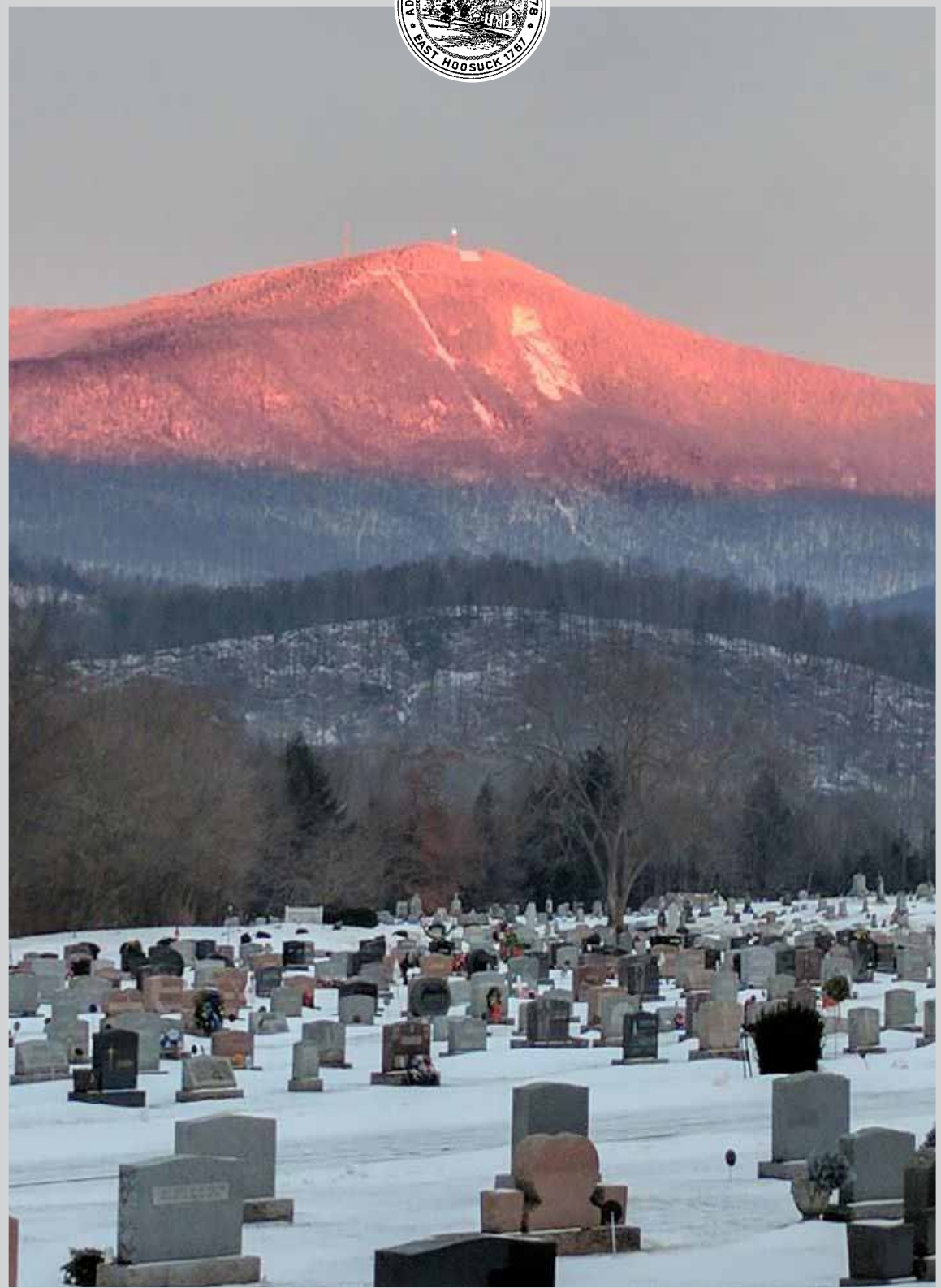


TOWN OF ADAMS



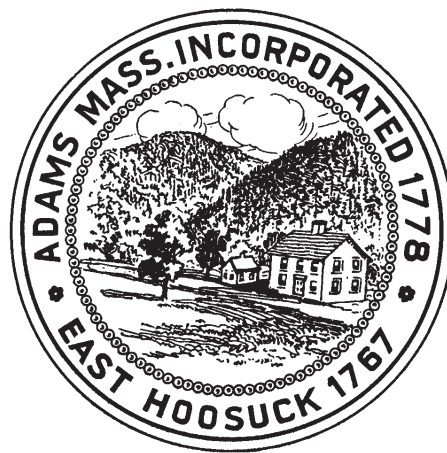
2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Town of
ADAMS

MASSACHUSETTS

REPORT OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS



FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31, 2016

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 2016	8,556
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 2000	8,809
Federal Census 1990	9,455
Federal Census 1980	10,385

Registered Voters as of May 2016 **5,763**

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
Total Valuation	\$ 470,221,030

Town Hall:

Open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Thursday
Closed Friday

Selectmen's Meeting:

Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.
Adams Town Hall, 8 Park Street

Town Election:

First Monday in May

State Senator, Berkshire District

ADAM G. HINDS – Pittsfield

State Representative, 1st Berkshire District

GAILANNE M. CARIDDI – North Adams

Governor's Councillor, 8th District

MARY HURLEY – 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



MARGARET BEAUDIN

Adams Cheshire Regional School District Teacher

WILLIAM CHITTENDEN

Hazardous Waste Coordinator

MARGARET COMEAU

Veterans Agent

JUDITH CURTIN

Adams Cheshire Regional School District Teacher

RONALD DAVENPORT

Department of Public Works Employee

RANSON "BENNY" DECOIGNE

Adams Cheshire Regional School District Custodian

ELLA N. GETTY

Adams Cheshire Regional School District Teacher

JOSEPHINE A. GRANGER

Adams Cheshire Regional School District Secretary

JOHN E. GRANT

Cemetery Commission Member

DOUGLAS A. LEFEBVRE

Department of Public Works Employee

DAVID H. MCGRATH

Adams Cheshire Regional School District Teacher

BARBARA A. MECZYWOR

Board of Selectmen Member and Chairwoman

Council on Aging Board Member

Parks Commission Member

Town Democratic Committee Member

Town Finance Committee Member

Town Meeting Member

DORIS MINARDI

Adams Cheshire Regional School District Teacher

A. MICHAEL RINALDI

Adams Free Library Employee

MARY SMITH

Adams Cheshire Regional School District Teacher

STEPHEN W. NOWICKI

Cemetery Department Employee

EDWARD E. ROBERTS

Adams Cheshire Regional School District Teacher

MARY T. STUMPEK

Adams Cheshire Regional School District Secretary



DEDICATION

The Annual Report is dedicated to

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The mission of the Department of Public Works is to provide efficient, cost effective, high-quality service relative to the environmentally sensitive operation, maintenance, planning, review and construction of the public works infrastructure, cemeteries, and youth athletic complexes for the citizens, businesses and visitors of the Town of Adams to promote public health, personal safety, transportation and economic growth.

With a pared-down team of twelve crew members, the amount of work that is being accomplished to keep the Town in good order is astonishing. Beyond the “regular” work of paving, line painting, plowing, sanding, weed and brush removal, running the Recycle Center, tree pruning and elimination, street sweeping, burial services, road, sewer system and athletic field maintenance that we are accustomed to seeing, it is noteworthy that each and every crew member of the Adams Department of Public Works personally goes above and beyond their normal work day expectations. Storms and emergencies require 24-hour availability for response and sometimes work shifts of over 24 hours in length from this dedicated group of exceptional employees.

In addition to providing the “normal” work, the DPW crew clears out their garage to provide a location for all election voting events, requiring full cleaning, lighting and moving of equipment both in and out of their very busy garage. Special attention and work was done to Russell Field to provide a public skating rink for citizens to use. Athletic fields and the Downtown areas of Town had goalposts, banners, the Town Christmas Tree and decorations for events and seasons put up and taken down around other work events. Leaves are picked up around town for citizens where other communities do not provide this assistance. Signs, parking meters, and guardrails are repaired and replaced and stormwater drainage systems are cleared, repaired, and managed. Flowers are planted, watered, and maintained in the downtown area. Garbage, debris and expired animals are removed from roadways. Sewer manholes are rebuilt and work is done on culverts. Maintenance to the Greylock Glen grounds is performed, including bathroom cleaning.

The DPW team has aggressively searched for ways to be more efficient and to save funds by working “smarter” with their resources. As budgets shrink and additional workloads are added, it has become a challenge to maintain the level of services they provide. With ingenuity, the department has been able to find innovative ways to save the Town money, and repair aging equipment and vehicles to keep them running well beyond normal use. An asphalt reclaimer unit saves the Town funds by extending the asphalt life with reuse whenever possible. An asphalt hot box now assists with the reuse and reducing staff time and product waste from cooled asphalt during projects. A leaf vacuum unit reduces the staffing needed to clear streets and resolve catch basin issues. The Berkshire County Sheriff’s Office and Trial Court Community Service Programs have been utilized as a support team for trimming, mowing, and weed whacking of cemeteries and other areas of Town to maximize staff time with urgent projects and matters. Their creative thinking and willingness to reserve wherever possible has made a significant impact in maximizing the reduced budget as far as it can stretch, with a united and sincere team effort.

Most pointedly, this very dedicated team of employees tirelessly works day-in and day-out, shifting gears at a moment’s notice to handle an ever-changing complicated duty list, with talent, skill, teamwork, and efficiency. Their dedication with long days, shrinking staff numbers, reduced available resources, and an increased workload speaks volumes about the quality, integrity and character of the team, as well as the proficiency and masterful management and organization of the tasks and team members. Without their hard work and resourcefulness the conditions of the Town that we take for granted every day would no longer be available.



Left to Right: Adam Meczywor, Bryan Cota, Timothy Cota, Wayne Brown, David Jardine, David Nuwallie, Robert Wojcik, Mark Pizani, Norman Charron, Kurt LeClair, Steven Skrocki
**Missing from photo are John Schaffrick, Chief Mechanic and Larry Robert, Operator III*

Department of Public Works Staff

David Nuwallie, Interim Director — 30 Years' Service

Timothy Cota, Foreman/Mechanic — 20 Years' Service

Steven Skrocki, Working Foreman — 32 Years' Service

John Schaffrick, Chief Mechanic — 15 Years' Service

Adam Meczywor, Mechanic I — 2 Years' Service

Mark Pizani, Maint. Technician/Operator III — 29 Years' Service

Larry Robert, Maint. Technician/Operator III — 39 Years' Service

Robert Wojcik, Maint. Technician/ Operator III — 28 Years' Service

Wayne Brown, Maint. Technician/Operator II — 5 Years' Service

Norman Charron, Maint. Technician/Operator II — 6 Years' Service

David Jardine, Maint. Technician/Operator II — 3 Years' Service

Kurt LeClair, Maint. Technician/Operator II — 4 Years' Service

Bryan Cota, Maint. Technician, Operator I — 1 Year Service

***Thank you Department of Public Works
 for your exemplary service
 and dedication to Adams!***

Adams Town Election Results

May 2, 2016

MODERATOR	for a term of One Year
EDWARD J. DRISCOLL, Six hundred thirty-eight	638*
Blanks, One hundred forty-one	141
Total	779

SELECTMEN	for a term of Three Years
RICHARD BLANCHARD, Four hundred twelve	412*
JOSEPH J. NOWAK, Six hundred	600*
MICHAEL G. OUELLETTE, Three hundred thirty	330
Write In Votes, One	1
Blanks, Two hundred fifteen	215
Total	1,558

TREASURER/COLLECTOR	for a term of Three Years
KELLY F. RICE, Six hundred thirty-nine	639*
Blanks, One hundred forty	140
Total	779

ASSESSORS	for a term of Three Years
LORRAINE M. KALISZ, Six hundred forty-eight	648*
Blanks, One hundred thirty-one	131
Total	779

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBER	for a term of Three Years
PETER L. HOYT, Five hundred ninety-eight	598*
Blanks, One hundred eighty-one	181
Total	779

LIBRARY TRUSTEES	for a term of Three Years
KAREN L. KETTLES, Six hundred thirty	630*
Write In Votes, VIRGINIA PHELPS DUVAL, Fifty-two	52*
Write In Votes, Other, Eight	8
Blanks, Eight hundred sixty-eight	868
Total	1,558

LIBRARY TRUSTEE	for a term of One Year
ANITA L. JAMROS, Six hundred eighteen	618*
Write In Votes, One	1
Blanks, One hundred sixty	160
Total	779

PLANNING BOARD MEMBER	for a term of Five Years
DAVID B. RHINEMILLER, Five hundred ninety-seven	597*
Write In Votes, Nine	9
Blanks, One hundred seventy-three	173
Total	779

PLANNING BOARD MEMBER	for a term of Four Years
Write In Votes, DAVID C. KRZEMINSKI, Thirty-six	36*
Write In Votes, Other, Seven	7
Blanks, Seven hundred thirty-six	736
Total	779

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER	for a term of Three Years
Write In Votes, JAMES M. TAYLOR, Thirty-two	32*
Write In Votes, Other, Ten	10
Blanks, Seven hundred thirty-seven	737
Total	779

HOUSING AUTHORITY MEMBER	for a term of Five Years
CAROL A. ROBERTS, Five hundred seventy-eight	578*
Blanks, Two hundred one	201
Total	779

HOUSING AUTHORITY MEMBER	for a term of Four Years
JAMES M. DICICCO, Five hundred sixty-two	562*
Blanks, Two hundred seventeen	217
Total	779

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEMBER	for a term of Four Years
Write In Votes, Four	4
Blanks, Seven hundred seventy-five	775
Total	779
<i>*Failure to Elect</i>	

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEMBER	for a term of Three Years
Write In Votes, Three	3
Blanks, Seven hundred seventy-six	776
Total	779
<i>*Failure to Elect</i>	

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBER	for a term of Three Years
JOSEPH W. ALLARD, Five hundred ninety-three	593*
Write In Votes, Three	3
Blanks, One hundred eighty-three	183
Total	779

**Elected Official*

Election Results *(continued)*

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

PAUL K. BUTLER, Five hundred sixty-six	566*
Write In Votes, JENNIFER ANDREWS, Seventy-eight	78*
Write In Votes, Other, Forty-seven	47
Blanks, Eight hundred sixty-seven	867
Total	1,558

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

PETER J. TATRO, Five hundred forty-three	543*
Write In Votes, Two	2
Blanks, Two hundred thirty-four	234
Total	779

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

ADAMS

Adams Representative – Three Year Term

	Adams	Cheshire
PAUL K. BUTLER	566	419
Write In Votes, JENNIFER ANDREWS	78	7
Write In Votes	47	0
Blanks	867	764
TOTAL	1,558	1,190

CHESHIRE

Cheshire Representative – Three Year Term

	Adams	Cheshire
PETER J. TATRO	543	428
Write In Votes	2	0
Blanks	234	167
TOTAL	779	595

Elected Town Officers

Term Expires

Moderator

Edward J. Driscoll 2017

Town Clerk

Haley A. Meczywor 2018

Selectmen

Jeffrey Michael Snoonian 2017

John E. Duval 2018

Arthur W. Harrington 2018

Richard Blanchard 2019

Joseph J. Nowak 2019

Treasurer-Collector

Kelly F. Rice 2019

Assessors

George J. Haddad 2017

Donna Aitken MacDonald 2018

Lorraine M. Kalisz 2019

Board of Health

Allen J. Mendel 2017

Bruce Dale Shepley 2018

Peter L. Hoyt 2019

Library Trustees

Anita L. Jamros 2017

David M. Strzepek 2017

James R. Loughman 2018

Eugene F. Michalenko 2018

Virginia Phelps Duval 2019

Karen L. Kettles 2019

Park Commission

Scott E. Cernik 2017

Jacob N. Schutz 2017

James J. Fassell 2018

Todd Edward Shafer 2018

Jason Snizek 2018

Planning Board

Sandra H. Moderski 2017

Martha J. Stohlmann 2018

Barbara Ziembra 2019

David C. Krzeminski 2020

David B. Rhinemiller 2021

Cemetery Commission

Frederick S. Hobart 2017

Bruce Dale Shepley 2018

James M. Taylor 2019

**Elected Official*

Elected Town Officers *(continued)*

	<i>Term Expires</i>
Housing Authority	
Linda Cernik (State Appointee)	2016
Stephanie L. Melito	2018
Mark A. Covert	2019
James M. DiCicco	2020
Carol A. Roberts	2021
Redevelopment Authority	
Vacant (State Appointee)	
Joseph W. Allard	2017
Elizabeth M. Bushey	2018
Vacant	2019
Vacant	2020
Northern Berkshire Regional Vocational School Committee	
Daniel J. Maloney Jr.	2017
Aaron M. Dean	2018
Joseph W. Allard	2019
Adams-Cheshire Regional School District Committee	
Elected At-Large	
(Adams)	
Regina A. Hill	2017
Stephen J. Vigna	2018
Paul K. Butler	2019
Jennifer J. Andrews	2019
Adams-Cheshire Regional School District Committee	
Elected At-Large	
(Cheshire)	
Edmund R. St. John IV	2017
Darlene Rodowicz	2018
Peter J. Tatro	2019

Appointed By Moderator

	<i>Term Expires</i>
Finance Committee	
Vacant	2016
Charles H. Foster	2016
Amy A. Giroux	2016
Brian R. Johnson	2016
Matthew Pitoniak	2016
Mark J. Chittenden	2017
Sandra D. Kleiner	2017
Leon S. Parrott	2017
Joan Smigel	2017
Rachel H. Tomkowicz	2017
Timothy R. Burdick	2018
Craig R. Corrigan	2018
John R. Cowie, Jr	2018
Paul S. Demastrie	2018
Jeffrey M. Lefebvre	2018
Town Report Committee	
Deborah Dunlap	
Kelly Rice	
Donna E. Cesan	
Mary Beverly	
and Thanks to all Department Heads	
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.	2016
Victor Ziemba	2016
Measurer of Wood and Bark	
Donald Delmolino	2016
Walter Slosek	2016

Appointed Town Officials – July 2016

Right to Know Coordinator

Tony Mazzucco

AdHoc Committee on Solid Waste

Gregory DeBlois
Edward Driscoll
Bruce D. Shepley
David Rhoads
Vacant

Agricultural Commission

Wayne Piaggi
Kelly Field
Glenn Field
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant (Alternate)
Vacant (Alternate)
Vacant (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

Chief Procurement Officer

Tony Mazzucco

Code Enforcement Officer

Thomas Romaniak

Community Development Director

Donna E. Cesan

Conservation Commission

James Fassell
Tom Robinson
Corey Bishop
David Lipinski
Tammie Shafer
Zachary Bantle
Brian Bishop

Constables

Anthony P. McBride
Tom Satko
Herman Bishop

Council on Aging Director

Erica Girgenti

Council on Aging Board of Directors

Robert Joppich
Michelle Wellspeak
Aleta Moncecchi
Melissa Schaffrick
Pam St. John
Mary Jane O'Brien
Esther Turner
Bruce Shepley
Vacant

Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire

Adams Representatives:

Linda Rhoads
Vacant

Department of Public Works Director

David Nuvalle

Emergency Management Director

Richard Kleiner

Employee Insurance Advisory Group

Mary Beverly
Barbara Lewis
Shawn Briggs
Kathleen Fletcher
Erica Girgenti
Vacant

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
Anthony Archambault

Appointed Town Officials – July 2016 *(continued)*

Housing & Building Inspector

Don Torrico

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

Casimir R. Kuza

Retirement Board

Patricia Wol

Safety Committee

Scott McWhirt

Robert Rumbolt

David Nuvalle

Richard Tarsa

Vacant

Vacant

Special Police Officers

Allen Mendel

Superintendent of Insect Control

David Nuvalle

Town Accountant

Mary Beverly

Town Counsel

Edmund St. John, III

Town Scholarship Committee

Kelly Rice

Ashley Satko

Haley Meczywor

George Haddad

Vacant

Traffic Commission

Richard Tarsa

Tom Satko (Citizen)

David Nuvalle

Gregory Onorato

Vacant (Planning Board)

Tree Board

David Nuvalle

Tree Warden

David Nuvalle

Trench Board

Don Torrico

Tom Romaniak

David Nuvalle

Veterans Agent

Stephen R. Roy

Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent

Robert Rumbolt

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

Francis Waterman

Mullen Movers

Martin Mullen, Jr.

William Donovan

Specialty Minerals, Inc.

Alan Giroux

James Alibozek

Alicia Foisey

Tim Sutliff

Patricia Markland

Derek Masse

Kevin Hubbard

Wire Inspector

David Rhinemiller

Assistant Wire Inspector

Les Rhinemiller

Zoning Board of Appeals

Peter West

Brian Tenczar

Michael Mach

Anthony Donovan

Peter Gutmann

Robert Krzanik (Alternate)

Francie Anne Riley (Alternate)

Vacant (Alternate)

Town Meeting Members – Annual Town Meeting - 2016

June		June		June	
Precinct 1	20	Precinct 2	20	Precinct 3	20
Baker, Patricia A.	X	Biros, Ryan	X	Allard, Joseph	X
Baker, Starr D.	X	Cardin, Bruce E.		Blanchard, Richard	X
Bush, James	X	Cernik, Linda A.	X	Conroy-Shepley, Patricia	X
Butler, Michele		Cernik, Scott E.	X	Corrigan, Craig R.	X
Charron, Melissa M.	X	Chittenden, Mark J.	X	Cowie, John R. Jr.	X
Clerc, Bruce P.	X	DeBlois, Gregory A.	X	Dumouchel, Bruce D.	X
Cunningham, Travis		Delmolino, Donald L.		Frost, Richard E.	X
Fijal, Jody A.		Driscoll, Edward J.	X	Frost, Susan K.	X
Hoyt, Christine D.	X	Duval, John E.	X	Heritage, David L.	
Jette, Richard A.	X	Filkins, Andrea M.	X	Kolis, Marilyn Phelps	X
Kline, Sarah JP		Janik, Edward S.	X	Kopala, Stanley J.	
Kolis, David	X	Kolis, Dolores J.	X	Lawson, John L.	X
Kolis, Patricia M.	X	Kozik, Michael A.		Mach, Michael J.	X
Kupiec, Anne E.	X	Lefebvre, Jeffrey M.	X	McBride, Anthony P.	
Kupiec, Neil	X	Lentine, Joseph A.	X	(Deceased 1/29/2017)	
Meczywor, Barbara A.		Meczywor, Michael V.	X	Norcross, Robert	
(Deceased 11/12/2016)	X	Meczywor, Paula	X	Parrott, Leon S. Jr.	X
Moran, Terence E.		Merlini, Donald J.		Parrott, Nancy A.	X
Morin, Norma P.	X	Michalenko, Eugene F.	X	Powers, Michael J.	X
Moyer, Christine A.	X	Moderski, Sandra		Satko, Ashley Ruth	X
Moyer, John D.	X	Odvar, Lisa A.		Schaffrick, Melissa L.	E
Neep, Kristin Lynn		Schutz, Norman K.	X	Schutz, Jacob N.	
Nimmons, Jacqueline F.	X	Sutliff, Mary Ellen	X	Shepley, Bruce Dale	X
Poirot, Dayne P.	X	Sutliff, Shaun W.	X	Silvia, Veronica A.	X
Robinson, Brenda	X	Tomkowicz, Rachel H.	X	Tinney, Thomas N.	
Robinson, Thomas	X	Turoczy, Lawrence	X	Wilk-Chaffee, Juliette J.	X
Taylor, Judith L.	X	Wilk, Matthew J. Jr.		Ziamba, Barbara	X
Taylor, Marshall	X				
Wheeler, Paula	X				

June		June		June	
Precinct 4	20	Precinct 4 (continued)	20	Precinct 5 (continued)	20
Blanchard, Scott M.		Sommer, Donald R. Jr.		Kleiner, Richard G.	X
Blanchard, Steven M.		Taylor, James M.	X	Kleiner, Sandra D.	X
Blanchard, William T.		Taylor, Patricia F.	X	Kondel, Geoffrey A.	X
Bourdon, Beth L.		Wilk, Myra L.	X	Koperniak, Christopher T.	
Bourdon, Wilfred R. III	X	Ziaja, Mark D.		LaPlante, Daniel P.	X
Clairmont, Lawrence A.				Lennon, David J. Jr.	
Deeley, Susan				Levesque, John Joseph	X
Dellaghelfa, Jessica Ann				Levesque, Lauryn B.	X
Demastrie, Jacqueline M.	X			Levesque, Tami M.	
Demastrie, Paul S.	X	Precinct 5	20	Meczywor, Donna	
Dimitropolis, George H.		Bishop, Corey J.	X	Melito, Stephanie L.	X
Hayer, Joseph P.	X	Burdick, Timothy R.	X	Melito, Stephen V.	X
Koscinski, Joseph P.	X	Byrd, Colleen M.	X	Moran, Frederick D.	X
Lillie, Dolores	X	Doyle, Ann Marie	X	Moran, Marilyn A.	X
Meczywor, Leona	X	Doyle, Joseph B.	X	Noyes, Nicholas G.	
Mendel, Bruce W.	X	Fassell, James J.	X	Satko, Thomas A.	X
Mendel, Lisa A.		Gigliotti, Debra Lynn	E	Schrade, Paula G.	
Pansecchi, John M.	X	Girgenti, Erica Meranda	X	Tarsa, Richard W. Jr.	X
Smachetti, David L.	X	Haddad, Amber J.	X	West, Peter	X
Sommer, Donald R.	X	Haddad, George J.	X	Whitman, Mary E.	E

Town Administrator

2016 showed promising changes in the Town of Adams. With a focus on efficiency and reduction of municipal costs. New initiatives and changes were put into place to maximize staff, resources, and the Town's assets.

