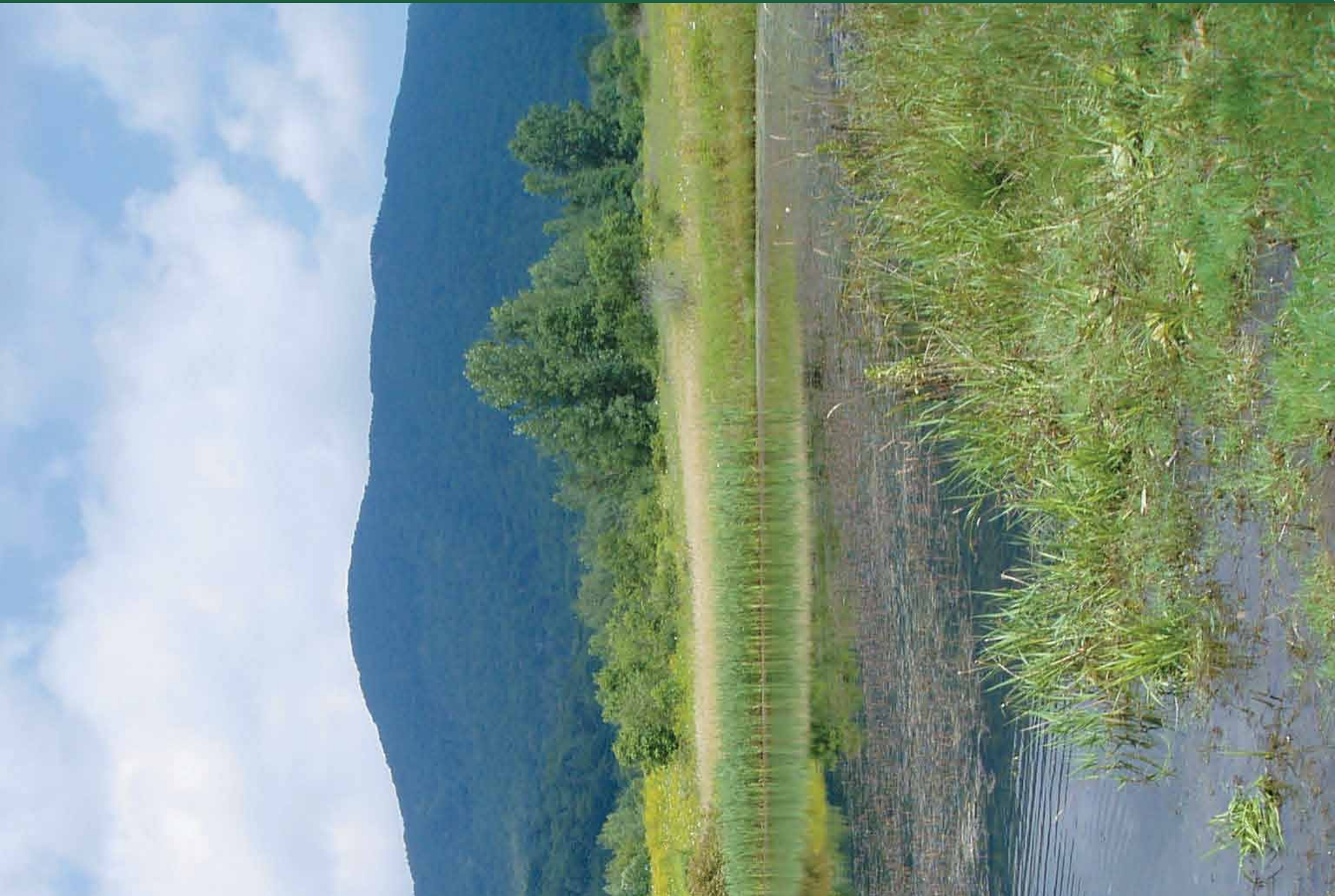
Town of Adams, Massachusetts
ANNUAL REPORT 2014



Town of
ADAMS

M A S S A C H U S E T T S

REPORT OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 31, 2014

Compiled and Edited by the

TOWN REPORT COMMITTEE

As Authorized by the Special Town Meeting

June 24, 1963

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

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GENERAL INFORMATION

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

Population:

Town Census 2014	8,799
Town Census 2013	8,914
Town Census 2012	9,146
Town Census 2011	9,183
Town Census 2010	9,414
Town Census 2009	9,657
Town Census 2008	9,488
Town Census 2007	9,370
Town Census 2006	9,311
Town Census 2005	9,307
Town Census 2004	9,213
Town Census 2003	9,213
Town Census 2002	9,212
Town Census 2001	9,369

Federal Census 2010	8,485	Federal Census 1990	9,455
Federal Census 2000	8,809	Federal Census 1980	10,385

Number of Registered Voters as of May 2014 5,861

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 FY14	Residential and Open Space	$19.95
	Commercial, Industrial & Personal	$23.69

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

Town Hall - Open 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Select Board Meeting - 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Adams Town Hall, 8 Park Street

Town Election - First Monday in May

State Senator, Berkshire District
BENJAMIN B. DOWNING - Pittsfield

State Representative, 1st Berkshire District
GAILANNE M. CARIDDI - North Adams

Governor’s Councillor, 8th District
MICHAEL J. ALBANO - Longmeadow

United States Senators:
ELIZABETH WARREN - Cambridge
EDWARD J. MARKEY - BOSTON

Representative in Congress, 1st Congressional District
RICHARD NEAL - Springfield

POINTS OF INTEREST

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

Greylock Glen is the area at the base of Mt. Greylock which was formerly farm land, and the future site of a Town-sponsored resort development. 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.
KAPILOFF’S GLASS, 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.

DEDICATION

The Town Report Committee dedicates the Annual Report to

Paul "Hutch" Hutchinson

This year's town report is dedicated to Paul "Hutch" Hutchinson. Paul started his career in politics when he was appointed Assistant Town Clerk in December 1981, and less than a month later was appointed Town Clerk. In May 1982 he was elected Town Clerk, a position he held for the next twenty-eight years until his retirement on July 31, 2010. During this time, he tirelessly oversaw many federal, state and local elections, recorded many Town Meetings, issued countless certified copies of vital statistics, and licensed over 22,000 dogs, in addition to numerous responsibilities. Paul was a member of the Massachusetts Town Clerk's Association, Western Massachusetts City and Town Clerk's Association and Berkshire County Municipal Clerk's Association. Paul took on additional duties by serving as the Town's Veterans Agent from January 2009 until his retirement. He has served on various town committees including the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Greylock Glen, Town Scholarship Committee, Memorial Day Committee and the Adams Library Centennial Committee. He was a Commissioner to Qualify Public Officers for the Commonwealth and continues to be a Massachusetts Justice of the Peace. Paul has performed incalculable marriages, including marrying some individuals more than once!

Outside of the office, Hutch's civic involvement included serving on the Adams Municipal Employees Federal Credit Union, Adams Ambulance Service and Northern Berkshire Community Coalition Board of Directors, holding the position of Treasurer for the Adams-Cheshire Unit 1994 of the Salvation Army, and serving as a member of many local committees and organizations. Paul was campaign chairperson twice for the Northern Berkshire United Way Fund Drive raising over $400,000 each time. Paul continues to host the annual United Cerebral Palsy Telethon of Berkshire County and hosts and produces the Northern Berkshire Fall Foliage Festival Parade on the local Northern Berkshire Cable Community television station. Paul has been a recipient of many awards, including the Adams Veterans Community Service Award and the North Adams Salvation Army 2008 Community Service Award.

You may recognize Paul's voice from the local radio station WMNB as a broadcaster from 1971 – 1980. Prior to that, he served in the United States Army from 1967 - 1970. He held several positions within the American Legion including Past Commander of Post 160 and is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1995. He continues to be a member of the Adams Lodge of Elks, serving as secretary since 2002.

Hutch happily resides in Adams with his wife Doris. They have two children, Tina and Paul (Hutchie) and three grandchildren, Anna, Charlotte and Ethan.

Thank you Hutch for your years of service and dedication to Adams.

In Memoriam

WILLARD "BEAVER" BARD
Parks Department Employee
Park Commission Member
Parks and Grounds Special Police Officer

ELINOR A. CURTIN
Adams Cheshire Regional School District Teacher

THERESA DUPREY
Adams Cheshire Regional School System Cafeteria Employee

RONALD NELSON FAVREAU
Town Meeting Member

ANDREW FRANCIS GIGLIOTTI
Adams Cheshire Regional School District Teacher
Adams Memorial Library Trustee
Adams Housing Authority Member
Capital Improvement Planning Committee Member
Town Meeting Member

CHRISTINE LAING
Adams Cheshire Regional School District Employee

JOHN J. LENNON
Cemetery Commission Member
Adams Democratic Committee Member
Memorial Day Committee Member
Town Meeting Member
Constable
Redevelopment Authority Member
Special Police Officer

MARY A. MISIUK
Adams Cheshire Regional School District Cafeteria Employee

WILLIAM F. SIKORSKI JR.
Adams Cheshire Regional School District Teacher
Adams Historical Society Member

MURIEL C. ZALOGA
Adams Cheshire Regional School District Teacher

ADAMS TOWN ELECTION RESULTS

May 5, 2014

MODERATOR	for a term of One Year
EDWARD J. DRISCOLL, Nine hundred fifty-six	956*
Write In Votes, Four	4
Blanks, Two hundred fifteen	215
Total	1,175

SELECTMAN	for a term of Three Years
MICHAEL G. OUELLETTE, Four hundred fifty-one	451
JEFFREY MICHAEL SNOONIAN, Seven hundred eleven	711*
Blanks, Thirteen	13
Total	1,175

TREASURER-COLLECTOR	for a term of Two Years
MELISSA M. MCGOVERN-WANDREI Four hundred seventy-eight	478
KELLY F. RICE, Six hundred sixty-six	666*
Write In Votes, One	1
Blanks, Thirty	30
Total	1,175

ASSESSOR	for a term of Three Years
DENNIS A. GAJDA, Three hundred sixty-seven	367
GEORGE J. HADDAD, Seven hundred forty-nine	749*
Blanks, Fifty-nine	59
Total	1,175

BOARD OF HEALTH	for a term of Three Years
ALLEN J. MENDEL, One thousand	1,000*
Write In Votes, One	1
Blanks, One hundred seventy-four	174
Total	1,175

LIBRARY TRUSTEES	for a term of Three Years
JOSEPH F. GREENBUSH, Eight hundred thirty-one	831*
DAVID M. STRZEPEK, Nine hundred four	904*
Write In Votes, One	1
Blanks, Six hundred fourteen	614
Total	2,350

LIBRARY TRUSTEE	for a term of Two Years
JILL A. POMPI, Nine hundred sixteen	916*
Blanks, Two hundred fifty-nine	259
Total	1,175

PARK COMMISSIONERS	for a term of Three Years
JACOB N. SCHUTZ, Nine hundred	900*
SCOTT E. CERNIK, Seven hundred fifty-two	752*
Blanks, Six hundred ninety-eight	698
Total	2,350

PLANNING BOARD	for a term of Five Years
BARBARA ZIEMBA, Nine hundred fifty-nine	959*
Write In Votes, Four	4
Blanks, Two hundred twelve	212
Total	1,175

CEMETERY COMMISSIONER	for a term of Three Years
Write In Votes, Thirty-two	32
Blanks, One thousand one hundred forty-three	1,143
Total	1,175

• ***Failure to Elect***

HOUSING AUTHORITY	for a term of Five Years
MARK A. COVERT, Eight hundred seventy-two	872*
Blanks, Three hundred three	303
Total	1,175

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEMBER	for a term of Five Years
Write In Votes, Sixteen	16
Blanks, One thousand one hundred fifty-nine	1,159
Total	1,175

• ***Failure to Elect***

Elected Official

NORTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

	for a term of Three Years
DANIEL J. MALONEY, JR. Nine hundred sixty-five	965*
Write In Votes, One	1
Blanks, Two hundred nine	209
Total	1,175

ADAMS CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Adams Representative	for a term of Three Years
REGINA A. HILL, Nine hundred sixteen	916*
Write In Votes, Three	3
Blanks, Two hundred fifty-six	256
Total	1,175

ADAMS CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

Cheshire Representative	for a term of Three Years
EDMUND R. ST. JOHN IV, Nine hundred forty-nine	949*
Blanks, Two hundred twenty-six	226
Total	1,175

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

ADAMS

Adams Representative – Three Year Term

	Adams	Cheshire
REGINA A. HILL	916	410
Write In Votes	3	0
Blanks	256	134
Total	1,175	544

CHESHIRE

Cheshire Representative – Three Year Term

	Adams	Cheshire
EDMUND R. ST. JOHN IV	949	452
Write In Votes (other)	0	0
Blanks	226	92
Total	1,175	544

Elected Town Officers

	Term Expires
Moderator	
Edward J. Driscoll	2015
Town Clerk	
Haley A. Meczywor	2015
Selectmen	
John E. Duval	2015
Arthur W. Harrington	2015
Richard Blanchard	2016
Joseph J. Nowak	2016
Jeffrey Michael Snoonian	2017
Treasurer-Collector	
Kelly F. Rice	2016
Assessors	
Donna Aitken MacDonald	2015
Lorraine M. Kalisz	2016
George J. Haddad	2017
Board of Health	
Patricia A. Clairmont	2015
Roy J. Thompson	2016
Allen J. Mendel	2017
Library Trustees	
James R. Loughman	2015
Eugene F. Michalenko	2015
Karen L. Kettles	2016
Jill A. Pompi	2016
Joseph F. Greenbush	2017
David M. Strzepek	2017
Park Commission	
James J. Fassell	2015
Barbara A. Meczywor	2015
Todd Edward Shafer	2015
Scott E. Cernik	2017
Jacob N. Schutz	2017
Planning Board	
Michael P. O'Brien	2015
David B. Rhinemiller	2016
Sandra H. Moderski	2017
Martha J. Stohlmann	2018
Barbara Ziemba	2019

	Term Expires
Cemetery Commission	
Robert J. Ciempa	2015
Lawrence A. Clairmont	2016
Bruce Dale Shepley (Appointed 6/18/14)	2015
Housing Authority	
Linda Cernik (State Appointee)	2016
Mary A. Robert	2015
Carol A. Roberts	2016
Stephanie L. Melito	2018
Mark A. Covert	2019
Redevelopment Authority	
Vacant (State Appointee)	
Ryan Biros	2015
Joseph W. Allard	2017
Elizabeth M. Bushey	2018
Vacant	2019
Northern Berkshire Regional Vocational School Committee	
Aaron M. Dean	2015
Joseph W. Allard	2016
Daniel J. Maloney Jr.	2017
Adams-Cheshire Regional School District Committee	
Elected At-Large (Adams)	
Stephen J. Vigna	2015
Paul K. Butler	2016
Joshua Ryan Demarsico-Birkland	2016
Regina A. Hill	2017
Adams-Cheshire Regional School District Committee	
Elected At-Large (Cheshire)	
Darlene Rodowicz	2015
Brian P. Astorino	2016
Edmund R. St. John IV	2017

Appointed by Moderator

	Term Expires
Finance Committee	
Sandra D. Kleiner	2014
John Lawson	2014
Leon S. Parrott	2014
Joan Smigel	2014
Rachel H. Tomkowicz	2014
Timothy R. Burdick	2015
Craig R. Corrigan	2015
Paul S. Demastrie	2015
Fred S. Hobart	2015
Gregory E. Tremblay	2015
David Allen	2016
Charles H. Foster	2016
Amy A. Giroux	2016
Brian R. Johnson	2016
Matthew Pitoniak	2016

Town Report Committee

Adams Memorial Day Committee

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

Appointed at Annual Town Meeting

Fence Viewers	
Stanley J. Ziemba Jr.	2014
Victor Ziemba	2014
Measurer of Wood and Bark	
Donald Delmolino	2014
Walter Slosek	2014

Appointed Town Officials – July 2014

Right to Know Coordinator
Jonathan Butler

AdHoc Committee on Solid Waste
Gregory DeBlois
Edward Driscoll
Leon Parrott, Jr.
Vacant
Vacant

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

American with Disabilities Coordinator
Jonathan Butler

Animal Control Officer
Kim Witek

Animal Control Officer (Weekend)
Daniel Lefebvre

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
Sandy Moderski
John Duval (Alternate)

Berkshire County Regional Transit Authority
Jeff Snoonian

Capital Improvement Planning Committee
Richard Kleiner
Paul Butler
Michael Mach
Jeff Lefebvre
Jeff Snoonian
David Rhinemiller
George Haddad
Vacant

Chief Procurement Officer
Jonathan Butler

Code Enforcement Officer
Scott Koczela

Community Development Director
Donna Cesan

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

Constables
Anthony P. McBride
Tom Satko
Herman Bishop

Council on Aging Director
Erica Girgenti

Council on Aging Board of Directors
Robert Joppich
Karen Matthews
Michelle Wellspeak
Aleta Moncecchi
Melissa Schaffrick
Pam St. John
Lisa Haas
Nancy Lanski
Vacant

Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire Adams Representatives:
Samantha Talora
Karylee Doubiago

Department of Public Works Director
Joseph Bettis

Emergency Management Director
Richard Kleiner

Employee Insurance Advisory Group
Mary Beverly
Richard Biros
Barbara Lewis
Shawn Briggs
Kathleen Fletcher
Erica Girgenti

Fair Housing Officer
Donna E. Cesan

Forest Warden
Richard Kleiner

Hazardous Waste Coordinator
Jonathan Butler

Historical Commission
Eugene Michalenko
Ryan Biros
Jody Fijal
Bruce D. Dumochel
Vacant

Housing & Building Inspector
Don Fitzgerald

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 Nuvallie

Preservation Officer
Eugene Michalenko

Registrar of Voters
John J. Tarsa
Timothy Rowley
Casimir R. Kuza

Retirement Board
Patricia Wol

Safety Committee
Scott McWhirt
Scott Koczela
Joseph Fijal
David Nuvallie
Richard Tarsa
Deborah Bruneau

Special Police Officers
Allen Mendel

Superintendent of Insect Control
Joseph Bettis

Town Accountant
Mary Beverly

Town Counsel
Edmund St. John, III

Town Scholarship Committee
Kelly Rice
Bernard Pinsonneault
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant

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

Tree Board
Joseph Bettis

Tree Warden
Joseph Bettis

Trench Board
Don Fitzgerald
Scott Koczela
Joseph Bettis

Veterans Agent
Stephen R. Roy

Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent
Joseph Fijal

Weighers of All Commodities:
Hoosac Valley Coal & Grain
Francis Waterman
Mullen Movers
Martin Mullen, Jr.
Craig Raymond
Mark LaVigne
Specialty Minerals, Inc.
William Donovan
Alan Giroux
James Alibozek
Alicia Foisy
Tim Sutliff
Patricia Markland
Derek Masse

Wire Inspector
David Rhinemiller

Assistant Wire Inspector
Les Rhinemiller

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

Town Meeting Members – Special and Annual Town Meeting - 2014

Precinct 1	March 24	June 19
Baker, Patricia A.	E	X
Baker, Starr D.	E	X
Basel, Allyn Faye*	-	X
Blanchard, Heather A.*(to Pct. 4)		-
Bush, James	E	X
Butler, Michele	X	X
Charron, Melissa M.*	-	X
Clerc, Bruce P.	X	X
Daunais, James F.	X	X
Fijal, Jody A.	X	E
Hoyt, Christine D.*	-	X
Jette, Richard A.	X	X
Kline, Sarah JP	X	X
Kolis, David	X	X
Kolis, Patricia M.	X	X
Kupiec, Anne E.	E	X
Kupiec, Neil	X	X
Lappies, Kristin Lynn	X	E
Meczywor, Barbara A.	X	X
Meier, Frances O.	X	E
Moran, Terence E.		
Morin, Norma P.	X	
Moyer, Christine A.	X	X
Moyer, John D.	X	X
Mucci, Erin	X	X
Nimmons, Jacqueline F.	E	X
Poirot, Dayne P.	X	X
Robinson, Brenda	X	X
Robinson, Thomas	X	X
Taylor, Judith L.	X	X
Taylor, Marshall	X	X

Precinct 2	March 24	June 19
Biros, Richard	X	X
Biros, Ryan	X	
Cardin, Bruce E.	X	
Chittenden, Mark J.		X
DeBlois, Gregory A.	X	E
Delmolino, Donald L.	X	
Driscoll, Edward J.	X	X
Duval, John E.	X	X
Filkins, Andrea M.*	-	X
Grandchamp, Jeffrey P.	X	
Hanbery, Patrick S.		
Janik, Edward S.	X	X
Kolis, Dolores J.	X	X
Kozik, Michael A.		
Lefebvre, Jeffrey M.	X	X
Lentine, Joseph A.	X	X
Meczywor, Paula	E	X
Merlini, Donald J.	X	X
Michalenko, Eugene F.	X	X
Moderski, Sandra*(to Pct. 2)	-	X
Odvar, Lisa A.	X	
Romaniak, Ann L.*	X	-
Romaniak, Thomas A. (Term Ex. 5-14)		-
Schutz, Norman K.	X	X
Skrocki, Mary		
Sutliff, Mary Ellen*	-	X
Sutliff, Shaun W.*	-	X
Tomkowicz, Rachel H.	X	X
Turoczy, Lawrence	X	X
Wilk, Matthew J. Jr.	X	X

Precinct 3	March 24	June 19
Allard, Joseph	X	
Blanchard, Richard	X	X
Case, Corinne Z.	E	E
Conroy-Shepley, Patricia	X	X
Corrigan, Craig R.	X	X
Cowie, John R. Jr.	X	X
Dumouchel, Bruce D.	X	X
Frost, Richard E.	X	X
Frost, Susan K.	X	X
Heritage, David L.	X	
Kalisz, Lorraine M.		X
Kolis, Marilyn Phelps	X	E
Kopala, Stanley J.	X	
Lawson, John L.	X	X
Mach, Michael J.	X	X
McBride, Anthony P.		X
Moderski, Sandra H.*(to Pct. 2)		-
Morin, Pamela A.*	-	
Nichols, Scott F.	X	
Norcross, Robert*	-	X
Paciorek, John S.(Term Ex. 5-14)		-
Parrott, Leon S. Jr.	X	X
Parrott, Nancy A.	X	X
Powers, Michael J.	X	X
Rice, Kelly F.	X	X
Schaffrick, Melissa L.	X	
Schutz, Jacob N.		X
Silvia, Veronica A.	X	X
Stohlmann, Martha J.	X	X
St. Pierre, Barbara*		-
Tinney, Thomas N.*	-	X
Wilk-Chaffee, Juliette J.	E	X
Ziemba, Barbara	X	X

Precinct 4	March 24	June 19
Blanchard, Heather A.*(from Pct. 1)	-	X
Blanchard, Scott M.		X
Blanchard, Steven M.*	-	X
Blanchard, William T.		X
Bourdon, Beth L.	X	X
Bourdon, Wilfred R. III		X
Clairmont, Lawrence A.	X	X
Davenport, Susan		
Deeley, Susan		
Demastrie, Jacqueline M.		X
Demastrie, Paul S.	X	X
Denault, Ronald		
Dimitropolis, George H.	X	X
Halek, Jeremy C. (Resigned 6-14)	X	
Hayer, Joseph P.	X	E
Koscinski, Joseph P.	X	X
Lillie, Dolores		X
Meczywor, Leona	X	X
Mendel, Bruce W.	X	X
Mendel, Lisa A.	X	
Pansecchi, John M.	X	
Rymarski, Kateri A.	E	X
Schrade, Paula G.		
Shafer, Todd Edward*	-	X
Sommer, Donald R.	X	E
Sommer, Donald R. Jr.	X	
Sommer, Michael J. (Term Ex. 5-14)		-
Taylor, James	X	X
Taylor, Patricia	X	X
Wilk, Myra L.	X	X
Ziaja, Mark D.		X

Precinct 5	March 24	June 19
Bassi, Michael E.	X	X
Burdick, Timothy R.	X	X
Byrd, Colleen M.	X	X
Corrigan, Thomas J.		
Cushenette, Carol A.	X	X
Dean, Aaron M.		
Doyle, Ann Marie		X
Doyle, Joseph B.		X
Fassell, James J.	X	X
Gigliotti, Debra Lynn	X	
Haddad, Amber J.	X	X
Haddad, George J.	X	X
Kleiner, Richard G.		X
Kleiner, Sandra D.	X	X
Kondel, Geoffrey A.	X	X
Koperniak, Christopher T.	X	
LaPlante, Daniel P.	X	X
Lennon, David J. Jr.	X	
Levesque, John Joseph		X
Levesque, Lauryn B.	X	X
Levesque, Tami M.	X	E
MacDonald, Donna Aitken	X	X
Meczywor, Donna		X
Melito, Stephen V.	X	X
Moran, Frederick D.	X	X
Moran, Marilyn A.	X	X
Noyes, Nicholas G.		X
Pinsonnault, Bernard (Term Ex. 5-14)		-
Satko, Thomas A.	X	X
Tarsa, Richard W. Jr.*	-	X
Whitman, Mary E.	X	

*** Elected 5-5-14**

Board of Selectmen / Town Administrator

2014 ushered in many changes to the Town of Adams. Several staff shifts took place, including the addition of a new Selectman, Jeffrey Snoonian, and the departure of Town Administrator Jonathan Butler. Donna Cesan operated as both the Community Development Department Director and Interim Town Administrator during transitional months. The Town saw many department head changes, including the additions of Kelly Rice as Tax Collector/Treasurer, Joe Bettis in the position of DPW Director, and Building Commissioner Don Fitzgerald. There were many support staff changes as well to replace retired and departed staff in those positions. An initiative began to review and systematically make changes to staff job descriptions and positions to update and keep them current with evolving position needs.

