00	25,986.00		25,986.00		(29,600.00)	49,005.00
Cemetery Sale of Lots	181,953.00	9,789.00		9,789.00			191,742.00
Tropical Storm Irene	1,551.00			0.00			1,551.00
Other Special Revenue Revolving & Gifts & Donations	113,338.00	81,062.00	(91,749.00)	(10,687.00)			102,651.00
Total Other Special Revenue Funds	443,263.00	144,826.00	(91,749.00)	53,077.00	0.00	(69,600.00)	426,740.00
TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	507,441.00	1,626,978.00	(1,647,777.00)	(20,799.00)	0.00	(69,600.00)	417,042.00

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, 2015
(AUDITED)

	Fund Balance 06/30/14	Revenue	Expenditure	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditure	Operating Transfer In	Operating Transfer Out	Fund Balance 06/30/15
NONEXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS							
Cemetery Perpetual Care Principal Only	405,096	5,150		5,150			410,246
Library - Plunkett Fund	23,392	95	(222)	(127)			23,265
Library - Saunders Fund	5,033	18	(18)	0			5,033
East Road Solar Bond	0	30,000		30,000			30,000
Total Nonexpendable Trust	433,521	35,263	-240	35,023	0	0	468,544
EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS							
Stabilization	260,453	1,089		1,089	43,108	(90,000)	214,650
Library - Saunders Fund	28		(28)	(28)			0
Cemetery Perpetual Care - Interest Only	26,179	1,418		1,418		(5,000)	22,597
Cemetery Maintenance	11,072	36		36			11,108
Cemetery Endowed Lots - Harrington/Hall/Plunkett	28,355	109	(260)	(151)			28,204
Scholarship - Hall/Low	26,910	107	(1,350)	(1,243)			25,667
Scholarship - Kruszyna	20,181	597	(11,708)	(11,111)			9,070
Scholarship - Town	7,262	7,208	(1,535)	5,673			12,935
Conservation Trust	9,288		(2,013)	(2,013)			7,275
Historical Preservation - Quaker Meeting House	16,141	68		68			16,209
Total Expendable Trust	405,869	10,632	(16,894)	(6,262)	43,108	(95,000)	347,715
TOTAL TRUST FUNDS	839,390	45,895	(17,134)	28,761	43,108	(95,000)	816,259

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



FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015



Adams-Cheshire Regional School Committee

*(L-R): Steven Vigna, James Ryan, Regina Hill, Edmund St. John IV,
Vice-Chair Darlene Rodowicz, Chairman Paul K. Butler, Superintendent Kristen Robinson-Gordon.
Absent from photo: Brian Astorino*

Report of the Chairman

Adams-Cheshire Regional School District

Paul K. Butler, Chairman
Darlene Rodowicz, Vice-Chair
Ed St. John
Regina Hill
Steve Vigna
Brian Astorino
Jim Ryan

Adams, appointed 9/00, elected 5/01, re-elected 5/04, 5/07, 5/10, 5/13
Cheshire, appointed 09/04, elected 5/06, re-elected 5/09, 5/12, 5/15
Cheshire, elected 05/11, re-elected 05/14
Adams, appointed 09/10, elected 05/11, re-elected 05/14
Adams, appointed 06/11, elected 05/12, re-elected 05/15
Cheshire, appointed 2/2013
Adams, appointed 09/2015

The 2015/2016 school year has been a year marked by passage of a difficult school budget, the implementation of programs and strategies, along with the addition of strategic personnel to help stem the tide of less than satisfactory standardized test performance. The school committee had a member resign this past year due to re-location. The open seat for an Adams representative was filled by the appointment of Jim Ryan of Adams. Welcome to the district Jim and best wishes as you adjust to your new role as a school committee member.

As you were probably aware, the budget for this year was a difficult one. Passage of this budget required a proposition 2½ override vote in the town of Cheshire. It is important to remember that the overall budget only went up around 3% and that included a significant increase in our health insurance. However, as has happened over the last several years, the amount that the state has increased our chapter 70 school funding has only gone up slightly. It simply is not keeping pace with the actual increases to costs associated with running this school district. Soon the school committee will be holding meetings to discuss the budget for next school year. Early projections look for next year to also be challenging. Anyone from the community is invited to these public budget hearings to learn just what we are up against as we put together a budget to educate your children for the 2016/2017 school year. Look for the meeting dates to be posted around late February through March. The school committee is required to pass a budget by the end of March for submittal to the towns.

As mentioned above, the school district has taken measures within the available means to enhance performance on standardized testing. We instituted Bay State Readers initiative. Reading coaches were hired. We hired a curriculum coordinator and a technology director. Additional technology has been instituted in every school. Additional academic requirements were placed on students at risk. All of these required funding but it was felt that these additions were necessary in order to improve scores throughout the district. While it may take time to determine any quantifiable measure of these changes, preliminary reports out of our building are positive. We certainly hope to see a turnaround take place over the next several years.

Maintenance of the three buildings within our district continues to be an enormous task. Even with a newly renovate 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. This year, thanks to the generosity of the taxpayers of Adams and Cheshire, the district was able to purchase a great number of "Chrome books". These low cost, easy to use computers enable many more students to work with technology much more often than what was previously possible. 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.

The current 2015/2016 school year has all of our union bargaining groups under contract. The paraprofessional group was the last unit to agree to their contract but all units are now on the same time table.

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 or have had 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. Support a pancake breakfast or spaghetti supper. 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 - 2015

It is respect and appreciation for the communities of Adams and Cheshire that I submit this report as your Superintendent of Schools. Thank you for giving me this remarkable opportunity to be the educator leader in these two wonderful communities. It is an honor, joy and privilege to be the Educational Leader of this district.

Our communities can be proud of the productive, skilled, and dedicated work that occurs in our three schools: Cheshire Elementary; C.T. Plunkett Elementary and Hoosac Valley Middle/High School.

Introducing the District Level personnel of the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District:

Sharyn Alibozek	Insurance, Grants, Retirees
Jeremiah Ames	Principal of Hoosac Valley Middle High School
Peter Bachli	Principal of Cheshire Elementary School
Lisa Bresett.....	District Administrative Assistant
Colleen Byrd	Dean of Students at Hoosac Valley Middle High School
Michelle Colvin.....	Principal of C.T. Plunkett Elementary School
Jacqueline Fortier	Director of Pupil Services
Kristen Gordon.....	Superintendent
David Hinkell	Business Manager
Mark Kline	Technology Director
Patricia Misiuk	Dean of Students at Hoosac Valley Middle High School
Jill Pompei.....	Curriculum Director
Erika Snyder.....	Assistant to the Business Manager
Chris Sposato.....	Vice Principal of Hoosac Valley Middle High School
Mary Ellen Sutliff.....	Administrative Assistant to the Director of Pupil Services
Laurie Vachereau.....	Payroll

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
Regina Hill.....	Adams
James Ryan	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 is 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 are a district that meets the needs of all students with all abilities and all interests.

We have consistent curriculum in both of our elementary schools and continued into Hoosac Valley Middle High School.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

The Adams Cheshire Regional School District has spent a tremendous amount of time examining and improving curriculum and instruction. The elementary schools are in their second year working closely with consultants from the Bay State Reading Institute to ensure that ELA instruction is consistent across the grades and schools. All teachers are using the Scott Foresman Reading Street program and supplementing with Project Read Phonics/Linguistics and Core 5. All teachers are trained in the same methods and strategies such as Reciprocal Teaching and the ANSWER routine for open response. There has been a huge focus on rigor and differentiation of instruction to meet the needs of all learners. We have also begun to weave science and social studies instruction into our reading block to ensure students have the knowledge necessary to succeed. Math continues to be taught

using Pearson Envisions and is supplemented with Moby Max and Lexia. This year, all teachers were trained in Framing Your Thoughts, a writing program that will support and enhance the work already happening in the schools.

At the middle school and high school levels, teachers have worked collaboratively on curriculum maps and formative assessments to ensure that the Common Core State Standards are being addressed at all levels in all subject areas. In ELA and math, teachers are looking critically at student scores on classroom assessments as well as on line assessments such as Track My Progress and through a program called Moby Max. Additional support has been put into place for middle school students who struggle in ELA and math through use of a “Discovery Program” as well as free after school homework help. A total of eleven Advanced Placement classes are offered in grades 9-12 in ELA, math, history and the sciences. Currently there are 134 students enrolled in these courses.

At the K-12 level, there is a focus on the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) to ensure that instruction is allowing for students to be highly engaged. Teachers are learning about various high engagement activities and a library of lessons and resources is being created for staff to access. There is much more technology in place for teachers to implement in their classrooms and for students to use to support their learning.

TECHNOLOGY

We are generally called the Technology Department or IT, but actually prefer the name “Digital Learning Support.” We have focused our efforts this year in three main areas:

1. One is to be sure that our digital resources are working properly to support learning.
 - a. To improve the operation of our equipment we have instituted a support system. When staff have problems or questions related to technology they can “submit a ticket” either through email or the school’s website. The tech staff can then respond and close out tickets when they’re finished. In this way requests don’t get forgotten and response time has generally been very good.
 - b. We have improved the operation and reliability of computers by producing better images.
 - c. Finally, we are also working to improve our documentation related to problem-solving and logistics.
2. Another focus has been to increase the effectiveness of how digital resources are used to help students learn and make the schools operate most efficiently.

In order to increase the learning value of our technology investment we are working with teachers and students to help them use devices in ways that increase student engagement.

- a. The addition of Chromebooks at both Elementary Schools has been a big help in giving students access to engaging tools.
- b. GAFE and gClassroom accounts allow students to access their work and resources at any computer, whether at school or at home.