Staff training was made a priority in the beginning of the year, and changes were made to the Town Hall hours to reduce energy, heating and cooling costs of the building. Town Hall staffing was rearranged to provide required coverage of the Wastewater Treatment Plant in response to Department of Environmental Protection requirements that were in addition to current staffing. A public/private partnership of the Wastewater Treatment Plant was investigated as a possibility for reducing costs for the Town. An asphalt hot box, asphalt recycler, and leaf vacuum were purchased for the Department of Public Works in the wake of recent reduced staffing to assist with efficiency and working smarter with shorter staffing. Statistics and performance metrics began to be gathered from each department with an emphasis on future evaluation for strategy and efficiency with resources, time and impact.

Town policies were created in 2016 to provide guidance on both financial management for Town accounts and recruitment and hiring. Department Head evaluations were initiated and a review was done of department fees for applications, licensing and permits.

Online inspection software was instituted for the Building Department and Board of Health which aimed at creating efficiency and better time management for the many services provided by the limited staff in both areas. Though challenging with a portion of the population that does not utilize computers, a kiosk was set up to provide online access and support to those without computers to enter applications for permits and inspections.

A broad neutral review and assessment of the future of the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District was obtained by the *Edward J. Collins Center for Public Management* through *UMASS Boston*. The data from this assessment will hopefully assist with creating a long-term financial plan for providing cost-efficient and effective education in collaboration with the School District and both the Towns of Adams and Cheshire.

Regionalization was an emphasis in 2016. The Police Department's E911 dispatch services were regionalized with the *Berkshire County Sheriff's 911 Dispatch Center* in Pittsfield, which is estimated at saving the Town \$1.5 Million over the next ten years. The transition was not without expected challenges, but managed to be completed without major issues by the fall. The Building Department expanded to share services with both Dalton and New Ashford.

Energy costs were also top of the list for evaluation, and the Town was able to purchase Net Metering Credits and provide its own solar energy generation to reduce municipal energy expenses. In another step further, the Town of Adams entered into a Municipal Aggregation agreement through *Colonial Power Group* to lock in the lowest possible electricity rates for the Town's residents.



Local marketing of the Town of Adams took on a new artistic face with the *Adams Arts Advisory Board* taking a strong leading role by providing art murals around the community and putting forth a victorious first season of the *Berkshire Mountain Faerie Festival* at Bowe Field. The event was fun-filled, well attended and certainly put Adams on the map. J.K. Rowling's sudden reference to Mt. Greylock as the home of "Witchcraft and Wizardry" initiated a propagation of Harry Potter themes for the area, and event planning which is bound to bring thousands to Adams. Citizen groups and sponsoring businesses in Adams took on the beloved events that were once held by the now disbanded Events Committee, and they continued to flourish and provide exciting and enjoyable experiences for all ages. The creation of the *Susan B. Anthony/100th Anniversary of Suffrage Committee* is lighting the spark for future celebrations in town to honor the rich history of Adams and its contribution to women through the efforts of Susan B. Anthony. A redesign of the Town's website was initiated to maximize the new budding tourist interest and provide more up-to-date information about the Town, its features, events and outstanding resources.

The Town's projects reached some significant benchmarks in 2016. Solid waste expansion was put into beginning stages to provide more complete services to residents in town, with hopes for launching in the next year. The *Roundabout Project* was completed, and though there was initial route relearning it is being navigated smoothly and traffic is flowing nicely. A street pavement management program was developed to maintain the roads in the most efficient and effective paving possible in the aftermath of tightening budgets. The Greylock Glen solicitations were sent out for the campground portion of this very large economic project. This forward movement is showing some exciting traction for implementation in the near future. The *Berkshire Scenic Railway* was running in 2016, and the Town was delighted to receive \$2.6 Million in grant funds through the 2016 MassWorks Infrastructure Program for the train to come to the newly completed downtown train station, across from the Visitors Center and adjacent to the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail. The Town anticipates more tourist traffic in the downtown area once this is completed as visitors from both in and out of the area embark and depart from this station. This increase will undoubtedly be a boost to the downtown economic efforts.

2016 essentially was about becoming more fiscally efficient, creating collaboration among different community groups and staff, discovering innovative solutions, and creating new sparks of hope for the future of the Town of Adams in its quest to develop economically, in vibrancy, and as a wonderful place for all ages to visit and live. The stage is set for positive growth to gain momentum in the next couple of years.

Respectfully yours,

Tony Mazzucco
Town Administrator

Board of Selectmen

Board Member Jeffrey Snoonian stepped into the Chair position and Arthur “Skip” Harrington assumed the Vice Chair seat in 2016. John Duval, Joseph Nowak and Richard Blanchard also served as Board Members.

Significant work was done in 2016 by Board Members on the Strategic Plan with the groundwork set by the *Edward J. Collins Center for Public Management* through *UMASS Boston*. Public input was gathered, refined, and more direct work was done in collaboration with Community Development Director, Donna Cesan to retain the public’s guidance while establishing importance, priority, and assignment of responsibility to each portion of the plan. This laborious work spanned throughout the entire year, with intended completion in 2017.

Board Members created a sub-committee to work on the *Financial Management Policy* in collaboration with a sub-committee of the Finance Committee. This policy will provide a guideline for creation of the budget and how accounts and funds are utilized throughout the year. The *Remote Participation Policy* was put into place and utilized to allow for Members to legally participate in vital meeting decisions while unable to be physically present in the room. Several meetings were held to review department permit, license, and violation fees to update the Town since the last review in 2008. Parking, Town Clerk and Building Department fees and permits were specifically reviewed and approved for changes in the new year.

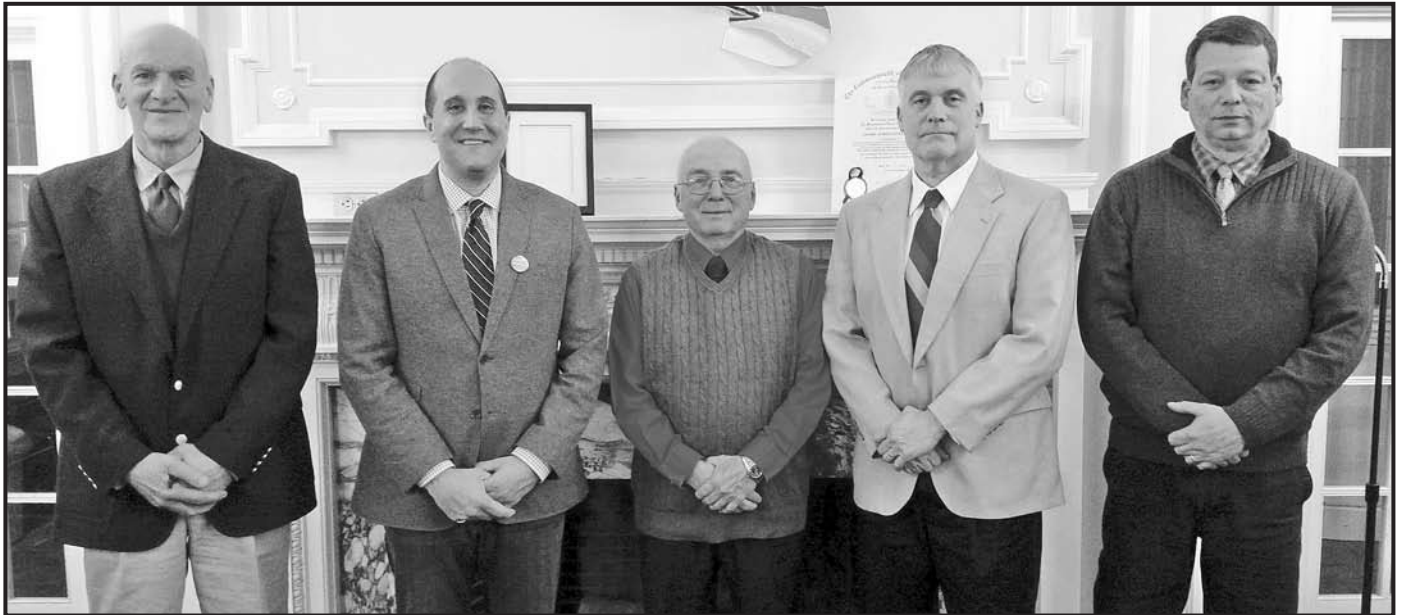
One intention of the Board of Selectmen was to bring more attention to the Town of Adams as a place to visit, to invite new business, and as a haven for outdoor recreation with scenic open spaces to be enjoyed and appreciated. Members were the catalyst for establishing the knowledge that Mt. Greylock is in the Town of Adams by initiating the placement of signs announcing “Entering Adams” on the summit of Mt. Greylock.

Liquor licensing was given significant energy in 2016 as the Board pushed forward to be in compliance with the update of Club Officers for the *Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission*. The Commission also initiated a system of electronic processing of all alcohol licenses, through eLicensing. The Commission’s system experienced glitches and will be implemented fully within the next year. The Board initiated the adoption of *MGL c.138 § 33B* through Town Meeting to allow restaurants to have expanded serving hours on Sundays should they apply to do so. The *Liquor License Policy* was completely revamped, as was the *One Day Liquor License Procedure* and all other licensing forms to better suit the evolving laws, the needs of the Town and its businesses.

The Board also acknowledged the excellence and efficient response of all emergency service agencies for quick, effective action to a structure fire on Park Street in June, which could have been a catastrophe. The multiple agencies that lunged into action and worked collaboratively in unison with each other effectively turned a downtown, high profile, and highly traveled location into a well-run fire suppression and incident management that not only kept citizens safe, but showed their countless hours of training and mutual aid partnerships to be flawless. This teamwork and its example represent the heart of the Town of Adams, its people, and the incentive to continue to come together as a solid unit toward the betterment of the Town.

On Behalf of the Board of Selectmen,

John Duval



The Adams Board of Selectmen - Left to Right: Joseph Nowak, Jeffrey Snoonian, Arthur “Skip” Harrington, John Duval and Richard Blanchard.

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..... \$16,636

Vital Statistics	2016	2015	2014
Births Reported	76	81	62
Marriages Reported	27	26	28
Deaths	99	99	101

Storage Tank Renewals 7

Number of Dog Licenses Issued

Males 71
Neutered Males..... 350
Females..... 39
Spayed Females 387
4 Dogs Kennel License..... 4
10 Dogs Kennel License..... 1
25 Dogs Kennel License..... 0
Total 852

Town Census 8,556



*Above: Adams citizens wait to vote before the polls open at the town garage.
Below: Voters line up at their Precinct tables to cast their ballots.*



VOTER REGISTRATION

Presidential Primary Election – March 1, 2016

Registered voters as of the close of registration on February 10, 2016

Precinct	Total	Dem.	Rep.	Unenr.	Libert.	Grn/Rain	Reform	GRN USA	Cons.	U.I.P.	Am. Ind.	Pirate
1	1083	373	84	619	5	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
2	1164	388	73	690	3	4	1	0	0	3	1	1
3	1170	433	94	635	3	1	0	0	1	2	0	1
4	1077	379	85	602	3	5	0	2	0	1	0	0
5	1221	421	91	704	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	5715	1994	427	3250	17	13	1	2	1	7	1	2

Annual Town Election – May 2, 2016

Registered voters as of the close of registration on April 12, 2016

Precinct	Total	Dem.	Rep.	Unenr.	Libert.	Grn/Rain	Reform	A. Indep.	Cons.	Pirate	U. Indep.
1	1099	374	85	631	5	1	0	0	0	0	3
2	1177	390	74	698	3	2	1	1	0	1	7
3	1184	438	96	642	3	1	0	0	1	1	2
4	1077	379	85	606	2	3	0	0	0	0	2
5	1226	422	88	710	3	1	0	0	0	0	2
Totals	5763	2003	428	3287	16	8	1	1	1	2	16

State Primary Election – September 8, 2016

Registered voters as of the close of registration on August 19, 2016

Precinct	Total	Dem.	Rep.	Unenr.	Libert.	Grn/Rain	Reform	Socialist	Cons.	U.I.P.	Am. Ind.	Pirate
1	1122	372	86	654	5	0	0	1	0	4	0	0
2	1192	389	77	709	3	2	1	0	0	9	1	1
3	1192	425	100	659	2	1	0	0	1	3	0	1
4	1102	378	86	630	2	3	0	0	0	3	0	0
5	1241	421	89	725	3	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
Totals	5849	1985	438	3377	15	7	1	1	1	21	1	2

State Election – November 8, 2016

Registered voters as of the close of registration on October 19, 2016

Precinct	Total	Dem.	Rep.	Unenr.	Libert.	Grn/Rain	Reform	Socialist	Cons.	U.I.P.	Am. Ind.	Pirate	Pizza	W.C.P.
1	1150	375	94	669	5	2	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0
2	1229	390	78	744	3	2	1	0	0	9	1	1	0	0
3	1228	425	105	689	3	1	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	0
4	1111	370	88	641	3	4	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	0
5	1284	430	93	750	4	2	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1
Totals	6002	1990	458	3493	18	11	1	1	2	23	1	2	1	1

Adams Agricultural Fair / Bowe Field

The 42nd annual Adams Agricultural Fair was held during the first week-end in August. The weather was excellent allowing an estimated 4,000 people to enjoy the varied activities.

For the first time Bowe Field was host to a Jack and Jill party and the first annual “Faerie Festival.” The event created a great deal of interest for many attendees. In addition, in co-operation with Mass MoCA, Bowe Field was able to accommodate campers for many of the “Fresh Grass” music fans.

Also new to Bowe Field use was the Harvest Festival held in the fall. Additionally, the Northern Berkshire Ham Operators held their annual flea market at the fairgrounds.

The annual Fall Run for charity used the field as a starting point for their motorcycle run. The Adams Agricultural Fair Committee continues to repair and maintain Bowe Field and buildings.



“Beethoven” plays at the Adams Agricultural Fair.

Board of Health 2016

The following permits were issued:

• Food Service Establishments	33
• Retail Food.....	14
• Catering.....	3
• Frozen Desserts.....	6
• Septic Hauler	2
• Commercial Hauler.....	8
• Septic Installer	2
• Manufactured Housing	1
• Mobile Vendors.....	2
• Temporary Vendors.....	4
• Body Art - Practitioners	1
• Body Art Establishment.....	1
• Residential Kitchen.....	1
• Tanning Salon	1
• Tobacco.....	7

The Board of Health had a busy, productive year. In addition to our monthly meetings in this period, the Board passed and enacted the Tobacco 21 initiative, defining tobacco products and the retail sale of all tobacco products to individuals 21 and older. It was met with no opposition at a special Board of Health hearing. A special recognition goes to Jim Wilusz, of Tri-Town Health, who assisted us through all aspects of the process. Tri-Town Health will be monitoring the new regulation. We have also been tasked with the enforcement of the new Plastic Bag Free regulation enacted at Town Meeting in 2016 and to be implemented in April 2017.

The Board’s monthly public hearings were composed of the usual business of fielding complaints of property health issues, hoarding, trash complaints, abandoned properties, and other issues within the jurisdiction of the Board of Health. Tom Romaniak, Code Enforcement Officer, was able to remediate many of the issues immediately or to assist in a timely resolution.

Alan Mendel, a Board of Health member for 2 terms chose not to seek re-election. Thank you Alan for the time, energy and insights you brought to the board.

A total of 96 rental inspections were performed during the year.

Inspectors Reports

Building Inspector

During 2016, The Adams Building Inspector's Office issued two hundred ninety five (295) permits for construction, demolition, alterations, additions, repairs, change of use, woodstove/chimney installations, certificate of occupancies, certificate of inspections, signs and curb cut /driveway entrances.

Of those, one (1) permit was issued for a new residential single-family dwelling in 2016. Some two hundred forty six (246) permits were filed for residential alterations and renovations. Forty-nine (49) permits were filed for new commercial / business and non-residential buildings. A total of \$40,670.93 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	1
Residential additions, alterations, conversions, repairs, & insulation	246
Commercial/Business/Non-Residential additions, alterations, conversions, and repair	49
Sign Permits	1
Curb-cut/Driveway entrance	1
Certificate of Inspections/Certificate of Occupancy	19
Solid Fuel	<u>3</u>
Total Building Permits	320

Gas Inspector

Number of Gas Fitting Permits Issued	69
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Revenue Generated	<u>\$ 2,615</u>
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Plumbing Inspector

Number of Plumbing Permits Issued	34
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Revenue Generated	<u>\$1,685</u>
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Electrical Inspector

Electrical Inspector Permits Issued	145
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Revenue Generated	<u>\$ 6,831</u>
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Planning Board

The Planning Board did not meet in 2016.

Members of the Planning Board are Chairman Barbara Ziemba, Vice-Chairman Sandra Moderski, Martha Stohlmann, David Rhinemiller and David Krzeminski.

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 2016. Five (5) Public Hearings were conducted involving six (6) Special Permit requests and one (1) Variance. The Zoning Board of Appeals also had to make a decision to revoke a Special Permit. An additional request by an applicant was for an administrative appeal of the Building Officials determination.

During 2016, 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.

The Board's current Alternate Members are Francie Riley and Rob Krzanik.

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

Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works acts as the Town road and sewer infrastructure, cemeteries, parks and grounds, and equipment maintenance labor force, and also provides Recycling Services. Under the authority of the Interim Director and the Foreman/Mechanic, with a labor force of twelve full-time employees, there are divisions which maintain certain areas of expertise though department members are interchangeably assigned as needed to support each division by the Foreman/Mechanic to the most pressing needs of the town. The Divisions include the *Highway Division*, the *Parks, Grounds and Cemetery Division*, and the *Equipment Maintenance Division*.

HIGHWAY DIVISION

The Highway Division provides the primary maintenance, repair and beautification of the Town's roadways and parking lot infrastructure. The regular operations carried out by this Division include:

- Street Sweeping
- Patching Streets
- Scarifying and shaping unpaved roads
- Maintaining guardrails, culverts and surface drains
- Maintaining parking meters and regulatory signs
- Painting all crosswalks, parking spaces and centerlines
- Sanding, salting, snow plowing and snow removal
- Sidewalk replacement
- Repairing and rebuilding catch basins and sewer manholes
- Maintenance, repair and installation of sewer connections
- Tree pruning, removal and planting
- Chipping roadside brush and at the Recycling Center
- Sanding and snow plowing Hoosac Valley High School and C.T. Plunkett Elementary School
- Large project collaboration with other contracted agencies
- Mowing grass at the Cemeteries
- Recycle Center Services
(Attendant Shed built by McCann School)

CEMETERIES, PARKS AND GROUNDS DIVISION

CEMETERIES

Five Seasonal Employees were hired this year to provide all aspects of cemetery maintenance. Berkshire County Sheriff's Office and Trial Court Community Service Programs graciously provided this Division with free labor during the growing season for ground maintenance of the cemeteries.



Maple Street Cemetery

More maple trees were removed from the Maple Street Cemetery. The cemetery was in pristine condition for Memorial Day and the entire summer. The Cemetery Division acquired one 36" commercial mower and several weed whackers and grounds equipment to maintain the cemetery.

Bellevue Cemetery

The town was able to hire five seasonal employees to assist one full-time employee this season in maintaining all aspects of the cemetery and to assist in funeral excavations. No paving was accomplished this year but is anticipated in the 2018 season. The new "S" section on the south side of the cemetery has begun selling lots this year.

FLOOD CONTROL

A joint inspection of the flood control system with the US Army Corps was performed this year. The Town has not received the official report from the Army Corps of Engineers for the 2016 season. DPW employees performed the usual vegetation removal and also cleared trees along many portions of the flood control system until winter conditions prohibited such work. The herbicide spraying program was again suspended, which was helpful controlling unwanted vegetation. All vegetation was instead removed manually by DPW employees with the assistance of seasonal employees. Sincere appreciation goes to the Berkshire County Sheriff's Office and Trial Court Community Service Programs for their assistance with the entire flood control system, which would not have been able to be managed in conjunction with other duties without them. The new Bike Trail extension running along the flood control system from Albert Street to Lime Street has been completed and has certainly enhanced the entire area.

PARKS AND ATHLETIC FIELDS

Russell Field

Many of last year's issues still remain, such as flooding, access to facilities, fence replacement needs, building upgrades, and tennis court repairs. There will hopefully be a feasibility study performed this year which will address these ongoing issues. The summer parks program has been another success this year and attendance numbers have increased once again.

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 implemented a "weed and feed" program. The two irrigation systems were professionally tuned up in the spring and fall.

Renfrew Field

The ongoing applications of fertilizers this year seemed to have improved turf conditions again. This facility hosted many

leagues this year, including Hoosac Valley High School baseball, soccer programs and baseball clinics. Renfrew Field also hosted the Dana Labbee Basketball Summer Program which is always a huge success. The Parks Commissioners worked with the leagues to raise funds to purchase a new storage shed facility which was placed on the northeast side of the park.

Reid Field

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

Town Common

The parks employees repaired several of the wrought iron benches at the Town Common. Several benches were brought to the cemetery garage and completely refurbished. They also decorated the entire common for Christmas which included a 20-foot evergreen tree. The gazebo had lights and red bows displayed for the season. The Berkshire County Sheriff's Office and Trial Court Community Service Programs performed major clean up this fall. The Town Common is a wonderful central location that hosts community events such as weddings, music festivals and youth-based programs.

Glen Street Project

Due to deterioration and for the safety of the public, 200' of sidewalk was replaced and raised to proper height on Glen Street.

Other Duties

Parks & Grounds staff maintained lighting on Park Street, Armory Court and all of Memorial Park. Staff also maintained several miles of the flood control system, which spans from Lime Street to Reeves Street. This 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.



The new 33 Horsepower trailer-type Leaf Vacuum.



