

**HAMPDEN-WILBRAHAM**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL**

**DISTRICT**

**2014**

## **WELCOME TO THE HAMPDEN-WILBRAHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

M. Martin O'Shea, Superintendent of Schools

The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District (HWRSD) is a fully accredited public school district educating approximately 3200 students in grades PreK to 12. HWRSD maintains seven school buildings: one elementary and one middle school in Hampden, and three elementary, one middle and one regional high school in Wilbraham. The newly constructed, technologically advanced, and highly efficient Minnechaug Regional High School opened its doors in August of 2012.

Staff, students and parents work together as a true "community of learners" dedicated to a tradition of educational excellence. HWRSD students regularly demonstrate high levels of achievement and accomplishments in academics, athletics, community service and the arts. HWRSD parents and our two communities are actively involved in the educational process. Over 500 HWRSD employees provide our students with a range of academic experiences and services, a well-coordinated and aligned program of curriculum and instruction and a firm commitment to maintaining healthy and safe learning environments. HWRSD is committed to working with all stakeholders to provide educational excellence in a cost-effective, efficient manner.

As a regional school district, and as with all successful organizations, the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District is guided by its vision, mission, core values and goals. Goal setting begins with the School Committee's goals, which then shape the development of goals in the District Improvement Plan and the HWRSD School Improvement Plans. This process involves input from the District's various stakeholders, including the School Committee, Administrative Team, School Councils, staff, students, parents and members of our two communities.

To learn more about the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District, visit our website at <http://www.hwrSD.org/> and our District Profile on the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website.

### **HWRSD VISION**

In pursuit of educational excellence, the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District envisions an interactive learning community of creative, passionate thinkers in a safe and healthy environment, embracing opportunities to contribute to and compete in a global society while valuing honesty, integrity, responsibility, and respect for each individual.

### **HWRSD MISSION**

To be one community of learners committed to educating productive and responsible world citizens within a safe, healthful environment.

### **HWRSD CORE VALUES**

- Learning is a life-long endeavor.



- Every individual is capable of learning and deserving of respect.
- Responsibility for an enriched education is vested in the individual, family, school, and community.
- Educational excellence is achievable in relation to individual potential.
- Education must prepare learners to live and work in a complex, ever-changing global society.
- Improvement in the educational system is an ongoing process of analysis, collaboration, re-assessment, and openness to change.
- Social and emotional well-being is important to the teaching and learning process.

## **HWRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS**

### **Communication**

To leverage technology and public forums as a means to improve and expand communication between the School Committee and the wider community and between school administrators, teachers and HWRSD homes. School Committee sponsored forums should target the District's fiscal plans, priorities and school safety.

### **Education**

While adhering to the District's tradition of local educational excellence and standards, the HWRSD School Committee will:

- Support an effort to implement a systematic and cyclical process of curriculum renewal and development at all grades, in all disciplines.
- Advocate for and develop a budget that will provide needed instructional supports to enhance learning and improve achievement for all children. Progress toward this goal will be measured using the benchmarks presented in the annual October Assessment report.

### **Fiscal Responsibility**

To maintain fiscal responsibility and cost-effective resource allocation by:

- Responsibly managing and growing the District reserves including the District's Excess and Deficiency Fund
- Systemically addressing the District's OPEB liability
- Finding innovative ways to promote continuous improvement and the operational efficiency of facility usage and ancillary and support services.

### **Student and Staff Health and Safety**

To ensure safe and healthy environments that are conducive to learning, the Committee will:

- Require periodic, public reports from school and District administrators on all aspects of school safety.
- Leverage local and grant funds to provide students with positive behavioral supports and interventions, safe social and emotional learning climates and secure learning facilities.
- Oversee the effective implementation of federal safe schools grants to ensure alignment with District budgetary and educational goals.

### **Technology**



To support initiatives that strengthen the District's technology infrastructure and to promote the safe use of technology in order to enhance instruction and improve communication.

## **HWRSD DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT GOALS**

**Safety and Wellbeing: Development of policies, practices and strategies that promote the safety and wellbeing of the District's students and staff.**

- Increased parent awareness and parent programming
- Implementation of mental health awareness training
- Development of community coalitions to support drug and alcohol abuse prevention and intervention
- Implementation of Lifelines Curriculum
- Integrated PreK-12 Advisory programs
- Health and Safety Regulations
- Social Norms Campaign
- Enhanced safety protocols – enhanced lockdown

**Meet the Needs of All Learners: Consistent and effective focus on student achievement with attention to transitional planning, the social and academic curriculum and a tiered model of instruction.**

- Implementation of tiered system of academic and behavioral interventions
- Continued use of formative assessments to monitor learning progress
- Heightened focus on “tier two” interventions
- Expanded Professional Development to support tiered instructional framework

**21st Century Teaching and Learning: Continually strengthen HWRSD's commitment and frameworks for designing a 21st Century approach to education.**

- Interactive projection equipment
- Explore 1:1 computing environment
- Mobile computing
- More robust and effective tools for Information Management
- Enhanced Mass Notification Tools
- Expand use of data as a tool for instruction and management
- Professional development for professional and unlicensed staff
- Expansion of Edline to the elementary level