Along with the staff evolution, the Town kept moving forward in a positive trajectory and enhanced the downtown corridor of Park Street to be more business and pedestrian friendly. Pavement, sidewalks, hydrants, handicapped ramps, storm drains and sewers were updated, and benches and plantings were added to create a warm environment. The Memorial School received a new roof in preparation for a plan for reuse of the building, and opened to host school sports practice and the Holiday Farmers Market before the end of the year.

Economic development was the theme as the Select Board began to activate their recently adopted Economic Development Strategy and to update previous plans to build downtown business growth in order to boost the economy. A long term project began to see fruition as the Greylock Glen Lease Agreement was signed after years of hard work by Donna Cesan, Jonathan Butler, along with past and present members of the Select Board and the Greylock Glen Committee, which allowed the vision of the Greylock Glen Project to get off the ground. Downtown momentum was continued with the annual events: Movies under the Stars, Concerts, the Thunderbolt Ski Race and Thunderfest, the Mt. Greylock Ramble and Ramblefest, and the downtown Farmers Market along with many other fine downtown activities. The Hoosac Valley Service, a passenger excursion train, is on track to be operational for thousands of visitors to visit the downtown region in 2015/2016. The new leg of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail will run alongside the train for a short distance on the way to North Adams. With the implementation of other planned segments, the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail will connect to Williamstown and to Pittsfield.

The search for a new Town Administrator began in July, just prior to the departure of Jonathan Butler. After months of searching, the Town received applications

Selectmen Joseph J. Nowak, Jeffrey M. Snoonian, Arthur W. Harrington, John E. Duval and Richard Blanchard

from 41 individuals interested in the position. A Search Committee was established and three candidates were presented to the Select Board for consideration. The Select Board made an offer to candidate Tony Mazzucco, Assistant City Manager of Caribou Maine. His tenure will begin in January 2015.

Adams began the year by having its own 1.1 megawatt Solar Field go online in January. The Town also began to transition into more efficient energy use with new Solar By-Laws and supported a Solarize Mass program. The initiative proved to be worthwhile as the Town was able to produce solar credits that reduced energy bills, despite electricity rates increasing significantly in late fall and winter months.

The Town faced the challenge of the sudden closing of North Adams Regional Hospital, causing many citizens to lose both employment and health care. This impact was significantly felt in the region, and created emergency plans for rerouting of services to other facilities. The Select Board members and Town Administrator were very active in handling the issues faced by the citizens, advocating for the reopening of the hospital for citizens to regain lost employment and to serve residents in a time of need.

Donna Cesan

Board Members remained active participants with numerous local committees, agencies, and groups by having liaison connections to both keep abreast of the evolutionary needs of the community and to maintain communication and collaboration. The dedication and teamwork of all Board Members was significant and very valuable to the Town.

As the Town transitions into 2015, more changes will take place. Adams is heading into a time of great transformation as a new Governor takes the helm, and a new Town Administrator is about to begin. The Town is positioned to be a major factor in recreation and tourism in the Berkshires as well as a flourishing, vibrant community, and a great place to live.

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 **$16,195.50**

Vital Statistics	2014	2013	2012
Births Reported	62	65	65
Marriages Reported	28	51	42
Deaths	101	102	101

Storage Tank Renewals..... **8**

Number of Dog Licenses Issued

Males..... 74
Neutered Males 347
Females 46
Spayed Females 376
4 Dogs Kennel License 7
10 Dogs Kennel License 1
25 Dogs Kennel License 0

Total..... **851**

Town Census — 8,799

VOTER REGISTRATION

Annual Town Election – May 5, 2014

Prec.	Dem.	Rep.	Unen	Green/ Rain J	Lib. L	Reform E	Green USA G	Cons. A	Pirate	Totals
1	372	82	636	0	7	0	1	0	0	1,098
2	397	74	683	4	4	1	0	0	1	1,164
3	460	104	634	2	4	0	0	1	0	1,205
4	397	82	647	3	4	0	1	0	0	1,134
5	450	95	707	3	5	0	0	0	0	1,260
	2,076	**437**	**3,307**	**12**	**24**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**5,861**

State Primary Election – September 9, 2014

Prec.	Dem.	Rep.	Unen	Green/ Rain J	Lib. L	Reform E	Green USA G	Cons. A	Pirate	Totals
1	374	82	642	0	7	0	1	0	0	1,106
2	401	73	684	4	4	1	0	0	1	1,168
3	454	102	635	2	4	0	0	1	0	1,198
4	387	83	650	4	4	0	1	0	0	1,129
5	444	95	711	2	4	0	1	0	0	1,257
	2,060	**435**	**3,322**	**12**	**23**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**1**	**5,858**

State Election – November 4, 2014

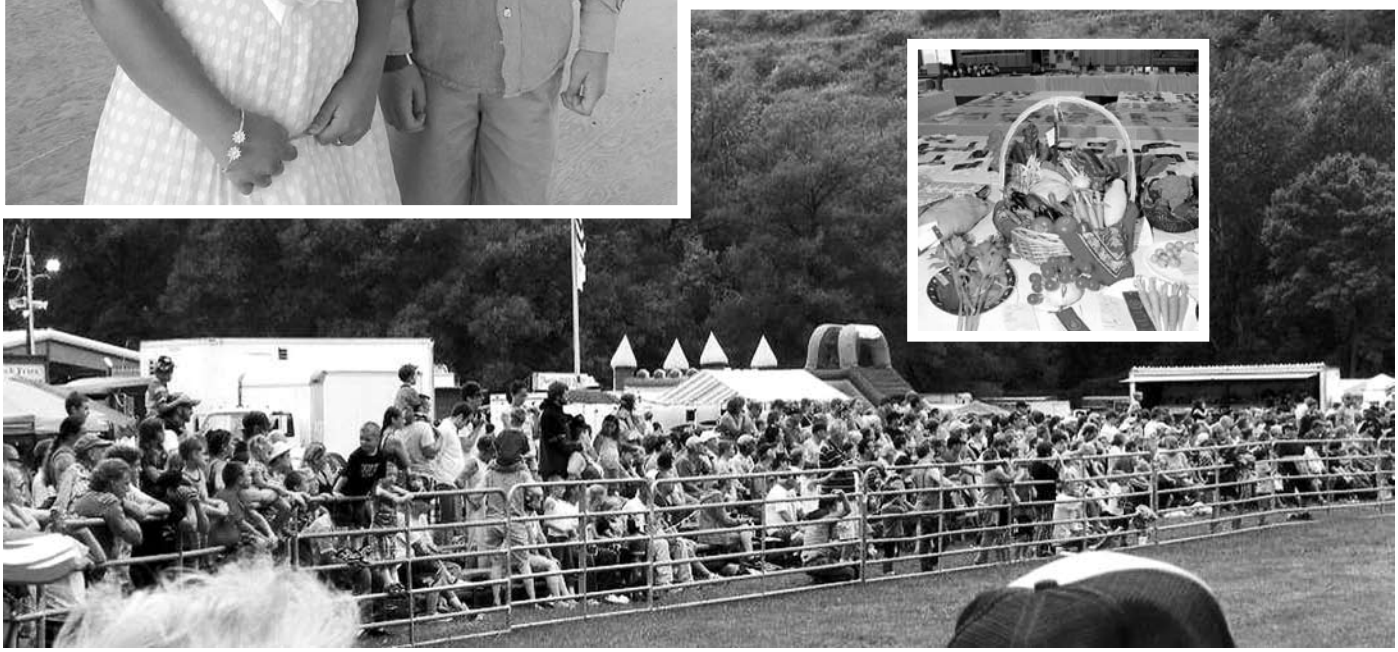
Prec.	Dem.	Rep.	Unen	Green/ Rain J	Lib. L	Reform E	Green USA G	Cons. A	Pirate	Totals
1	375	83	648	0	6	0	1	0	0	1,113
2	402	74	684	4	4	1	0	0	1	1,170
3	465	101	640	2	4	0	0	1	0	1,213
4	388	81	656	4	4	0	1	0	0	1,134
5	445	95	716	2	4	0	1	0	0	1,263
	2,075	**434**	**3,344**	**12**	**22**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**1**	**5,893**

Adams Agricultural Fair / Bowe Field

Bowe Field was used by several groups in 2014. The largest event was the three-day 40th Annual Adams Agricultural Fair held during the first week-end in August. The fair is considered a major fair by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. 3,500 fair goers from a radius of 200 miles attended. Other activities held on Bowe Field were a POW, a flea market sponsored by the Northern Berkshire Amateur Radio Club, a dog show and a charity motorcycle "Fall Run" event sponsored by Custom City Cycle.

Maintenance and improvements were made to the rest rooms. New fixtures were installed and the lighting was upgraded. The walls were given a fresh coat of paint by the Community Service workers. They also helped the fair members in setting up the field and breaking down after the fair.

The Adams Agricultural Fair Committee is sincerely appreciative for the support given by the Town of Adams.



Board of Health 2014

The Board of Health has three elected members; Chairman Allen Mendel, Vice Chairman Patricia Clairmont, and Member Roy Thompson. Each member serves for a three year term. Scott Koczela is the appointed Food Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer for the Adams Board of Health. The Board of Health conducted 14 meetings in 2014.

Code Enforcement Officer Scott Koczela conducted 169 rental inspections as required by the Adams Town By-Law to assure the dwelling units are in conformance with the Massachusetts State Sanitary Code and collected fees of $4,230.00 for these inspections. Rental Inspection Correction orders are issued for any unit that fails the inspection and reinspections are conducted after repairs are made. Non-Criminal ticket fines collected $150.00.

The Board conducted the following the activity:

- State Sanitary Code orders issued..... 48
- Berkshire Housing Court cases, most requiring multiple trips to court..... 18
- Soil Perk Tests conducted..... 0
- Septic System Installations..... 1
- Well Permits issued..... 3
- Complaints received and acted upon..... 56
- Variance requested..... 0
- Non-Criminal Disposition $50.00 Citations issued..... 32

The following permits were issued:

- Food Service Establishments..... 37
- Retail Food..... 14
- Catering..... 3
- Frozen Desserts..... 4
- Milk Permits..... 39
- Septic Hauler..... 2
- Commercial Hauler..... 11
- Septic Installer..... 2
- Manufactured Housing..... 1
- Mobile Vendors..... 2
- Temporary Vendors (increased substantially due to Farmers Market)..... 57
- Funeral Directors..... 3
- Body Art Practioners..... 2
- Body Art Establishment..... 1
- Motel..... 0
- Residential Kitchen..... 3
- Tanning Salon..... 1
- Syringe..... 1
- Tobacco..... 7

Inspectors Reports

Building Inspector

During 2014, the Adams Building Inspector's Office issued three hundred eighty-seven (387) permits for construction, demolition, alterations, additions, repairs, and change of use, woodstove/chimney installations, and certificate of occupancies, certificate of inspections, signs and curb cut /driveway entrances. There were seven (7) more permits issued in 2014 than last year. Fees collected in 2014 were approximately $7,000 more than last year.

Of those, two (2) permits were issued for new residential single-family dwellings in 2014. Some two hundred sixty six (266) permits were filed for residential alterations and renovations. Forty-three (43) permits were filed for new commercial / business and non-residential buildings. A total of $40,239.30 in filing fees was collected during the year.

The Building Inspector's Office performed numerous inspections associated with issued permits and addressed numerous zoning and building code violations, with some resulting in additional court action. Periodic inspections were performed on restaurants, bars, clubs, food establishments, schools, bed & breakfast inns, motels, apartment houses, day care centers, condominiums and churches. The Building Inspector also worked with the Zoning and Planning Boards by reviewing applications and organizing meetings.

Type of Permits:	# of Permits:
Single Family Dwelling	2
Residential additions, alterations, conversions, repairs, & insulation	266
Commercial/Business/Non-Residential additions, alterations, conversions, and repair	43
Sign Permits	8
Curb-cut/Driveway entrance	2
Certificate of Inspections/Certificate of Occupancy	52
Solid Fuel	14
Total Building Permits	**387**

Gas Inspector

Number of Gas Fitting Permits Issued	122
Revenue Generated	**$4,920**

Plumbing Inspector

Number of Plumbing Permits Issued	58
Revenue Generated	**$2,855**

Electrical Inspector

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

DB Rhinemiller

Commercial Rough-in	48
Final Inspections	159
Furnaces	16
Industrial Rough-in	14
Pools	2
Residential Rough-in	148
Services 100 Amp.	51
Services 150 Amp.	0
Services 200 Amp.	44
Services 400 Amp.	1
Services 600 Amp.	0
Services 800 Amp.	0
Services 1200 Amp.	0
Services Reconnection on Old	6
Services Temporary	2
Solar	35
Miscellaneous Inspections	
Board of Health	2
Building Inspector	2
Complaints	28
Fires	2
Insurance Companies	24
Loan Agencies	44
Adams Housing Rehab Program	6
Power Company	27
State Inspectors Office	5
State Police	2
State Police Fire Marshal	2
Inspections Made	**670**
Permits Granted	**173**

Planning Board

The Planning Board convened four (4) public hearings and several workshop meetings during 2014, at which they addressed one (1) Site Plan application and held various discussions regarding provisions to include in a new solar bylaw, as well as a review of the proposed Roundabout Construction at Route 8 and Friend Street. At the beginning of the year, the Planning Board accepted the town's first "Solar Energy Systems" Zoning Bylaw.

One specific application reviewed included a Site Plan approval for The Bart Charter and Technology School at 1 Commercial Street.

In addition, the Planning Board approved three (3) Form A's ("Approval Not Required" under the Subdivision Regulations) for properties located at: 155 Howland Avenue, PCA Systems Corporation, 3 Kingsmont Lane, Sue A. O'Neil and 39 Commercial Street, Donald R. Sommer & TTM Holdings LLC.

Members of the Planning Board are:

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

Committees represented by the Board are:

Traffic Commission,
Michael O'Brien

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission,
Sandra Moderski

Capital Improvement Committee (CIP),
David Rhinemiller

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

Many issues came before the Board during 2014. Nine (9) Public Hearings were conducted involving eight (8) Variance requests and four (4) Special Permit requests, two (2) of which were "Home Occupations" and one workshop meeting regarding revisions to the town's current and future Zoning Bylaws including the proposed solar bylaw.

During 2014, 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 were:

Vice-Chairman Peter West was the Zoning Board's newly elected Chairman replacing Michael Mach on 5-13-14.

Member Brian Tenczar was the Zoning Board's newly elected Vice-Chairman replacing Peter West on 5-13-14.

Members

Anthony Donovan
Joe Greenbush
Michael Mach

Current Alternate Members:

Peter Gutmann
Rob Krzanik

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

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission has five (5) members. Jason Krzanowski serves as Chairman, and James Fassell serves as Vice Chairman.

The other members are Thomas Robinson, Anthony McBride, and Corey Bishop. There are two vacant seats.

Nine (9) business meetings were held in 2014. The Commission acted on five (5) Notices of Intent. There were no Requests for Determinations filed this year.

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

- Bart Foundation, Inc. located at 1 Commercial Street, for construction of a 10,000 foot addition and 5,000 feet of renovations to an existing building.
- MA Department of Transportation for the construction of the Friend Street/Renfrew Street/Route 8, 4-way intersection, as a 120 foot diameter roundabout.
- MA Department of Conservation and Recreation for the construction of over 26 miles of multi-use trails, footpaths, snowmobile trails, relocation of the Thunderbolt Ski Trail, and the installation of snowmaking infrastructure.
- Town of Adams for the redevelopment of .51 acres located at 4 Hoosac Street as the new "Adams Station" public park.
- Town of Adams for the demolition damaged Charles Street Bridge and the installation of a new bridge.

Certificate of Compliance was issued for the following:

- Town of Adams for Completion of the project involving the required maintenance of the Adams Flood Control Works.

Emergency Certifications were issued for the following:

- Specialty Minerals for removal of a beaver(s) in waters behind Holland Company off Zylonite Station Road
- 134 Commercial Street for repair of both driveway sinkhole and wall collapse.

No Orders of Resource Area Delineation were issued for this year.

No Determinations of Applicability were filed for this year.

No Enforcement Orders were issued for this year.

Department Of Public Works

PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department consists of the Highway Department, Mechanic's Garage, and Parks, Grounds & Cemetery Departments. The Public Works Department has instituted a cross training program to help improve efficiency in the Department. Operators work in other departments to help improve work flow during snow storms, winter cleanup and other Public Works jobs when needed. The Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators also help with snow storm plowing.

The Town of Adams has been awarded a MIIA Loss Control Grant for $4,769.82. This grant was for the purchase of 3 magnetic manhole lifters. Theses lifters will make pulling off manhole covers much safer for the D.P.W. crew.

The Public Works Department has one new employee this year, David Jardine. Mr. Jardine was hired in November to replace a vacancy created by the loss of Vincent Hartman. Mr. Hartman took a new job and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

The Public Works Department would like to congratulate Tom Satko and Ralph Felix on their retirement form the Adams Public Works Department. Mr. Satko started in June of 1975 and retired in March and served as the Director of Public Works. Mr. Felix started in January of 1972 and also retired in March of 2014. Mr. Felix served as a Highway Department Foreman. The Town acknowledges that over 80 years of experience and knowledge has been lost and will be hard to replace. The Town of Adams thanks Mr. Satko and Mr. Felix for all their years of service and we wish them good luck in their retirement.

Highway Division

There are presently seven (7) full-time employees in the Highway Division. Tasks performed by the Highway Division include:

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

Equipment Maintenance Division

There are presently two (2) full time employees in the Equipment Maintenance Division. This division is in charge of repairing and maintaining all of the Town owned vehicles and equipment which include: 49 equipment/vehicles for the DPW including Highway, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Forest Wardens, Parks and Grounds and Cemetery Departments; 9 vehicles for the Police Department; 2 vans for the Council on Aging. Also maintained by this division are lawn mowers, chain saws, water pumps, generators, snow blowers, air compressors, etc.

The maintenance shop does all of its own fabrication and welding to plows, plow frames, dump bodies and loader buckets, and does its own body repairs, sand blasting and painting. The shop also changes all tires including loader tires and large truck tires. There are too many numerous repairs performed each day to list individually.

This division also writes specifications for all equipment to be purchased. In 2014 the Town of Adams through the Equipment Maintenance Division purchased the following equipment:

- Compact Loader with attachments (sidewalk machine for snow removal)
- 6 Yard Stainless Steel Sander Body

The DPW's new Sidewalk Cleaner with attachments.

MAJOR PROJECTS

PARK STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Adams had a very busy year having extensive road and infrastructure work done to its busiest street in town, Park Street. The last time work was done on Park Street was in 1986. New sidewalks were installed reusing the existing curb and the road was blacktopped. This year's project involved installing 8 additional catch basin structures, replacing 6 new manholes, approximately 450' of 12" reinforced concrete drainage pipe, 300' of 8' PVC sanitary sewer pipe, one new fire hydrant, over 2500' of new curbing, new sidewalk and a new top coat of blacktop. Drainage issues have been remedied with the new drainage installation and the new sewer replaced a problematic sewer main.

Design changes consisted of adding new bump-outs which aid in drivers being able to see pedestrians before they enter into the crosswalks. A bike lane has also been added which gives cyclists a designated travel lane and will make drivers more aware of their presence. This also narrows the travel lane a little, which should help slow down traffic. Wheelchair ramps are also present at all crosswalks. These new additions help comply with Mass DOT specifications and should make Park Street safer for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians as well. A new wheel chair ramp has also been installed in front of The Northern Berkshire Registry of Deeds building.

Brick pavers have also been added in certain areas, new sitting benches, planters, trash receptacles, bollards, new traffic signs and parking meters. These new additions helped modernize Park Street and give it a fresh new look. Completion of the job will be spring of 2015 after a few small jobs will be finished, these include line painting, handrail and fence installation and tree planting. The design engineer for the project was Tighe & Bond from Westfield MA and the construction contractor was J. H. Maxymillian, Inc. from Pittsfield MA.

ADDITIONAL TOWN PROJECTS

The Adams Fire District had installed a new 20" water main on Grove Street, as well as new water mains on additional side streets. Although this was not done by the Town of Adams it affects the residents in a positive way. Many taxpayers are not aware that the Water Department is a separate Municipality and is part of The Adams Fire District and not part of The Adams Public Works Department. The two municipalities work together to provide Adams with quality services.

With the addition of new water mains and new gas mains being installed by Berkshire Gas in Adams, the infrastructure in Adams is constantly being improved.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph P. Bettis Jr.
Director of Public Works

PARKS, GROUNDS & CEMETERY DIVISION

CEMETERIES

Maple Street Cemetery

As usual, many of the aging maple trees are near the end of their life cycle and must be removed. Two seasonal employees were hired this year to maintain all aspects of cemetery maintenance. Again as in the past, the Berkshire County Trial Court supplied this division with free labor throughout the growing season for both cemeteries. The cemetery was in pristine condition for Memorial Day and the entire summer. There were no major equipment purchases this year.

Bellevue Cemetery

The town was able to hire six seasonal employees to assist one full time employee this season in maintaining all aspects of cemetery maintenance and assisting in funeral excavations. Fortunately our aging water pipes held up all season without incident. Unfortunately the department was not able to continue paving according to the five year plan in place. There are plans for continued paving next year.

FLOOD CONTROL

A joint inspection of the flood control system with the US Army Corp was conducted this fall. At the time of this writing the Town has not received the official report from the Army Corp. of Engineers. DPW employees performed the usual vegetation removal and also cleared trees along many portions of the system until winter conditions prohibited such work. Several shoals that were identified as needing total removal as they have in the past were completed. The Department of Public Works suspended the herbicide spraying program again which was helpful controlling unwanted vegetation. All vegetation was removed manually by DPW employees with the assistance of seasonal employees. A BIG thanks to Berkshire County Trial Court for their assistance with the entire flood control system.

PARKS AND ATHLETIC FIELDS

Russell Field

Several issues have been identified at this facility such as flooding, access to facilities, fence replacement, building upgrades, tennis court repairs. The town will hopefully budget funds next year to perform a feasibility study which will address these issues. We will aggressively seek grant monies based on this report. We are pleased to announce again this year the Adams Summer Youth Program made Russell Field there home again this summer. The program has expanded over the years and hosts dozens of local children, if not hundreds.