The new Asphalt Reclaimer – Recycler.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE DIVISION

There are presently two full-time employees in the *Equipment Maintenance Division*. This division holds the large responsibility of repairing, maintaining and repurposing all of the Town-owned vehicles and equipment. The *Highway Division*, *Parks, Grounds and Cemetery Division*, the *Wastewater Treatment Plant*, and the *Forest Wardens* utilize approximately fifty pieces of equipment and vehicles. The nine *Police Department* vehicles and two vans from the *Council on Aging* also require maintenance. Additional repairs and attention is given to the lawn mowers, chain saws, water pumps, generators, snow blowers, air compressors, and other various pieces of equipment needed by the Divisions in their daily operations.

The *Equipment Maintenance Division* performs all of its own fabrication and welding to plows, plow frames, dump bodies and loader buckets, as well as accomplishing body repairs, sand blasting and painting. Tires are changed on all vehicles, including loader tires and large truck tires, and specifications are written for all equipment to be purchased. This Division shows extensive creativity, out-of-the-box thinking and impressive expertise to perform the numerous repairs that present themselves each day with aging equipment and tight budgetary restrictions.

In 2016 the Town of Adams, through the *Equipment Maintenance Division*, was able to purchase the following equipment:

- A vehicle undercarriage washing machine
- A Ford F350 4x4 pickup truck with plow
- An Asphalt Hot Box
- An Asphalt Reclaimer – Recycler
- A 33 Horsepower trailer-type Leaf Vacuum

MAJOR PROJECTS

Salt Shed

DPW employees performed several repairs to our aging salt shed again this year. The old wooden structure has begun to buckle under the weight of sand and salt storage. The Town anticipates a new structure hopefully by the end of 2018



The new Asphalt Hot Box – a major asset for the road crews.

Drainage Culverts

Hundreds of feet of underground drainage culverts were replaced in several locations throughout town most notably from the bottom of Summit Avenue approximately 200' toward the top. The culvert on East Mountain Road was replaced. 300" of Summit Road culvert was replaced with piping.

Black Top

During the spring and summer seasons, pot hole repairs were a major issue. Hundreds of tons of blacktop were spread and rolled in all sections of the town. The new Hot Box and Asphalt Reclaimer simplified and sped up the process. Kearns Lane was completely resurfaced with one inch of asphalt. Portions of West Road, East Road, Sayles Street, and Winter Street were also resurfaced.

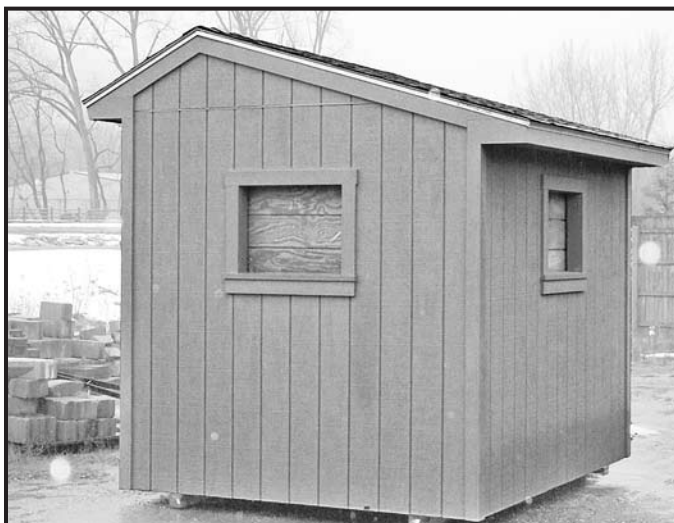


The completed Senecal Terrace Improvement Project.

In conclusion, 2016 was a very productive and cost-effective year for the Department of Public Works as a whole. I would like to extend heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated Public Works employees who 24-hours a day make themselves available for emergencies and weather responses, to keep our roads repaired and plowed, our sewers running and in good repair, our trash picked up, and our cemeteries, parks and grounds attractive. Their extra efforts and out-of-the-box problem solving have been vitally important to sustaining the high quality of life that we enjoy in our community on ever shrinking budgets and staffing.

Respectfully submitted,

David Nuvalle
Interim Director, DPW



New Recycle Shed built by McCann Technical students.

Adams Wastewater Treatment Plant

For 2016 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 Wal-Mart complex just north of the Adams/North Adams boundary line. Our staffing levels are now operating at 7 full time employees. Our hours of operation are 7 AM – 3 PM, Monday through Friday. To meet the conditions set forth in our National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for daily monitoring of our discharge to the Hoosic River, our laboratory is staffed weekdays and for two hours each day on weekends and holidays. The wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and three wastewater pumping stations are inspected seven days a week (including holidays) to comply with Massachusetts General Law, by our licensed mechanics. Five (5) employees, at the Adams Wastewater Treatment Plant, hold a Massachusetts Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's license of a grade 4 level or higher, the other two (2) employees are in the process of obtaining their license.

As in past reports a summary of the work and projects accomplished in 2016 is as follows:

DEWATERING and CONVEYING EQUIPMENT

- A new Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) which operates the drive motor on the return sludge pump was installed.



Left: old VFD. Right: new VFD.

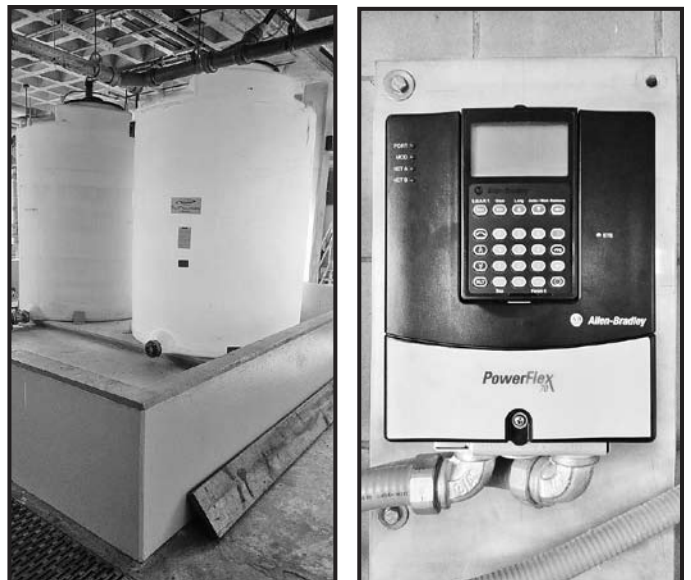
- Programming to the “mimic” screen was performed to insure that we can now do “pace flow” monitoring of the Hypochlorite and Sodium Bisulfite pumps.
- Replaced the upper and lower processing belts on the belt dewatering press.
- One panel meter (gravity belt speed) was replaced.
- A new Poly-Gone pump was installed to help with the blinding of the belt and in the wash down of the press.
- New 2,200 gal. Poly Aluminum Chloride tank was installed to insure the town saves money when purchasing this chemical in bulk.

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 return pump was rebuilt with a new mechanical seal.
- #'s 1 & 2 Grit pump packing's were removed and replaced with new ones.
- All 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.

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.
- 2005 Crown Victorian was serviced. Oil and air filters, windshield wiper blades and shifting linkage 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.
- Semiannual oil, oil filters and coolant filters changed on our two Caterpillar stationary emergency electrical generators.
- John Deere riding 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.



Left: PAC tank. Right: new Pressure Section Drive.



New L.E.D. Lights.

OTHER EQUIPMENT

- Air Handling Unit air filters replaced.
- New L.E.D. yard lights installed throughout the plant grounds.
- 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.



New Bar Rack.

- #5 aerator oxygen sensor and float ball was replaced (2 xs).
- Gearbox lubricants from mechanical aerators and clarifier drives were sent out for wear analysis.
- 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 headworks of the plant.
- Two 6" check valves and 3 check valves were replaced at the Domestic pump station.
- New fresh water pump/tank and sump pump installed at the Domestic pump station.
- All 3 motors in the aeration were replaced.
- Complete rebuild of the clarifier.
- Rebuilt a pump at the Domestic pump station.
- Upgrade to the wet well, new bar rack installed to help with the removal of rags, debris.
- A repair to the wet well stairs was performed.
- Scum through was jetted and rodded to insure even removal of floating grease.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Laboratory scales were cleaned and calibrated by All State Scale Company.
- 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.

- 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.
- Moth-balled Industrial pump station due minimal flow and diverted the flow to the Domestic pump station.
- Replaced one of our west side extra-large windows, due to extremely high winds.

- Processed new O & M manual, chain of custody, M.S.D.S., laboratory procedures and laboratory equipment manual folders.
- Laboratory equipment was upgraded due to an inspection from D.E.P. for our antiquated equipment as follows:

1. Hanna edge ph. meter.
2. YSI 1200 D.O. meter.
3. Humidifier – (lack of humidity interfering with filter weights).
4. New Balance (scale) – capable of reading (4) places past decimal point for accuracy.
5. YSI 5100 D.O. meter w/ built-in barometer.
6. Accu Jet pipette.
7. New certified glassware.
8. Upgraded our DR 2800 Spectrophotometer (needed repair to read ammonia).
9. Cleaned our laboratory "Still."
10. Replaced all overhead lights with L.E.D. lighting.
11. Installed new circuit breakers to prevent old breakers from tripping out.
12. Bought our usual (spring/fall) chemicals.
13. Had balance + weight certified.



Rebuilt Clarifier.

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 36. 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 2016 facility's records and reports documents 493.58 million gallons of wastewater was treated and cleaned before being discharged to the Hoosic River. This was a decrease of 11 % from last years (2015) annual flow of 555.08 million gallons.

A total of 136.42 dry metric tons of dewatered sludge was processed and hauled to an incinerator in Waterbury, CT for final disposal in 2016. This was an decrease of 24% from 2015 sludge disposal total of 178.86 dry metric tons.

The monthly averages for removal of Total Suspended Solids removal ranged between a minimum of 77.6 to a maximum of 98.3% with an overall average for 2016 of 87.5%. Biochemical Oxygen Demand removals ranged from a minimum of 92.8% to a maximum of 98.8% with a twelve month average for 2016 of 95.8%.

CONCLUSION

In my sophomore year at the helm, it's definitely been a rocky road. The plant has had significant upgrades in all aspects of the plant. Staffing levels are finally operating at normal levels. I want personally thank the staff at the Court Services - Connor Doherty (Court Services Coordinator), Shawn Wright, Amy Kinzer (Asst. Court Services Coordinators) - for their professionalism as they brought some staff to paint our hallways. I would like to express my appreciation to the entire staff at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for their professional, knowledgeable and resourceful expertise. Their efforts insure the water quality of the Hoosic rivers ecosystem and the health of the Town of Adams.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Rumbolt
Wastewater Superintendent



Three rebuilt motors.

Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District

www.nbswmd.com

For Calendar Year 2016, tonnage of paper, glass, cans and plastic was slightly down with 854.53 tons recycled District-wide. The Town of Adams recycled 117.42 tons of paper and 51.29 tons of glass, cans and plastic at the Recycling Station on East Road.

Six paint collections were held from April until the end of June. We shipped out 770 gallons of latex paint, 324 gallons of oil-based stains, varnishes and paint, and three 55-gallon drums of spray paint at a cost of \$6,801.34. 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. 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: 11,490 pounds of electronics, 4,440 pounds of scrap metal, and 6,280 pounds of furniture, etc. Total collected at Lanesborough: 5,680 pounds of electronics, 3,400 pounds of scrap metal, and 5,180 pounds of furniture, etc. Total collected at Clarksburg: 7,120 pounds of electronics, 6,800 pounds of scrap metal and 2,900 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 2017 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 Roll-Off Container. This container will rotate among the towns and every town will benefit.

Williamstown, Windsor and Savoy were again recognized and awarded additional funds under the Mass. DEP Recycling Dividends Program. This program awards points for achievements. Williamstown was awarded \$1,600.00, Windsor \$1,800.00, and Savoy \$1,400.00. The funds have to be reinvested to promote recycling education, new equipment or projects.

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.

A special Thank You goes out to Sandy Totter for her years of service and Leadership for the District. Sandy retired in December 2016, we wish her all the Best.

As the new Coordinator since January 30, 2017, I look forward to working with all of the districts. My goal is to expand Outreach & Funding resources for Services. I welcome questions & suggestions as I move forward in my new role. There are new and exciting projects on the horizon as Adams moves forward March 30, 2017, with No Plastic Bags. I will be working closely with The Bag Share program to help Adams meet their goal, as well as working with Town officials and Mass DEP to open the Adams Transfer Station.

Waste not, want not,

Linda Cernik
NBSWMD Program Coordinator

Edward Driscoll
NBSWMD Commissioner
for the Town of Adams



The new Roll-Off Container purchased by the NBSWMD via Massachusetts DEP "Small Initiative Grants."

Adams Historical Commission



Above: Adams Alerts extinguish a fire at the P.J. Barrett Block 70-76 Park St.

Left: Note the fancy cornice and decorative brickwork.

The building at 70-76 Park Street, listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the P.J. Barrett Block, suffered a fire that destroyed a portion of the decorative cornice at its roof line. Also known as the Dawson Block, it was built in the 1890s in the era when all the other large brick Park Street commercial buildings were built.

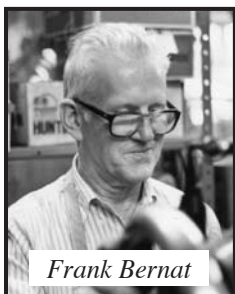
An easement on the building's façade granted to the Town of Adams at the time that the building's owner received grant funds for rehabilitation had expired several years ago. The new owners chose not to restore the damaged portion but instead removed the entire ornamental cornice. Fortunately, the original storefronts with their large four-panel windows and double doors are still intact.

Funding to extend the rail line from the Renfrew Station to the Hoosac Street intersection has been put in place and completion has been targeted for Autumn, 2017. This will allow the Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum to bring its Hoosac Valley Service tourist train into downtown Adams.

The Adams Historical Society has actively supplied The Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum with photos and memorabilia of the North Adams-Pittsfield Railroad and the businesses located on the line. This material is on display at the rail car in North Adams where passengers purchase tickets.



Left: 60 Summer St. as it appeared in 2016 prior to demolition. **Right:** As it looked in the 1920's with brothers Clifford and Albert Richmond.



Frank Bernat

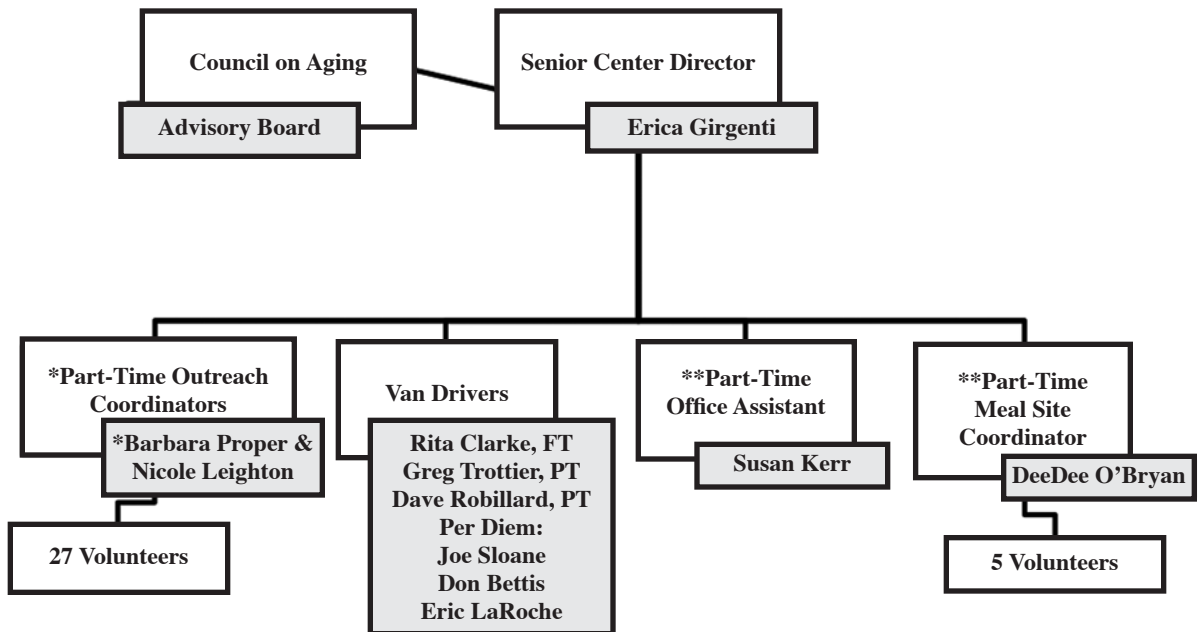
The building at 60 Summer Street, which is known to many people as the Bernat Shoe Shop, was demolished after several attempts were made to find a buyer. When the Town of Adams acquired the building through tax payment default, it had already been condemned. For half a century, Frank Bernat operated a shoe repair and sales shop. In the half century preceding that, the Richmond brothers, Albert and Clifford, operated a tire and battery shop. They were electricians who sold appliances but they also sold automotive parts and gasoline. They were on the "cutting edge" of early 20th Century technology.

The Richmonds were part of the real estate developing family who named six streets after family members. Two of the street names were changed and four retained their name. Richmond

Another book about Adams native, Leontyna Petka, was released in 2016, "Operation Whisper: The Capture of Soviet Spies Morris and Lona Cohen" by Barnes Carr. Lona (Leontyna) was born on Bellevue Avenue in 1913 and grew up on Albert Street but at a young age moved to Connecticut. She married a member of the Communist Party and was an active spy for the Soviets for 22 years. The recently released book details the investigation work done to capture her and her husband. After eight years in a British prison, they were swapped for two British businessmen held in the U.S.S.R. The Cohens were decorated with one of the highest awards, the Order of the Red Banner, recognizing them for extraordinary heroism, dedication, and courage. She died in Moscow in 1992.

The Historical Commission and Historical Society continue to open the Quaker Meeting House on Sunday afternoons between July 4th week and Columbus Day. The historic property is advertised in the Mohawk Trail Brochure courtesy of the Adams Historical Society as well as in the local newspaper.

Senior Center/Council on Aging



The role of the Senior Center/Council on Aging is to provide optimal aging opportunities through a comprehensive network of both in-home and community-based services and support programs in an effort to improve the quality of life for the older adults of our community. We do this through support, advocacy, planning, coordination, and implementation of programs that bring people together for social, recreational, and educational purposes. We also provide access to financial assistance programs. We seek to educate the entire community and enlist its support and participation.

*In 2016 the senior center went from two part-time Outreach Workers back to full time with the assistance of grant funding from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

**The Part-Time Office Assistant and Meal Site Coordinator are both funded through Elder Services of Berkshire County, Inc. The Office Assistant Program is a two-year training program intended for job placement after or during the two year program. Every two years we have to turn over this position and re-train. The Office Assistant position is 20 hours a week and the Meal Site Coordinator is 15 hours a week, at no cost to the Town.

Senior Center Initiatives and Accomplishment of 2016

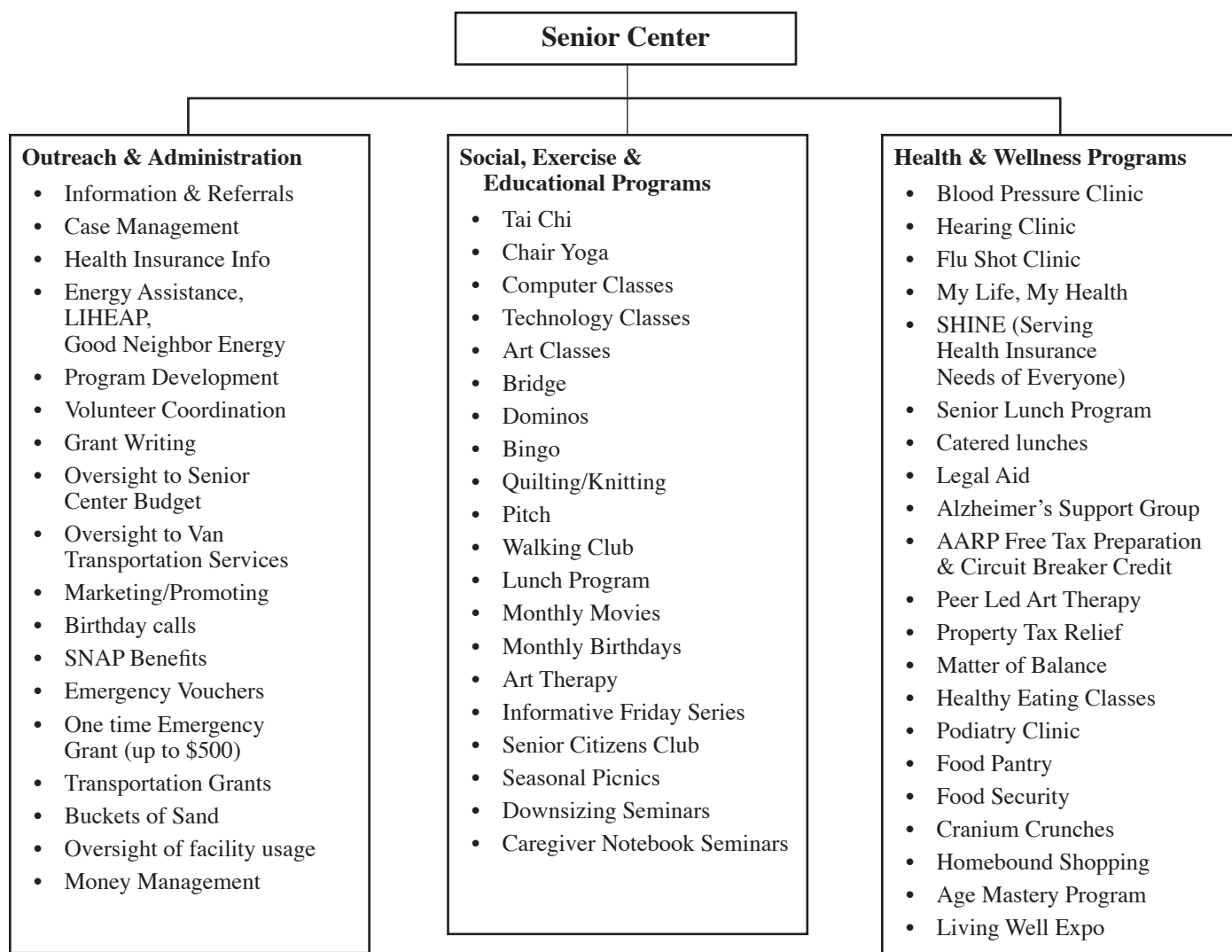
1. Saw an increase in overall program participation by 11.3% from 2015 (840 people) to 2016 (935 people) in active users.
2. Accommodated a 33.3% increase in new clients.
3. Regained a full time outreach worker with the use of grant funding.
4. Updated all public internet computers to Windows 10.
5. Received three grants to increase programming.
6. Increased intergenerational programming.
7. Provided rides to 199 community members.

Senior Center FY2018 Goals and Initiatives

1. Increase and enhance programs and activates at the Senior Center.
2. Increase the number of volunteers and participation at the Senior Center.
3. Explore additional grant funding to sustain and expand programming.
4. Create and/or expand revenue producing programming, i.e. Friends Group, etc.
5. Capital Project Goals: Re-key building, Alarm/Secure building through use of cameras, replace rugs on second floor, fix heating & cooling system, expanding small kitchen on first floor to incorporate electric stove and cabinet/counter top space, installing ADA handicap door openers, and carport for van drivers.



Senior Center Programs and Services



Rose Koscielniak and daughter Carol Cain at Rose's 100th Birthday celebration.