**Learning and Achievement: Focused implementation of a systematic and cyclical process of curriculum renewal and development at all grades, in all disciplines and the development and implementation of a personnel infrastructure that supports teaching and learning and improves achievement outcomes for all children.**

- Plan and phase in implementation of appropriate infrastructure of coaches, specialists and interventionists to support teaching and learning at all levels.
- Vertical and horizontal alignment and articulation of all grade levels and all disciplines
- Appropriate staff development
- Effective parent and community involvement



- Systematic textbook renewal
- Adequate and appropriate instructional resources
- The development of curriculum maps that
  - expand use of Atlas Rubicon
  - define scope and sequence
  - articulate content, skills and assessments to be used at each grade level
  - promote the implementation of common assessments
- Ongoing revision based on student assessment results
- Effective allocation of resources

## **ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Beth L. Regulbuto, Assistant Superintendent for Business**

The theme for the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District's budget was "What Do We Want This District To Be?" The intent for this budget was to continue working through the District Improvement Goals to ensure that we remain focused on the safety and well-being of the District, that we improve and expand communication to the wider community, that we remain fiscally responsible, that we sustain our commitment of educational excellence for all learners, and that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century frameworks and use of technology continues to be strengthened in the District's approach to education. The guiding principles for the budget development process were as follows:

- To develop a budget that is reflective of the District's vision and that is based on improvement goals
- To sustain the District's commitment to excellence
- To provide adequate, but cost effective programming and staffing
- To develop manageable assessments to the towns of Hampden and Wilbraham
- To be proactive rather than reactive
- To clearly communicate to all stakeholders
- To allocate funds strategically to create an aligned system

The District continued to perform at a high level academically, even while being inundated with many new weighty initiatives and mandates where the pace and costs associated with these obligations is significant, and all while managing the continuation of the incredibly challenging economic conditions. The member towns have high expectations for student achievement and have been committed to investing in education, but they, too, are experiencing the fiscal stresses associated with a weak national economy, the increase in the cost share shift at the state level, declining enrollment, and health care and benefit costs that continue to outpace the overall financial picture.

The budget provided a balanced plan that incorporated the economic realities of the District and the towns, while responding to the needs of the schools in a fiscally responsible way. The District has been mindful of the member towns' ability to fund their assessments within their levy limit, and recognizes the efforts of both towns who contribute above the minimum local contribution level required by the state on an annual basis. This level of support has allowed the District to keep the core mission intact, but this budget cycle emphasized the need to make even greater investments above these levels in order to provide the educational experience the



communities want for the children. These objectives have been met through staffing and operational reductions in response to declining enrollment, systemic and sustainable contract negotiations, the pursuit of revenue opportunities, and the development of strategic cost saving initiatives and efficiencies.

## **CURRICULUM**

**Timothy W. Connor, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction**

The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District designs a rich and rigorous curriculum in order to develop the unique talents of each individual student. The curriculum renewal process is ongoing and ensures continuity and consistency in grades PreK-12. Access to high quality curriculum materials and resources is available throughout the District's schools. The level of technology integration across the curriculum has intensified with improvements in staffing, infrastructure, equipment, reliability, and professional development. The District is committed to providing targeted and differentiated interventions to support the academic and behavioral needs of all learners.

### **Academic Performance**

Since its inception in 1998, the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) has increasingly become a primary source of information with regard to student achievement, curriculum evaluation, and diagnosis of individual student strengths and weaknesses. The chart below provides a comparison of the District's recent results:

<b>Grade/Subject Tested</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>HWRSD</b>	<b>HWRSD</b>	<b>HWRSD</b>	<b>HWRSD</b>	<b>HWRSD</b>	<b>STATE</b>
Gr. 3 Reading	78	79	78	66	66	57
Gr. 3 Mathematics	81	80	63	67	81	68
Gr. 4 English Language Arts	69	47	71	66	58	54
Gr. 4 Mathematics	47	39	64	54	40	52
Gr. 5 English Language Arts	71	78	62	78	73	64
Gr. 5 Mathematics	57	64	59	62	59	61
Gr. 5 Science/Engineering	71	73	70	65	65	53
Gr. 6 English Language Arts	82	81	79	70	82	68
Gr. 6 Mathematics	67	68	71	62	68	60
Gr. 7 English Language Arts	87	81	80	81	74	72
Gr. 7 Mathematics	71	62	66	62	50	50
Gr. 8 English Language Arts	91	90	92	89	89	79
Gr. 8 Mathematics	67	59	58	64	61	52
Gr. 8 Science/Engineering	52	44	48	44	52	42
Gr. 10 English Language Arts	88	93	97	98	96	90
Gr. 10 Mathematics	84	85	89	87	85	79
Gr. 10 Biology	82	77	84	78	80	71

In addition to MCAS performance, HWRSD educators use a range of information to monitor student achievement. One example of the data considered to be relevant is SAT scores. Score trends rather than results from any one year are considered most relevant. The table below



provides longitudinal SAT results for students graduating from Minnechaug Regional High School.