One other focus in this area is developing tips and how-tos that teachers and students can access to learn how to do “tech things.”

3. Thirdly, we are working to improve the operation of the tools that help to do the business of the school district.

To maximize effectiveness of the “Business-Side” of things we are working to change the hosting of our Student Information System (MMS) and Financial System (IV) from our servers to hosting by CRI and Tyler. This will reduce the need to update servers here and increase features and reliability.

- a. Procedures to smoothly deal with accounts for staff and students as they come and go are being put in place.

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 (ACRS). 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. 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.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We value and enjoy the community partnerships that we have with the following organizations and agencies. Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Berkshire Community College, Berkshire Museum, Berkshire Humane Society, Berkshire County District Attorney’s Office, Berkshire County Sheriff’s Office, Youth Center, Adams/Cheshire/State Police, Adams/Cheshire Fire, Berkshire Taconic Foundation, Sabic, Northern Berkshire Community Coalition, Northern Berkshire Community Television, Berkshire County Homelessness Committee, Department of Families and Children.

BAY STATE READING INSTITUTE

For the second school year, our elementary schools have partnered with the Bay State Reading Institute to help support our goal of student achievement. The goals, as listed by the Bay State Reading Institute are aligned with our literacy goals within the 5 year literacy plan that has been created.

- Teaching techniques that emphasize synthesis, analysis, and problem-solving and result in higher-order thinking and deep conceptual understanding
- A focus on reading, writing, and speaking grounded in evidence from texts, both literary and informational
- A content-rich CCSS-aligned core curriculum
- Use of real-time data to guide classroom decision making
- Differentiated, small-group instruction with tiered intervention
- A re-organized school day that maximizes teaching time, intervention support, and common planning time
- Excellent principal leadership that provides teachers with vision, challenge, and support

MASSACHUSETTS MATH SCIENCE INITIATIVE

We are pleased to announce that Hoosac Valley Middle High School became partners with the Massachusetts Math Science

Initiative (MMSI). This is our first year as partners. As stated by the MMSI, Massachusetts is one of six states selected to participate in an innovative program led by **National Math and Science** to address the drastic decline in math and science education in the United States.

A five-year, \$30 million initiative, MMSI was organized by Mass Insight Education in partnership with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and private funders. We are very fortunate to have this opportunity.

MMSI drives a school culture of high expectations and dramatically increases participation and performance in Advanced Placement courses, particularly among underserved populations, to prepare students for college and career success in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

BUDGET

The budget was a concern for the fiscal year. The district had to make some difficult reductions in staff and programs. We will continue to work hard with the communities in an effort to provide the best education for our children, as the children are our future and it DOES take a village to raise a child.

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 (www.acrsd.net) 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 that 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 and High School

2015-2016 Annual Report

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

The 2015-2016 Hoosac Valley Middle and High School academic year was one in which students, faculty, and administration continued to build a culture of improvement, achievement, and mutual accountability. Students had many reasons to be proud of themselves; their contributions to the community, achievements on the field and on the stage, and pursuit of excellence in the classrooms make Hoosac Valley Middle and High School an exciting place to be everyday.

Again this year the HVMHS Leo Club students worked with members of Adams Community Bank to run the Movies Under the Stars, including setting up the Lions' trailer at two additional movie events. The Leos sold drinks and snacks at the Adams Street Fair in August, they sponsored a Welcome Back dance for the middle-school students in September, made Halloween goodie bags in October and delivered them to all Pre-K and Kindergarten students at CT Plunkett Elementary School, Cheshire Elementary School, Saint Stanislaus Catholic School, and Savoy Elementary School. They were also busy cooking pancakes at their annual pancake breakfast, they rang the bells at Wal-Mart for the Salvation Army, and they shopped for presents for 10 Northern Berkshire families in need! Finally, they have been running the HVMHS recycling program every Tuesday after school since the beginning of the school year.

The HVMHS National Honor Society has also engaged in community activities throughout the year. This year was particularly successful. The NHS conducted its annual induction dinner, which honored 14 juniors and 1 senior this year. In addition, the group facilitated a food drive for Saint John Paul Charity Center, and most successfully this year, NHS is running an after-school tutoring center every Monday through Thursday between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Approximately 2-dozen students in grades 8 through 12 access the tutoring center and work with NHS peers to brush up on skills in math, science, ELA, and history!

HVMHS Student Council members have been hard at work developing a proposal to rewrite the Hoosac tardy policy. Several students took the lead and developed a new plan, which offers some insight into why students might be tardy and how the school could better influence them into getting to school on time. They presented their ideas to the administrative team and are awaiting a formal answer. Additionally, Student Council members welcomed the incoming freshmen class with an ice cream social in September, held nominations for class officers, provided tours of HVMHS in August to students and families, and successfully organized the 41st annual Art Hathaway Elderly Dinner in December. Approximately 200 seniors from Adams, Cheshire, and Savoy feasted on a homemade turkey dinner (turkeys donated by the Big Y in Adams) and enjoyed music provided by the HVMHS jazz band and chorus. Currently, members are busy organizing the annual Snowball, which will be held in February, and they are also preparing for 2016-2017 officer nominations.

The band program continues to grow and show success each and every year, and this year is no exception. There are now over 100 students playing in the band program from grades 6-12, and that number is expected to grow even more next year. This year students had the opportunity to participate in a clinic with two recording artists from RS Berkeley instruments - Richard Boulger and Alex Foster - and will do so again this spring. All Band students performed in two concerts so far this year - one in December and another in January. In addition, the High School Concert Band will be performing a concert on March 30 in conjunction with the Eagles Community Band from Pittsfield. In April the Jazz ensemble will be performing a Jazz Night along with the Guitar ensemble from Wahconah Regional High School, and all band students will be performing in the annual Showcase Concert in May. Students in the High School band will also be performing both Memorial Day Parades in Adams and Cheshire and at Graduation in June.

HVMHS students are offered multiple opportunities in and out of the classroom. This year, students were presented with 11 advanced placement options, including biology, chemistry, physics, probability and statistics, calculus, English language, English literature, US history, world history, psychology, and human geography. Right now 81 students are enrolled in AP classes, and 126 tests will be administered in May. HVMHS has nominated students for the Berkshire Youth Leadership Program, Girls' State, and for the 411 in the 413. Students are exposed to vast opportunities to explore, discuss, and debate different interests regarding youth, becoming future leaders, and understanding politics. The School Counseling staff has facilitated a resume writing workshop after school and a scholarship workshop, and they have worked with freshmen by creating two social skills groups. In addition, 18 seniors qualified for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, entitling these students to four years free tuition at any Massachusetts institution of higher learning.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremiah Ames
Principal HVMHS

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 68-86 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 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. Special thanks to all of the teachers/staff who contributed submissions for this report; you are truly outstanding!

Enrollment Comparisons

Grade	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
Pre-K			61			
K	67	86	87	92	87	68
1	94	75	78	78	83	78
2	81	91	65	73	79	80
3	71	81	90	69	73	84
4	85	72	84	88	74	71
5	85	90	78	83	85	72
6	81	75				
Totals	564	570	543	483	481	453

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, and Mara Woolley

Grade 1

Mia Allessio, Amy Anderson, Aprillee Mazzeo, and Bethany Ricci

Grade 2

Elizabeth Alibozek, Christine Kirchner, Kelly Ryan and Barbara Steuer

Grade 3

Beth Bourdon, Dawn Bombardier, Ashley DePaoli and Anne Prudhomme

Grade 4

Allison Collins, John Duval, and Antoinette Marquis

Grade 5

Bridget O'Neil-Hopkins, Kale Skrocki and Jennifer Taylor

School-Wide

Principal: Michelle S. Colvin

Dean of Students: Patricia Misiuk

Title I Director & Literacy Coach: Dawn Bishop

Special Education: Nicole Crane, Dawn Daniels,

Joann Kingsbury, Christine Harrington and Travis Poirot

Math Interventionist: Lynne Robinson

Art: Terri Cooper

Music: Jonathan Rowe

Physical Education: Kathleen Hill and Dan Wehle

Elementary Coordinator: Mary Tanner

Title I: Deb Langner

School Adjustment Counselor: Nicole Seyerlein

Speech/Lang: Diane Arduini and Heather DiSanti

Occupational Therapy: Suzanne Harnick and Deb Silveira

Physical Therapy: Lora McGrath

ESL Specialist: Joshua Kellogg

Administrative Assistant: Julie Little

Main Office Para: Cheryl Steuer

Autism Specialist: Michelle McCaffrey

District Specialist: Kim Biagini

Library: Laurie Gavazzi

Nurse: Kari Ann Delsoldato

Cafeteria: Kimberly Briggs, Amy Garner, Frances Jamros,

Laurie Malloy and Linda Pelczynski

Daycare: Sharon Girard and Miriam Serrano

Custodians: Aaron Namislo, Mark McCarthy and Paul (Tito) Sniezek

Paraprofessionals: Pat Alibozek, Susan Barthe, Susan Burzimate,

Deb Ciempa, Brandon Crouse, Ashley Davis,

Amoreena Gazaille, Deanna Guettler, Shelley Jenkins,

Jennifer Kline, Susan Knapp, Dan Kondel, Donna LaBonte,

Karen Levesque, Barbara Mallet, Paula Meczywor,

Donna Mullany, Mary Murray, Shannon Speed,

Lisa Waltermire, Becky Zaleski and Jackie Ziarnik

ACRSD Partners with Bay State Reading Institute, (BSRI)

All teachers in grades Pre-K–5 began working with Literacy Coaches Dawn Bishop, (CTP) and Elaine Hunter, (CES) to embark on our partnership with BSRI and the goal of improving instruction, beginning in English/Language Arts, for all students. BSRI Principal's Coach, Judith Fletcher, comments *"BSRI provides the winning combination. We work as a team with school staff to make instructional decisions based on data while providing on-going professional development and coaching for every teacher and principal."*

BSRI's model includes:

- Teaching techniques that emphasize synthesis, analysis, and problem-solving and result in higher-order thinking and deep conceptual understanding
- A focus on reading, writing, and speaking grounded in evidence from texts, both literary and informational
- A content-rich CCSS-aligned core curriculum
- Use of real-time data to guide classroom decision making
- Differentiated, small-group instruction with tiered intervention
- A re-organized school day that maximizes teaching time, intervention support, and common planning time
- Excellent principal leadership that provides teachers with vision, challenge, and support

As a BSRI Partner, each school receives:

- Individualized coaching, modeling, and embedded training several days each month from a Principal Coach and a Literacy Consultant
- An array of professional development courses for teachers, reading coaches and principals
- Data meetings that integrate multiple measures of student performance
- Assistance integrating district, state and federal initiatives
- Support that is closely coordinated with district priorities

Introducing this model to our faculty, staff and students has been a huge undertaking and could not have been possible without the ongoing support of our Literacy Coaches, BSRI Consultants, our Superintendent, and School Committee.