Participants in The Walk To End Alzheimers

	Events		Transportation		Volunteers		Total Served	
	duplicated	unduplicated	Rides	Riders	Hours	People	duplicated	unduplicated
January	468	196	781	86	50	16	1320	257
February	785	250	803	90	51	11	1663	308
March	1248	315	1002	84	64	21	2338	363
April	879	232	873	90	44	15	1835	296
May	855	215	972	94	69	18	1936	272
June	898	235	953	86	75	14	1958	295
July	818	243	722	78	62	19	1618	291
August	966	301	920	79	62	15	1960	349
September	880	229	944	88	37	13	1888	285
October	862	250	926	89	54	15	1885	317
November	814	208	920	92	104	15	1917	291
December	676	282	849	98	74	15	1643	336

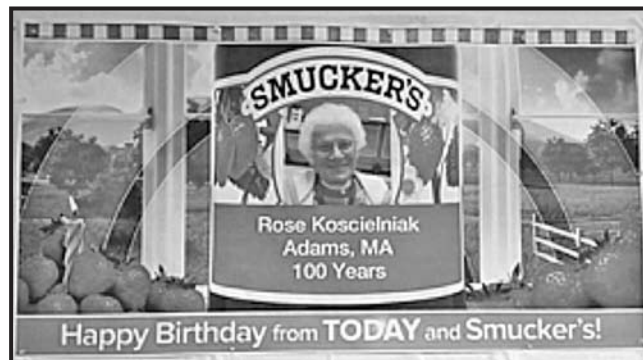
Year End Total for 2016		
	Duplicated	Unduplicated
Events	10,149	754
Rides	10,665	199
Volunteers	746	36
Total Served	21,961	934

In Town	Out of Town
685	249
Becket	1
Bennington	1
Berkshire	1
Canton	1
Cheshire	94
Clarksburg	8
Dalton	6
Englewood	1
Lanesboro	5
Lee	1
Margate	1
North Adams	62
Pittsfield	16
Plainfield	2
Pownal	1
Savoy	39
Stanford	1
Williamstown	7
Windsor	1

Often times, we have people from outside the community come to our programming or access our offices for support. As a human service agency, we do not turn anyone away, just as our neighbors would do if an Adams resident were to go to them. To the right shows the communities who came to Adams for programming and services. In the above tables of statistics you can see that “services” are not shown, that is because it is nearly impossible for us to keep up with logging the service based off of the volume of people we see.



*Standing from Left: Nicole Leighton, Erica Girgenti, Barbara Proper, Tony Mazzucco
Seated: Ed St. John III, Pam St. John*



Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission has seven (7) members:

James Fassell, Chair
Corey Bishop, Vice-Chair
David Lipinski
Tammie Shafer
Zachary Bantle
Brian Bishop
Thomas Robinson

There were eight business meetings held in 2016.

The Commission acted on two (2) Notices of Intent and four (4) Requests for Determination.

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

1. Berkshire Gas Company for proposed bridge mounted gas main improvements and related work along Route 8.
2. Adams Plumbing & Heating, Inc. for the proposed extension and paving of a driveway serving an existing loading dock and new parking area at 43 Printworks Drive.

Determinations of Applicability were issued for the following:

1. Town of Adams for determination if the work depicted on plans is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act for property located at 1 Cook Street.
2. Richard and Dawn Milesi to review the scope of alternatives for a single-family home in the Riverfront Area for property located at 227 East Road.
3. Pan Am Railways for proposed herbicide application along the Adams Branch rail line.
4. Berkshire Gas Company for installation of a pre-fabricated 40' x 13' aluminum carport at property located at 65 Printworks Drive.



Emergency Management

2016 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 man-made.

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 funds for the purchase of additional emergency shelter equipment. Funds from a MEMA grant were used to purchase supplies and equipment to upgrade and improve the Emergency Shelter.

The Town experienced two significant events during which the Emergency Operations Center was not activated but personnel were on standby.

The first event was on October 20, 2016. A call came in to the police department for unidentified foil wrapped soda bottles in the road at the intersection of Airport Road and East Orchard Terrace Extension.

The second event was the Declaration of a Snow Emergency declared by the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen on my recommendation. This was declared on information from the National Weather Service of a potentially large approaching snow storm.

The Adams Memorial School on Columbia Street is the designated 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

*Emergency Management Director
Richard Kleiner in front of the new
Emergency Operations Center room
at the former Adams Memorial
School on Columbia Street.*

Forest Warden

2016 Report

SMOKEY SAYS ... "ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRES!"

The Adams Forest Warden Department is a Wildland Fire Department

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 in 527 CMR Section 1 and 310 CMR Section 7
- Issuance of outdoor burning permits



The Forest Warden Department participated in Fire Department Day with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

2016 MT. GREYLOCK RAMBLE:

The Forest Warden Deputies provided communications and safety on all trails as they have done for the past 45 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: 270

CALLS AND EVENTS:

- 5 – Wildland Fires
- 19 – Illegal Burns and Smoke Investigations
- 10 – Mutual Aid Calls
- 4 – Community Events
- 19 – Community Service Details



Forest Warden Truck.

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 in Town events

THANKS TO THE RESIDENTS OF ADAMS FOR A SAFE BURNING SEASON

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Kleiner
Chief Forest Warden
Town of Adams



From Left: Wes Kelson, Marcus Sanchez, Griffin Willette and Forest Warden Richard Kleiner.

Office of Veterans' Services

The Office of Veteran Services is responsible for providing a broad range of veterans' benefits under Chapter 115 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as well as the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs. These vitally important programs provide financial assistance to eligible veterans and their dependents and may deliver some 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 assistance provided by the Office of Veteran Services. Many veterans and their families in our community have been rescued from hunger and homelessness by the services provided by Veteran Service Officer Stephen R. Roy, who works closely with the Department of Veteran Services (DVS) in Boston.

Veteran Services also assists a great number of veterans with filing claims through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This intimidating process is extremely difficult to accomplish successfully - without assistance nearly all claims would be denied by the VA. Together with assistant Tina Samson, we support these folks in acquiring the correct documentation, proper completion, and submission to the appropriate entity. Other services provided include but are not limited to: educational/employment assistance, dependency and indemnity compensation, alcohol/drug rehabilitation, housing assistance, referrals, and close contact with funeral homes and cemeteries to ensure all veterans' graves are properly honored. The Office of Veteran Services also serves as a depository for hundreds of thousands of documents and important records of historic value to the sons and daughters of Adams, maintained in secure archives.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Roy
Veteran Service Officer

Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire

In 2017, the Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire (CCNB) awarded over \$59,000 to 65 individuals and organizations in the eleven towns within its jurisdiction: Adams, North Adams, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Florida, Hancock, Lanesboro, New Ashford, Savoy, Peru, and Williamstown. Among the Adams recipients were schools - Plunkett Elementary, St. Stanislaus Kostka, and BART - the Adams Memorial Library, Bascom Lodge, and Art on the Trail.

Each year the legislature appropriates funds to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to the 329 local cultural councils (LCC) that together serve all of the commonwealth's 351 cities and towns. Each LCC is comprised of a board of municipally appointed volunteers who make the difficult decisions about which programs to support and at what level. As a whole, the LCC Program, the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, annually supports thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities, with over \$3 million to be distributed in 2017. Grants support a broad range of local activities: concerts, exhibitions, radio and video productions, field trips for schoolchildren, after-school youth programs, writing workshops, historical preservation efforts, lectures, First Night celebrations, nature and science education programs for families, and town festivals. Approximately half of CCNB funds support educational activities for young people.

The Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire will solicit applications again in the fall. Application forms and more information about the LCC Program are available online at www.mass-culture.org. Applications are due October 15, 2017, for programs to be offered in 2018.

Members of the Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire and the towns they represent follow:

Selma Josell, Chair	Lanesboro
Stephanie Abrams	Lanesboro
Nancy Cook	Hancock
Karylee Doubiago	Adams
Holly Edwards	Williamstown
Jane Hudson	Williamstown
Tammara Leminen	New Ashford
Leo Mazzeo	New Ashford
Maureen Riley Moriarty	Cheshire
Melanie Mowinski	North Adams
Linda Rhoads	Adams
Pete Traub	Cheshire

Adams Free Library

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



The Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Memorial Hall located on the second floor of the Adams Free Library.

Since the Library opened on January 2, 1899, the building has served as the home of the town's public library, a war memorial and meeting rooms for the George E. Sayles Grand Army of the Republic Post No. 126 now known as Memorial Hall. This Hall is a piece of American history preserved on the second floor of the library. One of the special architectural features in the room is the central coved ceiling. It raises the room's height, creating a more spacious and grand venue. The cove is decorated with symbols and the names of battles in which Adams men fought. As the library building approached its 100th Birthday in 1997, a former member of the Library Board of Trustees, Ron Bishop, pursued a restoration of Memorial Hall. The original wall sconces had been removed decades ago and replaced with needed electrical outlets. Fortunately, the fixtures were still in the basement and, underneath years of blackening patina, they were discovered to be brass. They were restored by George Li-see, and the globes bearing the G.A.R. emblem, also in storage, were returned to their original place. Now, after the installation of security cameras, it is our pleasure to invite you to the library for a self-guided tour of this lasting piece of Adams history.

This year has seen many changes to staff. Lyn Wilson, who has worked at the library for more than 11 years as Cataloger and Circulation Librarian, took over as Children's Librarian in July

of this year. Lyn has maintained the operations of the Children's Room while creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for our youngest patrons and their families. Lyn'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, weekly story times, special guest presentations and more.

The Summer Reading Program theme for 2016 was "On your Mark, Get Set, Read!" This year we visited C.T. Plunkett Elementary School's kindergarten open house to introduce the Summer Reading Program. The library sponsored the Circus Minimus and Motion Man as part of its Summer Reading Program. The following summer programs were supported in part by a grant from the Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency: Reading Olympics with Jungle Jim, Alex the Jester and Comic Mime Robert Rivest. This grant saved the library \$750. All of our summer programs were well attended and enjoyed by local families.



April 2016 — Magician Scott Jameson performs in the G.A.R. Memorial Hall.

In October the Library hosted Ed Popielarczyk's Halloween Magic Show for children and families. He was funny, talented and able to engage our whole audience. His magic was inventive, silly, and perfect for the variety of youngsters we had.

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 Foods and Spices of the Rain Forest, the Battle of Iwo Jima, and the Wombat. Our research group had 12 students enrolled. "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.

Our weekly story times were well attended and enjoyed by all thanks to the wonderful volunteer work of Jean Norman. She graciously helped us through the staffing changes and kept our story time running for the greater part of this year. For three weeks in July Miss Julie presented her Ukulele story times. In May, Head Start visited the library for a special story time with Sandra King. We also hosted two Berkshire Mountains Faerie Festival story times. 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 Motion Man - sponsored by the Summer Reading Program..

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 productive one for the Friends, who were able to make numerous purchases for the library through their fundraising efforts. They provided incentives for the Children's Summer Reading Program – On Your Mark, Get Set, Read! They purchased museum passes for Arrowhead, The Mount, Norman Rockwell Museum, Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum, and the Smith College Museum of Arts. The Friends covered the annual cost of the computer program Ancestry.com and the summer flowers for the window boxes and urns on the exterior of the library. The Friends purchased an additional book cart, a laptop computer and a projector for library use. The Friends, along with the Board of Trustees, purchased new office furniture for the library director's office.



Left: *Alex the Jester entertains a crowd in the Miller Annex.*

Right: *Comic Mime Robert Rivest performs.*

Both events were supported in part by state and local grants.





Ukulele Story Times presented by Miss Julie.

The Friends were sponsors for the Savoy Loop Road Race. They handed out bookmarks and bags of candy at the Children's Halloween Parade. They also decorated the Christmas tree in Memorial Hall and set up the little Christmas tree in the main room with bookmarks and candy canes.

The Friends also put on the Annual Book Sale, which is their biggest and most successful fundraising event. Prior to the sale they spend numerous hours in preparation and set 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 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 2016. 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, Financial Health Seminars, author visits and the Eagles Ensemble sponsored by the Adams Historical Society. Up until October of 2016 the New England Holocaust Institute & Museum had 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 authentic 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 the Fall the Library was able to offer classes about using Windows 10, iPads/Tablets and Smartphones. With these funds the Library also began an adult coloring social, which has been enjoyed by our community.

In addition to the hard work of Children's Librarian Lyn Wilson, the trustees are indebted to the dedicated hard work of all the library employees. Christa Sidway 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. The Library has two new part-time employees, Caren Les and Juliana Matthews, who process and shelve all library materials, maintain the periodical storage system, handle reference questions and work the main circulation desk. The members of the Board of Trustees are Chairman James Loughman, Treasurer Eugene Michalenko, Building Maintenance Chairman David Strzepek, Karen Kettles, Anita Jamros and Virginia Duval.

The trustees, administration and staff wish to extend sincere appreciation to the many town departments that have provided assistance this year. We wish to extend special thanks to the Town Custodian Kyle Wilson. The routine management of the physical building and grounds would not be possible without his hard work.

James R. Loughman
Chairman of the
Board of Library Trustees

Holli Jayko,
Library Director



Dave Strzepek

The library renovation and reorganization project went very smoothly thanks to Library Board of Trustee member David Strzepek who chooses not to seek another term in 2017. His experience in the construction trades and his creative vision were invaluable assets to the library and to the Town of Adams. Local government and the community are improved by people with personal skills who share them for the betterment of all. Thank you Dave.

Fiscal 2016 Library Statistics

Total Number of Holdings as of June 30, 2016: **31,543**

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

Registered borrowers: **2,632**

Circulation:

Adult and young adult print	16,343
Juvenile print	8,257
Video Cassettes/music CDs/DVDs, museum passes, misc.	10,896
Audio Books	1,988
E-books	684
Downloadable Audio (audiobooks, music)	302
Downloadable Video	19
Downloadable Periodicals	45
Materials in Electronic Format	50

TOTAL **38,584**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Fees Returned to Town Treasurer: **\$ 1,263.18**

✓	Microfilm Printer Receipts	11.75
✓	Internet Printer Receipts	697.32
✓	Miscellaneous	92.00
✓	Photocopier Receipts	462.11

Returned to Revolving Fund via Town Treasurer: **\$ 2,700.46**

✓	Fines for Overdue Materials	2,253.96
✓	Damaged or Lost Items Replacement Fees	446.50

TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS **\$ 3,963.64**

OTHER INCOME

Gifts, Memorial Donations, Used Items Sales	\$ 1,147.25
Grant: No. Berkshire Cultural Council	\$ 750.00
State Aid to Public Libraries Award	\$ 14,348.96

TRUST FUNDS DIVIDEND INCOME	BALANCE 7/01/15	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	BALANCE 6/30/16
W.T. Adams	\$ 2,505.33	\$ 5,839.36	\$ (4,876.31)	\$ 3,468.38
C.N. Miller	1,134.29	2,390.17	(689.90)	2,834.56
Plunkett / Saunders	22.97	267.09	(0.00)	290.06
H. Tiedemann	2,393.57	1,735.90	(1,368.00)	2,761.47
TOTALS	\$ 6,056.16	\$ 10,232.52	\$ (6,934.21)	\$ 9,354.47

Memorial Book Funds **Total as of 12/31/16 \$ 45,337.41**

Memorial Book Fund Investment Values **Total as of 12/31/16 \$ 148,840.86**

Adams Police Department

2016 Activity Report

Calls for Service	12,039
<i>(406 calls were domestic related)</i>	
Ambulance Calls.....	669
<i>(this does not include ambulance transfer calls)</i>	
Fire Department Calls.....	145
DPW.....	29
Animal Control Calls.....	255

Criminal and Custodial Activity

Offenses Committed	731
Felonies Committed.....	290

Arrests

Adult	211
Juvenile	16
Summons Served	127
<i>24% of arrests were domestic related</i>	

Motor Vehicle Activity

Written Warnings	639
Civil Offenses	164
Arrests.....	76
Criminal Complaints.....	116

Motor Vehicle Accidents

Investigated.....	223
Fatalities.....	1
Persons Injured	60

Other Police Activity

B&E / Larcenies	152
Alarms Responded To.....	56
Restraining Orders Served.....	69
Parking Tickets Issued	440
House/Business Checks	864

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	04/17/08
	Curtis Crane	05/20/10
	Travis Cunningham	01/24/13
	Brenna Dorr	06/05/15
	<i>(resigned/lateral transfer to Pittsfield 08/01/16)</i>	
	Colby Clark	06/05/15
	Gregory Onorato	01/12/15
	<i>(transfer date)</i>	
	Dakota Baker	10 /19/16

Administrative

Assistant:	Melissa Schaffrick
Reserve Officer:	Robert Krzanik
	Benjamin Alibozek
	<i>(resigned to attend NYSP Academy)</i>

Special

Police Officer:	Allen Mendel
------------------------	--------------

Animal

Control Officers:	Kimberly Witek
	Daniel Lefebvre

2016 Training/Seminars/Community Events

January – In-Service Training: Fair & Impartial Policing/ Eye Witness Identification, attended by Detective Ordyna, Officer Charon and Officer Cunningham. Breathalyzer Recertification, attended by Officer Crane.

February - In-Service Training: Legal Updates, attended by Detective Ordyna, Officer Crane and Officer Cunningham. In-Service Training: Fair & Impartial Policing/Eye Witness Identification, attended by Sgt. Briggs, Sgt. McWhirt, Sgt. Malloy, Sgt. Wright, Officers Dean, Wandrei, J.Baker, Clark, Charon, Dabrowski, Onorato, Dorr and Chief Tarsa.

March – PTSD and the 1st responder & Suicide Prevention for Law Enforcement, attended by Sgt. Wright and Officers

Wandrei and Clark. In-Service Training: Legal Updates, attended by Sgt. Briggs, Sgt. McWhirt, Sgt. Malloy, Sgt. Wright, Officers J. Baker, Wandrei, Clark, Onorato, Charon, Dabrowski, Dean, Dorr and Chief Tarsa. Bio-Hazard Training, attended by members of the force.

April – Officer Dean participated in the Rx Collection.

May – Animal Control Officers Witek and Lefebvre attended In-Service for ACOs. Chief Tarsa attended a seminar at BCC on Marijuana: What we need to know.

June – Officer Clark attended the 40 hour Crisis Intervention Training at BCC sponsored by NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Sgt. Wright and Chief Tarsa attended a Mass Casualty Drill in North Adams. In-Service Training: CPR/1st Responder, attended by Sgt. Briggs, Sgt. McWhirt, Sgt. Malloy, Officers Dean, Charon, Wandrei, J.Baker, Dabrowski, Crane, Cunningham, Clark, Dorr, and Chief Tarsa. Taser Certification Training: Sgt. Briggs, Sgt. Wright, Clark, Dean, J. Baker, Onorato, Dabrowski, Charon, Krzanik, Alibozek, and D. Baker.

July – Chief Tarsa attended training in Amherst regarding the New Public Records Law.

September – Officer Wandrei attended training on Investigating SNAP (EBT) Trafficking in Worcester. Sgt. Wright and Officer J. Baker attended MPTC Taser Instructor School in Waltham. Chief Tarsa attended Chiefs In-Service Training in Norwood.

October – All officers attended yearly Firearms Re-Certifications.



From Left: Officer Joshua Baker, Officer Dakota Baker and Chief Richard Tarsa - the Adams Police Department welcomes Dakota as a full time officer.

November – Officers J. Baker and Cunningham attended an Active Shooter Drill at Sullivan School in North Adams.

On September 14, 2016 Dakota Baker was appointed as a full time officer with the Adams Police Department. Dakota brings to the department enthusiasm, ambition, motivation and a deep sense of community policing. Dakota entered the Western Mass Police Academy, located STCC in Springfield, MA, in October and we look forward to his graduation in May 2017. Congratulations Dakota!

On February 3, 2016 the Adams Police Department recognized 8 year old Cody Stojda for his life saving efforts when he called 9-

1-1 on November 15, 2015 at 8:00 pm. Cody discovered his mother on the kitchen floor. She was unconscious and having difficulty breathing. Cody quickly called 9-1-1 and in a clear, calm and precise manner informed dispatch of the problem. Officers and EMS were dispatched and rendered aid to his mother who was then able to make a full recovery. Cody not only received a commendation for his actions, but was also made “An Officer for the Day” with the Adams Police Department.

In 2015, town officials announced that they were going to regionalize our E9-1-1 dispatching services with the Berkshire County Sheriffs Control located at the Berkshire County House of Correction in Lanesborough. The move was intended to consolidate these services while also affording a savings



Cody Stojda is honored with a commendation by the Adams Police Department.

to the Town of Adams. The process officially went into effect on June 30, 2016 at 2:10 pm when all E9-1-1 calls were officially directed to BCSC.

There were several concerns raised as a result of this with the main concern being a delay in response. I can assure all that this was not and is not true. The only change regarding E9-1-1 related calls is the location in which the call was received. Police, Fire and Ambulance would still be dispatched as they were and the same services would be continually provided.

As with any new system or process there are always some things that need to be smoothed out, refined and changed. Protocols were put in place regarding dispatching, call taking, data entry and communications were improved upon. Problems with interoperability between agencies were addressed, modified and corrected. During this somewhat challenging time, officers were able to persevere and continued with their duties. The few remaining issues are software related and do not impact services. We are currently working with the engineer of the software firm in addressing these issues.

The Fiscal 17 Budget Process resulted in the Town reinstating the cruiser replacement program. The program design entails a cruiser being replaced every six years. In other words, when a cruiser gets to be six years old it's replaced. This will result in a substantial savings to the Town not only in replacement costs but also in maintenance costs. The budget process also resulted in a commitment by the Town to upgrade and replace aging equipment, i.e. dash camera video systems.

The Adams Police Department is a Civil Service Department and is, therefore, bound by their regulations and laws. Civil Service was once an outstanding agency that was beneficial in

many ways such as the hiring process. However, these benefits are no longer advantageous due to the fact that their hiring regulations actually complicate the actual hiring process making it extremely difficult to recruit good qualified candidates in a timely fashion. The Town needs to seriously look at the breaking away from Civil Service.

Officers of the Adams Police Department are firm believers in the concept of community policing. They are constantly interacting within the community and their efforts are most appreciated. Officers were able to bring back the Kids Summer Field Day involving games, events and prizes. They also worked with several organizations in order to bring Christmas, through a Christmas Angel Program, to numerous families within the town. Their continued efforts help strengthen collaborations with organizations, groups and neighborhoods.

As always, I want to thank the members of the Adams Police Department for their continued hard work, dedication and fidelity to duty. Their tireless efforts do not go unnoticed and are greatly appreciated. I would also like to extend a deep sense of gratitude to the residents of the Town of Adams. Your commitment to, and support of, the Adams Police Department shows your faith and confidence in us, and for that we say; "Thank You." We will continue to provide a dedicated commitment to the fair application of the law not only for our residents, but also to those who travel through or visit Adams. Our efforts will continue to help make Adams a safe community to live in and raise a family.

Respectfully yours,

Chief Richard W. Tarsa Jr.



From Left: Chief Richard Tarsa, K-9 Officer Curtis Crane and Officer Travis Cunningham of the Adams Police Department accept a donation from the Adams Outdoorsmen for Youth in support of the K-9 Unit.

Community Development Department

During 2016, the Adams Community Development Department had a broad 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. 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 as 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 for low-to-moderate income residents. 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 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.

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 2016:

Proposed “Hoosac Valley Service” Tourist Train Excursions

Community Development staff prepared an application under the 2016 MassWorks Infrastructure Program for \$2.6 million in funding to extend the Adams Branch Rail Line from its current terminus at Renfrew Street approximately 0.9 miles south to Hoosac Street in downtown Adams. The MassWorks grant application was submitted in early September, and in November 2016, the Town was formally awarded the full grant amount. Completion of the project will fulfill the vision of connecting the downtowns of Adams and North Adams via tourist train service offered by Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum (BSRM). Extending the track and other associated work as requested under MassWorks not only fully completes the rail improvement project to purchase, upgrade, and extend the Adams Branch line for improved commercial rail access and operation of tourist train excursions, but protects the previous investment of over \$4.5M in public funds toward this important regional endeavor.