#### **Mean SAT Scores 2004-2014**

	<b>District</b>			<b>State</b>			<b>National</b>		
	Reading	Math	Writing	Reading	Math	Writing	Reading	Math	Writing
2004	529	550	n/a	518	523	n/a	508	518	n/a
2005	531	550	n/a	520	527	n/a	508	520	n/a
2006	501	526	509	513	524	510	503	518	497
2007	521	534	522	513	522	511	502	515	494
2008	520	542	526	514	525	513	502	515	494
2009	524	551	527	514	526	510	501	515	493
2010	518	544	523	512	526	509	501	516	492
2011	524	552	519	513	527	509	497	514	489
2012	518	543	523	506	523	500	496	514	488
2013	515	516	534	507	501	522	496	514	488
2014	520	539	506	509	523	499	497	513	487

Using all relevant data, the teachers, administrators, parents, students and communities are working together as effective partners. As a result, the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District enjoys multiple opportunities to celebrate the excellent accomplishments of its students.

#### **HWRSD SCHOOLS**

The following reports include each schools' unique mission and their School Improvement Plan goals, which support the overall vision, mission and goals of the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District:

##### **Green Meadows School**

**Principal: Deborah Thompson**

**Grades: PreK-4**

**Enrollment: 242**

The Green Meadows School mission is to work with home and community to provide a safe, caring and respectful environment while addressing individual differences so all students will succeed in reaching their potential.

##### Goal 1

To increase the mathematical competency of all students, teachers will implement the MA Curriculum Frameworks in mathematics utilizing the Envisions math curriculum and teach the eight "Standards of Mathematical Practice" to develop problem-solving skills and rich math vocabulary so that all students can apply their knowledge to solve real life math problems and pass topic assessments so that 80% of students score proficient on end-of-year assessments.

##### Goal 2

To improve the literacy skills of all students teachers will implement grade level MA ELA Frameworks and provide direct instruction in comprehension, fluency and word work so that 80% of students score proficient on the end-of-year assessment.

### Goal 3

In order to improve the social/emotional competence of all students, the faculty will use the SABRES data to determine Tier I and Tier II interventions utilizing *Responsive Classroom*, behavior contracts, school and district supports so that the needs of students scoring at risk are addressed and office referrals are reduced by 15%.

### **Mile Tree School**

**Principal: Joanne Wilson (8/2014)/Rosemary Brosnan (retired 8/2014)**

**Grades: PreK-1**

**Enrollment: 317**

The mission of Mile Tree School is to educate our children in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment by providing opportunities for social, emotional and cognitive growth while meeting the developmental needs of our early childhood community.

### Goal 1

In order to improve the social/emotional competence of all students, the faculty will use the SABRES data to determine Tier I and Tier II interventions utilizing *Responsive Classroom*, behavior contracts, school and district supports so that the needs of students scoring at risk are addressed and office referrals are reduced by 15%.

### Goal 2

To improve literacy skills of all students the teachers will effectively plan for and implement the MA Curriculum Frameworks for English Language Arts using a balanced literacy program which results in 80% of students meeting the end of the year benchmark

### Goal 3

Mile Tree students will demonstrate positive behavior in class and in all school wide activities as a result of the Responsive Classroom approach as evidenced by a 15% reduction in student behavioral referrals.

### **Stony Hill School**

**Principal: Sherrill Caruana**

**Grades: 2-3**

**Enrollment: 325**

At Stony Hill, we see kids as full of possibilities and potential. By instilling in them a passion for learning, we develop their persistence to succeed and give them opportunities to shine.

### Goal 1



Improve student achievement in English Language Arts/Literacy by focusing on best practices in teaching literacy, the implementation of Common Core State Standards, and the differentiation of instruction afforded by utilizing the Massachusetts Tiered System of Support.

#### Goal 2

Improve mathematics instruction by fully implementing the new enVisions Math Series based on lessons learned in our pilot year and our first year of implementation. Gather and analyze common formative and summative assessment data to drive instructional decisions resulting in increased student performance.

#### **Soule Road School**

**Principal Lisa Curtin**

**Grades: 4-5**

**Enrollment: 365**

Soule Road School is committed to delivering the district curriculum through quality, creative instructional practices. Staff and students will meet high standards in a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment where the diversity of all individuals is respected and appreciated.

#### Goal 1

To improve literacy instruction and improve student literacy performance, teachers will establish and implement grade level standards of literacy instruction focused on the development of reading and writing skills/strategies.

#### Goal 2

To improve mathematics instruction and student math performance, teachers will establish and implement grade level standards of mathematics instruction utilizing the EnVisions math curriculum and the eight "Standards for Mathematical Practice" to develop foundational content and problem-solving skills/strategies.

#### Goal 3

To support a positive school culture and improve the social and emotional development of students, faculty and staff will model, develop and promote character values, leadership skills and communication skills.

#### **Thornton W. Burgess Middle School**

**Principal: Peter Dufresne**

**Grades: 5-8**

**Enrollment: 264**

Our mission is to provide a life-long love of learning and to instill a core of common knowledge with emphasis on basic skills, thinking skills, ethical behavior, and good citizenship. Education at our school will reflect high levels of learning, taking into consideration various needs and abilities. We will provide a safe, caring environment with students, teachers, and parents as active members of the school community.

### Goal 1

The goal of the Thornton W Burgess learning community is to provide a safe, nurturing environment. We will ensure that our students are physically and emotionally safe as well as provide the framework for them to make healthy decisions on their own.