Kindergarten Update:

The Kindergarten classes have been working on making friends, exploring centers and learning new curriculum. We are into our second year of the school-wide BSRI reading model for the Scott Foresman Reading Program. This model uses a center-based approach for peer teaching and learning. We are working on the alphabet, blending words and reading short stories. We love to share our take home books with our families.

We have enjoyed taking field trips around our community to places such as Jaeschke's Apple Orchard, the Colonial Theater, and Mass MoCA. The Adams Fire Department gave a wonderful presentation on fire safety here at C.T. Plunkett. We are so thankful for the support from our PTG and area community partners who help to make these trips possible and enjoyable for our students!

The Adams Community Bank has funded and helped our Kindergarten summer transition program for the past seven years. This funding has purchased t-shirts for the incoming Kindergarten students, school supplies for summer readiness activities and home activity bags.

Our Kindergarten program is NAEYC, (National Association of the Education of Young Children) accredited. This accreditation helps secure funding through State and Federal grants. We are proud to be an exemplary program.

Grade 1 Update:

We have been working hard at continuing the creation and implementation of exciting learning opportunities for our first grade students with the help of our BSRI coaches and our in-house support staff. We have seen positive results in student learning in both in reading and math. Our students thoroughly enjoy the many opportunities they have to work together as a team in small, peer-led groups.

We are happy to announce that the first grade team was able to win a technology grant through BJ's Wholesale Club in order to purchase iPad tablets for the classrooms. Geoff Kondel, our technology coordinator, headed this grant proposal with the assistance of our building principal and fellow first grade teachers. The students have truly enjoyed the addition of this technology into the classroom. It has allowed for each classroom to have a small computer center for daily use by students.

Our association with Mass MoCA has continued this year. The students have visited the museum for a tour and art making adventure as well as a Yogapalooza performance.

As always, we have continued to participate in family friendly events such as Bingo for Books, Literacy Fair, and Meet the Teacher Night. These activities provide a wonderful opportunity for students, teachers, staff and families to work together to ensure a sense of community as well as a positive learning experience for all.

Grade 2 Update:

In the fall, second grade took advantage of a multi-year grant and toured Mass Moca viewing their newest exhibits. The students were able to comment on artists and at the end create their own piece of artwork in Kids Space. The children always enjoy our visits to this museum.

During the holiday season, all second grade classes took the opportunity to visit the wonderful local business displays in town. All children were overjoyed with the gifts they received from the Adams Community Bank. Teachers followed up with beautiful thank you notes from each child expressing their appreciation.

In January, the students took part in a bullying presentation sponsored by the District Attorney's Office. The presentation was geared to explaining bullying at their level with the use of puppets. Students were able to share personal experiences and brainstorm ideas.

Throughout the year 2nd grade will work in conjunction with MCLA STEAM Staff to incorporate lessons into our curriculum. We all take advantage of the fun, spirit days offered to the staff and children at C.T. Plunkett. Of course, we will hold the annual “Alex’s Lemonade Stand” in June to support childhood cancer as well as a local youth that may be fighting a battle with cancer.

Added to our full curriculum this year is The Project Read Framing Your Thoughts Writing Initiative. Students are introduced to new grammar concepts and writing strategies to help improve stamina for the PARCC testing. We continue to be diligent with the Common Core Curriculum offering the students the most current educational experiences available to us.

Grade 3 Update:

Third grade continues to work diligently to implement strategies and curriculum that the district has been working hard on. Judy Loughlin and Judy Fletcher from the Bay State Reading Initiative continue to work with teacher teams to help implement a tiered model of reading instruction. The model consists of brief whole-group teacher led discussion, small group differentiated instruction for collaborative practice and independent practice. The students continue to respond positively to this delivery model and teachers continue to create learning center materials that support each week’s reading selection’s skills. Third grade teachers also work together in a collaborative atmosphere to create and share materials that can be used at these centers.

Students continue to use the Envision Math Common Core Program. Emphasis is being placed on the mastery of math facts, problem solving, and the everyday applications that math has in our changing world.

The third grade teachers worked hard last year through fundraising efforts to support and fund the Appreciating Wildlife Program that Gayle Raser, from the Massachusetts Audubon Program, implements with third graders at C.T. Plunkett each year. The fundraising efforts raised \$1,200, the C.T. Plunkett Parent Group donated \$1,000, and when the program had an unexpected increase, the third grade teachers took the initiative to write a grant to the William and Margery Barrett Fund for the \$800 additional dollars that were needed. Our grant application was well received and these funds were obtained. Due to these efforts on behalf of the third grade staff, all third grade students will benefit from 14 in-house class sessions with Gayle Raser that will focus on native Berkshire wildlife and other scientific topics. The children will also benefit from a field trip to the Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in June of 2016. This wonderful curriculum helps teachers to address many topics in the third grade science curriculum.

Wil Bourdon, an engineer with General Dynamics, will also be visiting all third grade classes to make a presentation about simple machines through the generosity of General Dynamics. Wil took the initiative to write a proposal and received funding for the materials for this presentation through his company.

In social studies, children keep up-to-date with current events by reading Scholastic News in class with their friends. The district purchases this valuable resource to bring the world inside the classroom.

Our students will be taking the PARCC online test this year in reading and language arts and math. Thanks to the generosity of the town, they will have Chromebooks to complete this testing on. The Chromebooks have been of invaluable help this year and have allowed students to practice their computer skills, participate in Lexia (an online reading program), investigate math topics with Moby Max (an online math program) and learn coding with Mr. Kondel.

In the spring, all third grade students will be planting flowers for the entire town to enjoy. This initiative began 11 years ago and the funds to support it have always been provided through the fundraising efforts of the third grade staff. Mr. John Trimarchi has been a part of this wonderful initiative from the start and always provides help and assistance on planting day. Michelle Whitney also provides help by giving the students the very best price that she can on the flowers to be planted. It truly is a community effort that we are extremely proud of.

In conclusion, the third grade teachers would like to recognize Fran Eichorn and her daughter Becky who devote their free time to volunteering here at C.T. Plunkett Elementary. Their love for our children and our town is to be commended!

Grade 4 Update:

Fourth grade is busy exploring a variety of topics across the curriculum. Both Math and ELA have continued and improved upon the implementation of Bay State Reading Institutes small group instruction model with an emphasis on differentiation. Students are learning to not only work cooperatively but self-monitor their fluency and comprehension.

In the area of Reading, our students are enjoying an array of nonfiction stories that accompany the fiction selections in the Reading Street basal. The reading series is helping the students to further develop their higher level thinking skills, such as predicting, clarifying, questioning, and summarizing. Students practice these comprehension skills in Reciprocal Teaching groups.

Project Read’s Framing Your Thoughts is our new initiative in process writing. After a review of sentence structure in the beginning of the year, students have learned how to write procedural paragraphs. This month we will be focusing on comparing and contrasting paragraphs. Throughout all of these genres in writing, students practice prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing.

In Math, we use EnVision, which exposes students to learning one concept in multiple ways. Students worked with multiplication and division both in the form of word problems and pictorial representations such as bar diagrams. This week, students began to learn about fractions starting with factors and identifying prime and composite numbers.

During the first term in Science, students studied erosion and weathering. To help the students better understand the power of water, they went on a PTG-sponsored field trip to Howe Caverns. Students were impressed by the magnitude of the caverns and the water’s capability to change the environment.

In Social Studies, students have begun studying the continents of the world and how to read both maps and globes while understanding the differences between the two. They are continuing to focus on writing to the text using the ANSWER model to respond to open-ended questions.

Grade 5 Update:

The fifth grade picked up right where it left off with the BSRI program. Students settled right into the routine of centers and rotations as well as picking up on the expectations of their new teachers quickly. Teachers are using this second year of BSRI to improve their instruction and are continuing to challenge their students daily during center work and at teacher table. Since the students really enjoyed working cooperatively with peers at centers, teachers have begun to implement center work during Math. Students are finding the math curriculum to be interesting, challenging, and most importantly, fun. The curriculum has an emphasis on long division, decimals, and fractions. For science during the fall term, 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 as well as the many different name brand items that you can find their product in! In the spring we will be studying populations and ecosystems finishing with a final project in which students present research on their ecosystems.