Valley Street Field

The parks crew edged the baseball diamond and hauled several cubic yards of baseball mix to the field. There was a major noticeable improvement during the late spring of 2014 due to the new totally refurbished irrigation system. The department planted professional grade grass seed and was aggressive with the fertilization and herbicide programs.

Renfrew Field

The field had several applications of fertilizers this year which seems to have improved turf condition. Hydro Pro Corp. performed several repairs to the irrigation system again this year. Our facility hosted many leagues this year including Hoosac Valley High School baseball, soccer programs and baseball clinics.

Reid Field

As usual, Reid Field hosted hundreds of softball players again this year. The skinned field and grounds were in excellent condition. The "NEW" field house has been a hit with the leagues and continues to serve all involved well. This facility will serve as the model for Russell Field House in the near future.

Town Common

The parks employees again repaired several of the wrought iron benches at the common. Several benches were brought to the cemetery garage and totally refurbished. They also decorated the entire common for Christmas which included a 25 foot pine tree and all the small oak trees. The gazebo had lights and red bows displayed for the season. The gazebo had several repairs performed such as new handrails, handrail slats and lattice repairs. The Berkshire County Trial court performed a major park clean up this fall. The "Common" hosted several community events such as weddings, music festivals and youth based programs.

Other Duties

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

Submitted by,

David Nuvallie
Parks & Cemetery Superintendent

ADAMS WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

For 2014 the Town of Adams Wastewater Treatment Plant provided wastewater treatment services for the town residents, commercial and industrial operations within the town plus wastewater treatment for Hardman Industrial Park and the WalMart complex just north of the Adams/North Adams boundary line. Our staffing levels have remained at seven full time employees. Our hours of operation are 7 AM – 3 PM, Monday through Friday. To meet the conditions set forth in our National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for daily monitoring of our discharge to the Hoosic River our laboratory is staffed weekdays and for two hours each day on weekends and holidays. The wastewater treatment plant (wwtp) and three wastewater pumping stations are inspected seven days a week (including holidays) to comply with Massachusetts General Law, by our licensed mechanics. All but one employee, at the Adams Wastewater Treatment Plant, holds a Massachusetts Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's license of a grade 4 level or higher. The one unlicensed individual is currently in the process of obtaining his wastewater operator license grade 4.

As in past reports a summary of the work and projects accomplished in 2014 is as follows:

DEWATERING and CONVEYING EQUIPMENT

- Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) which operates the drive motor on the Gravity Belt of the dewatering equipment was replaced.
- Replaced the lower processing belt on the belt dewatering press.
- Several panel meters (gravity belt speed, feed box percent feed) were replaced.
- The electrical disconnect for the polymer mixing machine was replaced.

Variable Frequency Drive

- Seepex polymer pump's stator and rotor were replaced. New brushes installed on polymer pump's DC motor.
- 9 wedge side bar wear strips were replaced on the Belt Dewatering Press.

VALVES, PUMPS, MOTORS, CONTROLLERS and ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT

- #2 peristaltic bleach pump was replaced with a new pump assembly.
- Compression fittings and new tubing installed on #2 bleach pump.
- New mechanical seal installed on #1 Return Activated Sludge pump.
- Main back flow prevention valve passed its semi-annual test and inspection by the town's water department.
- #2 ABS Submersible pump, at the Industrial Pumping station, was rebuilt with new bearings, seals, gaskets and mechanical seal.
- #1 plant water pump was rebuilt with new bearings, grease seals, pump shaft, gaskets and mechanical seal.
- Bleach calibration cylinders replaced due to leaks.
- New panel mount flow meters installed on #1 & #2 return activated sludge pumps.
- #2 Grit pump had new packings installed.
- Bleed valve and drain lines replaced on #2 Return Activated Sludge pump.
- New cooling fans (plenum, heat sink & stirring fans) were replaced in all Square D Variable Frequency Drives to raw sewage pump motors, activated sludge return pump motors and aerator motors.
- #2 Return activated sludge pump motor's variable frequency drive (VFD) was replaced with a new 40 hp ABB VFD.
- 5 hp spare motor was purchased for the channel grinder at the wastewater treatment plant.

MOBILE EQUIPMENT, STATIONARY EMERGENCY GENERATORS and VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

- 2001 Ford F-350 pickup truck was serviced. Oil, oil and air filters, windshield wiper blades, oil dip stick and brakes were installed. Repairs were made to the tailgate and the left and right tail light lenses were replaced. Vehicle passed 2014 state vehicle inspection.
- The John Deere push mower had its motor oil, air filter, gas line and cutting blade replaced.
- 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.
- Scag 48" lawn mower had new cutting blades, oil, oil filter and spark plug installed.
- New starting batteries installed on Kraft emergency generator at the Industrial pumping station.
- John Deer 60" riding lawn mower had new tires / tubes, muffler, muffler hangers, starting battery, cutting blades, blade spindle installed. An oil change and oil filter replacement was also done.

OTHER EQUIPMENT

- Air Handling Unit air filters replaced.
- Packing replaced on Hayward micro screen for plant water system.
- All fire extinguishers at the wastewater treatment plant and the three pumping stations were tested and inspected.
- Five Magnetic Flow Meters were cleaned and calibrated.
- 1" backflow prevention valve replaced on boiler feed make-up water tank.
- In November all outside chemical solution lines were drained and purged with compressed air to prevent freeze damage from cold weather.
- #6 aerator oxygen sensor and float ball was replaced.
- Gearbox lubricants from mechanical aerators and clarifier drives were sent out for wear analysis.
- V-belt and motor overload heaters were replaced on roof mounted exhaust fan for the wet well area.
- Wastewater plant's main back flow prevention valve was inspected and tested by the town's water department. Back flow valve passed all test parameters.
- New channel grinder was purchased and installed at the Domestic Pumping station. This grinder replaced the 55 year old Worthington Comminutor that was originally installed when that pumping station was built in the 1950's. A lifting I-beam and trolley were installed to facilitate servicing the grinder in the future.
- A large window located in the grit classifier area was damaged during a wind event and had to be replaced.
- Scum line to the north clarifier required routing by the Adams Highway department.
- New YSI dissolved oxygen (DO) probe for the portable DO meter.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Laboratory scales were cleaned and calibrated by All State Scale Company.
- Various area heaters require a new fan motors.
- Alarm system insurance certification performed by Alarms of Berkshires. 5 fire alarm pull stations were replaced.
- Ground water removed from electrical manholes and chemical line manholes in the spring and fall.
- The Adams Highway Department used their street sweeping machine to clean the roadways at the wastewater treatment plant in the spring.
- Lawn damage from snow plowing repaired in the spring. A wind storm causing downed trees and limbs was addressed.
- All variable frequency drives (VFD) were inspected using thermography.
- Annual state inspection of facility's boilers and compressors passed.
- Fume hood in lab inspected and tested annually.
- Laboratory BOD incubator required new cabinet and refrigerant compressor cooling fans.
- Lighting ballasts were replaced in laboratory and pump room areas.
- Thermostat for electric heater at the Harmony Street pumping station was replaced.
- The large double doors in the bleach tank storage area were clad with stainless steel panels due to the corrosive atmosphere in that area.

SUMMARY

The wastewater treatment plant is still monitoring and inspecting a drinking water pumping station located at the bottom of Gould Road. This station is part of water distribution system that will supply water to the camp area being developed by the town. The project will be completed once a water storage tank is built and then the Town of Adams Fire District will assume responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the Gould Road water pumping station.

The laboratory technician passed all analytical parameters that were part of the EPA's annual Discharge Monitoring Report Quality Assurance Study 34. 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 20134 facility's records and reports documents 572.62 million gallons of wastewater was treated and cleaned before being discharged to the Hoosic River. This was an decrease of 3.63 % from last years (2013) annual flow of 594.19 million gallons.

A total of 141.41 dry metric tons of dewatered sludge was processed and hauled to an incinerator in Waterbury, CT for final disposal in 2014. This was a decrease of 11.86% from 2013 sludge disposal total of 160.44 dry metric tons.

The monthly averages for removal of Total Suspended Solids ranged between a minimum of 85.4% to a maximum of 97.3% with an overall average for 2014 of 93.5%. Biochemical Oxygen Demand removals ranged from a minimum of 95.9% to a maximum of 98.8% with a twelve month average for 2014 of 97.8%.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation to the entire staff at the Adams Wastewater Treatment Plant for their dedication and hard work protecting the water quality of the Hoosic River's ecosystem and the public health of the town of Adams and downstream communities.

Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District

www.nbswmd.com

Calendar Year 2014 was another year of success in the proper disposal or recycling of materials in our member towns.

Based on pounds recycled per capita (ppc), first place for recycling was Windsor with 123 ppc, second place was Hancock with 121 ppc and third place was Peru with 94 ppc. Overall, recycling tonnage was up in 2014 for the first time since 2010.

The District has contracted with PSC/Stericycle for a one-day hazardous waste collection to be held on May 30, 2015. It will be located at the Adams DPW Yard at 92 North Summer Street in Adams. This location is central to the residents of our twelve member towns and we appreciate the Town of Adams allowing us the use of the property for that day. Pre-registration is necessary. Please check the website at ***www.nbswmd.com*** to see the list of acceptable items and to register. You can also call the District Office at 413-743-8208.

Seven paint collections were held from June until the end of September. We shipped out 825 gallons of latex paint, 932 gallons of oil-based stains, varnishes and paint, and three 30 gallon drums of spray paint. In addition to this, residents took for reuse approximately 88 gallons of various paints and stains. Special thanks to Toni Alizio, Mickey Biagini, Mace Donahue, Rick Salvi and Henry Stockman for their volunteer efforts and hard work.

Paint collections for 2015 are:

Apr 25	Cheshire Transfer Station	8 am – 5 pm
May 9	Williamstown Trans. Station	8 am – 3 pm
June 6	Williamstown Trans. Station	8 am – 3 pm
June 13	Hinsdale Transfer Station	9 am – 4 pm
June 27	Cheshire Transfer Station	8 am – 5 pm
Aug 8	Williamstown Trans. Station	8 am – 3 pm
Aug 15	Hinsdale Transfer Station	9 am – 4 pm
Aug 29	Cheshire Transfer Station	8 am – 5 pm
Sept 12	Williamstown Trans. Station	8 am – 3 pm
Sept 19	Hinsdale Transfer Station	9 am – 4 pm
Sept 26	Cheshire Transfer Station	8 am – 5 pm
Oct 3	Williamstown Trans. Station	8 am – 3 pm

Items accepted: Oil-based paints, stains, varnishes, sealants, latex paint, spray paint, artists' paints, turpentine, paint thinner.

Fluorescent bulbs and mercury thermostats may be brought to any transfer station. Clarksburg and New Ashford residents may bring them to their town offices. In 2014, the District shipped for recycling 833 bulbs. The Adams collection site for bulbs will re-open on May 2, 2015.

The District, with town volunteers, held bulky and electronic waste collection days in Adams, Clarksburg, Lanesborough and Savoy. Thanks to Ed Driscoll, Jeff Snoonian , John Duval, Cam Alibozek, John Sebastino, Peter Barrow, Zack Wright, Carl McKinney, Joe Szczepaniak, Hank Sayers, Bob Ericson, Ryan Ericson, Michael Donahue and Toni Alizio. The schedule for 2015 is listed on our website and flyers will be available at the transfer stations.

NBSWMD filed grant applications and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection awarded "Small Initiative Grants" to Adams, Cheshire, Florida, Hancock, Hinsdale, Peru, Savoy, Williamstown and Windsor. The amounts are based on population and range from $500 to $750 to be used for improvements to the transfer stations or education and outreach. The District was awarded $1,500 under the same program.

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

The waste stream continues to evolve and our programs will continue to evolve as well.

Waste not, want not,

Sandy Totter
NBSWMD Program Coordinator

Edward Driscoll
NBSWMD Commissioner
for the Town of Adams

Adams Historical Commission

In 2014, some of the plans and projects that impact historical properties moved forward in various stages of progress.

The Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum's plan to create a 25-minute ride from the Adams Visitors Center to Western Gateway Heritage State Park in North Adams, did not leave the station. Extra design work was required to construct the 6/10 mile of track between the former Renfrew Station to Hoosac Street which will share a corridor with the proposed extension of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail. Planning and acquisition of the property at 4 Hoosac Street to convert the former car wash/ storage yard into a train station progressed.

Across the street from this property at 5 Hoosac Street, which is part of the former Berkshire Cotton Mfg. Co. (aka Berkshire-Hathaway) complex, Jarett Bayliss has revitalized the building with storage for his moving company Connors Brothers Moving. But, more importantly, he also developed space for Kapiloff"s Glass, Inc., a company that designs and installs specialty glass systems throughout the Northeast.

This area has the potential to be a National Register Historic District thematically connected to Berkshire Mill #1 which is already listed on the National Register and Berkshire Mill #4 which is in the preliminary stages of development into a residential and commercial mixed-use property.

The Berkshire Cotton Mfg. Co. was the largest employer in Adams from 1896 to 1958 and the second largest employer in the county for a period of time in the first quarter of the 20th century.

During the second half of 2014, a portion of 5 Hoosac Street housed "The Mill Children" exhibit which was an artist-driven installation that was inspired by the work of Lewis Hine (1874-1940). Mr. Hine was a social activist and photojournalist who campaigned for legislation to abolish child labor pre-World War I. He photographed children working in the textile mills in Northern Berkshire and, in particular, child workers in the Berkshire Cotton Mfg. Co. in 1916.

He created 18 photos in Adams. Twelve of them were published in the ***Adams Historical Society Newsletter*** and Claudette Marcil identified her father, Sylva Marcil in one of the photos.

The Adams Historical Society participated in "The Mill Children" exhibit by creating a photo display called "Working in The Berkshires" which used photographs taken circa 1926. They were a series of group portraits of various departments in the mill. Most of the individuals in those photographs were identified.

Sylva Marcil was a back boy in the Mule Room at the age of 14.

In commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Mobile Bay (August 5, 1864), the Adams Historical Society displayed the 24' x 14' battleship flag that flew on the U.S.S. Brooklyn, which played prominently in the battle. The flag was a gift to the G.A.R. George E. Sayles Post 126 in 1909 and has been housed in Memorial Hall of the Adams Library since then.

The roadway and sidewalks in the proposed Park Street Historic District were replaced. The street was enhanced with decorative benches, bollards, planters, pavers and trash receptacles.

Three properties on Park Street listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which had been showing signs of revitalization, failed to blossom. The renovation of the Mausert Block on Park Street, owned by Stephen Stenson of REDPM has come to a standstill. The Jones Block remains empty and the Adams Firehouse opened as a restaurant for several months but closed by the end of the year.

The Adams Library, another prominent historic structure on Park Street, was also renovated. The stairway and terrace garden wall were rebuilt and improvements were made to the brickwork, the roof and the interior.

The BART School, a charter school occupying the former Berkshire Inn on Commercial Street, added a cafe-auditori-gymnasium to its building. Increasing the size of the school considerably.

The former Adams Memorial School, completed in 1953 and abandoned by the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District in 2009, became the property of the Town of Adams. Deemed to be structurally sound, it needed a roof replacement which was completed in 2014 guaranteeing the integrity of the building's envelope.

As in previous years, members of the Historical Commission along with members of the Adams Historical Society staffed the Quaker Meeting House when it was opened to the public on Sundays between July 6th and Columbus weekend, October 12, 2014.

Council on Aging

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

Our CoA's mission is:

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

According to the 2010 US Census, Adams remains the municipality with the 3rd highest population of 55-plus older adults with 2,798 people. That is an increase of 391 people or 38.1% increase from 2000 to 2010.

Transportation

Our two vans are leased from the BRTA. They are handicap accessible/para-transit vehicles. Van drivers Rita Clarke and Terry Moran work very well together, assisting each other when needed.

Thanks to Chet Cyrulik and Don Bettis, our per diem drivers, the center has been able to run two vans almost every operating day.

The center has been able to maintain the affordable suggested donation for ridership. Anywhere in Adams is a suggested $1-each way, to North Adams $2-each way, Williamstown $3-each way. Similar rates apply to transportation in the opposite direction. We continue to transport for medical purposes, nutrition services, social events, personal errands, and homebound services. Our program also provides rides to and from the Adult Day Care Program for a fixed rate.

Nutrition Program

The Council on Aging offers a nutrition program Monday through Friday at 11:30 AM. All meals are provided by the Elder Service of Berkshire County, Inc. Dee Dee O'Bryan of

Cheshire has been a staple at the nutrition program as site coordinator for 35-years now, with long-time volunteer Ralph Farrar for 25 years (there has been a misprint in previous reports). In September, Dee Dee and Ralph were both honored at Elder Services Annual Meeting for their commitment to the

agency. Other volunteers include, Art & Peg Theil, Laura Sunn, Pat Boisvert, Debbie Coody, Diana Reeves, Blossom Berry and Bill Grielech. In 2014, they served 5,304 meals to 135 unduplicated seniors. That is a 7.3% decrease in meals served and a 19.6% decrease in people served compared to 2013.

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

Brown Bag Program

In conjunction with the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Brown Bag is a program that the CoA will continue to sponsor. This program is for adults 55 years and older who meet the eligibility guidelines. Currently 66 Adams residents are benefiting from this program.

With a team of volunteers, the CoA of Cheshire and Lanesborough meet at the Adams site to bag and deliver their own brown bags to their residents. People receive a 15 lb bag of non-perishable groceries once a month for a suggested donation of three dollars. Volunteers are available to deliver bags to individuals who are homebound.

Senior Citizen Property Tax Work Off Program

This program was implemented in August 2008 and continues to be a success. Eligible senior homeowners have the opportunity to receive a real estate tax exemption. Program participants will be entitled to a reduction of $500.00 for their real estate bill in exchange for performing 65 ½ hours of service at a rate of $8.00/hour. For more information or eligibility requirements please contact Assessor Donna McDonald or CoA Director Erica Girgenti.

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

AARP Tax Assistance Program

Adults can have their basic taxes done for free through the AARP Tax assistance program. Volunteers, Karen DeOrdio, Marsha Mikuszewski, Bernie Abramson, Geoff King and Frank Engles have been trained in cooperation with the IRS and assisted in filling out federal and Massachusetts tax forms and filing them electronically. In 2014, ninety-seven tax returns were completed from the Adams site.

Food & Fuel Fridays (LIHEAP & SNAP)

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

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

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

SafeLink Wireless Provider

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

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

Computer Classes & Computer Lab

With our eight operating computers and free Wi Fi internet, volunteer Lou Yarter has been holding computer classes for beginners and continuing learners. Other seminars offered by Lou have been, "what to know when purchasing a computer," "Scam protection" and "Skype training".

Annual Holiday Gathering

The Adams Council on Aging Holiday Gathering was held on December 16 at the Bounti Fare. 161 guests attended this event.

All enjoyed a roast beef or stuffed chicken dinner; our hosts from the Bounti Fare made our evening a delight.

We also hosted a successful auction table and 50/50 raffle to which many local business owners contributed. The proceeds were donated to the PopCares, Inc.; in the end we raised $1,200. After dinner all enjoyed music by Samantha Talora and Ron Ramsey. We would like to thank all our local businesses and volunteers who supported and played an important role in the success of this event.

Monthly Newsletter

Our monthly newsletter reaches far and wide and new subscribers are added every day. Funding comes from a grant provided by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and from your donations. You can ask to be added to the e-mail list, take it off the Town Hall's webpage, pick it up at any number of local spots, or ask to be added to the mailing list. All you need do is provide us with a book of stamps. Our Newsletter covers COA programming, as well as local events. We distribute over 600 newsletters throughout Greater Berkshire County.

Health & Wellness

In September a Health & Wellness Fair was held at the Adams Visitor Center/Council on Aging. Food was available, music provided a festive atmosphere and over 30 vendors and 115 people attended.

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

Fuel Assistance

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

We also work with Berkshire Community Action Council to assist Adams residents who struggle with transportation costs. Last year we assisted with over 62 applications and re-certifications in our offices.

Other Programs and Events

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

- Foot Care with Sandy Doppel, RN
- Blood Pressure Clinic & Flu Clinics
- Homebound Grocery Shopping
- Laundry Delivery Service
- Assistance with Code Red sign-ups
- April buttered lamb workshop
- Host Site for Red Cross Blood Drive
- Host Site for Farmers Market coupons with ESBC
- Garden Program with Jen Munoz and Adams/Cheshire Youth Center
- Annual Lion Club Luncheon in October serving 137 Adams and Savoy residents.
- Quilting Club, Senior Citizens Club
- Travel Opportunities
- "Buckets of Sand" Program
- Free Tai Chi with 20-plus students
- SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Everyone) counseling
- Yoga
- Chair Yoga
- Caregiver Resource Guides
- Highlighted in Greylock Credit Union's quarterly newsletter
- Meet & Greet opportunities with various clubs, housing authorities and emergency response teams
- Informative Friday
- Free "File of Life" cards
- Kentucky Derby Social, complete with best hat competition
- Art Classes
- Various Holiday Socials
- Veteran's Day Event co-sponsored by Craneville, Springside & Sugar Hill. Event has entertainment, flag raising and balloon release
- Mass in Motion walking group "Active Agers"

Anniversaries

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

Grant Opportunities

1. **Berkshire Taconic's Neighbor to Neighbor Fund:** The Adams COA is the administrator of this fund for all North County Residents, excluding Williamstown as they have their own fund. For every $5000 allotment the Adams COA will make 5% in administrative fees.
2. **Formula Grant** provided through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs in the amount of $17,440 to assist in operation costs and programming.
3. Various amounts from the **Cultural Council on Northern Berkshire.**
4. **Mass in Motion/Mass Council on Aging**
5. Shared grant with Northern Berkshire County from the **Adams Community Bank** for non-emergency medical transportation, as a result of the NARH closure.

6. Share grant with Northern Berkshire County from **Community Health Programs (CHP)** for non-emergency medical transportation, as a result of the NARH closure.
7. **WB Plunkett Memorial Hospital Trust Fund** $1200
8. **Berkshire Bike Path Council** $3,500

Thanks to the support of our community, many programs have successful as a result of their in-kind donations, those businesses include but are not limited to, Berkshire Tents, Mike Powers, Aladco, Adams Specialty Printing, Monarch Reality, Goodwill Industries, Springside Long Term Care and Rehabilitation, Craneville Place, Sugar Hill Independent Living, Homecare Services, Sweet Brook of Williamstown, Gentiva, Lions Club, North Adams Commons, St. John's Law Firm, Land Mark Credit Union, Bass Water Grill, Bounti-Fare, and the Adams Ale House.

Total Deposits of $20,752.38 into Elder Care Receipts

Represented here are 50% of donations collected from van ridership: transportation fees to and from Adult Day Health (ADH) in North Adams through the Brien Center; Elder Services of Berkshire County clients transportation funding to ADH, HST; funds given by BRTA for transporting ADA riders in Adams and the 5% administration fees for the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Grant distribution. The remaining 50% of van ridership donation goes into the Gift Account to assist with programming/activates.

The Staff at Adams CoA:

Erica Girgenti, Director (35 hours)
Linda Cernik, Outreach Coordinator (35 hours)
Rita Clarke, Van Driver (35 hours)
Terry Moran, Van Driver (35 hours)
Chet Cyrulik, Per Diem Van Driver & Volunteer
Don Bettis: Per Diem Van Driver
Gary Green: Custodian
Dana Labbee, Custodian
*Pauline Pytko: ESBC Senior Aid (20 hours)
*Dee Dee O'Bryan: ESBC Meal Site Coordinator
** Funded by Elder Services of Berkshire County*

Board of Directors:

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

Volunteers:

We currently have 30 volunteers who have offered the Town over $46,206 through in-kind services. They help us run a number of activities and programs including (but not limited to) our tax program, brown bag, meal site, computer classes, homebound grocery shopping, art classes, health insurance counseling, data entry, and reception, just to name a few. In 2014, our volunteers logged over 2,244.66 hours.

Activity

The Senior Center is very busy; we have had a 29.5% increase in participation of programming and events from 2013 to 2014. In 2014, 894 people actively used our programming for one or more reasons. Every day we are adding more people. In September of 2014, 64 new individuals came through our doors for services, some with life threatening crises. Throughout the entire year a total of 376 new individuals came to our center for aid, services, programming, or information and referrals. In 2013, there was an additional 310 new individuals. This is a total of 686 people in just two years.