### Goal 2

Thornton W Burgess Middle School will meet the needs of all learners by implementation of tiered instruction and intervention to ensure all students achieve meaningful growth on formative and standardized assessments.

### Goal 3

Thornton W Burgess will develop 21st Century methods of teaching and learning that will assist our learners in the use of the digital tools they need to meet with success in the secondary and post-secondary world.

## **Wilbraham Middle School**

**Principal: Noel Pixley**

**Grades 6-8**

**Enrollment 540**

Wilbraham Middle School is a community where our staff works collaboratively to provide a safe environment where students can reach their full potential academically, socially and emotionally.

### Goal 1

To improve student learning, Wilbraham Middle School will develop a schedule and school-wide instructional practices and assessments that are aligned with District goals and the MA Curriculum Frameworks and Common Core State Standards.

### Goal 2

To maintain and continue to cultivate an environment that is emotionally nurturing, developmentally appropriate, and culturally sensitive.

## **Minnechaug Regional High School**

**Principal: Stephen Hale**

**Grades: 9-12**

**Enrollment: 1,187**

The faculty and administration remain firmly committed to the school's mission of "providing a safe and academically challenging environment that promotes the growth and well-being of all community members as we become active world citizens who demonstrate integrity, responsibility and respect."

### Goal 1



To increase the awareness, knowledge, and accessibility to college planning resources for students, staff members, parents, and community members.

#### Goal 2

To reduce the Needs Improvement Technology & Engineering Category for all learners by 20%.

#### Goal 3

To reduce the Needs Improvement Math Category for all learners by 20%.

### **HAMPDEN-WILBRAHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

“A School Committee has the dual responsibility for implementing statutory requirements pertaining to public education and local citizens’ expectations for the education of the community’s youth. It also has an obligation to determine and assess citizens’ desires. When citizens elect delegates to represent them in the conduct of public education, their representatives have the authority to exercise their best judgment in determining policies, making decisions, and approving procedures for carrying out the responsibility.” (Source: Massachusetts Association of School Committees)

#### *Through May 2014*

Peter T. Salerno, Chairman  
Lena Buteau  
Marc Ducey  
Michelle Emirzian  
Michael Mazzuca  
D. John McCarthy  
Lisa Morace

#### *As of May 2014*

Marc Ducey, Chairman  
Lena Buteau  
Michelle Emirzian  
Pat Gordon  
Mike Mazzuca  
Lisa Morace  
Peter Salerno

### **RETIREMENTS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR**

On the occasion of their retirement, we gratefully acknowledge the following for their years of dedication to the children of the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District:

Mary P. Aberdale  
Lorri A. Ackerman  
Rosemary K. Brosnan  
Carolyn M. Burke  
Elizabeth A. Contant  
Maureen C. Coughlin  
Robin L. Fitzgerald  
Dorinda R. Gorski  
Marcia L. Jackson  
Lynn M. Kace  
Phyllis J. Lajeunesse  
Kathleen Mosellen  
Dyann A. Pederzani

Thornton W. Burgess Middle School  
Thornton W. Burgess Middle School  
Mile Tree Elementary School  
Minnechaug Regional High School  
Minnechaug Regional High School  
Green Meadows Elementary School  
Stony Hill Elementary School  
Wilbraham Middle School  
Mile Tree Elementary School  
Thornton W. Burgess Middle School  
Green Meadows Elementary School  
Minnechaug Regional High School  
Soule Road & Stony Hill Elementary Schools

Deborah L. Poppel  
Cynthia A. Reynolds  
Karen A. Sheffield  
Lewis G. Timpson III  
Samuel B. Williamson

Stony Hill Elementary School  
Soule Road Elementary School  
Green Meadows & Mile Tree Elementary Schools  
Minnechaug Regional High School  
Mile Tree Elementary School

## **HAMPDEN-WILBRAHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT DIRECTORY**

### **Central Office**

M. Martin O'Shea, Superintendent of Schools  
Beth L. Regulbuto, SBO, MCPPO, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Timothy W. Connor, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Debra L. Tobias, Ed.D. Director of Student Services  
621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-3884  
Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### **Center for Health and Safety**

Gina Kahn, Ed.D. Director – Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program  
Teri Brand, RN, BSN, NCSN, Nurse Leader  
Thornton W. Burgess Middle School  
85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, MA 01036 - (413) 566-5060  
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### **Green Meadows Elementary School (Grades PreK – 4)**

Deborah Thompson, Principal  
38 North Road, Hampden, MA 01036 – (413) 566-3263  
School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

### **Mile Tree Elementary School (Grades Pre K – 1)**

Joanne Wilson, Principal  
625 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-6921  
School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

### **Minnechaug Regional High School (Grades 9 – 12)**

Stephen Hale, Principal  
621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-9011  
School Hours: 7:35 a.m. to 2:05 p.m.

### **Soule Road Elementary School (Grades 4 – 5)**

Lisa Curtin, Principal  
300 Soule Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-9311  
School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.)