The Hoosac Valley Service project is a partnership involving MassDOT, Adams, N. Adams, and BSRM. The track extension is within the abandoned Boston & Maine RR Adams Branch

corridor on property owned by the Commonwealth and it will share this right-of-way with DCR’s Ashuwillticook Rail Trail project (now completed). A passenger platform will be constructed at the southern end at Hoosac Street, and new culverts will be installed to control stormwater along the project corridor. The operating plans for the rail service will be focused on providing a quality visitor experience and not emphasize train speed or frequency. With completion of the track extension, the service will provide visitors a slow, narrated scenic trip over the 5-mile route. Both Adams & North Adams have identified this as one of their highest priority economic development projects and have worked hard to integrate it with other key municipal investments to maximize potential positive impact in their downtowns.

Adams Visitor Center Parking Improvement Project

With funding under its FY2015 CDBG grant, the Town hired Waterfield Design Group, Inc. to develop design improvements for the heavily used parking facility at the Visitor Center. The existing 135-space parking lot is in poor condition and in need of new pavement, new drainage and landscaping. Final design for the project is complete and construction documents are in place. The project is to include the following: i) demolishing / removing existing sidewalks; ii) milling existing parking surface pavement with approximately two-inches of material to be removed; iii) installing new and retrofitting existing drainage structures (modifying catch basins with deep sumps); iv) removing and installing new lighting; v) removing and installing new curbing; vi) installing new bituminous concrete pavement; and vii) installing new sidewalks with pedestrian curb extensions, handicapped ramps and tactile warning pads, new street trees, landscaping, and new street furnishings to include benches, bollards, trash receptacles, and decorative pavers. Community Development staff will apply for construction dollars for the parking improvement project under the FY2017 CDBG program in spring 2017.

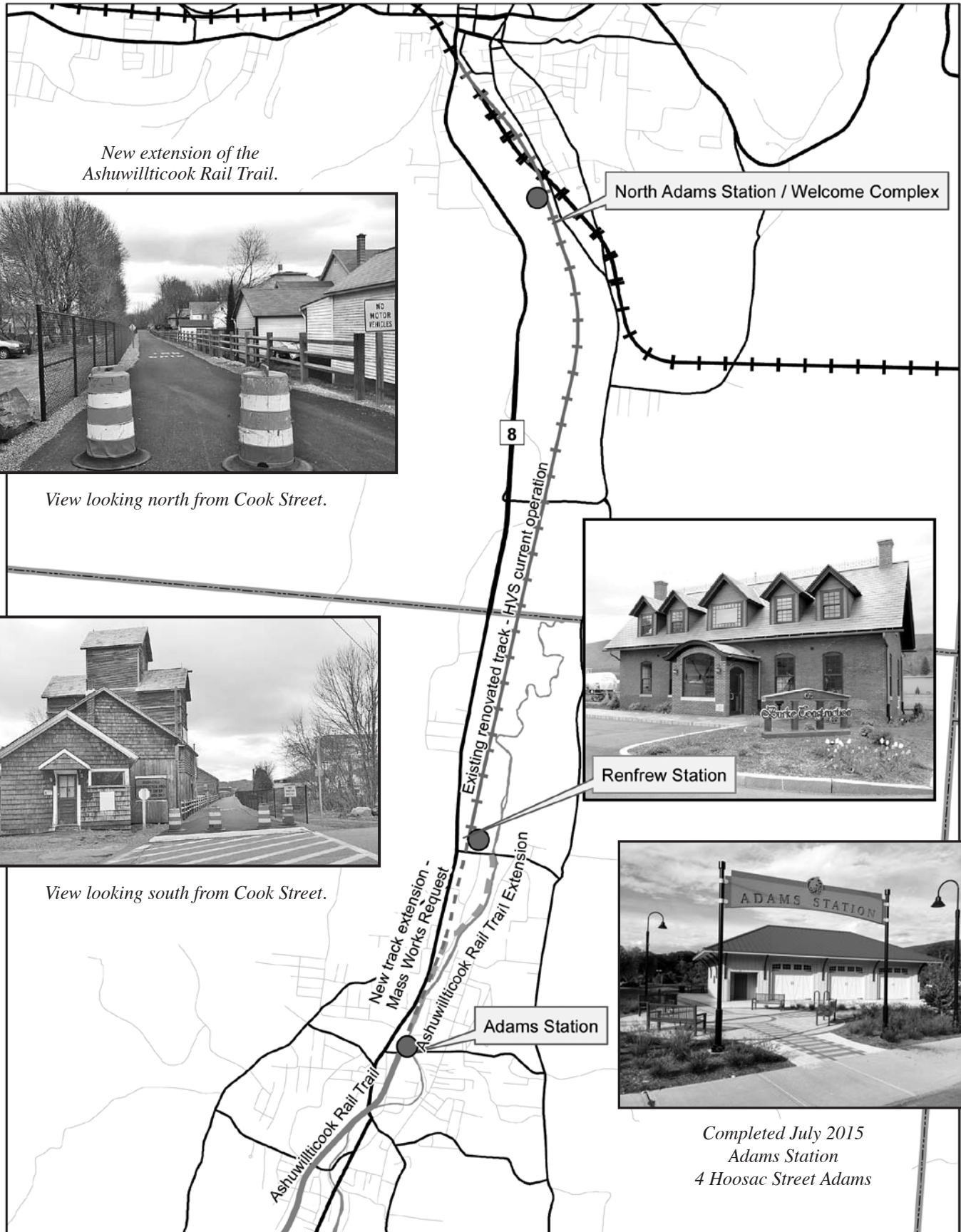
Importantly the parking improvement project will complement other major state investments in the immediate vicinity: the new “Hoosac Valley Service” offering tourist train excursions between downtown Adams and downtown North Adams is expected to bring an additional 16,000 new visitors to this area. Further, the completion of the next extension of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail in early 2017 (extending the trail north approximately 1.4 miles from its current terminus at the Visitor Center) will bring even more visitors to this focused hub of activity within the town center.

OTHER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Greylock Glen Resort Project

The Town continued to work on implementation of the Greylock Glen Resort, the proposed four-season resort development focused on outdoor recreation and environmental education and 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 redevelop 56 acres of land, as stipulated in the executed Master Lease. Now in control of the development portion of the Glen

Hoosac Valley Service Track Extension



New extension of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail.

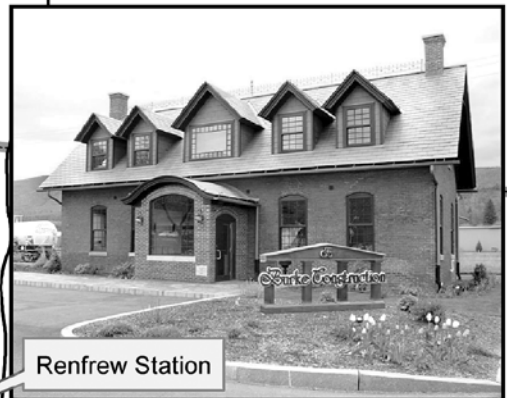


View looking north from Cook Street.

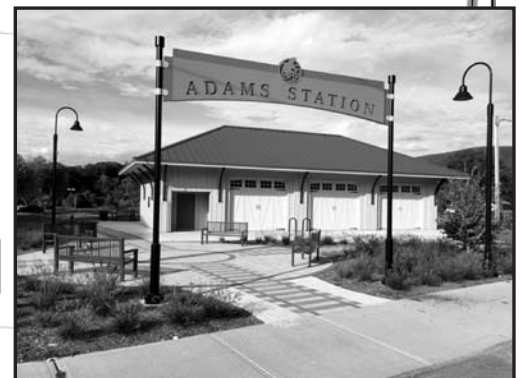


View looking south from Cook Street.

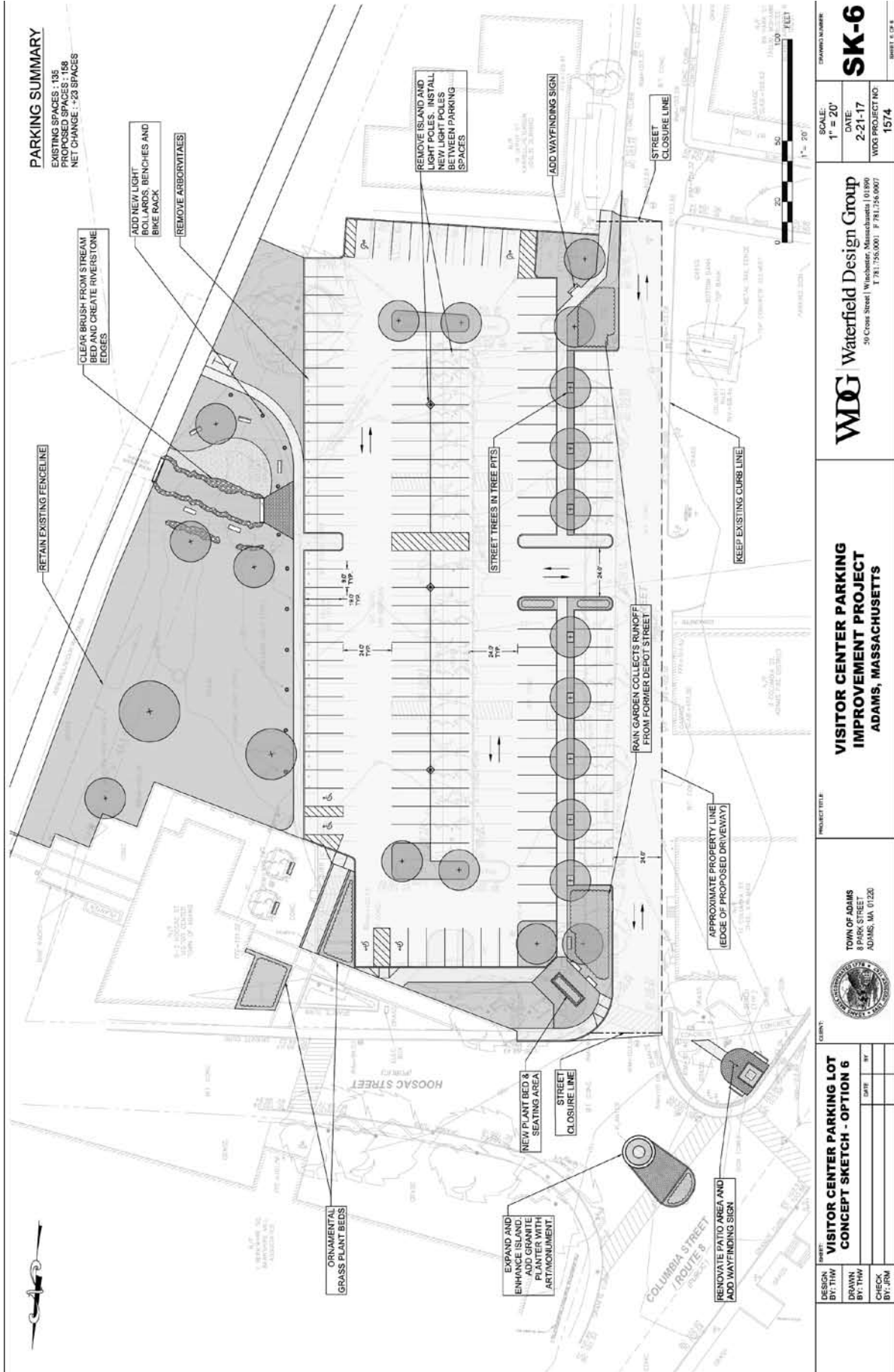
North Adams Station / Welcome Complex



Renfrew Station



*Completed July 2015
Adams Station
4 Hoosac Street Adams*



Proposed Visitor Center Parking Lot Improvement Project.



Left and Above: December 8, 2016 demolition of 58-62 Summer Street, on the corner with Winter Street.

property, the Town has the ability to focus on development of the individual resort components.

On July 1, 2016, the Town issued a Request for Proposals for the development, construction, and/or operation and management of the **Campground at Greylock Glen** through a contract/lease agreement. The development site of the proposed 140-site campground of tents, rustic cabins, and associated facilities is in a defined location and consists of two parcels on either side of Gould Road in the western portion of the 1,063-acre Glen property: Site A is approximately 6.9 acres and Site B is approximately 4.9 acres. Both sites are essentially “shovel-ready” with road upgrades and the first phase of utilities improvements now completed.

In December 2016, the Town issued a Request for Proposals for architectural design services for 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. Selection of the Town’s design team is expected to occur in spring 2017. Design funds have been provided by the Commonwealth.



Park Street after reconstruction.

Financial Reports

Board of Assessors

TAX RATE SUMMARY FOR FY 2017

a. Total amount to be raised	\$ 15,546,734.88
b. Total estimated receipts and other Revenue sources	- 4,415,027.00
c. Tax levy	\$ 11,131,707.88

Class	Certified Full and Fair Cash Value Assessments	Percentage Full Value Shares of Total Tax Levy
1. Residential	420,646,648	80.7562%
2. Open Space	0	0.0000%
3. Commercial	34,226,969	7.5473%
4. Industrial	28,711,488	6.3311%
5. Personal Property	24,331,971	5.3654%
Totals	507,917,076	100.0000%

Properties purchased by the State (FY2017):

Weggel property – Upper East Hoosac Street \$ 44,000 Valuation 142 Acres

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, 2016 (Audited)

	Uncollected Tax July 1, 2015	Add Commitments	(Add) Deduct Abatements and Adjustments	Add (Deduct) Prior years Tax Title Account	Deduct Collections	Correct Uncollected Tax June 30, 2016
REAL ESTATE						
2007 and older	96,797				8,282	88,515
2008	47,260				7,294	39,966
2009	42,195				1,667	40,528
2010	26,726				1,663	25,063
2011	39,411				7,100	32,311
2012	60,740				11,538	49,202
2013	98,149				22,596	75,553
2014	211,196				58,463	152,733
2015	381,788		6,646		150,453	224,689
		10,105,464	113,533		9,647,956	343,975
Total Real Estate	1,004,262	10,105,464	120,179	-	9,917,012	1,072,535
PERSONAL PROPERTY						
2009 and older	11,469					11,469
2010	2,124					2,124
2011	961					961
2012	939					939
2013	1,298					1,298
2014	7,555				996	6,559
2015	5,319	779				6,098
2016		624,555	40		618,616	5,899
Total						
Personal Property	29,665	625,334	40	-	619,612	35,347
Total Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes	1,033,927	10,730,798	120,219	-	10,536,624	1,107,883

Town of Adams

Schedule of Taxes Receivable

for the Year Ended June 30, 2016 (Audited continued)

	Uncollected Tax July 1, 2015	Add Commitments	(Add) Deduct Abatements and Adjustments	Add (Deduct) Prior years Tax Title Account	Deduct Collections	Correct Uncollected Tax June 30, 2016
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE						
2009 and older	49,502				3,328	46,174
2010	3,109				822	2,287
2011	4,358				1,172	3,186
2012	5,705				1,060	4,645
2013	8,712		(252)	252	2,482	6,734
2014	15,992	38	(737)	160	11,006	5,922
2015	103,437	108,783	(12,035)	10,210	215,219	19,246
2016		887,855	(27,996)	4,989	803,663	117,177
Total Motor Vehicle Excise	190,816	996,676	(41,020)	15,611	1,038,752	205,371
Grand Total Tax Receivables	1,224,743	11,727,474	79,198	15,611	11,575,376	1,313,254

Town of Adams

Reconciliation of Treasurer's Cash

June 30, 2016

As of June 30, 2016 cash consisted of the following balances:

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

TD Bank	\$ 41,611
Adams Community Bank	1,960,078
Unibank	2,663,085
Keaton Group	122,392
Century Bank	34,355
Value Line	9,760
Total	4,831,281
Petty Cash	590
Total cash and Short-term investments	\$ 4,831,871

Indebtedness

June 30, 2016

	Outstanding July 1, 2015	Retirement	Outstanding June 30, 2016
Town Hall/Police Station/Library	\$ 2,095,000	\$ 190,000	\$ 1,905,000
WWTP Plant renovations	1,727,163	146,439	1,580,724
Tropical Storm Irene	114,400	38,300	76,100
Water Channel Improvements	210,000	70,000	140,000
TOTAL	\$ 4,146,563	\$ 444,739	\$ 3,701,824

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, 2016 (Audited)

	Actual Budget as Revised	Expenditures/ Revenue	Surplus/ (Deficit)
REVENUES			
Property Taxes	10,730,020	10,501,182	(228,838)
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	824,426	984,652	160,226
Departmental receipts, licenses and permits	434,999	616,873	181,874
Earnings on invested funds	2,200	3,869	1,669
Total locally raised revenue	11,991,645	12,106,576	114,931
Intergovernmental revenues/Net of offsets	2,401,478	2,328,206	(73,272)
Total Revenues	14,393,123	14,434,782	41,659
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
Selectman/Moderator/Town Report	22,036	19,002	3,034
Town Administrator	240,917	231,875	9,042
Financial - Accounting/FinCom	232,393	209,156	23,237
Assessors	218,310	151,783	66,527
Treasurer/Collector	173,967	138,935	35,032
Town Counsel	39,972	39,916	56
Technology	143,454	127,684	15,770
Town Clerk/Elections/Registrations/Codes	145,026	133,285	11,741
Property/Liability Insurance	143,189	143,189	-
Total General Government	1,359,264	1,194,825	164,439
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT			
Conservation/Agriculture/Hist. Commission	2,835	2,655	180
Planning/Zoning Board	15,570	15,140	430
Community Development	243,182	223,053	20,129
Building Inspector	75,369	74,978	391
Inspection Services/Wire/Gas/Plumbing/etc.	5,485	3,507	1,978
Total Community Development	342,441	319,333	23,108
PUBLIC SAFETY			
Police	1,772,192	1,739,209	32,983
Police Station	33,650	22,184	11,466
Emergency Mgm/Forest Wardens/Haz. Waste	18,248	16,604	1,644
Animal Control	37,784	34,603	3,181
Parking Management	12,403	1,016	11,387
Total Public Safety	1,874,277	1,813,616	60,661
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE			
Veterans Services/Memorials	151,388	150,576	812
Council on Aging	245,077	215,045	30,032
Board of Health	53,124	46,214	6,910
Total Health and Human Service	449,589	411,835	37,754

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, 2016 (Audited *continued*)

	Budget as Revised	Actual Expenditures/ Revenue	Surplus/ (Deficit)
EDUCATION - REGIONAL			
Adams-Cheshire Regional School	5,521,469	5,521,469	-
Northern Berkshire Voc/Regional School	788,446	788,446	-
Total Education - Regional	6,309,915	6,309,915	-
LIBRARY	305,063	255,670	49,393
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS/PUBLIC BUILDINGS			
Public Buildings	315,030	237,392	77,638
DPW Administration/Tree Warden	259,598	171,409	88,189
Highways	1,313,241	1,168,845	144,396
Snow & Ice Control	246,000	106,539	139,461
Flood Control	600	-	600
Dpw Garage/Equipment Maintenance	285,248	235,362	49,886
Recycling Center	61,416	49,295	12,121
Wastewater Treatment/Collection	359,691	317,357	42,334
Total Public Works, Buildings, Highways and Streets	2,840,824	2,286,199	554,625
EMPLOYEE/RETIREE BENEFITS	1,170,926	1,131,260	39,666
CEMETERIES AND PARKS			
Cemetery, Parks & Grounds	69,407	47,287	22,120
Recreation	14,000	14,000	-
Celebrations - Seasonal	2,200	2,199	1
Total Cemeteries, Parks and Other	85,607	63,486	22,121
COURT JUDGMENT	16,250	16,250	-
DEBT SERVICE	555,571	551,961	3,610
Principal	444,739	444,739	-
Interest/Fees	110,832	107,222	3,610
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS/ EXPENDITURES	15,309,727	14,354,350	955,377
OTHER AMOUNTS RAISED:			
State Cherry Sheet Charges	40,445	40,445	
Allowance for Abatements & Exemptions	173,364	173,364	
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	15,523,536	14,568,159	955,377

Town of Adams, Massachusetts

Office of the Town Accountant - Consolidated Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2016 (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 06/30/2016
Cash									
Petty Cash	590								590
Cash in Savings and Money Market Account	2,858,983	261,054	880,098	86,235	97,345	613,357	30,342		4,827,414
Investments									
Accounts Receivable									
Personal Property Taxes	35,347								35,347
Real Estate Taxes	1,072,536								1,072,536
Allowance for Abatements & Exemptions	-608,739								-608,739
Motor Vehicle Excise	205,372								205,372
Tax Titles									
Tax Possessions	371,075								371,075
Departmental - PD Off Duty - due from Vendors							24,383		24,383
Departmental - Industry Sewer									
Departmental - Sewer/Water Liens AFD							3,402		3,402
Departmental - Veterans Services	148,962								148,962
Checks returned - ISF	858								858
Special Assessment - Demolition Lien	1,155								1,155
Departmental - Emergencies Agencies									
Departmental - Federal Grant Receivable			630						630
Departmental - Comm of Mass Grants					11,151				11,151
Departmental - Comm of Mass Chapter 90									
Due from SRF - Federal Grant Small Cities I	20,035			20,035					40,070
Due from SRF - PARC St Grant	0								0
Due from SRF - Chapter 90	0								0
Amounts to be Provided for									
Payment of Bond								3,701,824	3,701,824
Debt Authorized & Unissued								215,000	215,000
Total Assets	4,106,174	261,054	880,728	106,270	108,496	613,357	58,127	3,916,824	10,051,030

Consolidated Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2016 (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 06/30/2016
Current Liabilities									
Warrants Payable	82,061								82,061
Payroll Payable	0								0
Health Insurance Withheld	122,664								122,664
Workmans Comp/PD Accident Payable	7,275								7,275
Taxes Withheld/Payable	4,144								4,144
Unemployment Payable	5,487								5,487
Misc. Withheld	10,958								10,958
Cafeteria Plan Withheld	130								130
Retirement Withheld	558								558
Contract Retainage	31								31
Due to General Fund				20,035					20,035
Due to Deputy Collector							17,111		17,111
Due to Commonwealth of Mass - F & G/FID							371		371
Miscellaneous									
Off-Duty Work							12,860		12,860
Deferred Revenues									
Real Estate & Personal Property Tax	499,144								499,144
Tax Liens	371,075								371,075
Motor Vehicle Excise	205,372								205,372
Tax Possessions									0
Departmental	148,962						24,383		173,345
Special Assessments	1,155						3,402		4,557
Due from Federal Government				20,035					20,035
Due from Comm of Mass Grants			630		11,151				11,781
Unreserved Fund Balances	1,973,102	261,054							2,234,156
Fund Balances Reserved for Encumbrances	112,621								112,621
Fund Balances Reserved for Compensated Absences	101,935								101,935
Fund Balances Reserved for Trust Funds									
Restricted Trust Funds									476,310
Unrestricted Trust Funds									137,047

Consolidated Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2016 (AUDITED Continued)

LIABILITIES and FUND BALANCES	General Fund	Stabilization Fund	Special Revenue Small Cities	Special Revenue Capital Projects	Trusts Funds	Agency Funds	Long-term Debt Group	Total Memo only as of 06/30/2016
Fund Balances Reserved for Fed/State Grants			66,200					164,660
Fund Balances Reserved for Appropriation	105,000							105,000
Fund Balances Reserved for Gifts/Bequests/Revolving			132,685					132,685
Fund Balances Reserved for Special Purposes								
Reserved for Expenditure	354,500		647,402					1,001,902
Reserved for Emergency Spending - T/S Irene			1,551					1,551
Fund Balances Reserved for Capital Projects								
Reserved for Chapter 90				-11,151				-11,151
Reserved for Water Channel Improvements				28,244				28,244
Reserved for Old Town Hall/Library				11,132				11,132
Reserved for Library Renovation				3,120				3,120
Reserved for 10 Year Revaluation				66,000				66,000
Bonds Payable								
Inside Debt Limit - Town Hall/PD Station/Library							1,905,000	1,905,000
Inside Debt Limit - Water Channel Improvements							140,000	140,000
Inside Debt Limit - T/S Irene							76,100	76,100
Inside Debt Limit - MWPAI							1,580,724	1,580,724
Bonds Authorized & Unissued							215,000	215,000
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	4,106,174	261,054	880,728	108,496	613,357	58,127	3,916,824	10,051,030