On an average, we manage 57 phone calls a day. And can see anywhere from 30-50 people a day at the center.

Office of Veterans' Services

Annual Report

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' Affair. 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

Emergency Management

2014 Report

The Town's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan was reviewed and updated. The Plan provides a framework for the Town of Adams to perform emergency functions during emergency situations on the local, state or national level. The Emergency Response Team invested a great deal of time to make sure the residents of Adams have a lifeline and course of action to take in the event of an emergency, natural or manmade.

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

The Town of Adams experienced two power outage events this year:

The first occurred at 3 am on 05/09/2014 at the National Grid Sub-station just off Howland Ave. Approximately 18,000 residents were without power. Power was restored by 10 am. Chief Tarsa requested the Forest Warden Deputies help in providing traffic control during the outage.

The second power outage occurred around 10:30 am on 07/08/2014. The event lasted for a few hours and power was restored around 1:30 pm. Forest Warden Deputies provided assistance with traffic control.

The Town experienced two significant snow events.

The first was February 4th through February 6th. The Emergency Operations Center was activated at a Level 2, partial activation with minimal staffing.

The second snow event was February 11th through February 14th. The Emergency Operations Center was activated at a Level 2.

The Emergency Management Director designated the Adams Memorial School on Columbia Street an overnight shelter for Adams residents in time of need. The shelter would not have been possible without the help Donna Cesan (Director of Community Development), Donald Fitzgerald (Building Commissioner), Scott Koczela (Code Enforcement Officer) and Sue Foster (Secretary to the Board of Health). All shelter supplies are now located at this location.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Kleiner
Emergency Management Director
Town of Adams

Forest Wardens

2014 Report

"REMEMBER……ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDLAND FIRES!"

The Town of Adams Forest Warden is charged with:

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

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

2014 MT.GREYLOCK RAMBLE:

The Forest Warden Deputies provided communications and safety on all trails as they have done for the past 43 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: 255

CALLS AND EVENTS:

11 – Wildland Fires
104 – Illegal Burns and Smoke Investigations
5 – Mutual Aid Calls
4 – Search & Rescue Calls
9 – Community Events
5 – Community Service Details

The Department also participated in the Following:

- The Annual Fall Foliage Parade
- EMS EXPO at the Lanesboro Mall
- Provided support to the Adams Agricultural Fair for the three day event
- Provided manpower for traffic control when Adams experienced a power outage

The Department received a one ton 1985 Chevrolet fire truck with an E-ONE factory aluminum body. The cost to the Town was zero. After a minimum amount of work provided by members of the department, the truck is now in service.

THANKS TO THE RESIDENTS OF ADAMS FOR A SAFE BURNING SEASON

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. Kleiner
Chief Forest Warden
Town of Adams

Adams Free Library

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

This has been an exciting year for the citizens of Adams as they witnessed their historic memorial library building undergo very important renovations both inside and out. Through the superb resources of the town's Community Development Department under the directorship of Donna Cesan, requests for quotes were published and the architectural firm of Austin Design in Colrain, MA was chosen. Working with Austin Design Architect Tom Chalmers, emphasis was made on bringing the building, which opened to the public in 1899, into compliance as much as possible with the American with Disabilities Act while preserving the building's beautiful Beaux Arts appearance.

After Town Meeting members approved the borrowing of $970,000 at the Special Town Meeting in March, the project was put out to bid. Allegrone Companies of Pittsfield was awarded the general contract. Work began in September and was largely completed by the end of the year. During the renovations, the public entrance to the library was relocated to the Melrose Street door while the Allegrone masons completely dismantled the front steps, walks and landings. All the steps were rebuilt with full footings and the upper forecourt walls were re-enforced to prevent any collapse in the future. Three steps were added to allow for easier entrance into the main level. Automatic door openers were also installed on all exterior public doors.

The new front stairway to the Library, midway through the renovation project.

Early stage exterior work on the front steps of the Library with the stairs completely excavated.

The project also involved replacing the entire roof of the building. The masons also repaired, repointed or replaced brick on the entire envelope of the building. The exterior brick was also gently cleaned. Now the memorial library building absolutely sparkles in the morning sunlight! In the spring, replacement landscaping will be planted to further beautify the building.

A restroom was added to the main level that is fully accessible. In this new room, the contractor was able to utilize the building's original maple flooring with a beautiful result. Many people do not realize that this restroom is actually where the alcove previously was in the main entryway. Using the former alcove's wainscoting, Allegrone's accomplished carpenters were able to move the woodwork to create a new wall that blends amazingly with the existing ones.

Throughout the interior, railings were added to stairwells, thresholds were replaced or lowered and ADA-compliant door openers were added. However, many of the original ornate door handles have been retained due their unique shape that allows them to be used with a closed fist, an ADA requirement.

Because the large lower Miller Annex Meeting Room did not have an emergency exit that was up to code, much work was done in the basement. The former exit from the Miller Annex to the basement was walled off, the stage was removed from the

meeting room, and another portion of a brick wall was removed to create an emergency exit from the Miller Annex. A hallway was created through the basement to a wider set of replacement stairs, leading to the exterior door on the south side of the building. Due to the new hallway, a storage room was created in the basement. This is where the library's archive of magazines and newspapers will be housed.

Throughout this major building project, interruptions in library service were kept to a minimum. The trustees and library administration worked cooperatively with the contractor to schedule days mostly on Wednesdays when the library is normally open only three hours to the public. During these closed days, pipes were soldered, floors were sanded, paint and stains were applied and the basement wall was jack-hammered out. This work would have been hazardous to both the staff and to the public. Including one Monday closed, the library has only had to close six days so far due to the project, a loss of only 23 service hours. During the project, the library's patrons have been very patient and understanding. As well, the library employees have shown great perseverance, handling the many project questions from the public, and working through the often loud noise and occasional fumes. Allegrone brought in air purifiers which have been helpful in keeping the air clean.

Before the basement work could begin, Library Director Deborah Bruneau and Library Aide Anthony Archambault worked to clear many years of stored magazines out of numerous wooden bead-board cupboards. A number of these cupboards were in tough shape, and listing badly to one side. The ones that were salvageable were donated to the gallery on Hoosac Street. A special thank you goes to the hard workers from the Adams Department of Public Works in moving these large, very heavy cupboards out of the library basement. Likewise, more than 700 bound magazines stored in the basement for many decades, some dating back to the mid-1800's, were withdrawn and offered for a nominal donation. Enough donations were received from the public and from a dealer in old magazines to cover the disposal costs for the volumes not chosen.

The library-sponsored Jungle Jim "Mousetrap Science" program was very popular.

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

Sponsored by the library, Casey Carle teaches and entertains the children with "Bubble Mania".

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

The Summer Reading program themes for 2014 were "Fizz, Boom, Read!" and "Spark a Reaction." This year student volunteers from C.T. Plunkett Elementary School and St. Stanislaus Kostka School performed a skit to introduce Summer Reading to

"Science Magic" was presented via a grant from the Museum of Science, Boston.

their schools. Through this collaboration, between the schools and the library, over 685 school age children heard about the summer programs offered at the library from their peers. The library had 3 teen volunteers who donated fifty hours to the library during the summer. The library sponsored the following programs: Jungle Jim's "Mousetrap Science," "Go for the Stars" multimedia space program, The VT PuppeTree presented "Swimmy," and "Bubble Mania" by Casey Carle. A grant from the Museum of Science, Boston allowed us to have "Science Magic" as part of our summer reading lineup. All of our summer programs were well attended and enjoyed by local families.

The following summer reading programs were supported by a grant from the Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency: Miss Julie's Summer Ukulele Story Hours, Tom Knights Puppets and the Association for Renaissance and Medieval Swordsmanship (ARMS). This grant saved the library $1,265.00.

ARMS - the Association for Renaissance and Medeival Swordsmanship - presented their exciting program in Memorial Hall.

During the February school vacation week the library hosted Musician and Storyteller Otha Day for his "Drum to the Beat" program. This event had the entire group drumming and singing along, "If you have a heartbeat…you can drum!" Jason Lefebvre author of "Too Much Glue" presented his story and book to an enthusiastic audience during the April school vacation week. October brought us "Halloween shivers and tingles for all" with Monster Minstrel Storyteller Mary Jo Maichack. In December the library partnered with NBCTC who sponsored "To Be Fit – the Juggling Nutrition Magician."

The Home School Research Group covered a variety of topics including the Dewey Decimal Classification System, library etiquette, as well as planning, organizing, and evaluating information for a research paper. Research topics included The Special Olympics, Immigration, Herbal Healing, the Holocaust, and Dr. Mary Edwards Walker. Our research group had 15 students enrolled in the program.

Miss Julie's Ukulele Story Hours entranced the children.

Our weekly Story Times had a special guest for the month of May. The Friends of the library sponsored Miss Julie's Ukulele Story Hours. These were well attended and enjoyed by all. 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.

We are once again indebted to the Friends of the Adams Free Library for all their efforts throughout the year. Their fundraising projects this past year resulted in the purchase of a children's area rug for use during Story Time and the guest storyteller Julie Stepanek to run Story Time in May. The group also funded passes to the Norman Rockwell Museum and to the Smith College Museum of Art. In the fall, the Friends financed a one-year online subscription to Ancestry.com. The library patrons who are into genealogy have been thrilled! Through the sponsorship by the Friends, a very well-attended presentation by Barry Emery titled "Looking Back 100 Years with Vintage Post Cards" was held in the library's G.A.R. Memorial Hall in June. By selling note and Christmas cards, tee-shirts and hoodies at the library, ThunderFest, the Pow-Wow, RambleFest and the Holiday Farmers' Market, and by conducting the very successful annual book sale, the Friends have again been successful in their fundraising. Their other activities during the year included donating to the Mega Park at Plunkett School, handing out bookmarks and candy at the Children's Halloween Parade, and setting up the small Christmas tree with free bookmarks and candy canes. The Friends volunteered at one of the free "Movies on the Lawn" nights sponsored by the Adams Events Committee. They also participated in the first Downtown Walking Christmas Tour by decorating two window displays in the Park Street storefronts. 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.

Gregory Maichack offered his annual Pastel Art Workshop to adults in May.

Even with the renovation project underway, use of the building as a community gathering place for meetings and events remained steady. Groups using the meeting rooms included the political caucuses, a children's Lego group, daycare providers, a town-sponsored solar energy information session, Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum events, the senior ladies' exercise group, Girl Scout leaders, a STEM workshop by Family Resource Center, and a poetry reading.

In April, the Library hosted the semi-annual meeting of the Western Massachusetts Library Advocates. The annual pastel art workshop, expertly run by award-winning pastel artist Gregory Maichack was offered in May, and in October two New Hampshire 50-plus year-old women who had never hiked before, gave a truly inspirational presentation on their quest to climb to the summits of the 100 highest peaks in New England.

The Adams Free Library Trustees, as stewards of the library's memorial donations, voted to invest the $43,000 bequest from the Henry Kratz estate in American Funds through dollar-cost-averaging over six months. 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. The members of the Board of Trustees are Chairman James Loughman, Treasurer Joseph Greenbush, Building Maintenance Chairman David Strzepek, Eugene Michalenko, Karen Kettles and Jill Pompi.

In addition to the excellent work of Children's Librarian Holli Jayko, the trustees are indebted to the dedicated hard work of the library employees: Lyn Wilson who capably handles main desk operations as well as the cataloging and processing of adult and teen materials; Christa Sidway who efficiently manages the interlibrary loan and delivery process for the many thousands of items that flow in and out of the building during the year while also adeptly handling administrative assistant duties and skillfully running the very successful monthly book discussion groups; and part-time employee Anthony Archambault who shelves all the adult materials and maintains the periodical storage system and assists at the main desk.

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

James R. Loughman
Chairman of the
Board of Library Trustees

Deborah G. Bruneau,
Director

Fiscal 2014 Statistics

Total Number of Holdings as of June 30, 2014:		**29,733**
Magazine and Newspaper Subscriptions (including gifts):		**62**
Registered borrowers:		**2,204**
Circulation:		
Adult and young adult print		17,793
Juvenile print		8,823
Video Cassettes/music CDs/DVDs, museum passes, misc.		13,307
Audio Books		2,447
E-books		584
Downloadable Audio (audiobooks, music)		76
Downloadable Video		9
Materials in Electronic Format		18
TOTAL		**43,057**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Fees Returned to Town Treasurer:		**$ 1,101.70**
✔ Microfilm Printer Receipts	$ 27.55	
✔ Internet Printer Receipts	568.00	
✔ Miscellaneous	11.20	
✔ Photocopier Receipts	494.95	
Returned to Revolving Fund via Town Treasurer:		**3,303.90**
✔ Fines for Overdue Materials	2,194.90	
✔ Damaged or Lost Items Replacement Fees	$ 359.00	
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS		**$ 4,405.60**

OTHER INCOME

Gifts, Memorial Donations, Used Items Sales	$ **1,250.28**
Grant: No. Berkshire Cultural Council	$ **1,265.00**
State Aid to Public Libraries Award	**$ 10,114.64**

TRUST FUNDS DIVIDEND INCOME	BALANCE 7/01/13	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	BALANCE 6/30/14
W.T. Adams	$ 5,121.10	$ 5,644.00	$ (5,959.67)	$ 4,805.43
C.N. Miller	993.51	150.24	(300.51)	843.24
Plunkett / Saunders	746.08	0.00	(723.11)	22.97
H. Tiedemann	3,445.59	1,774.66	(1,951.03)	3,269.22
TOTALS	**$ 10,306.28**	**$ 7,568.90**	**$ (8,934.32)**	**$ 8,940.86**

Memorial Book Funds	**Total as of 12/31/14**	**$ 49,923.06**
Memorial Book Fund Investment Values	**Total as of 12/31/14**	**$ 137,807.06**

Adams Police Department

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Matthew Wright, Travis Cunningham, Colby Clark, Brenna Dorr, Michael Wandrei, Joshua Baker and Chief Tarsa.

2104 Activity Report – Adams Police Department

Calls for Service	15,031
Ambulance Calls	1,704
Fire Department	187
DPW	69
Animal Control	511

Criminal and Custodial Activity

Offenses Committed	767

Arrests

Adult	217
Juvenile	16
Protective Custody	14
Summons Served	303

** 23 % of arrests were Domestic related*

Motor Vehicle Activity

Written Warnings	540
Civil Offenses	78
Arrests	35
Criminal Complaints	35

Motor Vehicle Accidents

Investigated	204
Fatalities	0
Person Injured	40

** 86.8% involved no related injuries*

Other Police Activity

B&E / Larcenies	101
Alarms Responded	138
Restraining Orders Served	81
E9-1-1 Calls	1,073
Parking Tickets	573
House Checks	598

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
Patrol Officers:	Lawrence Ordyna	08/11/80
	Keith Erdeski	01/01/84
	Retired	*02/07/13*
	Donna Malloy	09/20/97
	David Dean	01/28/02
	Gregory Charon	03/30/05
	Michael Wandrei	03/30/05
	Joshua Baker	04/17/08
	Nicholas Dabrowski	04/17/08
	Matthew Wright	05/02/07
	Curtis Crane	05/20/10
	Travis Cunningham	01/24/13
	Brenna Dorr	06/05/14
	Colby Clark	06/05/15
Administrative Assistant:	Melissa Schaffrick	
Reserve Officer:	Robert Krzanik	
Special Police:	Allen Mendel	
Animal Control:	Kimberly Witek	
	Daniel Lefebvre	

Officer Matthew Wright and Officer Donna Malloy after passing the Sergeant Exam.

2014 Training/Seminars/Community Events

January – **Power Phone/Protecting Law Enforcement Personnel;** attended by Chief Tarsa, Sgt Briggs, Officer Baker, Officer Charon, Officer Clark, Officer Crane, Officer Wandrei, Officer Wright, Dispatcher Piscioneri, Dispatcher Pansecchi, and Dispatcher Romaniak. **NIBRS Training;** Sgt Briggs. **Legal Update;** Sgt Briggs, Officer Baker, Officer Dean, Officer Malloy, Officer Dabrowski, Officer Wandrei, Officer Wright, and Chief Tarsa.

February – **TriTech (IMC) Systems Manager Training;** Officer Cunningham

March – **Crisis Intervention Training sponsored by NAMI (National Association of Mental Illness) 40 hours;** Officer Dabrowski, Officer Wright, and Officer Cunningham. **MIIA Training;** Officer Wandrei and Chief Tarsa.

April – **MIIA Driving Simulator;** Officer Wandrei, Officer Dean, Officer Malloy, Officer Baker and Officer Charon. **CPR/1st Responder;** Chief Tarsa, Sgt. Briggs, Officer Dean, Officer Malloy, Officer Baker, Officer Dabrowski, Officer Clark, Officer Wright and Sgt. McWhirt. **K-9 Training;** Officer Crane and Kumar. **Rx Round-Up;** Officer Dean.

Officers Crane and Kumar.

May – **CPR/1st Responder;** Officer Charon, Officer Wandrei, and Officer Crane. **Taser Instructor Recertification;** Officer Dean. **Legal Updates;** Officer Charon, Officer Clark, and Sgt. McWhirt. **VAWA (Violence Against Women Act);** Sgt. Briggs. **K-9 Certification;** Officer Crane and Kumar. **2nd Annual ELKS Safety Fair;** Officer Charon. **Hoosac Valley HS Career Day;** Officers Crane and Baker.

June – Chief Tarsa presented a summer safety session with the C.T.Plunkett 3rd Grade.

July – **Taser Instructor School;** Officer Baker. **Child Passenger Safety Technician;** Officer Charon. **Defending Against Aggression, Bullying, and Attack(s);** Chief Tarsa. **R.O.P.E.S.;** Officer Dabrowski. **Home Town Heroes;** Officer Dorr.

August – **National Night Out;** Chief Tarsa, Officer Crane and Kumar. **Firearms Instructor Training;** Officer Baker.

September – **Firearms Instructor Training;** Officer Baker. **Emergency Preparedness & Planning;** Chief Tarsa. **Health & Wellness Expo @ Senior Center;** Chief Tarsa. **Department Firearms Recertification;** all police personnel attended. **Rx Round-up;** Officer Dean.

October – **Emergency Operations;** Chief Tarsa. **Next Gen E9-1-1;** Dispatcher Piscioneri. **Bank Safety;** Chief Tarsa. **Emergency Preparedness & Disaster Relief @ Visitor's Center;** Chief Tarsa. **K-9 Drug Certification/ Training;** Officer Crane and Kumar. **Berkshire County Reserve Officer Academy;** Officer Baker assisted with firearms training.

November – **Active Shooter sponsored by the Berkshire County SRT;** Officer Dean, Officer Wandrei, Officer Wright, Officer Malloy, Officer Crane, Officer Cunningham, and Chief Tarsa. **Berkshire County Reserve Officer Academy;** Officer Baker.

"As we look around and see the many serious problems that exist in today's society, we should feel very fortunate that we still live in a Town which has been able to maintain a relatively high standard of life. Adams is still a great place to raise a family and live. However, we should be aware that the serious, dangerous criminal activity that once existed to any great degree only within the impoverished areas of our major cities is now moving into the suburbs where these professional criminals find citizens to be easy prey. For example, drug dealers are moving into some of our nearby small cities because they have found that they can get up to four times as much for their drugs in this area than they could within the inner city, where the great number of dealers creates competition and therefore, lower prices. Our department will deliver to the citizens our best efforts and try to keep these unsavory criminals from setting up shop locally. However, as mentioned in each year's annual report, we need the continued assistance of the good citizens of the Town if we are to continue to be successful in this venture. We need to hear from you when you believe something is wrong or unusual within your neighborhoods. You as the community are our eyes and ears within the community. With what's at stake, you cannot afford not to get involved."

– Chief Bruce A. McLaren 1990

Twenty four years later the words of Former Chief McLaren still hold true today. The Town of Adams is still a great place to live and raise a family. The Adams Police Department has always been a proactive department with its hallmark based upon Community Policing. We rely upon you as our eyes and ears for reporting crime and to help us maintain the great community that we have.

I would like to thank all the members of the Adams Police Department for all their hard work, dedication, and fidelity to duty. Most of all I would like to say "Thank You" to all the residents in the Town of Adams for having faith and confidence in all that we do. The Adams Police Department stands on tradition and will continue to provide to you, the people of Adams, the same quality of professionalism and service that desire.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Richard W. Tarsa Jr.

Bicycle Helmet Donation from HNE.

Community Development Department

During 2014, the Adams Community Development Department continued to carry out a busy work program, involving a wide range of community and economic development projects for the Town. These projects included those funded under the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, as well as several other grant funding programs. Implementation of the Town's FY2013 CDBG program was a major focus of Department staff throughout calendar year 2014. The $900,000 in CDBG funds awarded under FY13 was directed at two major projects – continuation of the Adams Housing Rehabilitation Program and the Park Street Improvement Project. As in past years, administrative funds from CDBG cover the wages and benefits of the grants staff within the Community Development Department.

Adams Housing Rehabilitation Program

The Adams Housing Rehabilitation Program (HRP) continues to be an important on-going program for residents of Adams that is managed by the Community Development Department. The goal of the program is to improve housing units that are either owner-occupied or investor-owned with at least 51% of the tenants/occupants being low-to-moderate income. Projects typically chosen for the program address code violations and undertake improvements to upgrade electrical systems, remove lead paint, replace windows and doors, or complete roofing, structural improvements, and the modernization of kitchens and bathrooms, etc. The HRP has a waiting list. For the past several years, the Town has been successful in obtaining grant funding to complete approximately 10-12 housing units per year. Grant funds under FY2013 totaled $256,000, with the goal of rehabilitating 10 units.

Park Street Infrastructure Improvement Project

In 2013, the Commonwealth awarded CDBG funds to the Town for the reconstruction of Park Street. The project is designed to eliminate approximately 1,200 linear feet of blighted roadway and about 2,400 linear feet of blighted sidewalks. Final design, completed by the Town's project engineer, Tighe & Bond, included the following: i) installing 300 feet of sewer line to repair poorly functioning existing line; ii) installing new curbing; iii) re-grading and compacting street base prior to installing two (2) inches of new bituminous concrete pavement; and vii) installing new sidewalks with pedestrian curb extensions, handicapped ramps and tactile warning pads, one new street tree, and new street furnishings to include benches, bollards, trash receptacles, and decorative pavers.

Town staff conducted the public bidding process during spring/summer 2014. The Town entered into a contract with J. H. Maxymillian, Inc., issuing a Notice to Proceed on July 28, 2014. Work on the project began shortly thereafter. The contractor scheduled the majority of underground work (involving water, sewer, and drainage) to be completed first, then curbing and sidewalks for the west side of the street would be next. In this way, the majority of businesses would be less impacted until later in the fall. During the first few weeks of construction, some surprises were encountered with the work underground. Two collapsed storm drainage pipes were discovered (one 70' pipe and one 30' section), which required full replacement. The contractor also experienced difficulty in installing several new catch basins.

Work progressed throughout the fall on the Park Street Infrastructure Improvement Project, with all drainage, water, and sewer work successfully completed. Curbing, the installation of new sidewalks and handicapped ramps, and street paving was completed by early November 2014. The decorative pavers were completed and street furnishings (benches, bollards, trash receptacles, and planters) were also installed. The contractor waited for a warmer weather window to complete the pavement markings and this was undertaken during the last week of November. Unfortunately, the paint used in the markings was too thin and did not hold to the satisfaction of the Town and

the Project Engineer. The contractor was told that the Town would keep the contract open with sufficient funds held back until spring 2015 so that the pavement marking could be redone, after which the Town, if satisfied, would close out the contract and the project.