### **Stony Hill School (Grades 2 – 3)**

Sherrill Caruana, Principal  
675 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 599-1950  
School Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

### **Thornton W. Burgess Middle School (Grades 5 – 8)**

Peter Dufresne, Principal  
85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, MA 01036 – (413) 566-8950



School Hours: 7:40 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Wilbraham Middle School** (Grades 6 – 8)

Noel Pixley, Principal

466 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095 – (413) 596-9061

School Hours: 7:40 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### **FIVE-YEAR ENROLLMENT HISTORY**

(Source: Town Census Reports)

Grade	2009-2010			2010-2011			2011-2012			2012-2013			2013-2014		
	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T
K	50	156	206	44	144	188	37	152	189	39	142	181	38	131	169
1	50	179	229	47	154	201	41	147	188	46	156	199	39	144	183
2	53	152	205	49	180	229	46	159	205	40	155	195	41	164	205
3	74	159	233	51	150	201	50	180	230	46	160	206	39	158	197
4	76	193	269	70	157	227	51	156	207	53	186	239	48	168	216
5	67	200	267	73	202	275	75	160	235	50	156	206	50	195	245
6	70	195	265	66	193	259	72	207	279	75	159	234	51	158	209
7	70	210	280	69	187	256	66	192	258	69	207	276	77	162	239
8	65	215	280	68	205	273	66	187	253	70	188	258	67	211	278
9	71	236	307	67	233	300	75	216	291	72	203	275	68	194	262
10	76	225	301	64	219	283	69	225	294	69	216	285	67	206	273
11	67	217	284	76	216	292	66	216	282	69	224	293	63	206	269
12	67	198	265	60	212	272	75	211	286	67	215	282	61	212	273
Other			65			60			49			33			45
TOTAL	856	2535	3456	804	2452	3316	789	2408	3246	762	2367	3162	709	2309	3063

## REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The year 2014 was again a productive year for the Highway Department. Several projects were completed with the use of funds from three different sources. The 2-million dollar bond was used for the second year, Hampden's Ch.90 allotment from the State and maintenance accounts within the Highway Department were expended. Those projects and others are outlined below. Another highway related "mile marker" for our town was reached, when the only section of road in town that was too narrow for two vehicles to pass, was widened. Enormous amounts of ledge were blasted and removed from several hundred feet of upper Mountain Road to accomplish this. This now allows for two-way traffic, which is much safer and easier to keep clear of snow.

The following list of projects were undertaken and completed:

1. Memorial Park – Shimming, installation of berms, paving, and installation of speed bumps was completed on the entire parking lot and drive.
2. Fire Department Parking Lot – This area was expanded, completely reconstructed and paved.
3. Transfer Station Road Improvement – Sections of the road that had become hard to travel and maintain were leveled and paved.
4. East Longmeadow Road – Full-depth pavement reclamation, paving, line painting and adjusting all lawns and driveways was completed from Commercial Drive to Allen Street.
5. Allen Street – Milling of entire road surface, paving, line painting and driveway adjustments were completed from Circle View Drive to Somers Road.
6. Somers Road – Milling of road surface, re-construction of road and drainage structures, installation of berms, line painting and driveway adjustments were completed from Allen Street, south, 1,100 feet.
7. Commercial Drive – Milling of structure tops, apply a tack coat and pave complete.
8. Evergreen Terrace - Milling of structure tops, apply a tack coat and pave complete.
9. Glendale Road – Prepare road surface, shim and pave entire surface, line painting and adjust driveways from the town line to North Monson Road.
10. Fox Run Lane – Milling of structure tops, apply a tack coat and pave complete.
11. Grist Mill Lane - Milling of structure tops, apply a tack coat and pave complete.
12. Mountain Road – Blasting and removal of all ledge, as needed, to widen roadway to a minimum of 21-feet and establish a shoulder area for snow removal. Gravel roadway base, install berms, pave complete, loam and seed shoulders for a distance of 500 feet.

Normal activities were also performed, consisting of repairing several collapsed catch basins, replacing deteriorated culverts, patching of roads, streets were swept, roadsides were mowed, and catch basins were cleaned. Maintenance and repairs were also made to all of the department's equipment. The winter ended with 23 storms, totaling 56-inches of snow.

The members of the Highway Department are often are required to work long hours both day and night making the roads safe for the public. I would again like to thank the committed department members; Robert Richards, John Ouellette, Lauren Comstock and Matthew Frederick, along with all the supplemental workers that are used on a regular basis, for their service, support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dana S. Pixley  
Highway Superintendent



## **REPORT OF THE HAMPDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY**

The Hampden Housing Authority meets on the third Thursday of every month at the Community Building at 26 Springmeadow Lane. Meetings are posted with the Town Clerk and are open to the public.

The Housing Authority Board consists of five members. Four are elected, and one is appointed by the Governor. The three elected members of the Board are as follows: George Stone, Patricia Clark, and Lucretia Hembdt. We have an empty seat on the board at this time. The Governor's Appointee is Raymond Crowley. The Hampden Housing Authority employs three staff members. Executive Director is Lisa DiFranco; Maintenance Manager, Jim McQuillan, and Maintenance Assistant, John Piechota.

It is the mission and responsibility of the Hampden Housing Authority under Mass. General Law to provide decent, safe and sanitary housing at an affordable rent. Rentals are based on 30% of net income as determined by HUD guidelines. Maximum contract rents are adjusted by HUD annually and are currently set as follows: 1 bedroom-\$602; 2 bedrooms-\$689. All eligibility and occupancy standards are in keeping with the established guidelines and regulations set forth by HUD and the Department of Housing & Community Development. All procedures and records of the Hampden Housing Authority are subject to review by the Office of the State Auditor.