Students are now fully immersed into their Social Studies content. All classrooms are digging deeper into the history of America starting with the many Native American tribes found throughout the continent and becoming experts on some of the most famous explorers. To compliment their student of Early American History, a trip to Sturbridge Village is planned. Once there, they will find themselves immersed in the lifestyle of an early nineteenth century community. They will discover a life very different from their own.

During the month of March fifth grade students will once again 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.

Library

The C.T. Plunkett Library houses over 29,000 books, videos and magazines. The automated circulation and cataloging system makes it possible for students and staff to access the electronic card catalog. Approximately 5,600 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. For the past seven years the committee has sponsored a Literacy Fair which has been extremely successful.

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
- 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
- Book Fair breakfast for Faculty and Staff
- 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.

This year the staff at C.T. Plunkett has been working closely with consultants from the Bay State Reading Institute (BSRI) to learn how to better organize the classroom, manage routines and incorporate the most recent research-based methods and strategies to ensure each child's individual needs are addressed.

The role of the Title I Director shifted slightly this year to allow her to serve as a Literacy Coach and provide on going support to teachers through class visits, lesson modeling and weekly grade level meetings. In addition, the Literacy Coach facilitates monthly meetings with grade level leaders to analyze data, prioritize student needs, and provide follow up support in the instructional strategies identified by BSRI that will meet the expected rigor of the new Common Core Frameworks.

Not only are a multitude of supports provided throughout the school day, Title I also provides funding for extended day academic activities through the Homework Help Program. And, because it is known that increased family involvement in school activities translates into higher student achievement, the Literacy Coach sends home newsletters on a regular basis. Topics include the five components of reading along with helpful tips for home activities. 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, Movie Night and Math Night.

Reading Is Fundamental

C.T. Plunkett Elementary School is affiliated with the national RIF organization as part of its National Registry. This organization provides access to book suppliers who offer discounts to affiliate programs. The funding for our book distributions comes from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation. The goal of this program is to give children access to books and discover the joys and value of reading. The book distributions are enhanced by fun reading-motivational activities, designed to spark an interest in reading in our students. 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 plan the distributions, order books, make bookmarks, and provide the classroom activities for motivational purposes. This program is vital for children who have few or 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:

Jonathan Rowe teaches general music at C.T. 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 March 31, 2016 from 5-7 PM. Over 600 pieces of student artwork from grades 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 ceramics, 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.

Students are engaged in a vast array of different activities while participating in physical education. Those enrolled in the 3rd-5th grade levels learn sport skills to traditional and nontraditional sports, while also learning how to better communicate and resolve conflicts with classmates. 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. Some of the skills being learned include the overhand and underhand throwing technique, kicking a stationary and moving object, jumping rope, locomotor movements, and fleeing and dodging type activities.

All students participate in our "Kidnastics" unit which is an age-appropriate version of gymnastics, the NY Roadrunner's Mighty Milers Program, as well as our Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser event. Students are engaged in cross-curricular activities including math, history, health and language. For example, as a warm-up, students run laps and will give the teachers a word that starts with the letter of the week. 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

The current District Technology Plan continues to guide decisions in this vital area of educational practice. This year the District was able to increase internet-accessibility throughout the building by adding new cloud based access points. These access points allowed for the creation of a public network for guests of the building to access the Internet, while providing

valuable data to monitor and control internet traffic. Additionally the school received 120 new Chrome Books to help aid in the upcoming state computer based testing. Lastly, 9 iPad mini's were purchased through a BJ's Wholesale grant that was written through combined efforts of the technology department and Ms. Andersons first grade class.

We continue to update content and improve communication between school/community/families through our district and individual school webpages. There is more work to be done on individual teacher pages; hopefully we will see greater utilization in the coming months. We see this as an opportunity to give families direct access to homework assignments, classroom calendars, information and upcoming events, classroom policies and procedures.

Our on-line software offerings to students both in and out of school continue to expand. This year coding was implemented through the use of an online website *code.org*. Students in grades 2-5 have begun using this website to understand the basics of block coding. To go along with that new addition we continue to offer Lexia CORE 5 in grades Pre-K to 5; which are based on the 5 components of reading and are compliant with the CCSS, (Common Core State Standards). Accelerated Reader, a comprehension/vocabulary enrichment tool, allows students to read interest based titles at their level and then take short on-line assessments in each skill area. Our district had also added Moby Max to our list; this program can be used for practice in all areas of curriculum, (ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies). Classroom teachers can access the data from these programs to guide instruction for individual students. These programs can be accessed directly from our school website and used on the iPad, desktop, or android, within your web browser. We are excited by the opportunities these technology offerings afford to our students, their families and our staff.

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
- The Family Place (Backpacked for Success Program)
- Adams Library, Fire Department, and local banks (educational programs)
- Junior Achievement (Curl Up and Read)
- Hoosac Valley High School (Leo Club)
- Specialty Minerals, INC – (field trips)
- 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, office and classrooms in our school on a regular basis.
- Parent volunteers regularly work in classrooms, library and chaperone field trips.

***“One child, one teacher, one book,
one pen can change the world.”***

~Malala Yousafzai

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

2015-2016 School Year

It is my pleasure to once again be submitting this report as the principal of Cheshire Elementary School for my seventh time. We are currently at an enrollment of 244 students in grades Pre-K through 5. That is actually an increase of 8 students compared to this time last year. 2015-2016 has been another very busy year for Cheshire School. We hope this remains consistent and even grows as the year passes. Our building is fully occupied and we are using every bit of space and even have some staff doubled up in office space, so it is nice to have the capacity crowd. We are having to use the library as our conference room. Our maintenance staff is continually busy working to keep everything in working condition and stay a step ahead of all the issues that happen with an old building.

The educational staffing level at Cheshire School has been reduced after some significant cuts through the past few years despite last year's override vote. Our fifth grade class is a single group because we combined the two fourth grades. It is a sizeable group of 27 kids. We have also reduced the number of paraprofessionals to work in classrooms. This is tough when the population of special needs students continues to rise. As a result of a successful Red Sox ticket raffle and a generous donation from our Parent/Teacher Group, we have been able to return a half-time paraprofessional position 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. We currently have two sections of each grade level with the exception of the fifth grade. The remaining staff is made of veteran teachers who work well to make Cheshire School a real community. We did hire a new general music teacher, Mr. Jonathan Rowe, who replaced Tim Rougeau who resigned in November. Our longtime art specialist, Cheryl Sykes, celebrated her retirement in June and is enjoying a more carefree life. Mrs. Wendy Lamberton is our new art specialist and has done a great job of transforming our cellar space into a new art center.

As we work continually to meet the needs of our students, the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District's elementary schools have entered our second year partnered with the Bay State Reading Institute to provide a focused and consistent instructional model for our students. We continue to work with the personnel from BSRI to learn and implement this model in all of our K-5 classrooms. This model's goal is to be able to provide more small-group instruction that will better enable teachers and support staff to differentiate teaching and materials to meet the needs of our students whether the child is a struggling reader or above the norm. The model of instruction also gives students a greater responsibility with their reading and writing. The children learn to become better readers and writers while also gaining stronger organizational skills and self confidence. We will be working with BSRI for a total of three to five years to fully adopt all the aspects of this teaching model. It is our goal to master this instructional model and be able to improve student success. Mrs. Elaine Hunter, our half-time Reading

Coach/ half-time special education teacher has been, and will be, instrumental in making this all come together.

The Cheshire Parent Teacher Group (PTG) meets monthly to provide extra programs for the children and to plan fun events throughout the year. They run several fundraising events to be able to make it all happen! Any parent is welcome to join this organization. They meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the school. Please feel free to call the school to find out more about being a part of this helpful group. You can also find a great deal of information through the PTG web site at cheshireptg.org. A huge thank you to the wonderful PTG volunteers who work many, many hours to help the students and staff of CES. Our PTG officers are:

President: Karen Isbell
Co-Vice-Presidents: Elizabeth Namislo
Tanya Guerin
Co-Secretaries: Ashlynd DiLego
Elizabeth Greene
Co-Treasurers: Michelle Whitney
Arleigh Bradbury

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

Preschoolers have been working hard on our OWLs curriculum as well as incorporating BayState Readers Institutes' strategies. Interactive learning groups are conducted daily with differentiated activities presented at the child's developmental learning level in English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. Preschool children have been engaged in pre-reading lessons such as blending sounds to create words, segmenting, rhyming and learning letter sounds. For math students have engaged in activities that enhanced rote counting, numeral recognition, subitizing, counting object and measurement. Using small group instruction we are able to integrate social skills practice, Handwriting Without Tears, Project Read and Telian Lively Letters curricula in order to best meet the needs of diverse learners, this also provides a multisensory approach to learning.

The Preschoolers have been busy working on Lexia Core5, an interactive computer software that helps children strengthen their Literacy and Language Arts skills. This year we have been able to increase the use of Core 5 by utilizing the new Chrome Books donated to the school. To help provide more technology in the classroom, the preschool is implementing Moby Max, interactive software that also includes math practice. This year we have also incorporated the Second Step Curriculum to help with social skills practice. Second Step is a social/emotional

curriculum that teaches friendship, problem solving, and self-regulation techniques in a child friendly way through the use of puppets, songs and movement activities. The Preschool staff continues to follow Common Core standards and presents them in fun, motivating way to help children develop a lifelong love of learning.

Preschool Teachers: Laura Ziemba and Kelly Riechers

KINDERGARTEN

It's been another fabulous productive year in kindergarten.

In September, our classes had the pleasure of taking a walking field trip in order to honor iconic Cheshire School teacher, Mrs. Rose Graziani, in celebration of her 100th birthday.