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 2014:

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

The Town was awarded funding under the FY 2014 Parkland Acquisition and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant Program administered by the Division of Conservation Services for acquisition and construction of the new "Adams Station" Park on Hoosac Street. In March 2014, Town Meeting provided the required match funds of $150,000 to transform the .5 acre property at 4 Hoosac Street into the proposed park facility. In September, after completing acquisition of the site, the Town bid a portion of the construction work for the project (involving landscaping and other "horizontal" work) and executed a contract with Burke Construction Company for a total contract price of $297,403. The project, when completed, will create a new public park with picnic tables, benches, landscaping, and decorative pavers, while renovating the existing three-bay concrete block structure (formerly a car wash) into the new "Adams Station." The proposed design to the existing structure references the Town's historic train station (c.1889), located approximately .26 miles south of the project site along the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail. Construction of the park grounds and later the renovations to the existing building will be completed in advance of the June 2015 grant deadline. The new park site is located on and surrounded by land and buildings that were part of the former Berkshire Cotton Manufacturing Company, which at one time was the largest cotton manufacturer in the world.

The purchase and redevelopment of the property at 4 Hoosac Street is a key effort complementing the partnership involving the Town, the City of North Adams, Berkshire Scenic Railway Museum (BSRM), and the MA Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to establish scenic tourist train service between downtown Adams and downtown North Adams. BSRM's new **"Hoosac Valley Service"** is projected to bring more than 10,000 additional visitors annually to Adams and North Adams (based on BSRM's past operations in Lenox, which are no longer available), facilitating the efforts of both communities to develop a strong tourism component within their local tax base. The project will require an additional six-tenths of a mile of new track to be built within the acquired right-of-way for the extension of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail north of Hoosac Street, to become a "trail with rail" section. The Town's Adams Station enhances connectivity between these recreational resources/attractions, the Adams Visitors Center, and the Town's 140-space public parking lot. Ticket sales for the Hoosac Valley Service's tourist trains will be sold out of the Visitors Center, which will also provide for restroom access. The Adams Station Park once completed will provide an attractive open space for tourists and the general public to congregate.

Historically, the railroad played a critical role in the development of both communities. Now, connecting the two communities with tourist train service will significantly enhance their collective revitalization efforts toward tourism-based economic development. Developing a stronger tourist-based economy within the northern Berkshires – particularly within Adams and North Adams – has been a cornerstone economic strategy for this systemically low income - high unemployment area of the Commonwealth for the past 40 years. BSRM's proposed Hoosac Valley Service integrates well with existing tourism efforts within each community, augmenting these efforts in ways that will result in additional taxes to both the municipalities and the Commonwealth, and additional customers to numerous local businesses

Adams Free Library Renovation Project

The Adams Free Library Renovation Project was initiated in the fall of 2012 after an initial assessment by EDM Architects, Inc., an architectural and engineering firm in Pittsfield. Based on this initial assessment work, Town Meeting appropriated $75,000 in funds to hire an architect to identify a detailed scope of work with cost estimates, develop construction plans

and specifications, and prepare public bidding documents for proposed renovations to the library building. The Town selected **Austin Design, Inc.**, a full service architectural firm in Colrain, MA with particular expertise in historic building renovations. A scope of work and detailed cost estimates were established by early 2014 following the architects' work with the Library Trustees and other members of the project steering committee.

A March 24, 2014 Special Town Meeting approved a borrowing of $970,000 for improvements and renovations to the Adams Free Library, based on the scope and costs prepared by Austin Design. Following this vote, Austin Design completed final construction plans and bidding documents. An Invitation for Bids was issued in May 2014 and bids were opened in June. The Town entered into a contract with **Allegrone Construction Company**, the lowest responsible bidder. Construction began in September 2014 and continued through the end of the year. Completion of the project is anticipated in spring/summer 2015. Improvements to the library have been a priority project given the building's historic significance and prominent location within the downtown.

Memorial School Building Reuse Project

The Memorial School Building Reuse Project is a public facilities project within the downtown area. The size and prominent location of the Memorial School building creates opportunities for innovative reuse, while retaining some building elements for private or n ructed in 1952, is a free standing structural steel, brick and concrete structure with multiple stories of potentially useable space – a partial basement, gymnasium, classrooms, cafeteria, and auditorium with a stage. Certain building components, like the gym and auditorium, are irreplaceable to the community. The Town received assistance from MassDevelopment, who hired Arrowstreet, Inc., a full service architectural and engineering firm, to evaluate appropriate reuse scenarios for the former school building. Arrowstreet determined the building was sound and in overall good condition. They evaluated several future uses including senior housing, and shared their findings that the building would work well for these new future uses.

Roof Replacement Project - Once the Board of Selectmen determined to advance the reuse project at the Memorial School in 2013, Community Development staff was successful in securing $600,000 in CDBG grant funds for the repair and replacement of approximately 35,000 square feet of failed membrane roof covering key elements of the building, including the gymnasium and auditorium. Replacement of the roof, which was leaking and causing some damage to interior spaces, was critically needed to stabilize and secure the building envelope before any lease of the space for community use and potentially private business be allowed.

The proposed Memorial School Roof Replacement Project was advertised for bids in early 2014. The Town executed a contract with **Titan Roofing, Inc.**, the lowest responsive bidder. A pre-construction conference was conducted on April 9, 2014 involving Town staff, the Architect (EDM Architects), and the President of Titan Roofing. A Notice to Proceed was issued to the contractor on April 24, 2014 and construction of the project began immediately thereafter. The Tectum decking over the gymnasium (the roof area first addressed) was generally found to be in good condition, despite this being an area of extensive leaking. Construction was approximately 75% complete by the end of the June 2014. By incorporating a credit from the decking allowance in the contractor's bid, the Town was able to complete all major segments of the structure's roof area with awarded grant funds. The project was formally closed out in September 2014.

Specifically, MassDevelopment helped the Town evaluate the feasibility of various long-term uses of the building and assess specific rehabilitation needs associated with a preferred reuse strategy. In particular, the evaluation determined that the classroom end of the building could be reused for senior housing or other residential use. The Town is also evaluating whether to lease portions of the building on a short term basis providing activity within the structure and allowing continued public use of certain facilities – particularly, the gymnasium and auditorium.

Other Community Development Projects

Route 8 / Friend Street Intersection Improvement Project

Community Development staff continued working with the **Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB)**, the engineer for the project, toward final design of the Route 8 / Friend Street roundabout. Based on the early design work and an analysis of alternatives, a roundabout design was selected and approved by MassDOT. The 100% design phase was achieved in early 2014, and the Town and MassDOT were successful in securing the funding needed to complete the project. The Town was responsible for obtaining needed rights-of-way for the project. The three private business owners abutting the intersection were supportive of the project and very cooperative to the Town in providing the necessary easements and engaging positively throughout the entire design process. The project was advertised in September 2014, with bids due early in 2015. If the bidding process is successful, major construction work for the project is anticipated to occur in 2015.

Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Education Center Project

Community Development staff continued to make steady progress during 2014 on implementation of the Town's Greylock Glen project. The Town worked diligently with staff at the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR), the Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance (DCAMM), and MassDevelopment on developing the specific language for the 99-year lease of the Greylock Glen property. Throughout this effort, Special Counsel Donald Dubendorf assisted and worked hard to protect the Town's interests in going forward towards implementation and construction of the four-season resort project. The execution of the Master Lease allows the Town to fulfill its role as the master developer of the Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Education Center, first

proposed in September 2004. Once in place, the Town will be positioned to issue Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the various components of the project – the first anticipated is the RFP for the proposed Campground.

On Friday, October 17, 2014, Town officials joined state officials in celebrating the signing of the formal Master Lease agreement for the Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Education Center facility. DCR Commissioner Jack Murray and Chairman Skip Harrington of the Board of Selectmen signed the agreement during the Town Hall ceremony that was witnessed by the 50 or more participants. DCAMM Commissioner Carole Cornelison was unable to be present at the ceremony but signed the agreement earlier. Both Senator Ben Downing and Representative Gailanne Cariddi participated, speaking of the significant milestone the execution of the master lease represented and the importance the project held to the Town's economic future as the 'recreational hub of the Berkshires." The delegation and other speakers at the event recognized the environmental and civic organizations working in partnership with the Town toward implementation of the Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation and Environmental Education Center, including Massachusetts Audubon, Appalachian Mountain Club, the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

Under the agreement, the Town is leasing only 56 acres from the Commonwealth (not the entire 1,063 acre parcel, as originally envisioned), with another 83+/- acres ("Low Impact Recreation Conservation Area") available for the Town to use subject to strict limitations. The remainder of the Glen land is to remain under DCR's care and control. The Town has been granted easements to build the water tank and associated infrastructure and to maintain the trails system (the Town's responsibility begins after the completion of each phase of the new trails system – DCR will be responsible for existing trails).

A key aspect of the lease agreement is the certainty that no further approvals will be required from DCR or other state agencies as long as the project components are constructed consistent with the Town's MEPA-approved plan. This tenet of the agreement will be especially important to attracting private investment.

The Master Plan for Greylock Glen includes the development of a 140-space campground (including cabins and tent structures), an environmental education and "outdoor" center, a lodge and conference facility (with up to 170 rooms), and an extensive multi-use trails system. The project will create a four-season resort focused on outdoor recreation for hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and other activities that are easily accessible for the entire northern Berkshire region. The lease agreement will support the enhancement, protection and educational access to the 1,063 acres of park land located in Adams, adjacent to DCR's 12,500-acre Mount Greylock State Reservation.

As Chairman Harrington said in his remarks during the signing ceremony, "The deliberative planning and permitting process undertaken over the past several years by the Town, DCR, and collaborating organizations and institutions has yielded a more economically and environmentally sound project that embodies the collective vision for the Glen first expressed in 2004. Once implemented, the Town's Glen project will create a wonderful resource for residents and visitors to the Berkshires, while establishing Adams as a destination for outdoor recreation."

The Greylock Glen signing ceremony

Financial Reports

Board of Assessors

TAX RATE SUMMARY FOR FY 2015

Total amount to be raised	$ 15,086,054.87
Total estimated receipts and other Revenue sources	- 4,707,604.00
Tax levy	**$ 10,378,450.87**

Class	Certified Full and Fair Cash Value Assessments	Percentage Full Value Shares of Total Tax Levy
1. Residential	387,969,794	79.8842%
2. Open Space	0	0.0000%
3. Commercial	34,142,065	8.3500%
4. Industrial	26,704,105	6.5309%
5. Personal Property	21,405,066	5.2349%
Totals	**470,221,030**	**100.0000%**

Properties purchased by the State:

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

Properties purchased by Town:

Ostrowski – 4 Hoosac Street - $ 70,400 Valuation

Properties taken by Town:

18 Victory Street
Summit Street
7 Grove Street
62 Summer Street
73 Valley Street

Town Of Adams
Schedule Of Taxes Receivable
for the Year Ended June 30, 2014

	Uncollected Tax July 1, 2013	Add Commitments	(Add) Deduct Abatements and Adjustments	Deduct Prior years Tax Title Account	Deduct Collections	Correct Uncollected Tax June 30, 2014
REAL ESTATE						
2005 and older	69,266				2,281	66,985
2006	4,636					4,636
2007	17,386					17,386
2008	41,469					41,469
2009	37,119					37,119
2010	26,434				4,682	21,753
2011	49,795				12,449	37,346
2012	118,218				52,876	65,342
2013	315,335	1,249			194,473	122,111
2014	-	9,128,454	96,708		8,643,123	388,623
Total Real Estate	**679,659**	**9,129,703**	**96,708**	**-**	**8,909,884**	**802,770**
PERSONAL PROPERTY						
2005 and older	4,585				5	4,580
2006	1,233					1,233
2007	1,425					1,425
2008	1,900					1,900
2009	2,333					2,333
2010	2,124					2,124
2011	1,865				904	961
2012	1,731				793	938
2013	2,942				1,645	1,297
2014	-	529,649	20,748		499,764	9,137
Total Personal Property	**20,138**	**529,649**	**20,748**	**-**	**503,111**	**25,927**
Total Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes	**699,797**	**9,659,352**	**117,456**	**-**	**9,412,995**	**828,697**

	DR	CR	
001-12201		19,197.06	REAL ESTATE 2001
001-12203		(1.58)	REAL ESTATE 2003
001-12204		-	REAL ESTATE 2004
001-12205		-	REAL ESTATE 2005
001-12206		-	REAL ESTATE 2006
001-12207		-	REAL ESTATE 2007
001-12208		-	REAL ESTATE 2008
001-26211	191,707	-	Deferred REV/RE & PP
001-12451	191,707	-	TAX TITLES
001-26221		191,707.00	Deferred REV/TAX Liens
001-26221		191,707.00	Deferred REV/TAX Liens

Town Of Adams
Schedule Of Taxes Receivable *(continued)*
for the Year Ended June 30, 2014

	Uncollected Tax July 1, 2013	Add Commitments	(Add) Deduct Abatements and Adjustments	Deduct Prior years Tax Title Account	Deduct Collections	Correct Uncollected Tax June 30, 2014	DR	CR
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE				**REFUNDS**				
2006 and older	36,175				225	35,950		
2007	5,265				327	4,938		
2008	5,540				657	4,883		
2009	5,664				785	4,879		
2010	4,234				686	3,548		
2011	6,051				910	5,141		
2012	15,373				6,710	8,663		
2013	129,242	77,514	15,941	10,348	181,308	19,855		
2014		777,202	20,595	5,502	649,890	112,219		
Total Motor Vehicle Excise	**207,543**	**854,716**	**36,536**	**15,850**	**841,498**	**200,075**		
Grand Total Tax Receivables	**907,339**	**10,514,068**	**153,992**	**15,850**	**10,254,493**	**1,028,772**		

Town Of Adams
Reconciliation of Treasurer's Cash
June 30, 2014

As of June 30, 2014 cash consisted of the following balances:

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

TD Bank	$ 54,675
Adams Community Bank	1,490,659
Unibank	2,618,606
Keator Group	329,774
Century Bank	34,149
Value Line	8,513
Berkshire Bank	2,282
Total	**4,538,658**
Petty cash	490
Total cash and short-term investments$	**$ 4,539,148**

Indebtedness
June 30, 2014

	Serial Maturity Through	Interest Rates	Outstanding June 30, 2013	Addition	Reduction	Outstanding June 30, 2014
Town Hall/Police Station	2028	3.25-5%	$ 1,540,000	$	$ 110,000	$ 1,430,000
WWT Plant renovations	2028	2.0%	2,002,394		135,001	1,867,393
Old Town Hall/Library	2014	0.5%	83,000		83,000	
Tropical Storm Irene	2018	2.0%	191,000		38,300	152,700
Water Channel Improvements	2018	2.4%	350,000		70,000	280,000
TOTAL			**$ 4,166,394**	**$**	**$ 436,301**	**$ 3,730,093**

Kelly Rice being sworn in as the elected Town Treasurer-Collector by Haley Meczywor.

Town of Adams, Massachusetts
Office of the Town Accountant - Statement of Operating Revenues
Budget and Actual - General Fund
for the year ended June 30, 2014

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
LOCAL RECEIPTS:		
Real Estate Taxes	9,093,204	8,867,461
Personal Property Taxes	510,967	503,116
Local Rooms Tax	4,720	4,999
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	739,128	829,977
Payments in Lieu of and Other Taxes	135,882	140,520
Penalties and Interest	95,000	73,146
Sewerage Charges	25,000	28,672
Other Departmental Revenue	112,602	122,056
Licenses and Permits and Alcoholic Beverages	90,000	94,548
Fines & Forfeitures	28,000	22,690
Investment Income	3,100	4,671
Miscellaneous Revenues		
STATE RECEIPTS:		
Unrestricted General Government Aid	2,026,986	2,026,986
Abatements to Vets, Elderly/Blind	54,778	39,751
State Owned Land	54,797	54,797
Veteran's Benefits	157,932	137,856
TOTAL REVENUES	**13,132,096**	**12,951,246**
OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS:		
Operating Transfers and Other Financing Sources:		
Stabilization Fund	180,416	180,416
Council On Aging Fund Receipts	25,000	25,000
Parking Meter Funds	15,000	15,000
Technology Funds	27,550	27,550
Perpetual Care Funds - From Interest	5,000	5,000
CDBG - Reimbursement		3,162
Revenue Appropriation	590,000	590,000
Operating transfers and Other Financing Sources	**842,966**	**846,128**
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	**13,975,062**	**13,797,374**

Town of Adams, Massachusetts

Office of the Town Accountant - Statement of Operating Expenditures

Budgetary and Actual - General Fund

for the year ended June 30, 2014 *(Audited)*

	Budget as Revised	Actual Expenditures	Surplus/ (Deficit)
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
Selectman/Moderator/Town Report	20,542	16,515	4,027
Town Administrator	205,181	205,181	-
Financial - Accounting/FINCOM	236,255	168,425	67,830
Assessors	141,764	136,586	5,178
Treasurer/Collector	178,850	167,952	10,898
Town Counsel	38,920	38,370	550
Technology	159,389	159,389	-
Town Clerk/Elections/Registrations/Codes	139,098	136,838	2,260
Property/Liability Insurance	125,680	116,552	9,128
Total General Government	**1,245,679**	**1,145,808**	**99,871**
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT			
Conservation/Agriculture/Historical Commission	3,035	2,003	1,032
Planning/Zoning Board	14,590	12,112	2,478
Community Development	197,073	169,618	27,455
Building Inspector	162,899	158,135	4,764
Inspection Services/Wire/Gas/Plumbing/Etc.	5,485	4,392	1,093
Total Community Development	**383,082**	**346,260**	**36,822**
PUBLIC SAFETY			
Police	1,631,250	1,511,433	119,817
Police Station	28,600	23,191	5,409
Emergency MGM/Forest Wardens/Haz Waste	12,724	9,480	3,244
Animal Control	35,621	27,629	7,992
Parking Management	5,500	2,120	3,380
Total Public Safety	**1,713,695**	**1,573,853**	**139,842**
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES			
Veterans Services/Memorials	147,132	143,289	3,843
Council On Aging	228,530	218,983	9,547
Board Of Health	67,630	43,912	23,718
Total Health and Human Service	**443,292**	**406,184**	**37,108**
EDUCATION - REGIONAL			
Adams-Cheshire Regional School	4,715,485	4,715,484	1
Northern Berkshire Regional Technical	658,786	658,786	-
Total Education - Regional	**5,374,271**	**5,374,270**	**1**
Library	**283,493**	**273,029**	**10,464**

Statement of Operating Expenditures
Budgetary and Actual - General Fund
for the year ended June 30, 2014 *(Audited - continued)*

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS/BUILDINGS			
Public Buildings	530,180	441,203	88,977
DPW Administration/Tree Warden	159,896	141,065	18,831
Highways	1,414,085	1,351,714	62,371
Snow & Ice Control	231,000	211,805	19,195
Flood Control	600	67	533
Equipment Maintenance	274,224	266,712	7,512
Recycling Center	57,975	52,919	5,056
Wastewater Treatment/Collection	268,805	238,819	29,986
Total Public Works, Buildings, Highways and Streets	**2,936,765**	**2,704,304**	**232,461**
EMPLOYEE/RETIREE BENEFITS	**1,039,070**	**1,039,070**	
CEMETERIES AND PARKS			
Cemetery, Parks & Grounds	84,322	80,184	4,138
Recreation	14,000	14,000	
Celebrations - Seasonal	2,800	2,594	206
Total Cemeteries and Other	**101,122**	**96,778**	**4,344**
COURT JUDGMENT	**16,250**	**16,250**	
DEBT SERVICE	**627,900**	**575,232**	**52,668**
Principal	436,302	436,301	1
Interest/Fees	191,598	138,931	52,667
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS/EXPENDITURES	**14,164,619**	**13,551,038**	**613,581**
OTHER AMOUNTS RAISED:			
State Cherry Sheet Charges/Offsets	50,638	50,638	
Allowance for Abatements & Exemptions	176,112	176,112	
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES & TRANSFERS	**14,391,369**	**13,777,788**	**613,581**

Town of Adams, Massachusetts
Office of the Town Accountant - Consolidated Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2014
(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 06/30/2014
Cash									
Petty Cash	490								490
Cash in Savings and Money Market Account	3,088,970	260,453	535,304	46,752	28,244	578,937	24,767		4,563,427
Investments									
Accounts Receivable									
Personal Property Taxes	25,927								25,927
Real Estate Taxes	802,769								802,769
Allowance for Abatements & Exemptions	-632,117								-632,117
Motor Vehicle Excise	200,075								200,075
Tax Titles	483,208								483,208
Tax Possessions	37,192								37,192
Departmental - PD Off Duty - due from Vendors									0
Departmental - Industry Sewer									
Departmental - Sewer/Water Liens AFD									
Departmental - Veterans Services	167,237								167,237
Checks returned - ISF	848								848
Special Assessment - Demolition Lien	1,199								1,199
Departmental - Emergencies Agencies							35,695		35,695
Departmental - Federal Grant Receivable									
Departmental - Comm of Mass Grants			29,668						29,668
Due from SRF - Federal Grant Small Cities I	19,975								19,975
Due from SRF - PARC St Grant	29,668								29,668
Amounts to be Provided for									
Payment of Bond								3,730,093	3,730,093
Debt Authorized & Unissued								1,185,000	1,185,000
Total Assets	**4,225,441**	**260,453**	**564,972**	**46,752**	**28,244**	**578,937**	**60,462**	**4,915,093**	**10,680,354**

Consolidated Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2014

(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 06/30/2014
Current Liabilities									
Warrants Payable	91,151			24,970					116,121
Payroll Payable	82,841								82,841
Health Insurance Withheld	83,356								83,356
Workmans Comp/PD Accident Payable	3,397								3,397
Taxes Withheld/Payable	4,134								4,134
Unemployment Payable	6,191								6,191
Misc. Withheld	11,705								11,705
Cafeteria Plan Withheld	1,287								1,287
Retirement Withheld	558								558
Contract Retainage	31								31
Due to General Fund			29,668	19,975					49,643
Miscellaneous							5		5
Off-Duty Work							24,762		24,762
Deferred Revenues									
Real Estate & Personal Property Tax	196,579								196,579
Tax Liens	483,208								483,208
Motor Vehicle Excise	200,075								200,075
Tax Possessions	37,192								37,192
Departmental	167,237						35,695		202,932
Special Assessments	1,199								1,199
Due from Federal Government									0
Due from Comm of Mass Grants			29,668						29,668
Unreserved Fund Balances	1,657,682								1,657,682
Fund Balances Reserved for Encumbrances	294,248								294,248
Fund Balances Reserved for Compensated Absences	195,870								195,870
Fund Balances Reserved for Trust Funds									
Restricted Trust Funds		260,453				433,522			693,975
Unrestricted Trust Funds						145,415			145,415

Consolidated Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2014

(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 06/30/2014
Fund Balances Reserved for Fed/State Grants			62,373	1,807					64,180
Fund Balances Reserved for Appropriation	590,000								590,000
Fund Balances Reserved for Gifts/Bequests/Revolving			113,338						113,338
Fund Balances Reserved for Special Purposes									
Reserved for Expenditure	117,500		328,374		28,244				474,118
Reserved for Emergency Spending - T/S Irene			1,551						1,551
Bonds Payable									
Inside Debt Limit - Town Hall/PD Station								1,430,000	1,430,000
Inside Debt Limit - Old Town Hall/Library									0
Inside Debt Limit - Water Channel Improvements								280,000	280,000
Inside Debt Limit - T/S Irene								152,700	152,700
Inside Debt Limit - MWPAT								1,867,393	1,867,393
Bonds Authorized & Unissued								1,185,000	1,185,000
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	**4,225,441**	**260,453**	**564,972**	**46,752**	**28,244**	**578,937**	**60,462**	**4,915,093**	**10,680,354**

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, 2014

(AUDITED)