We again extend our sincerest thanks to the Town of Hampden's Highway, Police and Fire Departments for their continued cooperative efforts to ensure the safety of the residents of Centennial Commons.

Applications for our housing program are available at the Hampden Housing Authority office at Centennial Commons OR by calling 566-8157. Office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00A-3:00P and Thursday mornings from 8:00A-12:00N. We are closed Mondays and Fridays.

Respectfully,

Lisa DiFranco  
Executive Director/Secretary to the Board



# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

## THE HAMPDEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 2014, The Hampden Public Library continued its ongoing commitment to excellence by providing traditional library services as well as a host of programming options for patrons of every age. Along with the dedicated support from the Library Trustees, Friends of the Hampden Public Library, the residents of Hampden and the State of Massachusetts, the staff has spent the year working passionately to pursue our mission: "The mission of the Hampden Free Public Library is to provide information, entertainment, and education to all members of the Hampden community through a variety of formats including current technology, popular materials, enriching activities, and informative programs. We seek to create lifelong learners by fostering literacy for all ages and to develop and promote the library

as a resource capable of meeting the challenges today and into the future."

This spirit of collaboration has been critical to our success throughout the year. Thank you to the many volunteers who contributed to the library in many ways throughout the year. They have given generously of their time, talent and resources. Gratitude is also extended to our many town residents who have been supportive throughout the year, with their steady usage, tax dollars and generous contributions to the Friends' fund raising efforts. Our library would not be able to operate without them!

### *Programs and Resources for Everyone*

## FISCAL YEAR 2014 CIRCULATION STATISTICS

Total Circulation for FY 2014	25,307
Interlibrary Loan Circulation:	
▪ Received from other libraries	3,413
▪ Provided to other libraries	4,320
Registered Borrowers	2,544



This past year saw the library offering many new programs and some old favorites as well! For our adult patrons, the library hosted Adult Learn to Knit classes, Monthly Book Clubs, seven Meet the Author events, Yoga for every-body, Summer Reading and celebration party. A special thank you to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring the lovely *Downton Abbey Season Finale Party*. The Hampden Cultural Council was very generous with their support by sponsoring The Old Post Road Orchestra, which was a fabulous event for the town. The HCC also provided a grant for *Books-on-Bikes*; a community outreach and literacy program, created by the Hampden Public Library, to bring library books and materials to the residents of Hampden. The Davis & Bates children's summer concert was also made possible by a grant from the HCC. The Library provided e-reader support, as the demand for digital books has continued to grow! Our library also is home to an ever changing art gallery, with original artwork provided by local artists from the Hampden Art Guild and students from TWB Middle School. Always looking to provide the latest information about our newest materials and news from the publishing world, the Library continued to provide two services to our patrons. *The Book Page* - a monthly newspaper connecting patrons to great book reviews and author interviews is available

free of charge to our patrons. Also, we offer an automatic email update called *Wowbrary*- which enable our patrons to receive messages as soon as our new materials are catalogued and ready for circulation!

For our youngest patrons, the Library hosts weekly Preschool Lunch Bunch Story time and infant & toddler Play & Grow Activity Group. Some examples of our awesome monthly literature themed programs for children were: Dr. Seuss Birthday Party, Lego Builds, Earth Day Celebration, Summer Reading Programs, Bubblemania, Electricity program, Home Depot Build, Moon Rocks from NASA, Toto the Kitten visit, Town Hall Trick-or-Treating and Holiday Crafts & Santa visit. The children's events were very well attended with eager & enthusiastic participants.

We've enjoyed providing a quiet study area, homework assistance and opportunities for students to meet for projects & research.

Youth Community Service Day projects included making blankets for the Linus Project, Food drive to benefit the Survival Center, Mitten Tree to benefit The Gray House and Change for Change: Heifer fundraiser. It was heartwarming to see the youth of our community generously give of their time & talents to help others.



### Staff

Our staff: Ellen Moriarty, Chanda Williams, Cindy Rowley, Doria Porcello & Stephany Burzduk continue to bring great energy, enthusiasm, and love of libraries to their positions. We are grateful for their continued hard work and dedication to our library.

### Looking Ahead

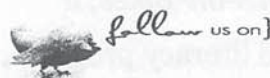
The Hampden Free Public Library will continue to operate as an essential resource for our residents. While providing information, entertainment and support for all patrons, the Library serves as an important cornerstone institution for the

cultural and educational needs in the town.

Next year, we plan to continue focusing on our mission to provide the community with excellent services and relevant collections. We are looking forward to growing our patron usage and sharing all that your public library has to offer!

For library information visit:

[www.hampden-library.org](http://www.hampden-library.org)



## FISCAL YEAR 2014 OPERATING BUDGET

Total Operating Budget	\$120,467.00
Revolving Fund	- \$1,000.00
Trust and Endowments	- \$1,000.00
MEG (Mass Equalization Grant)	- \$4,300.00
Appropriated Budget	<u>\$114,167.00</u>
Additional Appropriation at Town Meeting	\$5000.00
Total Final Appropriated Budget	<u>\$119,167.00</u>

*Respectfully submitted by the Trustees of the Hampden Free Public Library:*

Beth Burger, Chair, Kathy Hutchison & Kirsten Lipkens



## PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

The commission bid farewell to several members this year; basketball coordinator Michael Cronin, Fred Frangie, and baseball coordinator Marty McQuade. We would like to thank them for their years of service. The commissioners welcomed elected members Dave Paradis and Dave Turcotte and newly appointed member Eric Jacobson.