Rose Graziani welcomes kindergarteners and fifth-graders from Cheshire School who came to wish her a happy 100th birthday.

The children were aware that Mrs. Graziani had taught their parents and grandparents. They were thrilled to sing to her and hold banners to acknowledge her special birthday! Friends and relatives gathered on her porch to join in the fun!



Early in the year, each Kindergarten student is assigned a 5th grade buddy/mentor. These students serve as tutors, friends and role models throughout the year as they get together for various academic and/or creative activities. This year the 5th graders wrote and illustrated personalized books for their buddies to take home at Christmas time.

Our students participate in our Accelerated Reader Program and are rewarded for extra curricular reading on a regular basis.



In the fall, our classes visited the renovated Mahaiwe Theatre in Great Barrington. We saw the production of favorite children's books, Goodnight Moon and Runaway Bunny.

Our students and teachers are enjoying the use of the chrome books (laptop computers) generously provided by the town in support of our technology. The children use them on a daily basis in order to increase their reading and technological skills.

We are also taking advantage of the computers and equipment donated by the Celtics. It was a thrill to have the corporation visit our school and interact with the team Mascot and a former Celtic player Leon Powe.

Our classes are benefiting from a partnership with MCLA to provide STEAM (Science, technology, engineering, arts and math) lessons that include interactive activities taught Dana Schildkraut.





In December, we participated in Yogapalooza, the first kids music and movement show which is now airing on Saturdays and Sundays at 8 A.M. and 10:30 A.M. on Z Living T.V. Network. Yogapalooza is hosted by Bari Koral and based on her award winning songs for children.

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

We are also excited to have our Senior Volunteers coming on a regular basis to assist us in the classroom. They have been extremely helpful in supporting our small group reading model! Thank you to Pam St. John Carleen Butler and Carmen Field-Mitchell for giving their time to help out!

We need to thank Bedard Brothers for their annual donation of books, which go directly into the children's hands and home to share with families. Thank you Bedard Brothers!

We will also have our Mexican Fiesta as a culminating celebration for the end of the year, as we showcase the Spanish that we have learned in preparation for the performance for our families.

Thank you to the support of our townspeople with all Cheshire School activities! You play a key role in our school's success!

Teachers: Robin Poirot and Heather Emerson



FIRST GRADE

The first graders have had many educational and fun experiences, while working on our fourth 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 2016 calendar. For science, we will study nutrition and the food pyramid over the next few months. Through a STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math) grant, we have been lucky to have Ms. Dana Schildkraut visit and teach some engaging lessons. We will continue to collaborate with Ms. Dana to develop more STEAM curriculum for our classrooms.

In October, we were invited to the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center to watch performances of the stories Goodnight Moon and The Runaway Bunny. Through generous grant funding, first grade classes were able to enjoy this field trip experience.

Reading is a large focus in first grade. This year, first grade has continued to enthusiastically embrace the new BSRI method of implementing reading instruction. We deliver most of our reading instruction in a small group setting. This is allowing teachers to spend more time with each student and provide more individualized instruction. 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.

Teachers: Mrs. Katie Chenail and Mrs. Melissa Rusek

SECOND GRADE

We are pleased to have two second grades this year. There are a total of 34 children, 18 in one class and 16 in the other. Second grade is a big year. The students are working hard to become strong readers who are reading to learn. As in past years, students have shown a strong interest in informational text. This is our fourth year with the Scott Foresman reading series, "Reading Street." The series' use of informational text has only furthered their interests and willingness to learn about the world around them. In addition, we are using the Bay State Reading Initiative model for classroom instruction. This enables us to deliver targeted small group instruction while other students work together in center activities that develop their reading and writing skills.

The students are developing their writing skills as part of the reading and writing connection. 6+One Writing Traits continue to be included in our writing instruction to assist students in developing their individual voices as they learn to write from different perspectives. Handwriting Without Tears is the instructional model for penmanship. This year cursive will be introduced and taught to all second graders. In math, developing mastery of addition and subtraction math facts, along with problem solving skills, has remained the primary focus of our curriculum.

We are both very happy to be participating in an ITQ STEAM grant in collaboration with MCLA to develop science lessons in the classroom. We have developed a close working relationship with Dana Schildkraut who has a wealth of science knowledge as well as great suggestions for how to integrate the arts into math and science curriculum. Our second graders look forward to Dana's visits, and we can't wait to implement our new science lessons with Dana's support.

The foundation of our instructional curriculum is based upon students learning how to be good citizens within our classrooms as well as in the larger Cheshire School community. Activities, lessons, learning centers, and the 2nd Step Program are ways in which positive social interactions are both modeled and practiced among our students throughout the year. Activities and classroom discussions focusing on character traits, acts of kindness and respect for others is a key part of our second graders' education. Our second graders are working hard every day to be prepared for third grade.

Teachers: Stephanie McCarthy and Kim Trimarchi

THIRD GRADE

A look at third grade!

Third Grade is a big growth year. We are in the second year with our partners, the Bay State Reading Institute. We continue implementing more small group time and centers that allow the students to work collaboratively with one another to improve their reading and writing. We are learning to read with improved fluency, so we can better focus on comprehension. We are also developing an expanded vocabulary to enhance both our comprehension and writing. In writing we are learning the importance of the prewriting strategy, how to write for a particular audience, and developing more in-depth sentences. We are now increasing the rigor and student expectations as we have seen growth from the previous year's work through BSRI.

At the beginning of the year we were reviewing our math facts and then working our way into memorizing our multiplication facts. We will also be working with simple fractions, manipulating and reading basic graphs, understanding the concepts of area and perimeter, and most importantly be able to apply math to everyday activities.

We hope to go on field trips connected to our science/social studies curriculum this spring. This year we are venturing into taking the new PARCC test in Language Arts and Math in the spring. There's never a dull moment in third grade.

Teachers: Mrs. Dawn Prokopowicz and Ms. Danielle Taylor

FOURTH GRADE

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 the objects we had been talking about in class.

This year, we are in our second successful year of working closely with representatives from the Bay State Reading Institute to continue with this innovative program. BSRI has a

strong emphasis on students working closely with one another in pairs and small groups. In addition, assignments are being tailored to the specific needs of each student. This year we are starting a new initiative to encourage respectful debate among students. We are using a program called Accountable Talk to help develop sentences that are thoughtful and courteous.

We have a new writing and grammar program that is being used at all grade levels to ensure fidelity of instruction. The program is titled Framing Your Thoughts. It emphasizes the structure of a quality sentence and transitions to paragraph development.

The fourth grade has been taking advantage of our new state-of-the-art computer lab and mobile Chromebook cart. Our computer tech, Goeff Kondel, has been helping us teach lessons on computer coding. Our students have also enjoyed his Lego Robotics lessons.

The students in fourth grade are devoting a great deal of time to writing. Elaine Hunter, our special needs teacher/reading specialist, has been collaborating with us on a variety of on specialized reading/writing lessons. We have been working at using our time wisely and focusing on students' individual needs.

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

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 have enjoyed learning through the Bay State Reading Institute (BSRI) model for a second year, which focuses on small group instruction, high levels of student engagement, and differentiated learning. Fifth grade has seen amazing growth working with this model.

Special events that take place in the fifth grade are Nature's Classroom, Berkshire Theatre Festival's Artist in Residency and several field trips. These programs allow students to grow creatively and see themselves in new and exciting ways. The fifth grade students also participate in the Kindergarten Buddies program in which each fifth grade student is assigned a specific kindergarten student to be their "buddy." The fifth graders spend a short amount of time each week working with their buddy on many projects throughout the year. They form close relationships with their buddies and develop important traits in becoming role models. The fifth grade students were also able to attend a field trip to Specialty Minerals, where they had the opportunity to learn some important history of the area that tied in with a unit on rocks and minerals. As the year progresses, the fifth grade students are also involved in a transition program in which they attend a couple of short trips up to Hoosac Valley Middle/High School. They are able to meet some of their potential teachers as well as learn about different extracurricular activities that middle school students can participate in.



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: Mr. Justin Luciani

ART

The Cheshire School Art Program is being taught by Mrs. Wendy Lamberton. Mrs. Lamberton came to Cheshire from C.T. Plunkett following the retirement of long-time Art Specialist Cheryl Sykes. Mrs. Lamberton has set up a new art center in the basement area and the students are enjoying the added space. Their beautiful work can be seen decorating the walls of the school's hallways. There will also be an art show in the spring to showcase the projects the students have worked on for the year. Being exposed to the various mediums and art forms, helps children to discover their talents and passion beyond the regular school curriculum. For many, this is the seed to a career in the arts or a love of it at the very least.

Teacher: Mrs. Wendy Lamberton

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Cheshire Elementary School 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 program learns how to physically perform a skill, the rules involved and the social aspect surrounding that activity or sport.

Students are engaged in a vast array of different activities while participating in physical education. Those enrolled in the 2nd-5th grade levels learn skills to many traditional and non-traditional sports including soccer, football, basketball, hockey, volleyball, and badminton. While actively engaged in a sport students also learn how to better communicate and resolve conflicts with classmates. 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. Some of the skills being learned include the overhand and underhand throwing technique, kicking a stationary and moving object, jumping rope, locomotor movements, and fleeing and dodging type activities.



All students participate in our "Kidnastics" unit, which is an age-appropriate version of gymnastics, the New York Roadrunner's Mighty Milers program and our third annual Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser event. Students are engaged in cross-curricular activities to include math, history, health, and language. For example, as a warm-up, students run laps and will give the teacher a word that starts with the letter of the week. 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 are also motivated in P.E. through the use of the "Sunshine Wall." Students are allowed to sign the wall by grade level with an erasable marker when they do something positive, such as answering a question or using sportsmanship. At the end of each month the student(s) who have signed the wall the most are rewarded and we start from the beginning for our new month.