	Fund Balance 06/30/13	Revenue	Expenditure	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditure	Operating Transfer In	Operating Transfer Out	Fund Balance 06/30/14
FEDERAL GRANTS							
Federal Community Develop Block Grant							
Massachusetts Small Cities Program	52,521.00	465,656.00	(513,208.00)	(47,552.00)		(3,162.00)	1,807.00
Total Federal Grants	**52,521.00**	**465,656.00**	**(513,208.00)**	**(47,552.00)**	**0.00**	**(3,162.00)**	**1,807.00**
STATE GRANTS							
State Aid to Libraries	31,910.00	10,115.00	(15,581.00)	(5,466.00)			26,444.00
Public Works Economic Development - Signal Project	(10,265.00)	10,265.00		10,265.00			(0.00)
PWED - FY12 MassWorks	(31,734.00)	100,000.00	(68,266.00)	31,734.00			0.00
Solarization/Energy Conservation	5,391.00	2,500.00	(4,194.00)	(1,694.00)			3,697.00
MEMA	662.00			0.00			662.00
Feasibiltiy Study - Regional Dispatching	0.00			0.00			0.00
Public Safety	30,598.00	30,044.00	(30,774.00)	(730.00)			29,868.00
Elderly	3.00	18,079.00	(18,082.00)	(3.00)			0.00
PWED - Cemetery Pres/Stormwater	13,109.00		(4,699.00)	(4,699.00)			8,410.00
Municipal Incentive - Riverways	5,550.00		(5,550.00)	(5,550.00)			0.00
Board of Health - Local Prep Grant	2,619.00		(164.00)	(164.00)			2,455.00
PARC - Grant - Train Station	0.00		(195,448.00)	(195,448.00)	165,780.00		(29,668.00)
Condiut Grant	2,343.00			0.00			2,343.00
Visitor Center/Events	(673.00)	39,552.00	(20,719.00)	18,833.00			18,160.00
Total State Grants	**49,513.00**	**210,555.00**	**(363,477.00)**	**(152,922.00)**	**165,780.00**	**0.00**	**62,371.00**
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS							
Parking Meter	59,761.00	14,293.00		14,293.00		(15,000.00)	59,054.00
Council on Aging	39,246.00	20,502.00		20,502.00		(25,000.00)	34,748.00
Technology Fund	56,129.00	24,040.00		24,040.00		(27,550.00)	52,619.00
Cemetery Sale of Lots	176,635.00	13,016.00	(6,198.00)	6,818.00		(1,500.00)	181,953.00
Tropical Storm Irene	1,551.00			0.00			1,551.00
Other Special Revenue Revolving & Gifts & Donations	93,042.00	104,468.00	(84,172.00)	20,296.00	2,500.00	(2,500.00)	113,338.00
Total Other Special Revenue Funds	**426,364.00**	**176,319.00**	**(90,370.00)**	**85,949.00**	**2,500.00**	**(71,550.00)**	**443,263.00**
TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	**528,398.00**	**852,530.00**	**(967,055.00)**	**(114,525.00)**	**168,280.00**	**(74,712.00)**	**507,441.00**

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, 2014
(AUDITED)

	Fund Balance 06/30/13	Revenue	Expenditure	Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditure	Operating Transfer In	Operating Transfer Out	Fund Balance 06/30/14
NONEXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS							
Cemetery Perpetual Care Principal Only	398,496	6,600		6,600			405,096
Library - Plunkett Fund	23,264	128		128			23,392
Library - Saunders Fund	5,033			0			5,033
Total Nonexpendable Trust	**426,793**	**6,728**	**0**	**6,728**	**0**	**0**	**433,521**
EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS							
Stabilization	380,258	1,611		1,611	59,000	(180,416)	260,453
Library - Saunders Fund	0	28		28			28
Cemetery Perpetual Care - Interest Only	29,210	1,969		1,969		(5,000)	26,179
Cemetery Maintenance	10,982	1,590		1,590		(1,500)	11,072
Cemetery Endowed Lots - Harrington/Hall/Plunkett	28,449	156		156		(250)	28,355
Scholarship - Hall/Low	26,761	149		149			26,910
Scholarship - Kruszyna	18,556	1,625		1,625			20,181
Scholarship - Town	7,646	1,416	(1,800)	(384)			7,262
Conservation Trust	10,604	775	(2,091)	(1,316)			9,288
Historical Preservation - Quaker Meeting House	15,048	1,093		1,093			16,141
Total Expendable Trust	**527,514**	**10,412**	**(3,891)**	**6,521**	**59,000**	**(187,166)**	**405,869**
TOTAL TRUST FUNDS	**954,307**	**17,140**	**(3,891)**	**13,249**	**59,000**	**(187,166)**	**839,390**

ANNUAL REPORTS

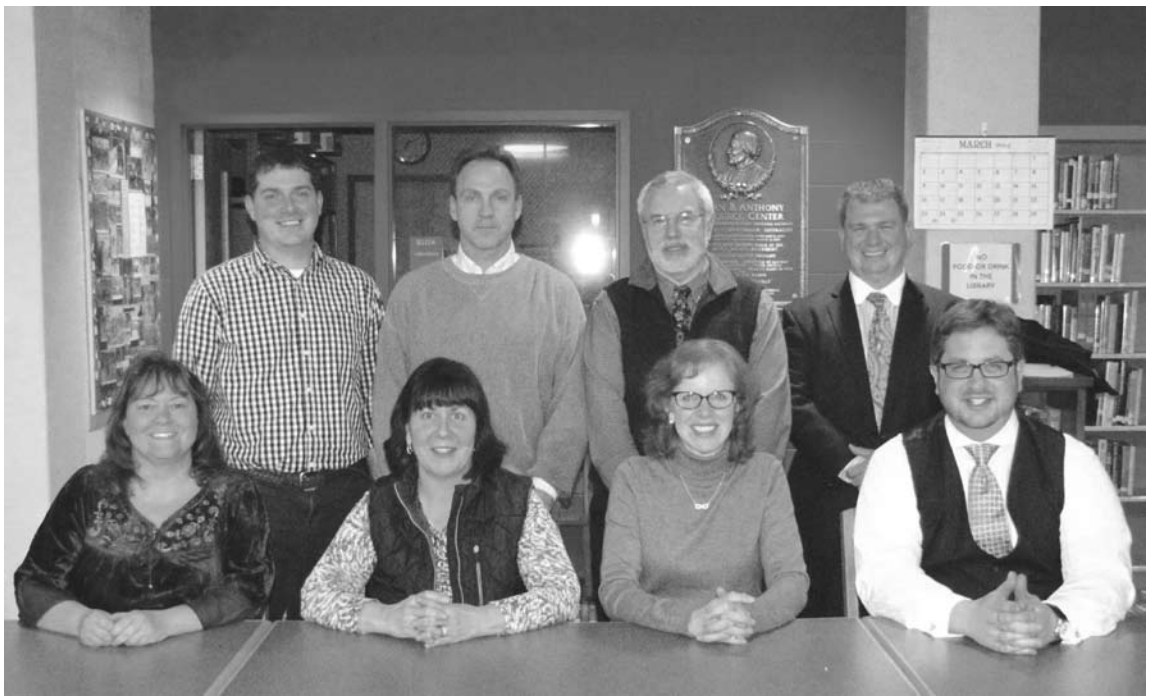
OF THE

ADAMS-CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHESHIRE, MA 01225

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014



Adams-Cheshire Regional School Committee

Back row (l-r): Joshua DeMarsico-Birkland; Steven Vigna; Vice-Chair Paul K. Butler; Brian Astorino;
Front row: Superintendent Kristen Robinson-Gordon; Regina Hill; Chairman Darlene Rodowicz; Edmund St. John IV

Report of the Chairman
Adams-Cheshire Regional School District

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

The Adams-Cheshire Regional School District has completed another successful and constructive year. The children of the district continue to grow and flourish under the watchful guidance of a very dedicated staff. The Hoosac Valley Hurricane teams represented the district well over the last year with representation at State title games for both the football team and girls basketball programs. While this success is often widely publicized and followed by the community there is so much more than great sports happening within our school district.

During this past year the district worked in collaboration with staff to create professional development action plans. These action plans create the foundation for the educational advancement of the students of the district. We recognized that a safe learning environment is an essential foundation for student success. We have spent the last year creating and implementing an anti-bullying plan that aligns with state guidelines. Tragically we have witnessed an increase in violence in school systems across the country. While we hope we never have to experience any of these incidents we have responded to this trend by developing a crisis and safety plan for our buildings.

One of the major responsibilities of the school committee is the establishment of educational goals and policies for the school district. The school committee devoted a substantial amount of time this year creating a five year strategic plan with goals and metrics to improve the educational outcome of its students. This plan, to be successful, will require a commitment from the communities in our educational system. The committee also reviewed and updated all of the administrative policies of the school district, ensuring that the policies reflect current practices and remained compliant with the laws of the Commonwealth.

While we have been enjoying the new facility that houses the Hoosac Valley Middle and High School, the district continued to work with the state school building authority to finalize the construction costs and the associated state reimbursement on the project. The committee has also developed a maintenance plan that should be funded over time for the two elementary schools in the district as well as the anticipated maintenance on the new building.

The school committee has been a good financial steward of the annual operating budget for the district, identifying and implementing cost savings strategies within the constraints of the communities' annual appropriations. The committee is committed to continue to work with the communities it represents to create educationally sound, fiscally responsible budgets.

The students of our district are our future. We are fortunate and appreciative of the support of so many in our communities.

Sincerely,

Darlene Rodowicz, Chairman
ACRSD School Committee

Superintendent of Schools

ANNUAL REPORT - 2014

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

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

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

Kristen Gordon ..... Superintendent

Lisa Bresett..... District Administrative Assistant

David Hinkell ..... Business Manager

Erika Snyder ..... Assistant to the Business Manager

Jacqueline Fortier ..... Director of Pupil Services

Mary Ellen Sutliff..... Administrative Assistant to the Director of Pupil Services

Jill Pompi..... Literacy Director

Peter Bachli ..... Principal of Cheshire Elementary School

Michelle Colvin..... Principal of C.T. Plunkett Elementary School

Jeremiah Ames ..... Principal of Hoosac Valley Middle High School

Martin McEvoy ..... Vice Principal of Hoosac Valley Middle High School

Colleen Byrd ..... Dean of Students at Hoosac Valley Middle High School

Support Staff:

Laurie Vachereau ..... Payroll

Sharyn Alibozek ..... Insurance, Grants, Retirees

Adams Cheshire Regional School Committee

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

GUIDING BELIEFS

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

We believe that:

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

VISION STATEMENT

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

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

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

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

ACADEMICS AND INSTRUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

TECHNOLOGY

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

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

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

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

Goal 4: Develop a strong working knowledge of the technology required by the common core standards by June 2014 for all educators involved in direct instruction with students as demonstrated by documented educator trainings.

ACE

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

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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

BAY STATE READING INSTITUTE

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

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

MASSACHUSETTS MATH SCIENCE INITIATIVE

We are pleased to announce that Hoosac Valley Middle High School became partners with the Massachusetts Math Science Initiative (MMSI). This is our first year as partners. As stated by the MMSI, Massachusetts is one of six states selected to participate in an innovative program led by **National Math and Science** to address the drastic decline in math and science education in the United States.

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

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

BUDGET

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

COMMUNICATION/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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

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

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

We would like to again, thank the communities of Adams and Cheshire for beautiful Hoosac Valley Middle High School. As we know, it didn't make sense to put money into the former Middle School while we could combine the Middle and High Schools and create a state of the art educational facility for our students and community.

We would like to thank the C.T. Plunkett PTG and "Wacky World" committee as well as the many, many community donations for our new playground.

A portion of the roof was replaced at C.T. Plunkett this past summer. Future work will need to be done and is included in our 5 year maintenance plan.

SAFETY

The school district conducted its annual review and revision of the crisis manual with local police, fire and emergency response personnel, in October of 2013 and again in February 2014. State and local police and fire provided comprehensive support in conducting lock-down, fire and evacuation drills for all staff and students of the district. The district has committed to anti-bullying curriculum at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

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

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

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

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

1.1: Examine and revise standards for student placement and courses to maximize student learning in K-12 classes.

1.2: Align curriculum to current state standards by implementing a review and update process.

1.3: Provide updated courses, as a means to fill gaps in curriculum offerings, especially electives.

1.4: Ensure continually updated technology, textbooks, and equipment are integrated into the curriculum.

TEACHING AND LEARNING GOAL:

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

2.1: Professional development that reflects the needs of the district and the staff will be high quality, and meet the requirements of our district state and federal mandates.

2.2: Provide opportunities for students to recognize and develop their unique abilities, talents, and interests.

2.3: Provide up to date technical instruction at all grade levels.

2.4: Provide challenging educational PreK-12 programs with instructional resources are modern and aligned to the current curriculum and frameworks and that meet individual learning needs.

2.5: Increase student achievement in all grades.

2.6: Using current data assessment, student instruction will be differentiated to meet the needs of multiple learning styles.

COMMUNITY GOAL:

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

3.1: Develop a comprehensive community wide marketing campaign to position the district as a preferred educational system and employer.

3.2: Enhance media relation activities by increased positive coverage of schools and the district and by providing community links on the district website, through televised and social media.

3.3: Continue programming on local access channel to support district initiatives, opportunities for parental involvement, and professional development for staff.

3.4: Each of the schools will hold at least one event each school year that will bring community members into our schools and provide an interactive environment.

3.5: Each school will make contact with local businesses to establish community partnerships for the purpose of sponsorship for student events and professional development.

STUDENT SAFETY AND WELLNESS GOAL:

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

4.1: Strengthen student services addressing the social and emotional needs of the students from PreK-12. (SAC role, Brien outreach, SS curriculum, PBIS).

4.2: Continue to promote our anti-bullying and prevention program.

4.3: Develop and expand nutritional/PE programming in district schools (My Plate, SPARK, free healthy snack program, breakfast/lunch summer, Fuel Up for 60).

4.4: Integration of safety and wellness into district-wide curriculum.

4.5: Annual revision of crisis plan and maintaining Crisis teams that meet regularly.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kristen Robinson-Gordon
Superintendent of Schools

Hoosac Valley Middle & High School

2014-2015 Annual Report

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

The 2013-2014 Hoosac Valley Middle and High School academic year was one in which students, faculty, and administration continued to build a culture of continuous improvement, achievement, and mutual accountability. Students had many reasons to be proud of themselves; their contributions to the community, achievements on the field and on the stage, and pursuit of excellence in the classrooms, make Hoosac Valley Middle and High School an exciting place to be everyday.

The HVMHS Leo Club raised almost $4000 this year working at Adams Movies nights, parking cars for the Pow Wow in Adams, holding the back to school dance and pancake breakfast, and from community donations. With those funds we donated Halloween goodie bags to Preschoolers and Kindergardeners in the four elementary schools in the community (Plunkett, Cheshire, Savoy, and St. Stan's) and shopped, wrapped, and delivered Christmas presents to the Salvation Army for 10 needy families from Northern Berkshires, in addition to making a donation to one of our school's current family-in-need. In addition, the Leos have done the bell ringing at WalMart for the Salvation Army for all four Saturdays from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

The HVMHS National Honor Society has engaged in community activities throughout the year. In August, NHS members participated in raking mulch to help finish the new CT Plunkett Playground project. In October, NHS members, along with Student Council, put on a Haunted House. Students in grades K-5 from CT Plunkett, Cheshire Elementary and St. Stanislaus schools were invited with their families to HVMHS for a free night of fun. They proceeded through the haunted house (set up in the library) and then Trick-or-Treated in the Middle School hallways. NHS and Student Council members lined the hallways, wishing a Happy Halloween and dropping a treat into bags. We estimated that 400 people came through the haunted house.

Also, HVMHS Student Council members have been hard at work since September. The group, which consists of approximately 30 members, meets every Thursday after school. This year members have been on hand to provide guided tours of HVMHS during our open houses and they successfully organized the 40th Annual Art Hathaway Dinner, held on Wednesday, Dec. 3, in the school cafeteria. Approximately 200 seniors from the Adams, Cheshire, and Savoy communities feasted

Members of the Hoosac Valley High School Football team volunteered to help build the new Wacky World playground on Liberty Street.

Hoosac Girls Basketball - 2014 Western Mass Champions

on a homemade turkey dinner, enjoyed music provided by the HVMHS chorus, and danced the night away thanks to the HVMHS jazz band. The Student Council also prepared the Sno-Ball, a Hoosac formal dance for grades 9-12, held at the Crowne Plaza in Pittsfield. Additionally, the committee drafted a peer-mentoring program to benefit middle-school students who are struggling socially and academically.

The 2013-2014 year also saw HVMHS students give great performances on the stage. Some of the most ambitious theatrical productions around were performed to great acclaim, and the student band, chorus, and dance company gave beautiful concerts and recitals that showcased the talent contained these vibrant programs.

HVMHS students continued to strive for excellence in the classrooms as well. In the 2013-2014 school year, qualifying scores of our Advanced Placement students virtually doubled, thanks to an increased focus on and expansion of our AP program as well as the tremendous desire of our students to challenge themselves with college-level work while still in high school. In addition, 25 Seniors qualified for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, entitling these students to four years free tuition at any Massachusetts institution of higher learning. The scholarship is available to students whose MCAS performance puts them at the top 25 percent of their district. In addition, students must have scores of Advanced and Proficient on grade 10 MCAS tests in English Language Arts and Mathematics (at least one score must be advanced).

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremiah Ames
Principal HVMHS

C.T. Plunkett Elementary School

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

District Beliefs

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

C.T. Plunkett Elementary School has one of the largest enrollments of any elementary school in Berkshire County. Currently we service students in grades K - 5. The school is located on Commercial Street in downtown Adams housing six grade levels with between 73-87 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	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15
Pre-K				61		
K	97	67	86	87	92	87
1	80	94	75	78	78	83
2	78	81	91	65	73	79
3	91	71	81	90	69	73
4	85	85	72	84	88	74
5	90	85	90	78	83	85
6	77	81	75			
Totals	598	564	570	543	483	481

STAFFING:

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

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

Grade 1
Amy Anderson, Bethany Ricci, Aprillee Mazzeo, Mary Tanner

Grade 2
Elizabeth Alibozek, Dawn Bombardier, Kelly Ryan and Barbara Steuer

Grade 3
Beth Bourdon, Michelle Johnson, Anne Prudhomme, and Ashley DePaoli

Grade 4
Dawn Bishop, Antoinette Esposito, Kelsie Leon, and Noella Wotkowicz

Grade 5
Bridget O'Neil-Hopkins, Kathleen McGrath, Kale Skrocki and Jennifer Taylor

School-Wide

Principal Michelle S. Colvin
Dean of Students Patricia Misiuk
Title I Director & Literacy Coach Jill Pompi

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

Paraprofessionals:
Pat Alibozek, Susan Barthe, Susan Burzimati, Moncia Carpenter, Deb Ciempa, Brandon Crouse, Barbara Czerwinski, Ashley Davis, Laura Dorr, Kim Galli, Laurie Gamari, Amoreena Gazaille, Deanna Guettler, Shelley Jenkins, Aimee Kelly, Jennifer Kline, Susan Knapp, Dan Kondel, Donna LaBonte, Patricia LaFrance, Karen Levesque, Barbara Mallet, Paula Meczywor, Donna Mullany, Mary Murray, Jamie Taylor, Shannon Speed, Lisa Waltermire, Heather Witek, Becky Zaleski, Jackie Ziarnik

ACRSD Partners with Bay State Reading Institute, (BSRI)

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

BSRI's model includes:

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

As a BSRI Partner, each school receives:

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

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

Kindergarten Update:

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

We have enjoyed taking field trips around our community to places such as Jaeschske's Apple Orchard, the Colonial Theater, Mass MoCA, and the Adams Fire Department. We are so thankful for the support from our PTG and area community partners who help to make these trips possible and enjoyable for our students!

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

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

Grade 1 Update:

We are in the ongoing process of creating new and exciting learning opportunities for our first grade students with the help of our BSRI coaches and our in-house support staff. Looking ahead we foresee a dramatic improvement in student learning both in reading and math through the utilization of small group instruction, geared to meet the individual needs of all students.

This has been a learning experience for all of us. We are revitalizing our teaching methods by bringing back center based practice activities. They have been well received by our young students and their families. All areas of the curriculum along with special subjects, (Art, Music, & PE) have embraced these ideals and methodologies to enhance student learning.

We have been extremely fortunate with the increased support provided by the reassignment of staff to provide direct services to our children. These services will promote student learning and progress in a most effective manner. More time and effort spent in the younger grades will assist in closing gaps that often arise in upper grade levels.

Technology continues to be an area where we struggle to maximize effectiveness due to limited hardware. Our current software offerings, as well as future opportunities for acquiring additional titles, requires us to seek out ways to increase the number of computers/tablets to access these valuable educational tools. Team members have applied to grants and on-line donation sites as possible sources of funding. We will continue to pursue ways to supplement our current resources in this area of educational support.

Our association with Mass MoCA has continued this year. The students have visited the museum for tours, exploration of unique art forms, and programs in the arts; both visual and musical. We look forward to future offerings this resource can provide for our children and staff.

Finally, we have continued our commitment to families through after-hours progrms such as Bingo for Books, Movie Night, Literacy Fair, and Meet the Teacher Night. These activities provide cost-free experiences for all of our families.

Grade 2 Update:

The second grade teachers have been working closely with consultants from Bay State Reading Institute, (BSRI) and the District Literacy Coach, to learn how to better organize the classroom and incorporate appropriate methods and activities to ensure that learning is occurring at all times for all students! Assessments such as DIBELS and GRADE are analyzed, and once needs are identified, teachers work with small groups of students at what is called the "Teacher Table". At Teacher

Table the teacher is able to group students according to their needs and tailor their instruction to meet the needs or challenge all students more appropriately. The result of this model is increased, focused time with the teacher rather than the teacher addressing the entire group with instruction designed to garget the mid-range of the group. During this focused time, other students work at learning centers independently or with a partner, with a Title I Teacher, Special Educator, or paraprofessional. Students rotate through 3-4 stations each day. This model ensures that ALL students receive small group instruction each day that is targeted to their needs and ALL students are provided the opportunity to work with their peers on meaningful work.

In terms of community and parent involvement this year, students and teachers have been involved in Movie Night, our annual Book Fair, and Give-A-Gift. We have also presented the Polar Express to the students and participated in Operation Christmas Child. Some upcoming activities will include Bingo for Books, Literacy Fair, and Alex's Lemonade Stand. Second grade has traveled twice to Mass MoCA; once to visit the art exhibits and once to see percussionist and composer, Billy Martin. In January, 2nd Grade will be traveling to the Colonial Theater for another special presentation. Thank you, PTG!

Grade 3 Update:

The third grade team welcomed two new teachers this year; Mrs. Michelle Johnson and Ms. Ashley DePaoli. Both teachers have settled in very nicely to their new team.

Third grade is in their third year of instruction with the Scott Foresman Reading Street Common Core Program. The staff also welcomed, and has been working hard with, Judy Loughlin and Judy Fletcher from the Bay State Reading Institute, (BSRI). With their assistance, and constant support from Jill Pompi, the C.T. Plunkett Literacy Coach, they have been implementing a tiered model of reading instruction. This model consists of brief whole-group teacher led discussion, small group differentiated instruction for collaborative practice and independent practice. The students are responding positively to the new delivery model and the teachers have been hard at work to prepare learning center materials that support the weekly reading selection's skills. Staff members are coordinating their efforts and assisting each other in the preparation of materials.

In math, the students continue to work with the Envisions Math Program. The students are finding this curriculum interesting and quite demanding.

Over the summer, the third grade teachers wrote a grant to the Adams Cheshire Educational Partnership Fund for the "Appreciating Berkshire Wildlife" program. An award of $1,400 was granted by ACE and the C.T. Plunkett Parent Group also granted the remaining funds to make this incredible program available to all 3rd graders at C.T. Plunkett Elementary School. Gayle Raser, from the Massachusetts Audubon Society, is presenting 14 class sessions with each third grade class that focuses on native Berkshire wildlife and other scientific topics. All third graders will benefit from a field trip to Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in June.

The C.T. Plunkett Parent Group works hard to provide cultural experiences for the children in our town. This year, children will benefit from trips to the Colonial Theatre, Mass MoCA, and interact with an author in residence, among other things.

Recognizing that a positive home-school connection is beneficial, third grade teachers will be welcoming parents and families to a potluck supper that will be held in January. The night will be a wonderful opportunity to invite community members into the school and all will have fun.