The Parks & Recreation Commission was able to add a second pavilion to Memorial Park thanks to funding by the Community Preservation Committee. The Hampden Baseball program welcomed the addition of two new batting cages at Memorial Park. The Commissioners would like to thank RAH for funding the fence caps on the fields at Memorial Park, Thornton W. Burgess and Green Meadows Schools.

Our Summer Recreation Program at Memorial Park was open for six weeks again this year. Over 200 children attended, and many youth from town worked as counselors-in-training and counselors at the park under the guidance of returning program director Joey Varney. This year we were again able to include walking school bus field trips to the Hampden Public Library to take advantage of their educational summer programs.

The goal of Parks and Recreation is to offer a wide array of age and skill appropriate programs that will develop sportsmanship and skills in a positive, nurturing atmosphere. We thank our coaches and individual sports coordinators for the support and time they give to the youth of our town. Because of them, hundreds of Hampden children participated in our baseball, basketball, soccer and softball programs this year.

If you would like to get involved, please join us at our meetings, we welcome anyone with an interest in our youth sports programs and encourage your volunteerism.

In closing, we are pleased with where we have been in 2014 and look ahead to an even more successful 2015.

Respectfully submitted:

Marty McQuade, Chairman

Terry Ford, Vice Chairman

Dave Paradis

Dave Turcotte

Eric Jacobson

Cindi Connors, Administrative Asst.

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee is appointed by the Board of Selectmen and in 2014 consisted of four active members as follows: Donald Collins, Chair, Richard Ayers, Carol Fitzgerald and William Gouzounis, Secretary. At the end of the period the Board of Selectmen was actively pursuing a fifth member to the committee and had identified Susanne Simon for appointment. The primary function of the Personnel Committee is to advise the Board of Selectmen on proper personnel practices within the Town. During the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 the Personnel Committee met at two publically posted meetings, April 7, 2014 and June 9, 2014, respectively. Additionally, Committee members participated with the Board of Selectmen to report on activities and receive direction on five occasions January 6, 2014; March 17, 2014; March 31, 2014 and July 8, 2014, respectively.

The committee's principal activities during the period consisted of:

- Reviewed employee salary rates for Fiscal Year 2015 and Fiscal Year 2016 and provided recommendations to the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee for final approval.
- Developed the Town of Hampden Senior Citizen Tax Work-off Abatement Program in accordance with Section 5K of the Massachusetts General Laws.
- Reviewed and made recommendations on various topics, including Vacation Scheduling and employee benefits.

At the request of the Selectmen, the Personnel Committee activities for Fiscal Year 2015 include:

- Develop and submit for approval employee salary rates as they relate to Fiscal Year 2017
- Review Position Classification as the situation arises.

Respectfully submitted:

Donald Collins, Chairman  
Richard Ayers  
Carol Fitzgerald  
Susanne Simon (appointed 01/15)  
William Gouzounis



## PLANNING BOARD - 2014

During 2014, the Planning Board held (13) public hearings. There were no new subdivision plans submitted to the Planning Board in 2014. The Board continues administering one active subdivision approved in 2004, Scantic Meadows.

The Planning Board worked with both Hampden Country Club and residents to come to a suitable resolution for the Country Club's Special Permit and Site Plan Approval. Although there are outstanding issues, these will come to closure in 2015.

The Planning Board granted two Special Permits for large-scale solar facilities in 2014.

The Board adjusts their meeting schedule to align with the demands of the Town. As the demand goes up, the Board will adjust the schedule appropriately to meet the needs.

The Ridgeline and Hillside committee continues to be administered admirably by John Matthews. The PVPC representative is Phillip Schneider, and the CPC representative is Mark Casey.

As always, there are opportunities for interested citizens to get involved in Board-related activities and sub-committees. Community participation is always welcomed and encouraged.

The Planning Board would like to thank both Joseph "Charlie" Dolben and Cornelius Flynn for their many years of service to the Planning Board and the Town.

Respectfully submitted,

John Matthews, Chair  
Judge Robert Howarth, Vice Chair  
Phillip Schneider  
M. Paige Gore  
Mark Casey  
Richard R. Green, Associate Member

Joanne Fiore, Adm. Assistant

## REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

I SUBMIT HEREWITH, the Annual Report for the police department for the year ending, December 31, 2014.

During the year, the Police Department received 9,854 calls for service. Most of the calls received by this department were for assistance, complaints and for reporting crimes or accidents. The following are some of the types of complaints received and investigated by this department.

### Call Action Breakdown

Call Action	Total	Call Action	Total
Building Checks	1,436	Motor Vehicle Stops	899
General Services	520	Special Attention	2,914
Medical Assist	341	Suspicious Person/Auto	206
Animal Complaints	176	Alarm Calls	278
Assist Other Agencies	192	Larceny	39
Assist Citizen/Motorist	423	Disturbance General/Domestic	49
Assist other PD	68	Vacation Checks	249

During the year we had 457 total offenses committed, with 155 total arrests and 12 juvenile arrests.