Students with special needs have been actively engaged in the PE program where they get 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 newsletter and by visiting the Cheshire Elementary School website.

Thank you.

Teacher: Mr. Dan Wehle

MUSIC

The students at Cheshire Elementary School also participate in weekly Music classes. Each semester, there is a musical performance where the children's talents are showcased. The children learn the basics of musical literacy – reading and writing music – and begin creating and writing down their own music. Students also learn to play a variety of instruments, including keyboard, guitars, recorders, and several percussion instruments. Besides this, students are taught about different composers and genres of music. They enjoy singing many different songs, alone and with others, in groups and parts.

All students learn how to match pitch and sing in tune, something that has recently been lost to modern society with the increase of electronics and commercial music. The art of improvisation is emphasized, in both the singing and playing of instruments, so students can stretch their creative impulses and abilities to the limit. Students also learn how to move musically, focusing on a variety of folk dance styles. An emphasis is placed on the ability to move rhythmically to a beat, as well as to work together in groups and partners to bring music to life through movement and dance. On top of all of this, students learn to analyze and appreciate their own music and the music of others, both for music's innate aesthetic qualities, and for its ability to relate to other areas of life.

The CES Chorus, comprised of students in grades 3-5, meets once per week to sing more advanced, challenging pieces for a year-end concert. Students enjoy learning to apply the skills learned in music class to a performance setting. Selected music includes both popular songs and classical pieces.

Thank you,

CES Music Education Specialist: Mr. Jonathan Rowe

THE REST OF OUR CHESHIRE SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TEAM

Administrative

Assistant – Paula Ciskowski

Special Education – Elaine Hunter (½ time)
Open position

**Speech & Language
Pathologist –** Judy Sirard

**School Adjustment
Counselor (1/2 time) –** Jennifer Renzi

**Technology
(Mon. & Weds.) –** Geoff Kondel

Building & Grounds – Dave Richards
Stash Cote

School Nurse – Philip Grover

Cafeteria – Cindy Gajda
Denise Moncecchi
Marianne Mirke

Extended Care – Jenn Mach - Coordinator
Jon-Luc Goodrich
Clara Wilusz

Paraprofessionals:

Shannon Badorini	Linda Bonnavier
Kathy Bradbury	Monica Carpenter
Judy Gaylord	Linda Giroux
Jon-Luc Goodrich	Noreen Hoag
Julie Lech	Kathy Malloy
Sue McLearn	Susan Randall
Clara Wilusz	

Library/ Gr. 3

Paraprofessional – Karen Isbell

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

Autism Specialist – Kim Biagini

Occupational Therapy – Suzanne Harnick
Deb Silverio

Physical Therapy – Lora McGrath

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 Mass. State Police from the Cheshire Barracks 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 funding for our Homework Help Program. Greylock Credit Union and the Adams Community Bank provided scholarship funds for students to attend Nature's Classroom in March. Adams Community Bank also awarded Cheshire School a generous donation for new playground equipment. Larabee Landscaping and Whitney's Farm Market have been generous with their products, time and talent to help our school grounds and entrance look beautiful. Bedard Brothers Auto dealership sponsored a literacy outreach project that provided books to 100 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. 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 individuals and 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 2015 athletic program had over 300 student athletes participate in 27 varsity and sub-varsity programs that compete in the Berkshire County League. We also have cooperative teams in ice hockey, swimming, and wrestling.



Girls Basketball – State Finalists

In the winter the Boys and Girls Nordic Skiing teams competed in both Western Mass and State championship skiing. The Girls' Swim team had a remarkable season with Hoosac freshman standout Ellie Field placing in the top ten in both the Western Mass Division I tournament and State Finals. The hockey team, which is a cooperative team with Wahconah, won the Western Mass Championship, with help from Hoosac forward Nate Lapine. The highlight of the winter season was the inclusion of both our boys and girls basketball teams in the Division III state championship. Both boys and girls teams won the Western Mass tournament at UMASS Amherst's Cage. They continued winning all the way to the State Championship game, where we became only the second school in history to have both teams playing in the final game. While both teams lost to their Eastern Mass opponent they represented our school with determination and class.

This spring was the last season for veteran boys baseball coaches Bob Rivard and Paul "Tito" Sniezek, who have both



*Coach Bob Rivard and Paul "Tito" Sniezek
with the 2015 Boys Baseball Team*

put in over 20 years of service. Bob was subsequently inducted to the Massachusetts Coaches Hall of Fame. Our baseball team again qualified for the tournament, where they faced Greenfield in the Western Mass sectionals. The Girls Softball team (12-6), who was relatively young, rebounded under returning head coach Mike Ameen. They made it all they way to the Western Mass sectionals where they fell to #1 seed Monson in a two-run game. The Boys and Girls Track teams, qualified for Western Mass and State meets. The boys were led by the Hoosac 4x100 relay team who qualified for the states and county MVPs Dante Sandifer and Trevor Ciempa. Hoosac Boys and Girls Lacrosse are continuing to build competitive programs.

In the fall, the football team had another excellent season under the direction of Coach Dayne Poirot and his staff. They won the Division 5 Western Mass first round sectional, defeating Frontier at Renfrew Park. They beat Taconic at the Western Mass final played in Northampton, and represented Western Mass in the state sectional tournament where they



Football – 2016 WMAS Championship

were matched against Northbridge for the second time in as many visits to Leominster's Doyle Field. The Girls Soccer team found a new direction with head coach Kathy Budja and were highly competitive in the northern division. The Boys Soccer team was also under new leadership, with head coach Mike Russo helping to rebuild a young program. Rounding out fall sports, the Boys and Girls Cross-Country running team both qualified for the Western Mass and state tournaments. The golf team competed in the Northern Division, where they beat rival Drury at their home course for the first time in many years.

In all, the students, coaches, administrators, and parent booster groups worked very hard to maintain a quality sports program, which has made the Hoosac Valley Hurricanes respected across the state.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Heneault
Athletic Director

Director of Food Services

In 2014 - 2015, the Adams Cheshire Regional School District continues to participate in the National School Lunch Program & The School Breakfast Program, Special Milk Program, USDA Commodity Distribution Program & the Summer Food Service Program. This year, we have participated in a new program through the USDA called Department of Defense (DOD) Fresh Fruits & Vegetable Program (FFAVORS). Berkshire Head Start continues to receive breakfast & 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 & paper products on a county wide basis.

For the 2014-2015 school year, the food service department had a loss of \$9,000 on revenues of \$606,956. Government subsidies represented 58% of the total revenue.

The percentage of students who qualified for free/reduced meals was 51% at the end of June 2015, up from 42% at the end of June 2014.

USDA Commodities valued at \$29,500.54, were received in 2015.

No price increase was initiated for the 2014-2015 school year.

Prices remain at

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

Participation to the reimbursable school lunch program for the 2014-2015 school year was 59.6%.

Participation to the reimbursable school breakfast program for the 2014-2015 school year was 16.2%.

We operated three kitchens to 2014 -2015. Our online payment for parents who want to put money on their child's account continues to be well received. In 2013-2014, deposits totaled \$30,508. In 2014 -2015, deposits totaled \$32,000.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne Schutz
Food Service Director

ACRSD Special Services

2015 Annual Report

The ACRSD Special Services Department continues to support and develop programs to meet the unique needs of our students. It is the mission of the Adams-Cheshire Special Services 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 classroom and 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 content areas including reading and math, are part of the remedial and inclusion support that students receive during the school day. Special Education teachers and paraprofessional support staff are trained to provide such support and create specialized lessons and materials. Other services for students are provided by Speech and Language Pathologists, Speech Assistants, Occupational Therapist, Occupational Therapist Assistant, Sign-Language Interpreter, tutors, and an 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, Teacher of the Visually Impaired - Richard Ely, 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, educators, 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 an older student is referred for special education, parent consent is sought and an evaluation is conducted. The district has hired a .2 school psychologist, Michael Vecchia, as well as contracted with Hillcrest Educational Support Services to assist in the intake and identification of students who may qualify for special

services and provide recommendations for teachers working with them. District special education staff is also specially trained in research-based evaluation tools for identification of a disability. Our diagnostic prescriptive specialists and outside evaluators provide the district additional information to determine eligibility and design programming individualized for a student.

Our National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) approved Early Childhood program includes our preschool and Kindergarten classrooms. 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 serve on various committees for curriculum, community and family outreach, and maintaining high quality, NAEYC-approved status.

Our district also participated in the Massachusetts Kindergarten Entry Assessment (MKEA). The MKEA is a state-mandated evaluation method to measure student growth in Preschool and Kindergarten. This assessment is developmentally based. Teachers use observation checklists in the areas of social-emotional and cognitive skills to monitor growth over the school year. The district has adoptive Teaching Strategies Gold as the tool staff will use to monitor this growth in Preschool and Kindergarten, and the reports generated will be used as the district report card for those grades.

The Elementary Level of Special Services provides experienced special education teachers and support staff to students with special needs in both Cheshire School and C.T. 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 continues to increase. 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 provide a therapeutic setting at C.T. Plunkett for students requiring a higher level of support and intensive therapies. Michelle McCaffrey has been hired as the teacher of this program. Travis Poirot, a special educator, also facilitates a substantially separate program at C.T. 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 2015, we welcomed Nicole Crane as a special education teacher at C.T. Plunkett Elementary. Mary Whitman has retired from teaching this year. She has left her mark on early education at Adams-Cheshire and will be sorely missed!