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, 2016

(AUDITED)

	Fund Balance 06/30/15	Revenue	Expenditure	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditure	Operating Transfer In	Operating Transfer Out	Fund Balance 06/30/16
FEDERAL GRANTS							
Federal Community Develop Block Grant	(2,957.00)	542,945.00	(453,753.00)	89,192.00			86,235.00
Massachusetts Small Cities Program							
Total Federal Grants	(2,957.00)	542,945.00	(453,753.00)	89,192.00	0.00	0.00	86,235.00
STATE GRANTS							
Board of Health - Local Prep Grant	2,455.00			0.00			2,455.00
COA Grant	0.00	2,676.00	(824.00)	1,852.00			1,852.00
Conduit Grant	2,343.00	1,557.00	(3,900.00)	(2,343.00)			0.00
Elderly Grant	1,019.00	19,898.00	(20,917.00)	(1,019.00)			0.00
Events Committee	10,429.00	5,761.00	(15,957.00)	(10,196.00)			233.00
Greylock Glen - State Grant	0.00	250,000.00		250,000.00			250,000.00
MEMA	472.00	2,925.00	(3,249.00)	(324.00)			148.00
PARC - Grant - Train Station	(83,998.00)	83,368.00		83,368.00			(630.00)
Public Safety	23,317.00	62,984.00	(43,203.00)	19,781.00			43,098.00
PWED - Cemetery Pres/Stormwater	1,395.00		(339.00)	(339.00)			1,056.00
Small Initiative Grant	0.00	250.00		250.00			250.00
Solarization/Energy Conservation	818.00		(746.00)	(746.00)			72.00
State Aid to Libraries	25,568.00	14,349.00	(9,127.00)	5,222.00			30,790.00
Visitor Center	9,441.00	20,000.00	(10,307.00)	9,693.00			19,134.00
Total State Grants	(6,741.00)	463,768.00	(108,569.00)	355,199.00	0.00	0.00	348,458.00
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS							
Parking Meter	48,749.00	12,844.00		12,844.00		(15,000.00)	46,593.00
Council on Aging	33,042.00	23,420.00		23,420.00		(25,000.00)	31,462.00
Technology Fund	49,005.00	31,975.00		31,975.00		(21,300.00)	59,680.00
Economic Development Fund		43,699.00		43,699.00			43,699.00
Cemetery Sale of Lots	191,742.00	16,378.00		16,378.00		(1,500.00)	206,620.00
Tropical Storm Irene	1,551.00			0.00			1,551.00
Other Special Revenue Revolving & Gifts & Donations	102,651.00	108,736.00	(69,352.00)	39,384.00			142,035.00
Total Other Special Revenue Funds	426,740.00	237,052.00	(69,352.00)	167,700.00	0.00	(62,800.00)	531,640.00
TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	417,042.00	1,243,765.00	(631,674.00)	612,091.00	0.00	(62,800.00)	966,333.00

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, 2016
(AUDITED)

	Fund Balance 06/30/15	Revenue	Expenditure	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditure	Operating Transfer In	Operating Transfer Out	Fund Balance 06/30/16
NONEXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS							
Cemetery Perpetual Care Principal Only	410,246	7,700		7,700			417,946
Library - Plunkett Fund	23,265	58		58			23,323
Library - Saunders Fund	5,033	8		8			5,041
East Road Solar Bond	30,000			0			30,000
Total Nonexpendable Trust	468,544	7,766	0	7,766	0	0	476,310
EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS							
Stabilization	214,650	754		754	45,650		261,054
OPEB Trust	0			0	10,000		10,000
Cemetery Perpetual Care - Interest Only	22,597	434		434		(5,000)	18,031
Cemetery Maintenance	11,108	103		103	1,500		12,711
Cemetery Endowed Lots - Harrington/Hall/Plunkett	28,204	58	(250)	(192)			28,012
Scholarship - Hall/Low	25,667	64		64			25,731
Scholarship - Kruszyna	9,070	690		690			9,760
Scholarship - Town	12,935	2,224	(2,100)	124			13,059
Conservation Trust	7,275		(3,782)	(3,782)			3,493
Historical Preservation - Quaker Meeting House	16,209	41		41			16,250
Total Expendable Trust	347,715	4,368	(6,132)	(1,764)	57,150	(5,000)	398,101
TOTAL TRUST FUNDS	816,259	12,134	(6,132)	6,002	57,150	(5,000)	874,411

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



FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016



Adams-Cheshire Regional School Committee

(Standing Left - Right):

Regina Hill, Steven Vigna, Superintendent Robert Putnam, Vice-Chair Darlene Rodowicz, Peter Tatros, Edmund St. John IV,

(Sitting Left - Right): Chairman Paul K. Butler, Jennifer Gageant.

Report of the Chairman

Adams-Cheshire Regional School District

Paul K. Butler, Chairman	Adams, appointed 9/00, elected 5/01, re-elected 5/04, 5/07, 5/10, 5/13, 5/16
Darlene Rodowicz, Vice-Chair	Cheshire, appointed 09/04, elected 5/06, re-elected 5/09, 5/12, 5/15
Ed St. John	Cheshire, elected 05/11, re-elected 05/14
Regina Hill	Adams, appointed 09/10, elected 05/11, re-elected 05/14
Steve Vigna	Adams, appointed 06/11, elected 05/12, re-elected 05/15
Peter Tatro	Cheshire, elected 05/16
Jennifer Gageant	Adams, elected 05/16

The 2016/2017 school year has gotten off to a relatively smooth start. The most significant changes come with the hiring of interim superintendent Dr. Robert Putnam. His energetic, upbeat style has been an immediate and positive influence on the operation of the school district. It is the goal of the school committee to have a permanent superintendent in place by July 1st of 2017. As of this writing in January the process has begun. We have also had turnover on the school committee. I welcome 2 new members who were elected in May of 2016; Peter Tatro of Cheshire and Jennifer Gageant of Adams. As they learn and adjust to their roles as members of the school committee, we look forward to their input in the coming months and years. I also wish to thank outgoing members Brian Astorino of Cheshire and Jim Ryan of Adams for their service and for their input as members of this committee.

It almost goes without saying that the budget passed for this school year was another difficult one. Once again, state Chapter 70 aid to schools increased by only a fraction of a percent. In addition, the state funding formula changed placing more of the local funding burden on the town of Cheshire. As a result, we were forced to make some serious cuts once again in order to put a budget together that would satisfy the taxpayers of both towns. We had added in the previous year a technology director and curriculum director. Both of these positions had to be eliminated for this school year. However, the time that they had here allowed them to lay some important ground work that has had a direct and positive influence on programming throughout the district. It is important to remember that the overall budget has not increased significantly year over year. However, when state aid Chapter 70 funding, which makes up roughly 2/3 of our budget, has seen virtually no increase for the last 10 years, more and more of the increasing cost of education falls to the local communities. Simply put, the rising costs of education, mainly health insurance and wage increases, have far outpaced the meager increases in state aid. The result is an increase in local education assessments that are not sustainable by the communities.

The school has engaged the services of the Collins Center of UMASS Boston to perform a comprehensive study of our school district and the member towns. Some of you probably attended a public meeting put on by this group. The goal is to identify areas where we can make changes and improvements in how we fund and deliver education so as to help streamline the school district to put forth a more efficient, sustainable mod-

el for improved education for all our students. The final report is due to be delivered to the school committee in early February 2017. There has been a lot of concern, anxiety, and rumor surrounding the future of the school district; especially surrounding the possibility of a school closure. As of this writing I can tell you that many possibilities have been discussed and looked at. However, no final decisions have been made and none will be made without public input. But one thing is clear; we cannot continue to do nothing and expect better results. Changes need to take place.

In addition to the Collins Center study, there is a county wide group that has been meeting for about a year and a half to look into ways of providing more sustainable and better education throughout the county. The Berkshire County Education Task Force, as the group is known, meets every third Saturday. I sit on the task force as a representative from our community. The task force finished its phase 1 fact finding study late last year and has been providing feedback to various school committees and town boards as to the current status. The group embarked on phase 2 in January 2017. They intend on hiring a consulting firm to put together collected data and formulate ideas and models for the group to consider. It is likely that the task force will put forth recommendations to each community or school district sometime in 2017. The Berkshire County Task Force is only a recommending body and has no authority to impose any ideas on any community. The direction any community wishes to take is entirely up to them. I know the Adams-Cheshire Regional School Committee will be very interested in seeing the final report and recommendation of both the Collins Center study and the Task Force report.

The school district continues to take measures within its available means to enhance performance on standardized testing. We continue to use Bay State Readers initiative in the elementary grades. Emphasis on time on learning in the classroom is emphasized throughout the district, especially at the middle and high school grades. Investments in technologies have been ongoing for several years in all our schools. The reality is that a higher than average special needs population, an above average poverty rate, and overall lack of economic opportunity in our region all combine to put increased pressures on our schools. Additionally, our district has a below average per pupil spending which limits our ability to add resources to the classrooms. Nonetheless, Students who attend school in the

Adams-Cheshire Regional School District can and do succeed. We continue to send graduating students to great schools including the U.S. Naval Academy, RPI, Northeastern University, Michigan University, Boston University, UMASS, UCONN, Merrimac College, and many more. We graduate future physicians, nurses, lawyers, engineers, business professionals, and of course teachers. Despite the stigma of being a level 2 and 3 school district, we are proud of our accomplishments and are confident of improvement.

Maintenance of the three buildings within our district continues to be an enormous task. Even with a newly renovated building, maintenance issues do happen and must be dealt with in addition to the daily and routine work being done in each building. As with other areas of our operation, budget cuts over the last several years have led us to run very lean in this department. Still, we are committed to have buildings that at the very least offer clean and comfortable environments for our students and staff. The use of technology in the classroom helps improve the learning environment both for students and teachers alike. Most of our students will look forward to a workplace dominated by the use of technology. We feel it is important to integrate technologies in the classroom at every feasible opportunity. Kids today grow up surrounded by electronics. It is only natural for them to also embrace an educational environment that incorporates technology in the learning process. The purchase of Chromebook computers last year has been a tremendous boon to technology in the schools. 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 2016/2017 school year is the final year of the current contract for all of our union bargaining groups. As of this writing, the school committee is working with the units and administration with the goal of having new contracts in place by July 1st, 2017.

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. And in the months to come we will be seeking input from you, the public. 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 - 2016

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.

Our mission statement acts as a rallying point for people in good times and in bad times. Our mission statement focuses us on the truly important things that will drive success for our students. In difficult times, the mission statement also serves as a reminder to stay on the task at hand.

The 2016-2017 school year has been a challenging time for the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District. The FY18 budget process required the district to maximize district resources to support learning and teaching in the face of rising costs and flat revenues. Recent budget cycles have balanced the budget by making cuts to personnel, cuts that have reduced educational opportunities for the students of our district. The FY18 budget took the drastic step of closing one of our community schools in order to preserve the majority of existing personnel and programs while adding much needed personnel to provide intervention for regular education students and personnel for the implementation and coordination of Special Education services.

The maximization of district resources went beyond the mere addition of personnel. This budget, by necessity, reorganized the grade-level structure of the district that resulted in a district Pre-K-3 school at C.T. Plunkett, and a 4-7 middle school and an 8-12 high school housed at Hoosac Valley. The restructuring provides opportunities to redefine the district, to attain continuity of programming within and across grade levels, and implement programs that will improve the educational opportunities for all students. We also plan to begin the process of implementing programming that builds on the district's strengths and creates programming that will retain students and attract school choice.

It has long been known that the ACRSD has fiscal challenges; the revenue sources cannot keep up with rising expenditures. These and other issues were clearly described and explained in the Collins Center Study conducted during the school year. The results of that study can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/2lotGKr>. The Collins Center Report summarized the fiscal problem as follows, "Decision makers have responded by both increasing town contributions to the school district and reducing spending within the District budget. Some of the cuts have been to key personnel including reading and math specialists and paraprofessionals. As a result, today per pupil spending in ACRSD is well below the state average and is lower than many similarly-sized districts. Nevertheless, the current level of spending (and anticipated increases for labor, benefits, and operating expenses) cannot be sustained and choices must be made regarding how to move the District forward."

The ACRSD administrative team and the ACRSD School Committee determined that the closure of an elementary school and the consolidation of the district into PreK-3, 4-7, and 8-12 schools distributed across two buildings was the most reasonable way to address fiscal constraints and to move the district forward. The consolidation ensures that all students will receive

similar instruction and similar resources and supports. This option also gives us the opportunity to establish a new vision for the ACRSD. This consolidation will be an opportunity to refocus the district on establishing a compelling educational program that encourages students and families to choose ACRSD above other choices. The administration and staff are committed to figuring out how to use the new grade configurations to ensure we are meeting the affective needs of students, ensuring academic achievement for all students, creating pathways that prepare students for college and careers, ensuring inclusive classrooms, and preparing our students to use technology effectively.

Administrators of the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District for the 2017-2018 School Year:

Dr. Robert R. Putnam	Superintendent
Lisa Bresett.....	Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
Erika Snyder.....	Business Manager
Sharyn Alibozek	Business Office
Laurie Vachereau.....	Business Office
Jacquelyn Daniels.....	Special Education Director
Mary Ellen Sutliff.....	Administrative Assistant to the Special Ed. Director
Peter Bachli	Principal of Cheshire Elementary School
Michelle Colvin.....	Principal of C.T. Plunkett Elementary School
Patricia Misiuk	Dean of Students of C.T. Plunkett Elementary School
Jeremiah Ames	Principal of Hoosac Valley Middle High School
Christopher Sposato	Vice Principal of Hoosac Valley Middle High School
Colleen Byrd	Dean of Students of Hoosac Valley Middle High School

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 three year term. Three School committee members live in Cheshire and four members live in Adams.

Adams-Cheshire Regional School Committee Members:

Paul Butler	Chairman, Adams
Stephen Vigna.....	Vice Chairman, Adams
Darlene Rodowicz	Cheshire
Regina Hill.....	Adams
Pete Tatro	Cheshire
Jennifer Gageant.....	Adams
Ed St. John, IV.....	Cheshire

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Robert R. Putnam
Superintendent

Hoosac Valley Middle & High School

2016-2017 Annual Report

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

The 2016-17 Hoosac Valley Middle and High School academic year was one in which students, faculty, and administration continued to build a positive culture of continuous improvement, mutual accountability and both social and academic accomplishment. Hoosac is an exciting place to be. Our students make valuable contributions everyday in the classroom, in our halls, on our stage, on the athletic field and in our community.

Our “Hoosac Cares a Ton” initiative was a big hit this year. Students in grades 6-12 gathered over 3,600 lbs. of food during the week before our Thanksgiving recess. Again this year the Leo Club spearheaded our school’s recycling program, gathering paper and cans every Wednesday. The group also supplied goodie bags to Pre-K and Kindergarten students from C.T. Plunkett, Cheshire Elementary, Emma Miller Elementary and St. Stanislaus School. The Leo Club also raised over \$4,200 which was spent purchasing, wrapping and delivering holiday presents to 43 children throughout northern Berkshire County. Working in conjunction with the Salvation Army, Leo Club members from Hoosac rang the bell for two full Saturdays as part of the kettle drive.

The HVMHS National Honor Society inducted 18 new members in November. Again this year, the NHS engaged in a variety of community activities beyond the classroom. Students operated an after school tutoring center four days a week to help high school students who are struggling academically. The center serves an average of 19 students per week. The NHS was also proud to host a holiday movie night for younger students and their families in December with crafts, games music and food.

The HVMHS Student Council members continued to promote leadership and citizenship this year, acting as role models to encourage all students to strive for their highest potential, promote school spirit and pride, respect all citizens and groups in our community, and raise money to fund future service activities in the school community. This year students participated in the 42nd annual Art Hathaway Dinner, the Freshmen Ice Cream Social, offered student tours during the first few days of the new school year, and produced the annual Snowball Dance.

The 2016-17 school year provided our students with many opportunities to showcase their theatrical and musical talents. Productions this year included *Romeo and Juliet* and *As You Like It*. Students in grades 6-12 participated in both, as well as several band and choral concerts. The marching band, a staple of our arts offerings at Hoosac, played at many of our fall and winter athletic competitions as well as the Fall Foliage Parade, the Halloween Parade, and the Memorial Day Parade.

HVMHS students continued to strive for excellence in the classrooms as well. We are very proud of our well-balanced offering of Advanced Placement courses. In addition to our second year offering AP Human Geography to freshmen, Hoosac offers five additional AP classes in the humanities as well as three in science and mathematics. For the third year in a row Hoosac is collaborating with MCLA to offer two concurrent classes - Engineering and Computer Programming. Offered in the spring, these half-year classes are taught at Hoosac by MCLA and Hoosac faculty working collaboratively. Students who complete the course successfully will earn college credit at MCLA as well as credits toward their Hoosac diploma.

We were so proud to learn that 20 Hoosac seniors qualified for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship this year, entitling them to four years free tuition at any public institution of higher learning in Massachusetts. The scholarship is available to students whose MCAS performance puts them at the top 25 percent of their district. In addition, students must score Advanced or Proficient on the grade 10 MCAS tests in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

It’s been another busy year at Hoosac, filled with challenges, success stories and opportunities. Through it all, day in and day out, students, faculty and staff do our very best to embody our school’s mission statement with every decision we make; *to strive for academic excellence by emphasizing student responsibility in a climate of mutual respect.*

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 students 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	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Pre-K	61				
K	87	92	87	68	65
1	78	78	83	78	68
2	65	73	79	80	81
3	90	69	73	84	80
4	84	88	74	71	80
5	78	83	85	72	68
6					
Totals	543	483	481	453	442

Staffing:

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

Kindergarten

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

Grade 1

Amy Anderson, Bethany Ricci and Aprillee Mazzeo

Grade 2

Elizabeth Alibozek, Christine Kirchner, Kelly Ryan and Mia Allesio

Grade 3

Beth Bourdon, Dawn Bombardier, Ann Prudhomme, and Ashley DePaoli

Grade 4

Alison Collins, Antoinette Marquis, Jennifer Kline, and John Duval

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 Bethany Ricci

Literacy Coach: Dawn Bishop

Elementary Coordinator: Mary Tanner

District Specialist: Kim Biagini

Special Education: Nicole Crane, Dawn Daniels, Christine Harrington, Joann Kingsbury, Travis Poirot, & Destiny Hicks

Art: Terri Cooper

Music: Jonathan Rowe

Physical Education: Kathleen Hill, Dan Wehle

Title I: Deb Langner

School Adjustment Counselor: Nicole Seyerlein

Speech/Lang: Diane Arduini, Kelsy Pero

Occupational Therapy: Suzanne Harnick, Deb Silveira

Physical Therapy: Lora McGrath

ESL Specialist: Joshua Kellogg

Administrative Assistant: Julie Little

Main Office Para: Cheryl Steuer

Library: Laurie Gavazzi

Nurse: Kari Ann Delsoldato

Cafeteria: Kimberly Briggs, Amy Garner, Frances Jamros, Laurie Malloy, Linda Pelczynski, Jenny Chappell & Nadine Sadlowski

Daycare: Sharon Girard, Miriam Serrano

Custodians: Aaron Namislo, Marc McCarthy, Paul (Tito) Sniezek

Paraprofessionals: Pat Alibozek, Linda Bonnavier, Erika Brazeau, Susan Burzimati, Deb Ciempa, Landree Corcoran,

Shelley Cozzaglio, Brandon Crouse, Ashley Davis, Kim Galli,

Amoreena Gazaille, Dawn Harrington, Shelley Jenkins, Susan

Knapp, Dan Kondel, Donna LaBonte, Suzanne Lamb, Karen

Levesque, Paula Meczywor, Donna Mullany, Mary Murray,

Shannon Speed, Emily Thurston, Jennifer Trybus, Lisa Walter-

mire, Kendall Winston, Becky Zaleski, 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 socialization skills, exploring centers, and learning new curriculum. We are into our third 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 letter sound recognition, blending words, and reading short stories. We love to share our take-home books with our families. In Math, we are working toward using a more center based approach with our Scott Foresman series. We have enjoyed taking field trips to Jaeschke's Apple Orchard and MASS MoCA. The Adams Fire Department gave a wonderful presentation of fire safety here at C.T. Plunkett. We are so thankful for the support from our PTG who provide many cultural opportunities for our students. Our Kindergarten program is National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited. We are working with MCLA through the ITQ grant to bring STEAM activities into our classroom.

Grade 1 Update:

First grade has been working towards increasing rigor in ELA through our partnership with the Bay State Reading Institute (BSRI). Beginning fall 2016 we have added the use of ECRI (Enhanced Core Reading Instruction) as part of small group ELA instruction. K-2 teachers participated in various training and professional developments this past spring/summer in preparation for adding ECRI to improve reading instruction. We have also been successful in implementing and extending the BSRI small group rotation model into our math block. Student have enjoyed the opportunity to work in small, peer-led math groups in order to further explore their understanding of new math concepts. This model has also allowed for teachers and support staff to work directly with students in smaller groups, resulting in the ability to provide prescriptive instruction that meets the various needs of students.

We are happy to announce that we have continued to increase and strengthen our implementation of STEAM related instruction and activities as a part of daily classroom instruction. We are continuing our partnership with MCLA and our STEAM coach, Mrs. Dana Schildkraut, through funding provided by the ITQ grant. This partnership allows K-2 teachers to have monthly meetings with their grade level and STEAM coach as well as the opportunity to attend STEAM workshops at various Berkshire County locations such as MCLA, Mass MoCA, Clark Art, Berkshire Museum and Miss Hall's School in order to increase understanding and develop curriculum. The first grade teachers are working towards displaying pictures of various STEAM lessons on the ACRSD Facebook page throughout the year.

As part of our desire to maintain strong community involvement we have continued our participation in various family friendly events such as Bingo for Books, Meet the Teacher Night, Literacy Fair, Seasonal Concerts and new to this year, a family Trick-or-Treat night! In late October C.T. Plunkett families were invited to participate in a Trick-or-Treat event along the 1st floor hallway. Faculty and staff decorated doorways on the 1st floor and handed out candy to children and families. It was certainly a wonderful event with an incredible turn out and a fun filled night for all staff and families who attended! We are looking forward to adding Trick-or-Treat to our repertoire of annual family events!

Grade 2 Update:

Again this year second grade was given the exciting opportunity to visit Mass MoCA and view the newest exhibits. Using various art materials students were able to create a piece of art work inspired by the artist in residence. All second grade teachers attend the ITQ STEAM Workshops offered by MCLA to learn ways to incorporate lessons in the classroom on a regular basis. The students are enthusiastically participating in these activities. Second grade continues to use Scholastic News to enrich the students' understanding of the world around us. We appreciate PTG funding this valuable resource for the children.

During the holiday season, students took a walking field trip to local businesses to see the wonderful festive displays in town. Back in the classroom, children participated in various holiday activities such as ornament making, gingerbread houses, and holiday literature and math activities.