Finally, the 3rd grade teachers would like to express their gratitude and support to Joan Blanchette and Fran Eichorn, our "Golden Varsity" volunteers, who tirelessly devote time to our elementary school in support of students and teachers alike. Their love for the children and our town is to be commended!

Grade 4 Update:

Fourth grade is busy exploring a variety of topics across the curriculum. Both Math and ELA have implemented the BSRI routines of small group instruction with differentiation. Students are learning to not only work cooperatively but self-monitor their fluency and comprehension. In the area of Reading, our students are enjoying an array of nonfiction stories that accompany the fiction selections in the Reading Street basal. The reading series is helping the students to further develop their higher level thinking skills (such as predicting, clarifying, questioning, and summarizing). One primary focus in writing is the development of a thorough response that incorporates logical text evidence to support their idea. Writing is an important piece of the Common Core, which stresses incorporating it into all subject areas.

During the first term in Science, students studied erosion and weathering. To help the students better understand the power of water, they went on a PTG-sponsored field trip to Howe Caverns. Students were impressed by the magnitude of the caverns and what water was capable of accomplishing. Currently they are studying the states of matter, and during the final term they will study magnetism and electricity. In Social Studies the students have begun studying the different regions of the U.S.EnVisions Math exposes students to learning one concept in multiple ways with an emphasis on one and two digit multiplication and multiple step word problems.

In addition to our Howe Caverns trip, PTG treated the students to a day at The Colonial Theater to enjoy "The Christmas Carol".

Grade 5 Update:

The fifth grade is following the newly implemented BSRI program. All fifth grade classrooms have their focus walls up and running. Students are enjoying the center work and rotations are going smoothly. They are adapting well to the new routines. Since the students have been immersed in the newest math curriculum for three years, they seem to be understanding the terminology/vocabulary easier. For science during the fall semester, they spent time learning about rocks and minerals. The culmination of this unit was a trip to a local industry, Specialty Minerals, Inc. Students were given the opportunity to see, first hand, how the mining industry works. They were amazed at the size of the quarry located here in Adams. In the

spring we will be studying populations and ecosystems finishing with a final project where students present research on their ecosystems.

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

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

Library

The C.T. Plunkett Library houses over 18,500 books, videos and magazines. The automated circulation and cataloging system makes it possible for students and staff to access the electronic card catalog. Approximately 6,200 items were checked out during the school year. Students visit the library once a week and have the opportunity to listen to stories and borrow a variety of books, including picture books, fiction, biographies and non-fiction.

The C.T. Plunkett Library Committee was established on March 26, 1998 for the purpose of raising funds to enrich our school library services and provide books for the children. Various activities such as raffles, book fairs and school-wide fundraisers have raised approximately $5,000 annually. Reference materials, fiction books, nonfiction books, magazine subscriptions, Accelerated Reader discs, academic videos and the automated cataloging/circulation system have been purchased and supported through this committee. The Library Committee is one of the financial supporters of the RIF program which enables each student in the school to choose a free book once a year. For the past seven years the committee has also sponsored a Literacy Fair which has been extremely successful.

Anti-Bullying Program:

C. T. Plunkett Elementary School is proud of our continued use of the Second Step bullying prevention program for all students in grades K-5!

> ***Second Step: A Violence Prevention Curriculum*** is a research-based curriculum that teaches social and emotional skills for violence prevention. The program is user-friendly and contains parent education components. It aims to reduce impulsive and aggressive behaviors and increase protective factors and social competence in children from preschool through junior high.
>
> Children learn how to respond empathically to others and practice skill steps for calming down, reducing anger, and solving problems. The classroom-based curriculum, organized by grade level, teaches children to practice empathy, problem-solving skills, risk assessment, decision-making, and goal-setting.
>
> Second Step lessons are organized into three skill-building units that focus on: empathy and skills for learning, emotional management, and problem solving. Lessons are sequential, developmentally appropriate and provide opportunities for modeling, practice, and skills reinforcement.
>
> The curriculum includes discussion, teacher modeling, coaching skills, and role plays. Stories are used to demonstrate important peer relation skills, and to teach affective, cognitive, and behavioral social skills. Lessons can be incorporated into health, science, math, social studies, and language arts.
>
> The Second Step elementary curriculum consists of 22-25 thirty-five minute lessons per grade level taught once per week. The younger grades, including K-1, use puppets to engage the students in the lessons. The older grades 2-5 allow the use of DVDs that include music videos and kids acting out relatable situations. Group discussion, modeling, coaching and practice are used to increase students' social competence, risk assessment, decision-making ability, self-regulation and positive goal setting.
>
> Students who have artclass more than twice in a week will now have Second Step during one of those special class periods. Many thanks to Mrs. Lamberton and Mrs. Cooper for their continued work implementing this program to all students at C.T. Plunkett.

Parent Group (PTG)

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

Arts Enrichment:

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

Activities

- Field trips for students at all grade levels
- Give-a-Gift to promote the spirit of holiday giving and donating, from children to children, for programs such as the Leo's Create-a-Dream.
- C.T. Plunkett Yearbook creation
- Graduation, picnics and t-shirts
- Audubon science program
- Field Day treats

Appreciation Days

- Staff Appreciation Day in May
- Book Fair breakfast for Faculty and Staff
- Pizza/Ice Cream parties to reward top collectors of BoxTops

School Improvements/Equipment Maintenance:

- Playground fundraising and maintenance

School Council

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

1. Adopting educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards

2. Identifying the educational needs of students attending the school
3. Reviewing the annual school building budget
4. Formulating a school improvement plan

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

Title I

Title I is an entitlement grant supporting school-wide academic support for all Plunkett students. Through Title I funding, classroom teachers and interventionists are able to use assessment data in ELA and math throughout the year to inform instructional routines. In addition, instructional assistants work under the guidance of classroom teachers to reinforce instruction in reading, writing and math through small group differentiated instruction.

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

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

Not only are a multitude of supports provided throughout the school day, Title I also provides funding for extended day academic activities through the Homework Help Program. And, because it is know that increased family involvement in school activities translates into higher student achievement, the Literacy Coach sends home newsletters on a regular basis. Topics include the five components of reading along with helpful tips for home activities. In addition, a yearly survey invites parents and staff to report on their impressions of school climate, academic preparation, communication, and family concerns. Topics suggested by parents and staff are addressed throughout the year through informational meetings, and workshops as well as at evening programs such as Bingo for Books, Movie Night and Math Night.

Reading Is Fundamental

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. Past themes have included "Get on Board with Reading" (trains); "Warm up with a Good Book" (winter); and "Books on the Beach" (summer reading). Volunteers are a big part of RIF, helping make bookmarks, stamp and inventory books, and helping on distribution day by reading with students, stocking books, and even handing out hot chocolate and cookies. This program is vital for children who have no books in their homes, have limited access to bookstores, and who, without RIF would not experience the thrill of owning their own books.

Music Program:

Tim Rougeau teaches general music at CT Plunkett. In music classes students are introduced to musical notation, musical terminology, families of instruments, and major composers and different musical genres. Students in grades K and 1 focus on singing and movement activities along with hands on experiences with drums, maracas and other classroom instruments while students in grades 2-5 have the opportunity to learn the basics of keyboards and drums. Students in grades 4 and 5 study the recorder in order to prepare them for instrument instruction in 6th grade.

Art:

The C.T. Plunkett Art Department will welcome the public to our annual Art Show on Wednesday April 1, 2015 from 5-7 PM. Over 600 pieces of student artwork from grades Pre-K through 5th grade will cover the first floor hallways. Additional pieces of framed art will be on display in the cafeteria on the first floor. All artwork is literacy based with an emphasis on exploring various mediums including: collage, printmaking, sculpture, calligraphy, design and ceramics, as well as drawing and painting. The Art Show is an exciting culmination of the endless amount of creativity that our students exhibit throughout the year.

Physical Education:

C.T. Plunkett physical education classes work to both actively engage a student's mind and body while conveying the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle. Physical education at our school is both fun and challenging to all students, no matter their ability or skill level. A student engaged in our physical education class learns how to physically perform a skill; the rules involved with that certain activity or sport.

Students are engaged in a vast array of different activities while participating in physical education. Those enrolled in the 3rd-5th grade levels learn sport skills to traditional and nontraditional sports, while also learning how to better communicate and resolve conflicts with classmates. Students at the K-2nd grade levels have been learning many different gross motor skills required to participate in large group activities and noncompetitive games. Some of the skills being learned include the overhand and underhand throwing technique, kicking a stationary and moving object, jumping rope, loco motor movements, and fleeing and dodging type activities.

All students participate in our "Kidnastics" unit which is an age-appropriate version of gymnastics, the NY Roadrunner's Mighty Milers Program, as well as our Jump Rope for Heart

fundraiser event. Students are engaged in cross-curricular activities including math, history, health and language. For example, as a warm-up, students run laps and will give the teachers a word that starts with the letter of the week. When a student says a correct word they earn a washable hand stamp, which eventually adds up to earn motivational prizes at certain milestones. Students with special needs have been actively engaged in our adaptive PE program where they get one on one attention focusing on their specific physical needs through the use of modified equipment and lesson plans.

All students are making progress in understanding the value of teamwork, cooperation, effort, and sportsmanship. Please continue to follow what we are doing in physical education by looking at our monthly newsletter on the C.T. Plunkett website.

Technology

The current District Technology Plan continues to guide decisions in this vital area of educational practice. This year the District was able to increase internet-accessibility throughout the building. Mose of our classrooms have projectors and screens to enhance our instructional practices. We will be looking to provide these tools to every classroom in the near future, as well as replace some of the older machines. The majority of our current hardware was acquired from the high school, following renovations. Our aging computer lab, as well as a lack of adequate number of computers/tablets continues to be an area of deep concern. We continue to search for creative ways to finance the purchase of more hardware to improve student access to the 21st century tools and the skills to interface with them in their early school experiences.

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 don 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. Presently, we 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 iPad, desktop, or android, within your web browser. Starting this January we will begin a pilot program using two new possible additions to our software toolbox. We are excited by the opportunities these technology offerings afford to our students, their families and our staff.

Community Connections

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

- The Berkshire Humane Society (pet care/classroom lessons)
- The Pittsfield Red Cross Unit (classroom lessons)
- The Counseling Center of the Berkshires (counseling)
- The Department of Social Services (family support)
- McCann Technical High School (hygienists for classroom visits)
- Hillcrest Dental (hygienists for classroom visits)
- The Massachusetts Audubon Society (classroom lessons)
- Adams Police Department (school resource officer)
- Mass MoCA (Grant funded program for all students K-5 to attend performances/tour spaces)
- The Berkshire Museum
- The Family Place (Backpacked for Success Program)
- Adams Library, Fire Department, and local banks (educational programs)
- Junior Achievement (Curl Up and Read)
- Hoosac Valley High School (Leo Club)
- Specialty Minerals, INC – (field trips)
- Berkshire Community College (nursing interns)
- Adams Youth Center (Big Brother/Big Sister Program)
- Adams Visitor Center - Joe Novak (Presentations and visits)
- Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (practicum students and administrative interns)
- The Police Athletic League who use our gymnasium for basketball games
- REACH Foundation
- The South Adams Savings Bank provides our school with a generous donation of one thousand dollars each year.
- The Golden Varsity volunteers continue working in the library, office and classrooms in our school on a regular basis.
- Parent volunteers regularly work in classrooms, library and chaperone field trips.

"One child, one teacher, one book,
one pen can change the world."
~Malala Yousafzai

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

Submitted by,

Michelle Colvin,
Principal

Cheshire Elementary School

2014-2015 School Year

It is my pleasure to once again be submitting this report as the principal of Cheshire Elementary School for my sixth time. We are currently at an enrollment of 236 students in grades Pre-K through 5. 2014-2015 has been another very busy year for Cheshire School. Despite the county trend, our enrollment has actually gone up by six students from last year. We hope this remains consistent and even grows as the year passes. Our building is fully occupied and we are even using every bit of space and have some staff doubled up in office space, so it is nice to have the capacity crowd. We are having to use the library as our conference room. Our maintenance staff is continually busy working to keep everything in working condition and stay a step ahead of all the issues that happen with an old building.

The educational staffing level at Cheshire School has remained about the same after some significant cuts just over four years ago. We have been able to maintain a half time paraprofessional to work in the library. This allows us to continue to schedule a library time for each class during the week and the children are able to check out books weekly. Over the course of the last year, Mr. Justin Luciani joined our teaching staff in the fifth grade filling the position that we didn't have last year because of enrollment numbers. Mr. Luciani had previously taught at C.T. Plunkett prior to coming to Cheshire. Through grant funding, we were able to keep the ½ time Special Education Teacher that we had last year. Mrs. Michelle Johnson, who held this position, left to take a third grade teaching position at C.T. Plunkett. Ms. Maurica McKee then joined our staff and has been able to work with the caseload of students with individualized educational plans. We were also fortunate to be able to secure some grant funding to hire a half-time Reading Coach. Mrs. Elaine Downey-Hunter is working hard in this new role that is helping our teachers and students a great deal. We also had a few changes with our paraprofessional staff with some in-district transfers.

As we work continually to strive to meet the needs of our students, the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District's elementary schools have partnered with an organization called the Bay State Reading Institute to provide a focused and consistent instructional model for our students. We will be working 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 instruction 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 three to five years to fully adopt all the aspects of this teaching model. It is our goal to master this instructional model and be able to improve student success. Mrs. Elaine Downey-Hunter, our new ½ time Reading Coach has been, and will be, instrumental in making this all come together.

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

President ..... Karen Isbell,
Co-Vice-Presidents..... Elizabeth Wilson
Tanya Guerin
Co-Secretaries ..... Elizabeth Wood
Casandra Varno
Co-Treasurers..... Michelle Whitney
Sharon Billetter

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

PRE-SCHOOL

2014-2015

Preschoolers have been working hard on our OWLs curriculum as well as incorporating BayState Readers Institutes' strategies. The children enjoy the addition of a focus wall, which outlines what they are learning for the week. Interactive

learning groups are conducted daily with differentiated activities presented at the child's developmental learning level; such as blending sounds to create words, segmenting, rhyming and learning letter sounds. For math, students have enjoyed counting, patterning, sorting and number recognition. Using small group instruction we are able to integrate social skills practice, Handwriting Without Tears and Telian Lively Letters curricula in order to best meet the needs of diverse learners. This also provides a multisensory approach to learning.

The Preschoolers have been busy working on Lexia Core5, an interactive computer game that helps children strengthen their Literacy and Language Arts skills. In addition to the OWLs, the preschoolers have enjoyed several hands-on experiences and will hopefully be hatching some chicks this spring, which has become an annual Preschool tradition that includes bringing them to Broadlawn Farms in May. The students have had a productive and busy year in Preschool, as have the teachers, who are currently enrolled in programs to further their education in the areas of Early Childhood and Assistive Technology Degrees. A state mandated course to help with instruction for English Language Learners is near completion for Ms. Ziemba and will be taken by Mrs. Riechers in the future.

Teachers: Laura Ziemba & Kelly Riechers

KINDERGARTEN

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

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

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

Last year, we implemented a new Reading and Math series. Our stories for Literature are informative and exciting. We learn new words each week in order to expand our vocabulary. We call these our "Amazing Words". Our students have access to a computerized reading program called Lexia Core 5 which is offered two times a week. This is a fantastic tutorial program to enrich the phonetic base for all of our students at their different levels. Many families use it at home in order to strengthen skills being taught in school. Teachers are able to constantly monitor their progress and drive instruction according to their individual needs.

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 which was started in our kindergarten over 15 years ago.

We visited our Post Office and mailed handmade cards home at Christmas.

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

We 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: Robin Poirot and Heather Emerson

FIRST GRADE

The first graders have had many educational and fun experiences, while working on our third year with the new reading and math series. Around Thanksgiving we wrote a book about the Pilgrims and the Native Americans. We spent the month of December creating a 2015 calendar. For science, we intend to study nutrition and the food pyramid over the next few months.

Reading is a large focus in first grade. This year, along with the entire school, first grade has enthusiastically embraced 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, 18 in one class and 15 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 third 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 have adopted the Bay State Reading Initiative model for classroom instruction.

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.

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

Teachers: Ms. Stephanie McCarthy, Mrs. Kim Trimarchi

THIRD GRADE

A look at third grade!

Third Grade is a big growth year. This year we have adopted a new approach to reading. With our partners, the Bay State Reading Institute, we are implementing more small group time and centers that allow the students to work collaboratively with one another to improve their reading and writing. We are learning to read with improved fluency, so we can better focus on comprehension. We are also developing an expanded vocabulary to enhance both our comprehension and writing. In writing we are learning the importance of the prewriting strategy, how to write for a particular audience, and developing more in-depth sentences. At the beginning of the year we were reviewing our math facts and then working our way into memorizing our multiplication facts. We will also be working with simple fractions, manipulating and reading basic graphs, understanding the concepts of area and perimeter, and most importantly be able to

apply math to everyday activities. We hope to go on a field trip connected to our science/social studies curriculum this spring.

Teachers: Mrs. Dawn Prokopowicz & Ms. Danielle Taylor

FOURTH GRADE

The fourth grade classes have been busy this year!

In November, we took our annual field trip to Howe Caverns to see first-hand what the earth looks like underground as part of our science and social studies lessons. It was great to actually see the objects we had been talking about in class.

This year, we are very excited to be participating in a new and valuable technique of teaching language arts. We have been working closely with representatives from the Bay State Reading Institute to learn about this innovative program. This program has a strong emphasis on students working closely with one another in pairs and small groups. In addition, assignments are being tailored to the specific needs of each student. The focal point of our daily instruction is a large bulletin board containing the essential skills pertaining to the weeks' particular lessons. This board is helpful; not only to the students, but also to the teachers as well to make sure we are covering the essential skills. We are continuing to learn but have come a long way in a short period of time. We have received a great amount of compliments and encouragement from the BSRI representatives. We look forward to seeing how this program with impact student growth and achievement.

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

The students in fourth grade are devoting a great deal of time to writing. Our new reading specialist, Elaine Hunter, has taken the time out of her busy schedule to work with our grade on specialized writing lessons. Fourth grade is the year that the students take the long composition portion of the state MCAS test. A lot of time goes into the writing of a good composition, a skill that they will need throughout their educational lives.

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

Teachers: Mr. Eric Brown and Mrs. Laurie Cantarella

FIFTH GRADE

Fifth Grade at Cheshire Elementary School is a tremendous opportunity for students to develop academically and personally. Along with academic work, students are prepared for entry into the middle school and the responsibilities that go along with that. A strong emphasis is placed on Language Arts and Math. Students complete several Language Arts projects that are designed to challenge their multiple intelligences. Students have also enjoyed learning through the Bay State Reading Institute (BSRI) model, which focuses on small group instruction, high levels of student engagement, and differentiated learning.

Special events that take place in the fifth grade are Nature's Classroom, Berkshire Theatre Festival's Artist in Residence and several field trips. These programs allow students to grow creatively and see themselves in new and exciting ways. The fifth grade students also participate in the Kindergarten Buddies program in which each fifth grade student is assigned a specific kindergarten student to be their "buddy." The fifth graders spend a short amount of time each week working with their buddy on several projects throughout the year. They form a close relationship with their buddies and develop important traits in becoming role models. The fifth grade students were also able to attend a field trip to Specialty Minerals, where they had the opportunity to learn some important history of the area that tied in with a unit on rocks and minerals. The fifth grade was also fortunate enough to have guest speaker, Mr. Barry Emery, visit the classrooms to teach some history lessons on the town of Cheshire.

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: Justin Luciani & John Duval

ART

Students in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 5 are introduced to many methods, materials, and techniques in the creation of their Art work. Lessons are designed to incorporate the Massachusetts Art Curriculum Frameworks and the Common Core.

Students develop their skills in painting, drawing, printmaking and ceramics. Students also create multi-media projects and collages using a variety of materials such as oil and chalk pastels, and pen and ink.

During the school year students are asked to select their favorite piece of work to be displayed at the annual Spring Art Show, held at the Cheshire School auditorium, and open to the public. It is a great event that showcases our talented students' art creations.

Art Teacher: Cheryl Sykes

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Cheshire Elementary School physical education classes work to both actively engage a student's mind and body while conveying the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle. Physical education at our school is both fun and challenging to all students, no matter their ability or skill level. A student engaged in our program learns how to physically perform a skill, the rules involved, and the social aspect surrounding that activity or sport.

Students are engaged in a vast array of different activities while participating in physical education. Those enrolled in the 3rd-5th grade levels learn sport skills to many traditional and nontraditional sports, while also learning how to better communicate and resolve conflicts with classmates. Students at the K-2nd grade levels have been learning many different gross motor skills required to participate in large group activities and non-competitive games. Some of the skills being learned include the overhand and underhand throwing technique, kicking a stationary and moving object, jumping rope, locomotor movements, and fleeing and dodging type activities.

All students participate in our "Kidnastics" unit, which is an age-appropriate version of gymnastics, the NY Roadrunner's Mighty Milers Program as well as, our Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser event. Students are engaged in cross-curricular activities to include math, history, health, and language. For example, as a warm-up, students run laps and will give the teacher a word that starts with the letter of the week. When a student says a correct word they earn a washable hand stamp, which eventually adds up to earn motivational prizes at certain milestones. Students are also motivated in PE through the use of the "Sunshine Wall." Students are allowed to sign the wall by grade level with an erasable marker when they do something positive, such as answering a question or using sportsmanship. At the end of each month the student(s) who have signed the wall the most are rewarded and we start from the beginning.

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

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

CES Physical Education Specialist: Dan Wehle

MUSIC

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

Music Teacher: Mr. Timothy Rougeau

The rest of our Cheshire School Educational Team

Administrative Assistant – Paula Ciskowski

Special Education – Christine Harrington
Maurica McKee (1/2 time)

Speech & Language Pathologist – Judy Sirard

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

Technology (Mon. & Weds.) – Geoff Kondel

Building & Grounds – Dave Richards
Stash Cote

School Nurse – Philip Grover

Cafeteria – Cindy Gajda
Denise Moncecchi
Flossie Hoellerich

Extended Care – Jenn Mach
Linda Giroux
Jon-Luc Goodrich
Clara Wilusz
Susan Randall

Paraprofessionals:
Linda Bonnivier
Shannon Briggs
Kathy Bradbury
Judy Gaylord
Linda Giroux
Jon-Luc Goodrich
Jacquie Betti
Noreen Hoag
Susan McLear
Susan Randall
Kathy Malloy
Clara Wilusz
Julie Lech

Karen Isbell – ***Library Paraprofessional***

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

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

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

The Cheshire Fire and Police Departments as well as the Mass. State Police from the Cheshire Barracks are also reliable sources of support for the children and staff of Cheshire Elementary providing programs for fire safety and assistance for our Crisis Team with the various safety drills that are conducted throughout the year. There are various other local businesses and civic groups who have supported the school during the past year and for that we are all truly grateful. The Cheshire Lions Club generously provided funding for our Homework Help Program. Greylock Credit Union and the Adams Community Bank provided scholarship funds for students to attend Nature's Classroom in March. Waterman Excavating Company consistently helps to provide support to our school. Larabee Landscaping and Whitney's Farm Market have been generous with their products, time and talent to help our school grounds and entrance look beautiful. Bedard Brothers Auto dealership sponsored a literacy outreach project that provided books to many of the Cheshire School students. We have also applied and received grant funding from the ACE Foundation, The Taconic Foundation, and the Northern Berkshire Cultural Council. In these times of very tough budgets, it is so wonderful to have support for children and education. Without these funding sources, our children would not be able to attend the cultural enrichment events they have been attending. While we are very grateful for the support of our tax payers through the annual school budget, it is just not enough to provide all that we need to for our students to be 21st century learners. So, Thank you to all of the individuals and organizations that do provide these opportunities for our children!

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

Respectfully submitted;

Peter J. Bachli
Principal

Athletic Director

Hoosac Valley High School

The 2014 athletic program had nearly 400 student athletes participate in 29 varsity and sub-varsity programs that compete in the Berkshire County League. We also have cooperative teams in ice hockey, Nordic skiing, swimming, and wrestling.