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. We welcome Grace Mauk as the new High School EP special educator. 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.

Another program that was created to meet the diverse needs of our students is the Emotional Support Program. This inclusive program is run by special educator, Jamie LaMour, with support from the School Adjustment Counselor, Lorianne Moro. The Emotional Support Program (ES) provides safe support and non-threatening structure for special education students, grades 9-12, who have demonstrated a history of significant lack of success in school adjustment/achievement due to emotional factors. Techniques in behavior management, group dynamics, and emotional development are employed to develop the skills necessary to make satisfactory success across school and life domains. Students within the Emotional support program attend

classes in an inclusive setting from content area teachers with close monitoring from their liaison and special education staff, with academic support and counseling services provided. The ES room is a "safe place" for a student to go to when they struggle with their day to day emotions, need to decompress or process issues with caring staff, and need redirection to maintain positive relationships and build self-esteem.

At the middle and high school levels, special education teachers offer academic support programming. The teachers consult with classroom teachers on a regular basis in order to facilitate success in the most inclusive setting. Addition services are provided as needed for remediation of reading and math skills.

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. Tutoring is also provided on an individual or small group basis to maintain academics. 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 out of district, where they are monitored by the special services department.

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. The district has joined the Massachusetts Parent Advisory Council and set up informational workshops with community agencies and Title I to assist families with students with special needs. Anyone interested in joining the SEPAC should contact the ACRSD special services director.

The Special Services Department has expanded to support and monitor students who are homeless or have English as a Second Language. An (ESL) English as a Second Language teacher, Joshua Kellogg, provides additional instruction and support to English Language Learners in all district buildings. Mr. Kellogg also works with the Director to maintain compliance and consults with staff to support ELLs in the classroom. Our English Language Learner (ELL) students participate in "Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State (ACCESS)" testing. This assessment is given to students identified as ELLs in Kindergarten through 12th grade

to identify their English proficiency in reading, writing, thinking, and speaking. Our students worked diligently on this assessment and the data obtained has helped the district better determine the best educational approach for each of the students who participated.

The Special Services Department is small but hardworking. Mary Ellen Sutliff is the Administrative Assistant to the Director and is an invaluable asset to the district to maximize the department's efficiency and compliance standards. Kim Biagini continues as the District Specialist with additional duties this year due to the loss of the Special Services Supervisor. Mary Tanner has joined us as an Elementary Coordinator. She and Mrs. Biagini are available to all district buildings not only to support staff and students, but also assist the director in the consultation and training of staff, attending TEAM meetings, and providing input in continual program improvement and compliance. 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

Special Services - Special Education Population as of Oct 1, 2015				
Grade	Cheshire	Plunkett	Hoosac	Tuited Out
PK	28	3 Drive-By		
K	5	8		
1	4	26		
2	4	16		
3	2	18		
4	6	17		
5	4	12		
6			20	
7			28	
8			24	
9			25	
10			17	
11			18	
12			18	
12+(to age 22)			3	1
Total School	53	100	153	1
Total In-District 307				

ACRSD SPECIAL SERVICES STAFF

STAFFING	POSITION	STAFFING	POSITION
Jacquelyn Fortier	— Director of Special Services	Michelle McCaffrey	— Special Education Teacher Cheshire/CT Plunkett
Mary Tanner	— Elementary Coordinator	Rebecca Cohen	— Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Mary Ellen Sutliff	— Administrative Assistant	Lisa Folino	— Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Diane Arduini	— Speech Language Pathologist CT Plunkett	Elizabeth Namislo	— Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Judith Sirard	— Speech Language Pathologist Cheshire Elem./HVMHS	Brandon Noyes	— Exceptional Program-EP HVMHS
Suzanne Harnick	— Occupational Therapist	Seth Jenkins	— Special Education Teacher Inclusion HVHS
Deb Silveira	— Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant	Grace Mauk	— Exceptional Program-EP HVMHS
Lora McGrath	— Physical Therapist	Christopher Tamburrino	— Life Skills Program HVMHS
Nicole Crane	— Special Education Teacher K-1 CT Plunkett	Jamie Lamour	— Emotional Support 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	— Teacher of the Visually Impaired
Christine Harrington	— Special Education Teacher 3-5 CT Plunkett	Greg Delisle,	— Director Willie Ross School for the Deaf
Travis Poirot	— Exceptional Program CT Plunkett	Eileen A. Daneri	— Teacher of the Deaf
Kim Biagini	— District Specialist	Stacey Ellery	— Interpreter/Sign Language
Laura Ziemba	— Preschool/Special Education Teacher District	Joshua Kellogg	— ESL Program
Kelly Riechers	— Preschool/Special Education Teacher District	Amy O'Brien	— Perkins Teacher of the Visually Impaired
Elaine Hunter	— Special Education Teacher Cheshire Elementary		

Business Administrator

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

The FY2015 operating budget increased by only 8/10th's of 1% over the FY2014 operating budget. Many factors contributed to this. First, the Superintendent and the School Committee did a great job in holding down costs without adversely impacting the educational programs in the District. Second, the Berkshire Health Group voted not to increase health insurance rates for the second year in a row. Third, a decrease in the number of Adams and Cheshire resident middle/high school aged children opting to enroll in the local charter school or choosing the school choice option.

The Foundation Budget Review Commission issued its final report in October 2015. It noted that the actual costs of health insurance and special education costs have "far surpassed the assumptions built into the formula" for calculating the foundation budget. Unless the state provides additional resources to address these shortfalls, the foundation budget funding will fall farther behind the actual needs of school districts. As a result the member towns will be required to fill the gap. This along with many other factors will put increasing pressure on District officials to develop creative solutions to meet the needs of a 21st century school system.

In spite of all of these favorable impacts, the continued lack of adequate increases in the Chapter 70 aid from the state, the town operating assessments still had to be increased by 3.0% for Adams and 2.5% for Cheshire. The foundation budget provided by DESE is supposed to provide enough funding for school district's to provide an adequate education for the school district's students. That being said virtually every non-vocational school district in Massachusetts has to spend significantly more than what the foundation budget provides.

The Department of Revenue certified the ACRSD's Excess & Deficiency or E & D so called, as of July 1, 2015 as \$669,668. This amount was 3.5% of the total FY2016 budget, which is \$19,106,529. A regional school district is allowed to retain up to 5% of the succeeding years budget of their certified E & D. That being said, the ACRSD has consistently used a significant portion of their available E & D to reduce the town assessments each year. In FY2015 and FY2016 this amount was \$300,000 and we anticipate using a similar amount as a funding source for the FY2017 budget. However, this will depend on how the FY16 projected fund balance looks as we proceed through the year.

At the close of the current fiscal year, total assets exceeded total liabilities by \$20,860,673, a decrease in comparison to the prior year.

There was a \$28,088 increase between the original budget and the final budget, which represents an amendment to transfer funds to the capital projects fund. This increase was funded through surplus (excess and deficiency).

The investments in capital assets at year-end amounted to \$44,384,940 (net of accumulated depreciation), a decrease of \$1,590,845 from the prior year. The investment in capital assets includes land, buildings, improvements and machinery and equipment. Major capital asset events during the fiscal year included the following: Purchase of equipment \$26,981 and Depreciation Expense of \$(1,617,826).

Long term debt was \$12,195,000 on June 30, 2015, of which \$11,835,000 is for the Hoosac Valley Middle High School Project. This was a decrease of \$532,000 from the prior year. The remaining debt is for the CT Plunkett HVAC project and the Cheshire Elementary boiler project. The HVMHS debt will continue through 2033 and the two boiler projects debt will be totally retired in 2023.

David E. Hinkell

Director of Business
Adams Cheshire Regional School District

Adams-Cheshire Regional School District

Governmental Funds

Balance Sheet

June 30, 2015

	General Fund	School Choice	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and Short Term Investments	\$ 2,454,485	\$ 578,543	\$ 399,868	\$ 3,432,896
Inventory	-	-	27,579	27,579
Due from Other Governments	-	-	141,805	141,805
Accounts Receivable Other	396	-	-	396
Advance to Flex Spending	4,000	-	-	4,000
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,458,881	\$ 578,543	\$ 569,252	\$ 3,606,676
LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payable	55,625	-	19,324	74,949
Accrued Payroll & withholdings	1,157,657	50	47,206	1,204,913
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 1,213,282	\$ 50	\$ 66,530	\$ 1,279,862
FUND BALANCE				
Nonspendable	-	-	27,579	27,579
Restricted	-	578,493	475,143	1,053,636
Assigned	561,664	-	-	561,664
Unassigned	683,935	-	-	683,935
TOTAL EQUITY	1,245,599	578,493	502,722	2,326,814
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 2,458,881	\$ 578,543	\$ 569,252	\$ 3,606,676

**Adams-Cheshire Regional School District
General Fund
Statement of Revenues and Other Sources,
and Expenditures and Other Uses
- Budget and Actual -
June 30, 2015**