Once again second grade will fully participate and host the Literacy Fair, Read Across America, and of course Alex's Lemonade Stand. The Literacy Fair is a showcase of hard work,

dedication, and love for reading. Each child is represented with a project to be displayed in the gymnasium for families and friends. Read Across America honors Dr. Seuss's Birthday in which local business owners and townspeople are invited to read to classrooms. The day is dedicated to reading and participating in many literacy activities relating to Dr. Seuss. The Lemonade Stand is an annual event at C.T. Plunkett that allows children to make, serve, and sell lemonade to the rest of the school. This teaches empathy and awareness for childhood cancer.

We are continuing to implement the BRSI Model, which fosters cooperative learning and academic conversations through center based instruction. We have also adapted this model for mathematics. During this time the students use manipulatives, technology, and activities to enhance student learning. Through Framing Your Thoughts and Scott Foresman, children are learning how to write a variety of styles of paragraphs, for example descriptive, compare and contrast, and narrative.

Overall, second grade is a busy and exiting year for the students. Lots of learning, fun, and academic growth take place!

Grade 3 Update:

The highlight of many former C.T. Plunkett third grade students is their experiences learning about native Berkshire wildlife with Gayle Raser, an instructor with the Massachusetts Audubon Society. The third grade teachers worked hard again last year through fundraising efforts to support and fund this Appreciating Wildlife Program. The fundraising efforts raised approximately \$1,200, the C.T. Plunkett Parent Group donated \$1,000, and the third grade teachers were again granted \$800 from the William and Margery Barrett Fund to cover the additional dollars that were needed. Due to these efforts on behalf of the third grade staff, all third grade students will benefit from 14 in-house class sessions with Mrs. Raser. The children will also benefit from a field trip to the Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in June of 2017. This wonderful curriculum helps teachers to address many topics in the third grade curriculum.

Third grade continues to work diligently to implement strategies and curriculum that the district has been working hard on. Teachers continue to use the BSRI approach to teaching reading and math. The model consists of brief whole-group teacher led discussion, small group differentiated instruction for collaborative 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 Envisions Math Common Core Program. We continue to place emphasis on math fact mastery, problem solving, and the everyday applications that math has in our changing world.

Wil Bourdon, an engineer with General Dynamics, will also be continuing to visit all third grade classes. He will make a presentation about simple machines through the generosity of General Dynamics. Wil took the initiative to write a proposal and continues to receive funding for the materials for this presentation. It gives the students an opportunity to explore the wonderful world of robotics.

In addition to Wil's visits, members of the third grade team are attending monthly ITQ (Improving Teacher Quality) workshops. These workshops are designed to give teachers the opportunity

to learn about and design lessons to be taught in their classrooms that integrate the STEAM (science, technology, engineers, arts, and mathematics) education model. Teachers work closely with the STEAM education coach, Dana Schildkraut, to plan, prep, and implement these valuable learning experiences.

In social studies, children keep up-to-date with current events by reading Scholastic News in the class with their friends. The district purchases this valuable resource to bring the world inside the classroom. Focus is also placed on the state of Massachusetts and our little corner of the state – the Berkshires.

Our students will be taking the MCAS test this year in reading and language arts and math. Thanks to the generosity of the town, they still have Chromebooks. The Chromebooks continue to be invaluable and have allowed students to practice their computer skills, learning computer keyboarding, practicing LEXIA (an online reading program), investigating math topics with Moby Max (an online math program), and learning about coding with Mr. Kondel.

In the spring, all third grade students will be planting flowers for the entire town to enjoy. This initiative began 12 years ago and the funds to support it have always been provided through 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 who continues to devote her time to volunteering here at C.T. Plunkett Elementary. Her passion for education, and willingness to support both the children and teaching staff of our school, is to be commended.

Grade 4 Update:

Fourth grade is busy exploring a variety of topics across the curriculum. In both Math and ELA, the teachers have continued to improve upon the implementation of Bay State Reading Institute's small group instruction model with an emphasis on rigor.

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

Fourth grade teachers are refining prompts and exemplar models for process writing using Project Read's Framing Your Thoughts curriculum. After a review of sentence structure in the beginning of the year, students have learned how to write narratives and procedural paragraphs. This month we will be focusing on comparing and contrasting an experience. 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 digraphs. This week, students have been expanding their knowledge of division by solving problems with repeated subtraction. In our next unit, students will begin to learn about fractions starting with factors and identifying prime and composite numbers.

During the first term in Science, students studied plant and animal structures. Fourth grade teachers are currently aligning as much of the new science standards with materials from Reading Street, like the main selections and the leveled readers. Fourth grade students are looking forward to our last science unit, erosion and weathering. To help the students better understand the power of water, they will go on the yearly, PTG-sponsored field trip to Howe Caverns. It's always impressive to see the massive caverns and water's capability to change the environment.

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

Grade 5 Update:

Fifth grade has had a very busy start to the year with lots of learning experiences across all content areas! We started the year diving right into our Reading Street ELA and Framing Your Thoughts Writing curriculum. Students were able to recall many of the elements and strategies from the previous year, so we have been able to delve further into the strategies and start Reciprocal Teaching groups with novels earlier. With many thanks to our PTG, the fifth grade classrooms have had the pleasure of hosting an in-house actor from The Berkshire Theatre Group twice a week. This is a 14 week partnership in which the actor works with the students to learn the various elements and work that go into a play as well as creating and writing their own plays. Each class will choose one play to perform at a culminating event open to parents and families to attend. Every student has actively engaged in the entire play-writing process and is eager to audition for parts for the final performance.

Students spent the first half of the fall term submersed in our science curriculum learning about rocks and minerals. This unit concluded with our yearly trip to Specialty Minerals. Students started the second term in their social studies curriculum by digging deeper into the history of the United States. Classes began learning about the many Native American tribes found throughout North American and are currently going through the age of exploration, which will lead them to learning about the original 13 colonies. To compliment their study of Early American history, a trip to Sturbridge Village is planned for the spring.

Something new to the fifth grade this year was an extended research project that the students worked on for about three months. Each classroom was assigned two decades, 50s-60s, 70s-80s, and 90s-00s, and from there students chose a woman who made an impact on the world to research and learn about. Students learned how to conduct research, such as finding reliable sources, as well as use oral speaking skills to present their findings. This project culminated with a live Women's History Museum set up in our gymnasium where families, faculty, staff, and other students were invited to take a walk through history! The students took great pride in their work and really learned a lot through this project. We will be doing a similar one this spring where the students will be researching a historical male.

During the month of March, our fifth grade students will participate in the annual weeklong Nature's Classroom trip. The time they spend on this trip is truly one of the highlights of their year. It is filled with hands-on, multidisciplinary learning experiences that the children will remember forever.

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 3,013 items were checked out so far this 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 \$7,000 annually. Reference materials, fiction books, nonfiction books, magazine subscriptions, Accelerated Reader discs, academic videos and the automated cataloging/circulation system have been purchased and supported through this committee. The Library Committee is one of the financial supporters of the RIF program which enables each student in the school to choose a free book once a year. For the past seven years the committee has also sponsored a Literacy Fair which has been extremely successful.

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 a federal entitlement grant supporting school-wide academic support for all Plunkett students. The grant helps to fund interventionists as well as materials that supplement and support core instruction. 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 teacher to reinforce instruction in reading, writing and math through small group differentiated instruction.

This year the staff at C.T. Plunkett has continued to work closely with consultants from the Bay State Reading Institute (BSRI) to incorporate the most recent research-based methods and strategies to ensure each child's individual needs are addressed. Teachers in grades K-2 were trained and began the implementation of Enhanced Core Reading Instruction (ERCI) to increase efficiency and effectiveness of reading instruction. Teachers in grades 3-5 continue to implement high engagement strategies along with reciprocal teaching, the answer routine and increasing rigor in their daily stations.

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 for grades 2 through 5. Family involvement is proven to correlate to higher student achievement, so this has been a priority this year. Along with a yearly survey that invites parents and staff to report on their impressions of school climate, academic preparation, communication, and family concerns, we will be increasing the frequency of family nights this year as well. Topics suggested by parents and staff are addressed throughout the year through informational meetings and workshops as well as during evening programs. This year we have already held events such as a Terri A la Berry concert, Trick-or-Treat and Bingo for Books. We also plan on having a Math Night, Science Night and a Make-and-Take ELA Night where parents will leave with strategies and games to help strengthen their child's skills. We are excited to work closely with our families and members of the community to help make these events possible.

Reading Is Fundamental

RIF is a federally funded program whose goal is to give children access to books and discover the joys and value of reading. C.T. Plunkett qualifies for this grant due to the percentage of free and reduced lunch students attending. Additional funding is provided by the C.T. Plunkett Library Fund and from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation. One time per year each student at C.T. Plunkett can choose a book from a wide selection of books, based on their own interests. The book distributions are enhanced by fun, reading-motivational activities. This year's theme, "Harry Potter," was truly one of the best ever, and past themes have included "Get on Board with Reading" (trains), "Warm up with a Good Book" (winter), and "Books on the Beach" (summer reading). Volunteers are a big part of RIF, helping make bookmarks, stamp and inventory books, and helping on distribution day by reading with students, stocking books, and even handing out hot chocolate and cookies. This

program is vital for children who have no books in their homes, have limited access to bookstores, and who, without RIF would not experience the thrill of owning their own books.

Music Program:

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 Visual Arts Department welcomed the public to our annual Student Art Show on Thursday, April 6, 2017 from 5-7 p.m. Over 1000 pieces of art that were created by students in grades K-5 were on display. Art pieces from all of our students covered our first floor hallway and additional framed art pieces were on display in our cafeteria. All of our artwork is based on cross-curricular lessons that encompass such areas as science, engineering, math, reading and social studies. Our students are encouraged to freely explore various mediums including: collage, printmaking, sculpture, assemblage, design and ceramics, as well as drawing and painting.

New this year is our online art museum in collaboration with Artsonia. Through Artsonia, our school has become a part of the largest online art museum in the world. Parents can easily register their students online with an e-mail account and they can then view their child's artwork and add fans to their child's account so that family members and friends can also log-in and comment on the artwork. This program has been a huge success and currently 70% of our families are signed up and there are almost 600 fans following and commenting on student artwork. Fans can only be signed up by a parent, and parents must also approve all comments before they are posted. Another benefit of our membership in Artsonia is that families can go online and create ornaments, t-shirts, cutting boards, stationary, cards, and more using their child's artwork. Many of our families have taken advantage of this service since we started this program in September and it was especially popular during the holiday season. You can view our student artwork by going to *Artsonia.com* and entering Plunkett Elementary School.

I am also pleased to be continuing the 5th grade volunteer program in the art room. Fifth grade students take turns volunteering in the art room during their recess period. They help the 2nd grade students with their art projects, read books to them or help to take pictures of artwork and download it to Artsonia. This has been a very successful program and the majority of the 5th grade students take part in it. An ice cream Thank You party is held for the participating students at the end of the school year to show my appreciation for all of their dedication and hard work.

Physical Education:

C.T. Plunkett physical education classes work to actively engage a student's mind and body while simultaneously conveying the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle. Physical education at our school is both fun and challenging to all students, no matter his or her 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, while also learning how to better communicate and resolve conflicts with classmates. Students at the K-1st grade levels learn 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, volleying, kicking a stationary and moving object, jumping rope, locomotor movements, and fleeing and dodging type activities.

All students participate in our “Kidnastics” unit (an age-appropriate version of gymnastics), the NY Roadrunner’s Mighty Milers Program, Relay Recess, and our Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser event. Students are engaged in cross-curricular activities to include math, history, health, and language.

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.

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. We are excited to be continuing with implementing coding 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 is based on the 5 components of reading and is 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 Chromebooks, 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)
- Berkshire Theatre Group, BTG (performing arts with grade 5 students)
- 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

“No dreamer is ever too small; no dream is ever too big.”

~ Anonymous

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, C.T. Plunkett

Cheshire Elementary School

2016-2017 School Year

It is my pleasure to once again be submitting this report as the principal of Cheshire Elementary School for my eighth year. We are currently at an enrollment of 251 students in grades Pre-K through 5. That is actually an increase of 7 students compared to this time last year. 2016-2017 has been another very busy year for Cheshire School. We hope this remains consistent and even grows as the year passes. Our building is well used and looking good for an older structure that is well loved. 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 the override vote a few years ago. Our fourth grade class is a single group because we combined the two third grades. It is a sizeable group of 25 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. We currently have two sections of each grade level with the exception of the fourth grade. The remaining staff is made of veteran teachers who work well to make Cheshire School a real community. We did hire a new speech/ language pathologist, Ms. Brianna Bresett, and an additional pre-school teacher, Mrs. Christine Zdon, to accommodate a jump in pre-school enrollment. Our longtime custodian, Stash Cote, celebrated his retirement in December and is enjoying a more carefree life. Mrs. Melissa Marchetti joined our faculty as a part-time special education teacher after working part of the previous year as a long-term substitute.

As we work continually to meet the needs of our students, the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District's elementary schools have entered our third 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 maximum of five years to fully adopt and enrich 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 Tuesday 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:

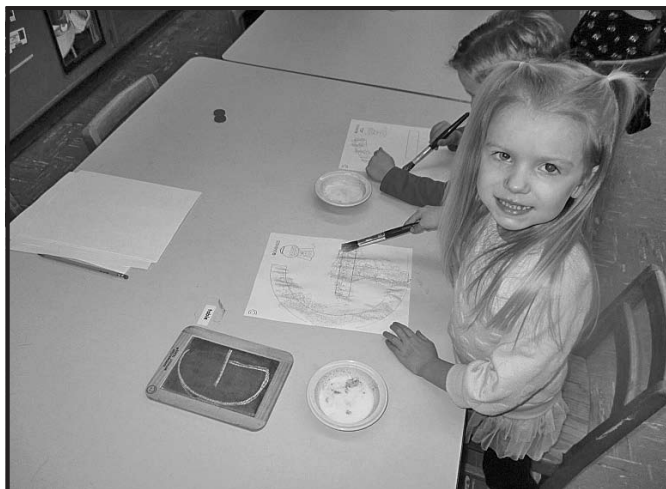
President: Karen Isbell
Vice-President: Elizabeth Namislo
Co-Secretaries: Ashlynd DiLego
Elizabeth Greene
Co-Treasurers: Michelle Whitney
Arleigh Bradbury

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.

PRESCHOOL

Due to an increase in students this year the Preschool was fortunate enough to add another half-day session in order to service the needs of our growing population of students. Mrs. Christine Zdon joined our staff to provide a fifth session of preschool. Mrs. Zdon brings many years of experience as a preschool teacher and is licensed as an Early Childhood Teacher with or without special needs. Our preschool team continues to collaborate on curriculum, child development and lessons to provide the best early childhood experience for our youngest learners.

The preschoolers continue 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 with a focus on English Language Arts and Math. 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 and Talian Lively Letters curriculum in order to best meet the needs of diverse learners. This also provides a multisensory approach to learning.

In addition, we have 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 Penelope and Picture Pete, songs and movement activities that are conducted bi-weekly. 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 Crane, Kelly Riechers and Christine Zdon



KINDERGARTEN

Our school year started out with lots of innovative new programs that compliment our best practice programs that were already in place.

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

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.

Kindergarteners have made good use of our new Technology Lab and our Chromebook Carts. Along with our schoolwide reading program of Lexia, the children are learning how to code.

In November, our Cheshire children were in the Berkshire Eagle with their "How to Cook a Turkey" renditions. Many friends and families enjoy this tradition that was started in our kindergarten over 18 years ago.

Kindergarteners made a replica of a "lifesize" Mayflower and reenacted the Pilgrim's voyage. They wore hats of the time period. 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!

The children spent time learning about our electoral process, as it was a presidential year. This will include a trip to our Senior Center in May for our Annual Kindergarten Election organized by Christine Emerson and the town election team. The students complete a ballot and see the process as the results come in.

This year we participated in a partnership with **STEAM through MCLA**. Dana Schildkraut, the teaching liaison, came to our classes to share resources and lessons using the components of STEAM to appeal to all learners. This year, so far, we have had the following lessons.

- **Solid and Liquids** - Students used frozen paint pops to create original pieces of artwork
- **Inclines/Planes/Ramps** - Students experimented with different objects to see how the change of the shape of objects and/or incline of the ramp effected the speed and distance. Later, the children used paint to pour on a canvas using different inclines and colors.
- **Snowflakes** - After reading the story of Snowflake Bentley, the children looked at actual photographs of individual snowflakes and later used geometric shapes to recreate their own snowflakes. In addition, they looked at salt and sugar crystals with the use of microscopes.

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!

In the Spring, our classes will attend a field trip to Hancock Shaker Village in order to view and handle the baby animals.

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

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

Teachers: Mrs. Robin Poirot and Mrs. Heather Emerson

FIRST GRADE

The first graders have had many educational and fun experiences, while working on our fifth year with the reading and math series. Through a STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math) grant, we have been lucky to collaborate with Ms. Dana Schildkraut to develop more STEAM curriculum for our classrooms. Ms. Dana came into our classrooms and led interactive and engaging STEAM lessons about animal habitats and behaviors (hibernation/migration), the effects of the sun (making sun art with sun sensitive paper), and how the heart works. Last spring, Ms. Dana provided resources for our butterfly unit and helped to make a field trip to Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory possible. Each first grade class was able to watch



the life cycle of live butterflies in the classroom. The butterflies were then released in the greenhouses at Whitney's Farm. Around Thanksgiving we wrote a book about the Pilgrims and the Native Americans. We spent the month of December creating a 2017 calendar.

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 &
Mrs. Melissa
Rusek



SECOND GRADE

We are pleased to have two second grades this year. There are a total of 33 children, 17 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 fifth 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 in the process of transitioning to the BSRI model for math instruction to improve targeted small group instruction. In social studies we are focusing on beginning geography topics, which include mapping skills, landforms and bodies of water, and the continents.



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 Second 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: Ms. Stephanie McCarthy and Ms. Kim Trimarchi

THIRD GRADE

A look at third grade!

This year is going by so fast. We are continuing to use our new series in Math and Language Arts. We continue to take advantage of the our technology piece this year, which includes interactive videos and games to promote learning. In Language Arts we have been enjoying various read-a-loud books in class as well. Some of our favorites are "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" and "Eve of the Emperor Penguin." Math is exponentially enjoyable in third grade because we are starting multiplication. This becomes a hands-on experience as they create their own flashcards with helpful poems and pictures provided by Bev Favreau. They also especially love the opportunity to show their math expertise playing a new online game called Prodigy. We continually work diligently on preparing for our assessments including the state MCAS tests by utilizing our Chromebooks. We will create a class book of compiled poems by our third graders. The culmination of the project will end with a published hard cover book that the children can take home.

We have had several fundraisers to allow us go on our class field trip to the Plymouth Plantation. In Social Studies we will be reading about the Native Americans and the Pilgrims and how they lived. We look forward to experiencing a little of what life was like for them. We have also begun learning about our town and our state. We also look forward to warm weather as it will allow us to take hikes on the Ashuwillticook Trail which will allow us to begin our nature journaling. Cheshire offers an amazing amount of natural beauty through the Ashuwillticook Trail. We will take several field trips there and admire our surroundings through drawing and describing our local plant and animal life. This will lead to our visit to the Pleasant Valley Sanctuary. This will be very helpful in our study of life cycles. It's nice to see the students' progress through the curriculum.

Teachers: Mrs. Dawn Prokopowicz & Ms. Danielle Taylor

FOURTH GRADE

The fourth grade class has been working extremely hard! In November, we took our annual field trip to Howe Caverns to see firsthand what erosion looks like underground as part of our science and social studies lessons. It is rewarding for the students to see their learning from the classroom in an interactive experience.

This year, we are in our third year of working with representatives from the Bay State Reading Institute. BSRI has a strong emphasis on students working in collaborative teams. Students are continuing to work on a variety of reading lessons that strive to increase rigor, skill and independence.

The fourth graders have continued to enjoy using the new state of the art computer lab donated by the Boston Celtics and the Chromebook cart. Students are benefiting from using the computers for their weekly Lexia practice, typing written compositions and working on their typing skills.

In mathematics, the students are consistently working on problem solving techniques. In addition, the students are also working very hard to explain their math reasoning. They enjoy the opportunity to work in math centers where they showcase a variety of math skills.

Teacher: 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 third 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 buddies 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 correlated 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.

Teachers: Mr. Justin Luciani & Mr. Eric Brown

ART

The Cheshire Elementary School Art Program creates exposure to a variety of artists, materials and techniques fostering creativity and increasing students' art knowledge and appreciation. Students develop and expand their Visual Arts skills





through techniques such as drawing, printing, painting, clay, mosaic and collage. The manipulation of materials such as paint, oil pastel and ink enables students to create multi-media art work. Their beautiful work can be seen decorating the walls of the school's hallways. The culmination of the students' talent, creativity and knowledge will be on display at the Cheshire Elementary School Spring Art Show. The public is invited to attend this showcase.

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 is both fun and challenging to all students, no matter their ability or skill level. A student enrolled 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. Children in the kindergarten and first grade levels have been learning many different gross motor skills required to participate in large group activities and non-competitive games. The skills being learned at this level include the overhand and underhand throwing technique, kicking a stationary object, striking a moving object, jumping rope, locomotor movements, and fleeing and dodging type activities. Children in the second through fifth grade levels learn the skills to many traditional and non-traditional sports including soccer, football, basketball, hockey, volleyball, and badminton. While actively engaged in sport students also learn how to better communicate and resolve conflicts with classmates.

All students participate in our "Kidnastics" unit, which is an age-appropriate version of gymnastics, the New York Road-runner's Mighty Milers running program and our fourth annual Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser event through the American Heart Association. Students are engaged in cross-curricular activities that include mathematics, history, health, and foreign language. Adaptive students have been actively engaged in the physical education program where they receive attention and accommodation focusing on their specific needs through the use of modified equipment and lesson plans. Students are making progress in understanding the value of teamwork, cooperation, effort, and sportsmanship. Please continue to follow the happenings in physical education by reading the newsletter and by visiting the Cheshire Elementary School website. Thank you.

Teacher: Mr. Dan Wehle

MUSIC

The Cheshire Elementary School Music Program is taught by Mr. Jonathan Rowe. Each semester, there is a musical performance where the children's talents are showcased. Besides learning about music history and cultural contexts, the students learn the basics of music literacy, and begin creating and writing down their own music. An emphasis is placed on teaching students how to sing well, with the belief that all students can learn to sing in tune, carry a steady beat, and be expressive in creating, performing, and responding to music. Students also learn a variety of instruments, including keyboard, guitar, recorder, and several percussion instruments.

The art of improvisation is emphasized, both in singing and playing instruments, developing students' creative impulses and abilities. 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 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, will be meeting once per week to sing more advanced, challenging pieces for our year-end concert. Students enjoy learning to apply skills learned in music class to a performance setting.

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
Melissa Marchetti ½ time

Speech & Language Pathologist

Brianna Bresett

School Adjustment Counselor

Jennifer Renzi (1/2 time)

Technology

(Mon. & Weds.)

Geoff Kondel

Building & Grounds

Dave Richards
Stash Cote - retired
Dennis Pinnsoneault

School Nurse

Philip Grover

Cafeteria

Cindy Gajda
Denise Moncecchi
Susan Randall
Marianne Mirke

Extended Care

Jenn Mach -Coordinator
Jon-Luc Goodrich

Paraprofessionals:

Shannon Badorini	Sue Barthe
Kathy Bradbury	Monica Carpenter
Judy Gaylord	Linda Giroux
Jon-Luc Goodrich	Noreen Hoag
Karen Isbell	Julie Lech
Jennifer Mach	Kathy Malloy
Sue McLear	Susan Randall
Jamie Taylor	Clara Wilusz

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

Autism Specialist

Kim Biagini

Occupational Therapy

Suzanne Harnick
Deb Silverio

Physical Therapy

Lora McGrath

English Language Learning Specialist

Joshua Kellogg

One of the most cherished members of our Cheshire School Family is our loyal, dedicated volunteer extraordinaire, Mrs. Frances Eichorn. Fran is a real help to all the staff and ultimately, the students, by doing endless

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.