In the winter the Boys and Girls Nordic Skiing teams competed in both Western Mass and State championship skiing. The Girls' Swim team had a remarkable season with the best record in the Southern Division and competed in the Western Mass Division I tournament. Remarkably, the team placed 9th overall in the Div. I State meet. Eight of our swimmers made the All-Berkshire team. Both boys and girls basketball teams had remarkable seasons. The Girls Basketball team won the Western Mass tournament, defeating number one seed Sabis at The Cage. They continued on to the State Championship game in Worcester, where they played the State Champions, St. Mary's of Lynn. The boys also had a great showing at the Western Mass tournament, where they defeated top-seeded Renaissance. The hockey team, which is cooperative team with Wahconah was beat in the finals of Western Mass Division 3A.

In the spring, the Boys Baseball team qualified for the tournament, where they faced Greenfield in the Western Mass sectionals. The Girls Softball team went 12-6 and and defeated Franklin Tech in the first round of Western Mass. Their final game against Pathfinder was a hard fought 9-7 loss against Pathfinder. The Boys and Girls Track teams, qualified for Western Mass and State meets. Girls were led by Megan Rodowicz who set school records in the 400, 800, and the mile. The boys were led by the Hoosac 4x100 relay team who set a new school record at 44.34 seconds. Hoosac Boys and Girls Lacrosse had another successful year, with the girls getting their first win under new head coach Molly Meczywor.

Hoosac Golfer Eric Sniezek works with PGA Pro Peter Jacobsen.

In the fall, the football team had an excellent season under the direction of Coach Dayne Poirot and his staff. They won the Division 5 Western Mass first round sectional, defeating Frontier at Renfrew Park. They earned the home field rights at the Western Mass finals, where they faced Pittsfield High School. The Girls Soccer team fought hard in the northern division, facing some of the toughest teams in Western Mass, most notably West Springfield. The Boys Soccer team had a transitional year in which they placed 2nd in the southern division. The Boys and Girls Cross-Country running team both qualified for the Western Mass and state tournaments. The golf team competed in the Northern Division and had a chance to work with golf pro Peter Jacobsen to fine-tune their short games.

The Hoosac Valley Hurricanes show their team spirit.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Heneault
Athletic Director

Director of Food Services

In 2013 - 2014, the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District continued to participate in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, Special Milk, USDA Commodity Distribution Program and the Summer Food Service Program. Berkshire Head Start continues to receive breakfast and lunch from Plunkett School. The Food Service Department remains a member of the Berkshire County Food Service Purchasing Cooperative. This co-op puts out to bid the bread, dairy and paper products on a county wide basis.

For the 2013 – 2014 school year, the food service department had a profit of $3000.00 on revenues of $655,695.00. Government subsidies represented 60% of the total revenue.

The percentage of students who qualified for free/reduced meals was 42% at the end of June 2014. USDA commodities valued at $42,218.00 were received in 2014.

Labor costs for the 2013 – 2014 school year decreased with the elimination of one cook's position. Staffing increased by one six hour position for a total of 17 permanent positions, a clerk and a director.

No price increase was initiated for the 2013 – 2014 school year.

Prices remain at:

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

Participation in the reimbursable school lunch program for the 2013 – 2014 school year was 65.7%. Previous years were:

2009-2010	72.5%
2010-2011	71.3%
2011-2012	64.4%
2012-2013	66.6%

Breakfast participation for the 2013 – 2014 school year was 32.2%, an increase of 15.2% from last year. This was due to increased student participation also promoting breakfast to parents and students.

We operated three kitchens in 2013-2014. Our online payment for parents who want to put money on their child's account continues to be well received. In 2013, deposits totaled $22,000.00. In 2014, deposits totaled $30,508.00.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne Schutz
Food Service Director

Special Services

2014 Annual Report

The ACRSD Special Services Department continues to support and develop programs to meet the needs of our students. It is the mission of the Special Education Department to provide a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive setting. We aim to minimize the impact of a disability for our students and maximize academic achievement, independence, and participation in the community. The Special Services Department works collaboratively with general education colleagues to develop in-district supports that allow students to access the curriculum successfully. In that regard, we continually explore creative program development and evaluate existing programs to ensure their effectiveness. These intentional efforts are in keeping with the Beliefs and Values of the Adams Cheshire Regional District; specifically, that all of our students develop into educated, responsible, and productive citizens.

The ACRSD Special Services Department offers a full continuum of programs and services from the least restrictive full inclusion and academic support offerings through substantially separate self-contained models for our intensive at-risk populations. Academic support programs that offer direct, systematic instruction and remediation in reading and math are part of the resource room and inclusion support that students receive during the school day. Special Education teachers and paraprofessional support staff are trained to provide such support and create specialized 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, Willie Ross School for the Deaf, the Carroll School as well as Perkins School for the Blind, to provide services on site for students who have the need.

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

When a student is referred for special education, an evaluation is set up. The district has hired a .2 school psychologist, Michael Vecchia, as well as contracted with Hillcrest Educational Support Services to assist in the intake and identification of students who may qualify for special services and provide recommendations for teachers working with them. District special education staff is also specially trained in research-based evaluation tools for identification of a disability. Our diagnostic prescriptive specialists and outside evaluators provide the district additional information to determine eligibility and design programming individualized for a student.

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

Our district also participated in the Massachusetts Kindergarten Entry Assessment (MKEA). The MKEA is a state-mandated evaluation method to measure student growth in Kindergarten. This assessment is developmentally based. Teachers use observation checklists in the areas of social-emotional, cognitive, motor, and language 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 with 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 CT Plunkett. Special Education teachers review students' individualized plans and work with the principals and teachers to set up programming to best meet student needs. Instruction is designed by specially trained staff in order to provide access to the grade level curricula as well as demonstrate progress toward individual student goals. Currently, reading and math remediation services can occur in the classroom as well as in a smaller setting. Paraprofessionals also support students in inclusive classrooms as well as in unstructured settings. The number of students with significant special needs continues to increase. Two programs have been designed to assist them. The Autism Specialist, Kim Biagini, has worked closely with the director of special services and special education teachers to provide a therapeutic setting at CT Plunkett for students requiring a higher level of

support and intensive therapies. Travis Poirot, a special educator, also facilitates a substantially separate program at CT Plunkett for students with extensive behavioral needs. The special education elementary staff work closely with regular education staff to ensure students are successful academically and supported in all areas of elementary school. In the fall of 2014, we welcomed Maurica McKee as a special education teacher at Cheshire Elementary and CT Plunkett Elementary. Judith Sirard also replaced our speech and language pathologist at Cheshire School.

At Hoosac Valley Middle and High School, special education students' needs are met through a variety of programs available. Inclusive classrooms provide the opportunity for team teaching with special and regular education staff and/or paraprofessional support to the classrooms. Other students' individualized plans require remedial reading and math instruction and/or content support. These services occur in a smaller, more structured setting with a special educator and may include paraprofessionals who are trained and supervised by the teachers. For students with a higher level of need other substantially separate models have been developed.

One of these models in HVMHS is The Exceptional Program (EP), which is a safe, structured and predictable environment that provides multiple supports, rigorous social skill training and specific focus on preparing students to successfully transition to post graduation life including the working world. Therapeutic and behavioral supports augment a case management model that provides significant outreach to home, family and community ensuring a holistic model for educating these youth. Dino Sookey and Elizabeth Wood provided instruction that is designed to be developmentally appropriate and varies based on student needs in the high school and middle school respectively. However, the goal of transitioning students to less restrictive settings through a system of scaffolding supports remains constant. In the fall of 2014, Elizabeth Wood began a new role of reading specialist/special education teacher for grades 6-7.

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

A new addition 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 high school level, we welcomed Seth Jenkins in the position of special education teacher of the academic support program. He works with students grades 9-12 as well as consults with classroom teachers on a regular basis in order to facilitate success in the most inclusive setting.

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 due to severe at-risk behavior or because the Department of Children and Families or Department of Mental Health has made the placement.

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

School Union to share resources and maintain continuity of contact with families. 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, was hired to provide 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. The year started off with our English Language Learner (ELL) students participating "Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State (ACCESS)" testing. This assessment was given to students identified as ELLs in Kindergarten through 12th grade to identify their English proficiency in reading, writing, thinking, and speaking. Our students worked diligently on this assessment and the data obtained has helped the district better determine the best educational approach for each of the students who participated.

The Special Services Department is small but hardworking. Mary Ellen Sutliff is the Administrative Assistant to the Director and is an invaluable asset to the district to maximize the department's efficiency and compliance standards. Christopher Sposato, is the Special Education Supervisor. He is available to all district buildings not only to support staff and students, but also assists the director in the evaluation and training of staff, attending TEAM meetings, and providing input in continual program improvement. 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

2014 Special Services- Special Education Population as of Oct 1, 2014

Grade	Cheshire	Plunkett	Hoosac	Tuitioned Out
PK	14			
K	2	26		
1	4	18		
2	1	15		
3	6	17		
4	7	19		
5	3	20		
6			27	
7			26	
8			27	
9			13	
10			14	
11			24	
12			16	1
12+(to age 22)			1	
Total School	**37**	**115**	**148**	**1**
Total In-District	**300**			

ACRSD SPECIAL SERVICES STAFF

STAFFING		POSITION
Jacquelyn Fortier	—	Director of Special Services
Christopher Sposato	—	Special Services Supervisor
Mary Ellen Sutliff	—	Administrative Assistant
Diane Arduini	—	Speech Language Pathologist CT Plunkett
Judith Sirard	—	Speech Language Pathologist Cheshire Elementary/HVMHS
Suzanne Harnick	—	Occupational Therapist
Deb Silveira	—	Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant
Lora McGrath	—	Physical Therapist
Mary Whitman	—	Special Education Teacher K-1 CT Plunkett
Dawn Daniels	—	Special Education Teacher 2-3 CT Plunkett
Joann Kingsbury	—	Special Education Teacher 4-5 CT Plunkett
Sara Laing	—	Special Education Teacher 3-5 CT Plunkett
Travis Poirot	—	Exceptional Program CT Plunkett
Kim Biagini	—	District Specialist
Laura Ziemba	—	Preschool/Special Education Teacher District
Kelly Riechers	—	Preschool/Special Education Teacher District

STAFFING		POSITION
Christine Harrington	—	Special Education Teacher Cheshire Elementary
Maurica McKee	—	Special Education Teacher Cheshire/CT Plunkett
Rebecca Cohen	—	Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Lisa Folino	—	Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Elizabeth Wood	—	Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Andrea Filkins	—	Transitional Program-EP HVMHS
Seth Jenkins	—	Special Education Teacher Inclusion HVHS
Dino Sookey	—	Transitional Program-EP HVMHS
Christopher Tamburrino	—	Life Skills Program HVMHS
Jamie Lamour	—	Emotional Support Program HVMHS
Other Related Services:		
Rick Ely	—	The Carroll Center for the Blind Teacher of the Visually Impaired
Greg Delisle, Director	—	Willie Ross School for the Deaf
Eileen A. Daneri	—	Teacher of the Deaf
Stacia Peterson	—	Interpreter/Sign Language
Joshua Kellogg	—	ESL Program

Business Administrator

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

The following are the highlighted results do the Adams Cheshire Regional School District's unaudited financial activity for the year ended June 30, 2014.

As of June 30, 2014, General Fund reported an ending balance of $1,270,578. Of which, $300,000 was used to reduce the towns tax levy, $223,116 was required to be reserved and amortized and paid back to the towns over the life of the Hoosac Valley building project debt and a small amount was reserved for encumbrances.

After deducting the reserves as required, the Unreserved/ Undesignated General Fund Balance was $734,789. This is an increase of $75,738 from the previous year. Two one time non-recurring events had a major impact on this balance. During the Hoosac Valley building project, purchasers of bond anticipation notes paid premiums to the ACRSD. In addition, the ACRSD received electric and gas energy rebates from utility companies for efficiencies built into the project. The Department of Revenue required the District to close both these revenue sources to fund balance.

Another contributing factor to the increase was that the number of students attending other districts decreased significantly during FY2014. Of particular note, was the number of Adams and Cheshire students attending the Bart Charter School decreased from 80 FTE's at the end of FY2013 to 65 FTE's during FY2014. This was a significant savings for the ACRSD. It appears that trend is continuing in FY2015.

The Department of Revenue certified the District's Excess and Deficiency (E&D) on June 30, 2014 as $730,649. This is well below the maximum amount allowed by the DOR.

Long term debt was $12,727,000 at the end of the year. These are serial notes issued for the building In addition, there is a Bond Anticipation Note payable totaling $1,600,000, which remains outstanding. The District will pay off this note when the final reimbursement for the Hoosac Valley building project is received from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA). We anticipate that the final closeout of this project with the MSBA will occur in FY2015, once the final audit has been completed.

Total investment in capital assets totaled $48,135,153 (net of accumulated depreciation). There were no significant additions during FY2014. The building project is now complete and there were no major purchases of equipment during the year which met the Capitalization Policy threshold of $5,000.

The full impact of the Hoosac Valley Middle & High School Building Project will be reached in FY2015. The permanent financing is now all in place and will be repaid over the next 19 years.

Looking ahead, the recently adopted FY2015 Operating Budget only increased by $134,353 or .08%. This was due to significant reductions in staff and savings achieved through retirements. This follows the FY2014 budget decrease of $364,152 or 2.10%. The FY2015 budget is extremely tight and any contingency that was once available has now been removed. The District will continue to work cooperatively with both towns during future budget development without losing sight of the fact that the primary mission of the District is to provide sound, quality educational programs for the students of Adams and Cheshire.

David E. Hinkell

Director of Business
Adams Cheshire Regional School District

Adams-Cheshire Regional School District
Governmental Funds
Balance Sheet
June 30, 2014

	General Fund	HVMHS Building Project Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS				
Cash	$ 2,098,283	$ 22,759	$ 1,677,711	$ 3,798,753
Due from State-MSBA Reimbursement	-	1,600,000	-	1,600,000
Inventory	-	-	33,512	33,512
Due from Other Governments	-	-	69,933	69,933
Due from Others	1,500	-	8,689	10,189
Prepaid Insurance	379,681	-	-	379,681
Advance to Flex Spending Account	4,000	-	-	4,000
Amount to be Raised	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	**$ 2,483,464**	**$ 1,622,759**	**$ 1,789,845**	**$ 5,896,068**
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES				
LIABILITIES:				
Accounts Payable	$ -	$ -	$ $1,567	$ 1,567
Accrued Teachers Payroll	1,083,263	-	52,627	1,135,890
Other Accrued Liabilities	3,292	-	-	3,292
Accrued Interest on Bonds	-	-	-	-
Deferred Revenue - MSBA	-	1,600,000	-	1,600,000
Employee Withholding	126,331	-	-	126,331
Bond Anticipation Notes Payable	-	1,600,000	-	1,600,000
Bonds Payable	-	-	-	-
Retiree Payments Received in Advance	-	-	5,552	5,552
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**$ 1,212,886**	**$ 3,200,000**	**$ 59,746**	**$ 4,472,632**
FUND BALANCE				
FUND BALANCES:				
Designated Fund Balance	$ -	$ (1,577,241)	$ 1,696,187	$ 118,946
Undesignated/Unreserved Fund Balance	734,789	-	-	734,789
Reserve for Encumbrances	12,673	-	-	12,673
Reserve for Inventory	-	-	33,912	33,912
Reserve for Bond Premiums	223,116	-	-	223,116
Reserve to Reduce Town Assessments	300,000	-	-	300,000
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	**$ 1,270,578**	**$(1,577,241)**	**$ 1,730,099**	**$ 1,423,436**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	**$ 2,483,464**	**$ 1,622,759**	**$ 1,789,845**	**$ 5,896,068**

Adams Cheshire Regional School District
General Fund
Statement Of Revenues And Other Sources, And Expenditures And Other Uses
- Budget And Actual -
June 30 2014

	BUDGETED AMOUNTS			
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual Amounts	Variance Final Budget Positive (Negative)
REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES				
Assessments to Member Towns	$ 7,020,808	$ 7,020,808	$ 7,020,708	$ (100)
State-Chapter 70	10,085,868	10,085,868	10,085,868	-
State-Transportation Reimbursment	163,565	163,565	188,454	24,889
State-Charter School Reimbursment	157,000	157,000	139,898	(17,102)
Investment Income	-	-	6,843	6,843
Medicaid	-	60,000	60,988	988
Other Revenue	-	-	249,286	249,286
Other Sources	450,000	450,000	450,000	-
TOTAL REVENUE & OTHER SOURCES	**$ 17,877,241**	**$ 17,937,241**	**$ 18,202,045**	**$ 264,804**
EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES				
Reg Day Instruction	$ 6,211,941	$ 6,146,589	$ 6,117,723	$ 28,866
Employee Benefits	3,974,000	3,884,283	4,003,404	(119,121)
Special Education	2,205,602	2,457,028	2,349,380	107,648
Intergovernmental	1,332,276	1,332,276	1,134,624	197,652
Operation & Maintenance	1,331,695	1,313,087	1,333,288	(20,201)
Other School Services	968,818	961,517	907,948	53,569
Transportation	811,063	811,063	806,020	5,043
Administration	556,448	546,000	520,489	25,511
Debt Service	440,398	440,398	518,736	(78,338)
Capital Outlay	45,000	45,000	62,783	(17,783)
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	**$ 17,877,241**	**$ 17,937,241**	**$ 17,754,395**	**$ 182,846**
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES OVER EXPENDITURES & OTHER USES	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 447,650**	**$ 447,650**

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 2014 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 eighteen years we have witnessed a dramatic transformation in vocational technical education especially in our application of technology and STEM subjects. We are very proud of the academic and technical achievement of our students and as each succeeding class raises the bar of accomplishment, the next class seeks to surpass it. The integration of our technical and academic curriculum has prepared our graduates well for their future and we appreciate you, our member communities, for your support in making it happen.

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

- Two of our automotive technology students finished in the top 8 in the Massachusetts Ford AAA Competition.
- Two of our information technology students qualified for the CISCO Netrider National Competition.
- Eleven metal fabrication students competed in the Notch Pipe Welding Competition.
- The Class of 2014 became the eleventh class in a row to attain 100 percent competency determination on the MCAS tests.
- Twenty-eight of the Class of 2014 earned the prestigious John and Abigail Adams Scholarship awarded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for their academic record and MCAS achievement.
- Our 101 2014 graduates saw 76% continue their education in a variety of colleges and universities, 20% enter the workforce and 4% proudly enter into military service.

The results of the spring 2014 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	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Advanced	11%	14%	21%	15%	17%
Proficient	61%	73%	67%	76%	77%
Needs Improvement	25%	13%	11%	8%	6%
Failing	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%

GRADE 10 - MATHEMATICS

Performance Level	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Advanced	30%	41%	33%	35%	44%
Proficient	35%	37%	42%	39%	29%
Needs Improvement	32%	20%	23%	17%	24%
Failing	3%	3%	3%	9%	3%

GRADE 10 - SCIENCE AND TECH/ENG

Performance Level	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Advanced	9%	11%	9%	13%	19%
Proficient	51%	64%	54%	53%	52%
Needs Improvement	28%	22%	30%	24%	27%
Failing	12%	3%	7%	9%	2%

The McCann Athletics program continues to enjoy success in the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association. Our girls and boys soccer teams claimed league championships in the 2013-2014 academic year. The football team contended in the Western Massachusetts final-four in 2013 and has a solid core of returning players for the 2014 season. The boys basketball team competed in the semi-finals of the State Vocational Tournament. Most notably, McCann received the Walter Markham Memorial Award from the Boston Globe for "overall excellence in high school athletics." This award was given for having the highest winning percentage across all sports in our division across the state.

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

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

Community service projects continue to provide us with an excellent opportunity to allow our students to exhibit their skills and support community activities. The installation of a playground storage shed for the Cheshire Elementary School involved CAD and carpentry students. Our culinary students continue to support a number of area events including the Relay for Life and numerous county organizations. Our metal fabrication students made bicycle racks for the City of North Adams and a wind scoop for the Environmental Police ATV trailer while our carpentry students completed repairs to the Clarksburg police station roof. Our National Honor Society students created a GA-GA pit for the Clarksburg School playground. Our Skills USA students volunteered in the Plunket School playground project and in other activities at the school.

For the past 13 years our students have participated in SkillsUSA, a national organization with more than 300,000 members. It is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. McCann is 100% member of SkillsUSA which has provided the opportunity for our students to earn scholarships, tools for their trade, opportunities for employment and awards in recognition of their accomplishments. Our secondary and postsecondary students have earned 22 gold medals at the national competitions including the 2013 national gold medal winner in sheet metal. At the 2013 SkillsUSA state competition McCann high school students earned gold medals in sheet metal and postsecondary students in dental assisting and medical assisting. Silver medals were awarded to high school students in automated manufacturing technology and postsecondary students in dental assisting and medical assisting. Bronze medals were awarded to high school students in automated manufacturing technology and postsecondary students in medical assisting. Two high school students were elected to serve as state officers.

Business Professionals of America, BPA, is the leading CTSO (Career and Technical Student Organization) for students pursuing careers in business management, office administration, information technology and other related career fields. The mission of Business Professionals of America is to contribute to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills. The Workplace Skills Assessment Program (WSAP) prepares students to succeed and assesses real-world business skills and problem solving abilities in finance, management, IT and computer applications. Students from our business and information technology departments have been participating in BPA since 2005. During this time, our students have earned numerous awards at state competitions and have qualified for the National Leadership Conference every year. McCann students have received awards at the State Leadership Conferences in finance, business administration, management information systems, digital communication and design, and management marketing communication events. Impressively, McCann has continued to achieve finalist placements at the National level and most recently had a student elected to national office.

Project Lead the Way is the leading provider of rigorous and innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education curricular programs for middle and high schools across the U.S. Students enrolled in the program take as many as 4 four courses above and beyond their graduation requirements. Since its inception over 60% of participating students - over one hundred - have become eligible for between 3 and 9 transcripted 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, 15 students achieved this eligibility.

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

The district continues to operate on sound financial management principals and incorporates technology in this process to ensure maximum benefit for all of our programming. At the end of the fiscal year we returned $76,100.00 of unused transportation monies to our communities. The district continues to search out grants to support our educational funding to improve instructional services and vocational equipment.

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

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

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

FY14 Budgeted Revenues	Original	Actual
City & Town Assessments		
Municipal Minimum	$ 2,620,589.00	$ 2,620,589.00
Capital	112,500.00	112,500.00
Transportation	208,964.00	208,964.00
Municipal Assessment	97,967.00	97,967.00
Ch. 71 Transportation	175,000.00	246,459.00
Ch. 70 General School Aid	4,617,441.00	4,607,441.00
Tuitions	624,802.00	636,733.63
Miscellaneous Revenue	10,177.00	9,386.37
State Bonus Aid		3,500.00
Total Revenue Received	**$ 8,467,440.00**	**$ 8,543,540.00**
Member City &Town Transportation Refunds		(76,100.00)
Misc. Revenue Balance to Surplus E & D		(0.00)
A/P Assessment Payable (Received in July)		0.00
	$ 8,467,440.00	**$ 8,467,440.00**

Source	Grant	Amount
(Federal Entitlement)		
Fed	Sped IDEA	$ 111,977.00
Fed	Title I	139,841.00
Fed	Title II A	19,162.00
Fed	Perkins	67,294.00
Fed	Postsecondary Perkins	2,755.00
(Federal Grants Other)		
REAP		35,838.19
Perkins Instructional Equipment & Supplies		46,000.00
SP Voc Skills Training		10,000.00

Source	Grant	Amount
(State Grants)		
Advanced Manufacturing Grant		$ 20,000.00
BCC Advanced Manufacturing Grant		3,560.62
MA Cultural Council		2,115.00
(Competitive/Private)		
Private	Olmsted	4,300.00
Private	BHG Wellness	2,000.00
Private	BCREB: Connecting Activities	1,500.00
Private	City of Chicopee Nurse Grant	3,000.00
Private	Target – Taking Care of Education	58.25
Private	SABIC	13,000.00
	TOTAL GRANTS	**$ 482,401.06**