	BUDGETED AMOUNTS			Variance
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual Amounts	Final Budget Positive (Negative)
REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES				
Assessments to Member Towns	\$ 7,740,426	\$ 7,740,426	\$ 7,740,426	\$ -
Intergovernmental	10,564,360	10,564,360	10,568,972	4,612
Investment Income	-	-	4,430	4,430
Miscellaneous	-	-	31,887	31,887
Transfer In	-	-	309	309
Other Sources	300,000	328,088	328,088	-
TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	\$ 18,604,786	\$ 18,632,874	\$ 18,674,112	\$ 41,238
EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES				
Instruction	6,495,095	6,410,384	6,421,736	(11,352)
Employee Benefits	4,127,740	4,316,991	4,312,338	4,653
Special Education	2,457,290	2,349,995	2,222,188	127,807
Intergovernmental	1,170,000	1,205,000	1,281,672	(76,672)
Operations & Maintenance	1,325,322	1,380,978	1,334,877	46,101
Other School Services	392,882	405,043	355,420	49,623
Transportation	822,364	826,193	837,799	(11,606)
Administration	742,303	690,412	614,552	75,860
Debt Service	1,013,790	944,790	941,590	3,200
Capital Outlay	58,000	75,000	75,000	-
Transfers Out	-	28,088	28,088	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	\$ 18,604,786	\$ 18,632,874	\$ 18,425,260	\$ 207,614
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY OF REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES OVER EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES				
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 248,852	\$ 248,852

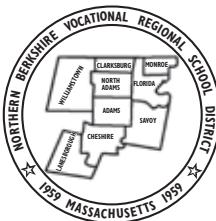
Adams-Cheshire Regional School District
Assessments to Member Towns
June 30, 2015

Town	Minimum Contribution	Contribution Outside Net School Spending	Transportation & Capital Assessments	Total Assessments
Adams	\$ 3,232,134	\$ 875,847	\$ 1,135,370	\$ 5,243,351
Cheshire	1,756,516	312,867	427,692	2,497,075
	\$ 4,988,650	\$ 1,188,714	\$ 1,563,062	\$ 7,740,426

Adams-Cheshire Regional School District
June 30, 2015
Future Debt Service

Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2016	\$ 540,000	\$ 386,650	\$ 928,666
2017	555,000	373,850	930,867
2018	575,000	360,700	937,718
2019	590,000	343,450	935,469
2020	605,000	325,750	932,770
2021-2025	3,200,000	1,347,650	4,547,650
2026-2030	3,630,000	806,700	4,436,700
Thereafter	2,500,000	172,650	2,672,650
Total	\$ 12,195,000	\$ 4,117,400	\$ 16,322,490

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 2015 and this report highlights some of these accomplishments.

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 nineteen 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:

At the 2015 National Conference, for the first time in the history of the school, Samantha Dorwin, a junior machine technology major, earned a seat on the SkillsUSA national officer team as the 2015-2016 National Region One Vice-President.

Ms. Andrea Leal, business technology 2014, a sophomore at the College of Saint Rose in Albany, New York, is the BPA national post-secondary treasurer and joined us from London, UK via teleconference for a Business Professionals of America update.

The Class of 2015 became the twelfth class in a row to attain 100 percent competency determination on the MCAS tests.

Twenty-eight of the Class of 2015 earned the prestigious John and Abigail Adams Scholarship awarded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for their academic record and MCAS achievement.

Our 115 2015 graduates saw 63% continue their education in a variety of colleges and universities, 34% enter the workforce and 3% proudly enter into military service.

The results of the spring 2015 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	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Advanced	14%	21%	15%	17%	25.7%
Proficient	73%	67%	76%	77%	68.9%
Needs Improvement	13%	11%	8%	6%	4.5%
Failing	1%	0%	1%	1%	.7%

GRADE 10 - MATHEMATICS

Performance Level	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Advanced	41%	33%	35%	44%	32.35
Proficient	37%	42%	39%	29%	46.25
Needs Improvement	20%	23%	17%	24%	19.2%
Failing	3%	3%	9%	3%	2.3%

GRADE 10 - SCIENCE AND TECH/ENG

Performance Level	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Advanced	11%	9%	13%	19%	11.3%
Proficient	64%	54%	53%	52%	63.7%
Needs Improvement	22%	30%	24%	27%	23.4%
Failing	3%	7%	9%	2%	1.6%

The McCann Athletics program continues to enjoy success in the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association. We are very proud of our Football Team for claiming its first Western Mass Championship in the program's history. The team went through its historic season undefeated until the State Semi-finals, claiming its second league championship in as many years along the way. The rest of our sports programs had very successful seasons as well. Some key highlights were the Boys Soccer and Boys Cross Country teams winning the State Vocational Championship, Shane Fuller scoring 100 points in soccer and 1,000 points in basketball and signing a national letter of intent to St. Rose College, and the Baseball team winning the Tri-County League Championship.

The integration of educational technology into our programs continues to be a priority. We received a donation of Siemens' manufacturing design software that allowed our manufacturing

students to access the most modern of industry standard software packages. The value of this donation is in the millions of dollars. Our recently renovated library added 70 laptops for student research and we expanded our bandwidth to accommodate more distance learning and communication applications. The addition of new computer numerical control machines with advanced Fanuk control systems ensured that we are able to meet the training standards of the Massachusetts Advanced Manufacturing requirements.

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 playground storage shed for the Cheshire Elementary School involved CAD and carpentry students. Our culinary students continue to support a number of area events including the Relay for Life and numerous county organizations. Our metal fabrication students made bicycle racks for the City of North Adams and a wind scoop for the Environmental Police ATV trailer while our carpentry students completed repairs to the Clarksburg police station roof. Our National Honor Society students created a GA-GA pit for the Clarksburg School playground. Our Skills USA students volunteered with the Plunket School playground project, participated in the Buddy Walk of the Berkshires, and completed a painting project at the Louison House, as well as participating in a variety of other activities within the school and community.

McCann students continued their ongoing participation 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. At the 2015 SkillsUSA State Leadership Competition, McCann students earned gold medals in Sheet Metal at the high school level and Dental Assisting, Medical Assisting, and Job Interview at the post-secondary level. Silver medals were awarded to two high school students for the Costello Family Community Service Award, and to a postsecondary student in Job Interview. Bronze medals were earned in 3-D Visualization & Animation, Internetworking, Technical Computer Applications, and Welding at the high school level as well as Cosmetology at the post-secondary level. Additionally, for the third year in a row, a McCann student was elected to serve as a state officer, and two additional students were selected to serve as voting delegates at the national conference. At the 2015 National Conference, for the first time in the history of the school, a McCann student earned a seat on the SkillsUSA national officer team as the 2015-2016 National Region One Vice-President.

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 mission of Business Professionals of America is to contribute to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills. 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. McCann students have received awards at the State Leadership Conferences in Finance, Business Administration, Management Information Systems, Digital Communication and Design, and Management Marketing Communication events. McCann has continued to achieve finalist placements at the National level, the most recent being a top ten finish in Database Applications. Additionally, at the 2015 National Leadership Conference, a McCann student (Class of 2014) was elected to national office for a second term and will now be serving as the 2015-2016 Post-secondary Division National Secretary/Treasurer.

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 four courses above and beyond their graduation requirements. Since its inception over 60% of participating students - over one hundred - have become eligible for between 3 and 9 transcribed college credits 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 PLTW cohort, 11 students achieved this eligibility.

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. At the end of the fiscal year we returned \$76,100.00 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 completed the renovation of our library which has created an open and technologically modern facility for our students and staff to conduct their research. We added laptops and other electronic reading devices and built a separate long distance learning center allowing for our students to connect globally with universities and companies simultaneously. We added new CNC milling machines and upgraded our internal network. We also completed our new softball field which will be available for play in the spring of 2015.

The Career Vocational Technical Education, CVTE division of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, DESE, in conjunction with the Office of School Accountability conducted a Coordinated Program Review, CPR during the fall. The results of this audit confirmed that we were not only compliant in all areas but received noteworthy accolades for some of our best practice programming.

During the past two years five of our faculty participated in the CVTE, DESE Vocational Curriculum Frameworks initiative which completed the revision of our 44 curriculum frameworks and the supporting career readiness, business and safety standards. This was a herculean task and we are proud of the significant contributions made by participating faculty members.

Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District (continued)

FY15 Budgeted Revenues	Original	Actual
City & Town Assessments		
Municipal Minimum	\$ 2,748,884.00	\$ 2,748,884.00
Capital	107,813.00	107,813.00
Transportation	202,403.00	202,403.00
Municipal Assessment	111,447.00	11,447.00
Ch. 71 Transportation	195,000.00	271,011.00
Ch. 70 General School Aid	4,629,241.00	4,609,241.00
Tuitions	682,802.00	699,922.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	10,241.00	10,241.00
State Bonus Aid		2,880.00
Total Revenue Received	\$ 8,687,831.00	\$ 8,763,842.00
Member City & Town Transportation Refunds		(76,100.00)
Misc. Revenue Balance to Surplus E & D		(0.00)
A/P Assessment Payable (Received in July)		0.00
	\$ 8,687,831.00	\$ 8,687,831.00

Source	Grant	Amount
(Federal Entitlement)		
Fed	Sped IDEA	\$ 111,034.00
Fed	Title I	125,745.00
Fed	Title II A	19,861.00
Fed	Perkins	72,480.00
Fed	Post-secondary Perkins	3,079.00
(Federal Grants Other)		
REAP		40,824.00
Perkins Instructional Equipment & Supplies		0.00
SP Voc Skills Training		0.00
(State Grants)		
CIG Vocational Equipment		43,303.00
SPED Academic Support		7,700.00
MA Cultural Council		845.00
(Competitive/Private)		
Private	Olmsted	4,300.00
Private	BHG Wellness	2,000.00
Private	BCREB: Connecting Activities	1,500.00
Private	City of Chicopee Nurse Grant	2,821.00
Private	MA Life Science Center	18,448.00
Private	Rochester Institute	320.00
Private	MASS MoCA	700.00
TOTAL GRANTS		\$ 498,630.00



The Adams Station