We had 67 motor vehicle accidents this year. There were a total of 775 citations issued during the year with fines totaling \$16,555.00. The town has received \$8,485.00 from the Registry of Motor Vehicles, which represents the town's share of fines on tickets written. Of the citations issued 21.5% were civil infractions, 49.9% were warnings and 5.9% resulted in criminal charges. The average speed limit in Hampden is 34 MPH; the average speed of vehicles that were issued citations was 51 MPH or 17 MPH over the speed limit.

During the year \$17,867.97 was turned over to the Town Treasurer for firearms identification cards, pistol permits, alarm fees, and various report fees.





## Report of the Police Department

As 2014 came to a close, looking back there has been much that the Police Department has accomplished this past year. Most notably, a new police facility is in the works! We are extremely grateful to the residents who approved a 2.95 million dollar police facility. We are looking forward to opening construction bids in the early spring and moving into a new station next to the senior center in the fall!

Reserve Officer Benjamin Tucker was hired to fill an open patrol position and then resigned in December for other employment. Reserve Officer Nicole Gura was hired to fill that opening and is currently training in the full time academy. She will be working the third shift upon her graduation this spring.

We have finished a full year with our new detective position. Detective Trombly has been very busy. This position has allowed us to now follow up on cases and give them the appropriate amount of attention that they deserve without costing significant amounts of overtime to do so. This has helped significantly in solving many of our cases regarding breaking and entering and enhanced our ability to effectively work with the courts and crime scene services.

Our calls for service remain consistent at just over 9000 calls per year. Our dispatchers continue to train on the emergency medical dispatch protocols to stay sharp and provide the best possible instruction to the caller for the many medical calls we receive each year.

I would remind all home and business owners to log onto the police departments website [WWW.Hampdenpolice.com](http://WWW.Hampdenpolice.com) and download an alarm sheet and ensure that we have the most current information so if need be we can contact you this helps us to server you much more effectively ! I would also like to remind everyone that our by-law allows for three (3) false alarms a year, each false alarm after that is \$25 each.

Please remember to sign up for our emergency notification system, Connect-CTY. You may sign up at [WWW.Hampdenpolice.com](http://WWW.Hampdenpolice.com). You can enroll you home phone and/or cell phone to receive emergency notifications from the police department and other town agencies.

In closing I would like to thank all the men and women of the Police department for their continued dedicated service to our residents. Also a special thanks to the Hampden Volunteer Fire Department and the Hampden Highway Department for their continued support this past year.

Jeff W Farnsworth  
Chief of Police

# REPORT OF THE RIDGELINE AND HILLSIDE COMMITTEE

2014

The Ridgeline & Hillside Committee is a subcommittee of the Planning Board. Its function is to act in an advisory role, perform site reviews for the applicant, and make recommendations to the Planning Board and Building Department. The Ridgeline & Hillside District includes steep slopes averaging 15% or greater for 200 feet, and any land at an elevation of 600 feet or more above sea level. Please see Section 6 of the Town of Hampden Zoning Bylaws for more details. The Zoning Bylaws can be found on the Town's website at [www.hampden.org](http://www.hampden.org).

If you have questions as to the applicability of the bylaw to your property, please see the Ridgeline and Hillside District overlay map located on the Town's website or in the Town Hall. If your project falls within the Ridgeline & Hillside District, you must file an application for review of the project. The application can also be found on the Town's website.

Respectfully submitted,

John Matthews, Chairman



## **BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS**

### **SCANTIC VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

During 2014, the Scantic Valley Water District (SVWD) pumped 377,880 gallons of water from two (2) wells on Massachusetts Audubon Society property, off Main Street in Hampden. There are nine (9) active water services in the SVWD, providing drinking water to eight (8) homes and one Laughing Brook property. The SVWD is a registered community based Public Water System (PWS ID #1120023) in the Commonwealth and is regulated by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Water Supply.

The Mass. DEP performed a once every three year Public Water System Sanitary Survey Inspection of the SVDW on June 18, 2014. There were no technical or mechanical problems discovered by DEP during the inspection.

The 2014 DEP water sampling schedule for the SVDW was accomplished with twelve (12) Coliform, one (1) Nitrate, one (1) Nitrite, one (1) Iron, one (1) Manganese, one (1) Sodium and one (1) Volatile Organic Compound, samples taken at various locations in the distribution system and the source tap for Wells #1 & #2. Three year source waivers (Inorganics, Perchlorate & Synthetic Organic Compounds) were granted by DEP in 2014 due to previous excellent water quality sampling results. Documents filed with the DEP by this PWS for 2014, include the monthly water quality laboratory state forms, Annual Statistical Report & Consumer Confidence Report.

The following items occurred at the pump house: The four (4) cylinder Ford motor that powers the standby generator had the oil & filter changed; once a month the 3,000 gallon underground pneumatic water tank was flushed and the master water meter read. The nine (9) residential water service meters were read twice; once in June and then again in December.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Framarin, Water Operator

Richard Jalbert  
George Bouchard  
John Plaster