Both the Cheshire and Adams Fire and Police Departments as well as the Mass. State Police are also reliable sources of support for the children and staff of Cheshire Elementary providing programs for fire safety and assistance for our Crisis Team with the various safety drills that are conducted throughout the year. There are various other local businesses and civic groups who have supported the school during the past year and for that we are all truly grateful. The Greylock Credit Union and the Adams Community Bank provided scholarship funds for students to attend Nature's Classroom in March. Adams Community Bank once again 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 complete the second phase of our awesome playground. 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 and would not get materials and experiences that are so valuable to a well-rounded education. 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 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, Cheshire Elementary

Athletic Director

Hoosac Valley High School

The 2016 athletic program had over 320 participants in 27 varsity and sub-varsity programs that competed in the Berkshire County League. Our football team joined the PVIAC Suburban South league in an effort to play a competitive schedule. We also have cooperative teams in ice hockey, swimming, and wrestling.



Girls Soccer listens to Coach Kathy Budaj before beating Drury 5-0.

During the winter, the hockey team, which is a cooperative team, made it to the Western MA semi-finals with help from Hoosac senior forward Nate Lapine, who also made the first team All-Western MA All-Star team. The Boys and Girls' swim teams co-oped with St. Joseph's high school and continued working towards rebuilding a powerful combined team. The Boys and Girls Nordic Skiing teams competed in both Western Mass and State championship skiing. The highlight of the winter season was the inclusion of both our boys and girls basketball teams in the Division III sectional championships. Both teams won great games and emerged from UMASS Amherst's Cage as Western MA champions. The boys played in a heartbreaking 45-44 loss to Oxford in the sectional finals. The girls continued winning all the way to the State Championship game, where they lost to Bishop Fenwick at the MassMutual Center.

This spring was the first season for boys baseball coach Mike Larabee, who brought our team deep into the regional tournament. With help from ace Matt Koperniak, the Hurricanes beat both Mt. Greylock and Southwick in tournament play, only losing in the semi-finals to Frontier. The Girls Softball team (14-8) flourished during head coach Mike Ameen's second season back at Hoosac. The girls made it all the way to the Western Mass finals where they fell to #1 seed Turners Falls in a game delayed for nearly two hours by rain. The Boys and Girls Track teams qualified for Western Mass and State meets and had an excellent showing by Peter Barrow, who finished 4th in both the shotput and discus. Jared Haley, finishing off an impressive 6-year track career at Hoosac, was awarded the Western Mass senior track athlete of the year.

In the fall, the football team had another excellent season under the direction of Coach Dayne Poirot and his staff. While they did not qualify for the tournament, they finished 5-5 and beat Drury in the first ever Thanksgiving-eve game at Renfrew Park. The Girls Soccer team was successful under head coach Kathy

Budja and was highly competitive in the northern division, making it to the Western MA tournament, losing to Monument Mt. in a close game. Boys Soccer continued a year of rebuilding under Coach Mike Russo, and are looking forward to having a tournament team in the near future. The Boys and Girls Cross-Country running team both qualified for the Western MA and state tournaments. The golf team, led by brothers Jack and Henry Sniezek, competed in the Northern Division and made it to the tournament where they finished 7th in Western MA.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Heneault
Athletic Director



Hoosac golfers play a practice round at Crestview Country

Director of Food Services

In 2015 -2016, 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 and The Summer Food Service Program. This is also our second year of participating in a USDA Program called Department of Defense (DOD) Fresh Fruits & Vegetable Program (FFAVORS). Berkshire Head Start continues to receive breakfast and lunch daily via satellite out of Plunkett School. The ACRSD Food Service Department remains a member of the Berkshire County Food Service Purchasing Cooperative. This Co-op puts out to bid the bread, dairy and paper products, yearly, on a county wide basis.

For the 2015 -2016 school year, the Food Service Department had a profit of \$50,724.00 on revenues of \$655,505.00. Government subsidies represented 59.8% of the total revenue. USDA Commodities valued at \$45,948.09 were received in 2016.

Participation in the reimbursable School Lunch Program for SY 2015-16 was 59.2%, same as the previous year. Participation in the School Breakfast Program for SY 2015-16 was 18.3%, a 2% increase from the previous year. The percentage of students who qualified for free/reduced meals as of June 2016 was 57%, an increase of 6% from the previous year. We operated three kitchens in 2015-16.

Parent participation in our online payment web site continues to be well received. Deposits have increased for \$32,000.00 in SY 2014-15, to \$35,000.00 in SY 2015-16.

Two new ovens were purchased to replace the two old, unreliable ones at Plunkett Elementary School at a cost of \$6,400.00 total.

A price increase of \$.25 for full pay student and adult lunches went into effect for the SY 2015-16. This increase was the result of being compliant with federal regulations for school lunch prices.

Paid Student Lunch (CES & CTP)	\$ 2.50
Paid Student Lunch (HVMHS)	2.75
Paid Student Breakfast	1.25
Paid Adult Lunch	3.75
Reduced Student Breakfast	.30
Reduced Student Lunch	.40

We had one retirement at the end of SY 2015-16. Barbara Solomon retired after many years of dedicated service as a 6-hour cook's helper for the Food Service Department. A 4-hour kitchen helper was hired to fill the vacancy.

Food Service continues to explore possibilities of being CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) certified for the next SY 2016-17, which would mean free breakfast and lunch at participating schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne Schutz
Food Service Director



Pete Barrow throwing his personal best at the Central/West Tournament to finish 7th.

ACRSD Special Services

2016 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 - Dr. 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 continues the services of a .2 school psychologist, Michael Vecchia, as well as contracted with Hillcrest Educational Support Services and Ward Johnson to assist in the intake and identification of students who may qualify for special services and provide recommenda-

tions 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. They also perform the special education duties of chairing team meetings and completing individualized education plans for compliance.

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. Kim Biagini-BCBA, 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. Alden Grover 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. Mary Tanner Early Childhood Coordinator, has continued to be an invaluable resource for families and staff alike.

At Hoosac Valley Middle and High School, special education students' needs are met through a variety of available programs. 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 at 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 youths. We welcome Alexander Renton 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, prevocational 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. The district also offers services to St. Stanislaus Parochial School for those students identified with a disability.

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. Mr. Kellogg also has recently been trained by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to be an SEI endorsed instructor and provide professional development to our teachers.

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 is the district BCBA-Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Mary Tanner continues as an Elementary Coordinator. Tanner and Biagini 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, 2016				
Grade	Cheshire	Plunkett	Hoosac	Tuited Out or Private Schools
PK	23	3 Drive-By		
K	7	8		1
1	6	16		1
2	4	24		2
3	6	19		1
4	3	24		2
5	6	16		1
6			15	1
7			23	1
8			30	1
9			9	
10			22	
11			15	
12			16	
12+(to age 22)			1	
Total School	55	110	131	11

ACRSD SPECIAL SERVICES STAFF

STAFFING	POSITION	STAFFING	POSITION
Jacquelyn Daniels	Director of Special Services Homeless Coordinator English Language Learner Coordinator Early Childhood	Kelly Riechers	Preschool/ Special Education Teacher District
Mary Ellen Sutliff	Administrative Assistant	Christine Zdon	Preschool/ Special Education Teacher District
Mary Tanner	Elementary Coordinator	Melissa Marchetti	Special Education Teacher Cheshire Elementary (PT)
Kim Biagini	Board Certified Behavior Analyst District Specialist	Elaine Hunter	Special Education Teacher Cheshire Elementary (PT)
Diane Arduini	Speech Language Pathologist	Rebecca Cohen	Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Brianna Bresett	Speech Language Pathologist	Lisa Folino	Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Kelsey Pero	Speech/Language Pathologist Assistant	Seth Jenkins	Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Karen Levesque	Speech/Language Pathologist Assistant	Brandon Noyes	Transitional Program HVMHS
Linda Giroux	Speech/Language Pathologist Assistant	Elizabeth Namislo	Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Suzanne Harnick	Occupational Therapist	Jamie Lamour	Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Deb Silveira	Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant	Alexandria Renton	Transitional Program HVMHS
Lora McGrath	Physical Therapist	Christopher Tamburrino	Life Skills Program HVMHS
Nicole Crane	Special Education Teacher C.T. Plunkett	Other Related Services:	
Dawn Daniels	Special Education Teacher C.T. Plunkett	Michael Vecchia	School Psychologist
Christine Harrington	Special Education Teacher C.T. Plunkett	Rick Ely	Teacher of the Visually Impaired
Joann Kingsbury	Special Education Teacher C.T. Plunkett	Amy O'Brien	Teacher of the Visually Impaired - Perkins School for the Blind
Travis Poirot	Transitional Program C.T. Plunkett	Greg Delisle	Willie Ross School for the Deaf - Director
Alden Grover	Special Education Teacher C.T. Plunkett <i>Autism Program</i>	Debra Scanlon	Willie Ross School for the Deaf - Educational Audiologist
Laura Crane	Preschool/ Special Education Teacher District	Eileen A. Daneri	Teacher of the Deaf
		Stacey Ellery	Interpreter/Sign Language
		Joshua Kellogg	ESL Program

Director of Business

FY2016 FINANCE AT A GLANCE

The establishment of the FY2016 budget did not come without its share of hardships. The Administration worked diligently to incorporate and promote a budget that included additions of three new positions - Technology Director, Curriculum Coordinator and Elementary Coordinator. It wasn't until two separate over-ride votes were taken; the second of which passed, that the budget was approved by the Town of Cheshire and considered adopted by both Towns. It was a great display of the dedication of both staff and voters from each Town who came out in support of the education of children.

The addition of these positions was an asset to our schools, however, there continue to be trends that challenge our District from year to year. The formula for which Chapter 70 funding is based, continues to result in minimal funding increases, as fixed costs only continue to rise. The gap in funding that this formula creates places a larger burden on the two towns to cover the shortfall. This, along with many other factors, will continue to challenge District officials to provide a sound education to the students with fewer resources.

The FY2016 operating budget, which is comprised of foundation and transportation costs, increased by 3% over the FY2015 operating budget. The inclusion of the three new positions, an increase of health insurance costs for active and retired employees, as well as anticipated increases in utilities costs made up the majority of the increase. Similar to prior years, there were significant cuts throughout the budget in an attempt to keep the overall increase to towns within their own spending limits. We were again faced with the same issues going into the FY17 budget and unfortunately had to eliminate two of the positions we had fought so hard for the year before. Increases in operational costs continue to exceed the increases in funding from the state. With an increase in funding not likely, the District is faced with a serious challenge and must make hard decisions in order to maintain viability going forward.

All challenges aside, due to Chapter 70 aid and Charter reimbursements coming in higher than budgeted, in combination with the extremely mild winter which led to a savings in utilities and snow removal, the FY2016 year end fund balance ended with a surplus of \$400,000, which was closed out to Excess & Deficiency. The Department of Revenue certified the ACRSD's Excess & Deficiency or E & D as it's often called, as of July 1, 2016 at \$773,135. This amount was 4.07% of the total FY2017 budget, which is \$18,995,762. A regional school district is allowed to retain up to 5% of the succeeding year's 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, in FY17 it was \$350,000 and we anticipate using a similar amount as a funding source for the FY2018 budget. However, this will depend on how the FY17 projected fund balance looks as we proceed through the year.

Going forward we must continue to be innovative, invite and encourage collaboration and keep the priority and focus of our District in the forefront of our minds. At the end of the day, our goal as a District is to provide our youth with the best possible education and it will be my goal as Director of Business to keep as much of our resources as possible directly in the classroom with the children.

Respectfully submitted,

Erika M. Snyder
Director of Business
January 26, 2017

Adams-Cheshire Regional School District

Governmental Funds

Balance Sheet

June 30, 2016

	General	School Choice	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 2,579,765	\$ 505,256	\$ 465,048	\$ 3,550,069
Intergovernmental receivables	-	-	38,739	38,739
Inventory	-	-	32,396	32,396
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,579,765	\$ 505,256	\$ 536,183	\$ 3,621,204
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES				
Liabilities:				
Warrants payable	\$ 51,608	\$ -	\$ 884	\$ 52,492
Accrued payroll and withholdings	1,133,664	3,121	56,836	1,193,621
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 1,185,272	\$ 3,121	\$ 57,720	\$ 1,246,113
Fund Balances:				
Nonspendable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,396	\$ 32,396
Restricted	-	502,135	446,067	948,202
Assigned	621,358	-	-	621,358
Unassigned	773,135	-	-	773,135
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	\$ 1,394,493	\$ 502,135	\$ 478,463	\$ 2,375,091
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 2,579,765	\$ 505,256	\$ 536,183	\$ 3,621,204

Adams-Cheshire Regional School District
General Fund
Statement of Revenues and Other Sources,
and Expenditures and Other Uses
- Budget and Actual -
June 30, 2016

	BUDGETED AMOUNTS			Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual Amounts	
REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES				
Assessments to Member Towns	\$ 8,107,946	\$ 8,107,946	\$ 8,107,946	\$ -
Intergovernmental	10,698,583	10,698,583	10,661,881	(36,702)
Investment Income	-	-	6,383	6,383
Miscellaneous	-	-	41,572	41,572
Other Sources	300,000	300,000	300,000	-
TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES	19,106,529	19,106,529	19,117,782	11,253
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES:				
Administration	758,623	769,815	791,764	(21,949)
Instruction	6,063,200	6,317,085	6,211,796	105,289
Other School Services	413,151	431,938	395,392	36,546
Operation & Maintenance	1,432,132	1,469,403	1,306,626	162,777
Fixed Charges	4,762,540	4,543,130	4,421,939	121,191
Special Education	2,543,722	2,370,397	2,216,298	154,099
Transportation	845,452	845,452	866,281	(20,829)
Intergovernmental	1,265,000	1,330,000	1,447,111	(117,111)
Acquisiton	105,000	111,600	90,169	21,431
Debt Service	917,709	917,709	926,650	(8,941)
Transfers Out	-	-	17,497	(17,497)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	\$ 19,106,529	\$ 19,106,529	\$ 18,691,523	\$ 415,006
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES & OTHER SOURCES OVER EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES				
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 426,259	\$ 426,259

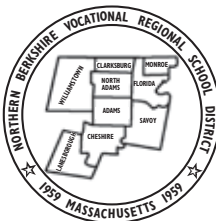
Adams-Cheshire Regional School District
Assessments to Member Towns
June 30, 2016

Town	Minimum Contribution	Contribution Outside Net School Spending	Transportation & Capital Assessments	Total Assessments
Adams	\$ 3,326,750	\$ 1,076,169	\$ 1,118,550	\$ 5,521,469
Cheshire	1,833,866	380,156	372,455	2,586,477
Total	\$ 5,160,616	\$ 1,456,325	\$ 1,491,005	\$ 8,107,946

Adams-Cheshire Regional School District
June 30, 2016
Future Debt Service

Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2017	\$ 555,000	\$ 373,850	\$ 928,850
2018	575,000	360,700	935,700
2019	590,000	343,450	933,450
2020	605,000	325,750	930,750
2021	620,000	307,600	927,600
2022-2026	3,255,000	1,249,050	4,504,050
2027-2031	3,760,000	683,050	4,443,050
Thereafter	1,695,000	87,300	1,782,300
Total	\$ 11,655,000	\$ 3,730,750	\$ 15,385,750

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 2016 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 twenty 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:

The Class of 2016 became the thirteenth 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 119 graduates of the Class of 2016 saw 61% continue their education in a variety of colleges and universities, 34% enter the workforce and 5% proudly enter into military service.

The results of the spring 2016 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	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Advanced	21%	15%	17%	25.7%	24.7%
Proficient	67%	76%	77%	68.9%	72.6%
Needs Improvement	11%	8%	6%	4.5%	2.6%
Failing	0%	1%	1%	.7%	0.0%

GRADE 10 - MATHEMATICS

Performance Level	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Advanced	33%	35%	44%	32.35%	34.5%
Proficient	42%	39%	29%	46.25%	45.7%
Needs Improvement	23%	17%	24%	19.2%	17.2%
Failing	3%	9%	3%	2.3%	2.5%

GRADE 10 - SCIENCE AND TECH/ENG

Performance Level	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Advanced	9%	13%	19%	11.3%	24.5%
Proficient	54%	53%	52%	63.7%	61.8%
Needs Improvement	30%	24%	27%	23.4%	10.9%
Failing	7%	9%	2%	1.6%	2.7%

The McCann Athletics program continues to enjoy success in the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association. Our programs enjoy healthy participation numbers and our student athletes continue to represent our school admirably. The 2015-2016 year saw our baseball team advance to the Western Massachusetts Championship game for the first time since 1987. The game was held at Wahconah Park in Pittsfield and capped a fantastic season for the team that also included a league championship. A boys' lacrosse team was created in the spring of 2016 and played an independent schedule in its inaugural campaign. The team played hard and looks forward to continuing its growth as it will enter official league play this year in the PVIAC.

Our continuous facility improvement plan allowed us to renovate 5 classrooms replacing 3 rooms of 1960's era furniture with new desks and chairs, install energy efficient lighting and replace white boards for greater visibility and cleanliness. We

installed a new computer proxy card internal and external lock system providing enhanced building security and access control. We replaced over 100 computer systems throughout the building and made improvements to our athletic fields including the installation of new portable bleachers to provide a safer venue for both spectators and teams.

The integration of new educational technology continues to be our priority. We received a Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant for \$121,128.00 which allowed us to update 4 of our welders and add two virtual welding machines which combine the latest trends in metal joining technology with greater accuracy and outcomes. We added two Tormach 3-axis milling machines that allow our machine technology students to improve their automated manufacturing practice. We replaced our wheel alignment machine with a new system that incorporates the latest technology available thereby enhancing our automotive technology students' application of wheel alignment procedures.

Community service projects continue to provide our students with excellent opportunities to display their technical skills while exhibiting the passion and commitment to support their community. Our computer-aided design and carpentry students completed the rehabilitation of the porch and exterior stairways at the Louison House and our culinary arts students continue to support a number of community events including the Relay for Life. Our BPA students collected items for the homeless veteran's shelter, placed flags on the graves of veterans on Memorial Day, participated in the Habitat for Humanity Christmas Tree Showcase and assisted with the set-up of the Relay for Life event. Our National Honor Society students collected donations for the Friendship Center Food Pantry in North Adams, participated in the "Campground Clean-up Day" at Historic Valley Campground, helped rebuild the C.T. Plunkett playground and provided holiday cards and packages for veterans and deployed military personnel. Our Skills USA students' community service included the "Buddy Walk of the Berkshires," placing flags on veterans' graves, the Habitat for Humanity Christmas Showcase, Relay for Life, a series of Louison House fundraisers including food drives and Christmas gifts for the children.

McCann continued its ongoing participation in SkillsUSA, a national organization of more than 300,000 members working to ensure America has a skilled work force. McCann is a 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 2016 SkillsUSA state competition McCann students earned gold medals in Automated Manufacturing Technology, Customer Service, and Technical Computer Applications at the high school level and Dental Assisting and Job Interview at the postsecondary level. Silver medals were awarded in Automated Manufacturing Technology, Carpentry, Architectural Drafting, Community Service, Industrial Motor Control, Web Design, Welding at the high school level and Cosmetology and Dental Assisting at the postsecondary level. Bronze medals were earned in 3-D Visualization & Animation, Automotive Service Technology, CNC Turning Specialist, Customer Service, Technical Computer Applications at the high school level and Dental Assisting at the postsecondary level. Additionally, a McCann student earned a gold medal for the President's Volunteer Service Award. All gold medal winners

were able to attend the national competition in Louisville, KY where more than 15,000 people participate in the weeklong event. Competitions included 96 different hands-on trades, technical and leadership fields. Our Automated Manufacturing Technology team of Charlie Bohl III, Tanner Parrino, and Noah Curran won a national silver medal. McCann is extremely proud to have had Samantha Dorwin, a Machine Technology student, serve as a SkillsUSA national officer this past year. In her role as Region I Vice President, Samantha helped advocate for women in career and technical education as well as for vocational education in general. Awarded the Presidential Scholar medal, Samantha had numerous speaking engagements highlighted by her keynote speech at the Massachusetts SkillsUSA state conference, speaking at the United States Department of Education, and meeting with Senator Elizabeth Warren. Samantha also accompanied McCann Metal Fabrication student Spenser Tanner, along with a delegation of competitors, to Québec to compete in Canada's SkillsUSA equivalent, Compétences Québec. Spenser competed in the Welding competitions placing fourth and receiving the Medal of Excellence. Both students represented McCann and the U.S. admirably, serving as ambassadors for the American vocational education system.

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 organization's activities complement classroom instruction by giving students practical experience through application of the skills learned at school. BPA is contributing to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills. At this year's BPA State Leadership Conference held in Framingham, MA, McCann students received a total of eighteen awards in Finance, Business Administration, Management Information Systems, Digital Communication & Design, and Management, Marketing & Communication competitions, bringing home three 1st place, four 2nd place, and three 3rd place awards. In May 2016, fourteen McCann students traveled to Boston, MA to join over 5,000 other conference attendees from across the nation to participate in business skills competitions, workshops, general sessions, and intern assignments. Achievements earned at the national competition included top-ten medals in Administrative Support Concepts, Advanced Spreadsheet Applications, Fundamental Spreadsheet Applications, Fundamental Word Processing, Information Technology Concepts and Web Site Design Team. Additionally, Andrea Leal of the Business Technology Class of 2014 was elected to a seat on the national officer team, serving the 2016-2017 school-year as BPA's Post-secondary Division National President.

Project Lead the Way is the leading provider of rigorous and innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education programs in 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 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 \$76,011.00 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.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation, CODA, conducted an onsite review of our Dental Assisting program and granted continued accreditation without reporting requirements until 2022. Similarly our Medical Assisting program hosted an onsite accreditation team from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, CAAHEP, and the Medical Assisting Education Review Board, MAERB, and was granted continued accreditation to 2024.

FY16 Budgeted Revenues	Budget	Actual
City & Town Assessments		
Municipal Minimum	\$ 2,797,399.00	\$ 2,797,399.00
Capital	103,125.00	103,125.00
Transportation	194,325.00	194,325.00
Municipal Assessment	139,483.00	139,483.00
Ch. 71 Transportation	225,000.00	286,847.00
Ch. 70 General School Aid	4,641,116.00	4,641,116.00
Tuitions	734,372.00	734,372.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	11,431.00	9,461.00
State Bonus Aid		2,040.00
Total Revenue Received	\$ 8,846,251.00	\$ 8,908,168.00
Member City & Town Transportation Refunds		(61,847.00)
Misc. Revenue Balance to Surplus E & D		(70.00)
A/P Assessment Payable (Received in July)		0.00
	\$ 8,846,251.00	\$ 8,846,251.00

Source	Grant	Amount
(Federal Entitlement)		
Fed	Sped IDEA	\$ 114,838.00
Fed	Title I	117,668.00
Fed	Title II A	18,666.00
Fed	Perkins	61,113.00
Fed	Postsecondary Perkins	2,765.00
(Federal Grants Other)		
	REAP	41,074.00
	Perkins Instructional Equipment & Supplies	50,000.00
(State Grants)		
	Workforce Skills Capital Equipment	121,128.00
(Competitive/Private)		
Private	Olmsted	5,000.00
Private	BHG Wellness	2,000.00
Private	BCREB: Connecting Activities	1,000.00
Private	City of Chicopee Nurse Grant	2,990.00
Private	Rochester Institute	140.00
Private	MASS MoCA	600.00
Private	Lowe's SkillsUSA Grant	4,000.00
Private	Maine Community College, Solar	8,000.00
TOTAL GRANTS		\$ 550,982.00

