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**CHESHIRE MASSACHUSETTS  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2015**

197

30

33

100

1844

115

135

77

B.B.

# Federal, State and County Officials

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## United States Senators

### Elizabeth Warren

2 Russell Courtyard - Washington, DC 20510  
1-202-224-4543

Springfield Office: Springfield Federal Building  
1550 Main St., Suite 406 - Springfield, MA 01103

Website: Warren.senate.gov

Facebook: facebook.com/senatorelizabethwarren - Twitter: @ElizabethforMA, @SenWarren

### Edward J. Markey

218 Russell Senate Office Building - Washington, DC 20510  
1-202-224-2742

Springfield Office: Springfield Federal Building  
1550 Main St., 4th Floor - Springfield, MA 01103-1427

1-413-785-4610

website: <http://markey.senate.gov>

Facebook: facebook.com/EdJMarkey - Twitter: @SenMarkey

## Massachusetts Representative In Congress

### Richard Neal

2208 Rayburn House Office Building - Washington, DC 20515  
1-202-225-5601

Pittsfield Office: Federal Building

78 Center Street - Pittsfield, MA 01201

442-0946 - website: <http://neal.house.gov>

Facebook: facebook.com/Congressman-Richard-Neal-325642654132598/ - Twitter: @RepRichardNeal

## Governor of Massachusetts

### Charles Baker

Office of the Governor

The State House, Room 280 - Boston, MA 02133

1-617-725-4005; (888) 870-7770

TTY: (617) 727-3666

Springfield Office: State Office Building

436 Dwight St., Suite 300 - Springfield, MA 01103

413-784-1200 - website: [www.mass.gov/governor](http://www.mass.gov/governor)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CharlieBakerMA](http://www.facebook.com/CharlieBakerMA) - Twitter: @MassGovernor

## Members of the Massachusetts General Court

### Senator Benjamin B. Downing

7 North St., Suite 307 - Pittsfield, MA 01201

413-442-4008; Fax: 413-442-4077

Email: [benjamin.downing@masenate.gov](mailto:benjamin.downing@masenate.gov) - Website: [www.SenatorDowning.com](http://www.SenatorDowning.com)

Twitter: @Benjamindowning

Boston Office: State House, Room 413F - Boston, MA 02133

1-617-722-1625, Fax: 1-617-722-1523

## Representative

### Gailanne Cariddi

District Contact: North Adams City Hall - 10 Main Street, Room 214 - North Adams, MA 01247

1-413-664-6812

Boston Office: Boston State House, Room 36 - Boston, MA 02133

1-617-722-2370

Email: [gailanne.cariddi@mahouse.gov](mailto:gailanne.cariddi@mahouse.gov) - Website: [www.gailcariddi.com](http://www.gailcariddi.com)

On the Net: [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) (informational site for Massachusetts)

Cover: "Doors of Cheshire" by Barry Emery - 11 x 14 suitable for framing \$10  
Copies may be purchased at Cheshire Library. All proceeds go to library.

*Town of*  
**CHESHIRE**

MASSACHUSETTS



*Annual Report*  
**2015**

# Town Elected Officials

	<i>Term Expires</i>		<i>Term Expires</i>
<b>Selectmen</b>		<b>Constables</b>	
	Carol A. Francesconi		Ralph Biagini
	Paul F. Astorino		Jason Hoellerich
	Robert Ciskowski		Alison Warner
	2016		2016
	2017		2016
	2018		2016
<b>Moderator</b>		<b>Planning Board</b>	
	Edmund St. John IV		Bernard Bator
	2016		Francis Griswold
<b>Board of Assessors</b>			Charles Howard
	Barbara Astorino		Peter Traub
	Laurie Charon		Daniel Speth
	Everett L. Martin		2016
	2016		2017
	2017		2018
	2018		2019
			2020
<b>Board of Health</b>		<b>Adams Cheshire Regional School District School Committee Member Cheshire</b>	
	Michael Biagini Jr.		Brian Astorino
	Jeffrey Warner		Edmund St. John IV
	Richard Salvi		Darlene Rodowicz
	2016		2016
	2017		2017
	2018		2018
<b>Water Commissioners</b>		<b>Adams Cheshire Regional School District School Committee Member Adams</b>	
	Francis Waterman Jr.		Paul Butler
	Donald Rueger		Joshua DeMarsico-Birkland
	Rick Gurney		Regina Hill
	2016		Steven Vigna
	2017		2016
	2018		2017
<b>Cemetery Commissioners</b>			2018
	Josephine Lewis		
	Neil Baker		
	Jack Girard		
	2016		
	2017		
	2018		
<b>Tax Collector</b>		<b>Northern Berkshire Vocational School Committee Member Cheshire</b>	
	Rebecca Herzog		William Craig
	2018		2016
<b>Town Clerk</b>			
	Christine B. Emerson		
	2018		

# Town Appointments

Town Administrator	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>	Director of Veteran's Services	
Mark Webber		Veteran Burial Agent	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>
Administrative Assistant	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>	Roseanne Fieri	
Carole Hilderbrand		Right to Know Co-Ordinator	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>
Town Counsel	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>	Richard Francesconi	
Edmund St. John III		Weighers of Coal and Commodities	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>
Town Accountant	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>	Farm Commission	<i>Three Year Appointment</i>
Lynne Lemanski		Kenneth Egnaczak	2017
Selectmen's Secretary	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>	Michael Balawender	2017
Carole Hilderbrand		Mark Warner	2018
Superintendent of Streets		Eric Whitney	2018
Tree Warden		Kim Martin	2016
Measurer of Wood and Bark		Joseph Wrenn	2016
Inspector of Ditches	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>	Fence Viewers	
Peter LeFebvre		(Members of the Farm Commission)	
Building Commissioner/Inspector		Kenneth Egnaczak	
Zoning Enforcement Officer	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>	Mark Warner	
Gerald Garner		Fred Balawender	
Asst. Building/Local Inspector	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>	Greylock Advisory Board	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>
Mark Kruzel		Karmen Field-Mitchell	
Inspector of Plumbing/Gas Piping	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>	Vocational School Program	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>
Bruce LaPerle		James Pasquini	
Asst. Inspector of Plumbing	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>	Representatives Arts Lottery Council	
John Burzimati		Northern Berkshire	
Inspector of Wiring	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>	Arts Council	<i>Three Year Appointment</i>
George Sweet		Peter Traub	2017
Asst. Inspector of Wiring	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>	Maureen Reilly-Moriarty	2018
Leslie Rhinemiller		Recreation Committee	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>
Emergency Management		Robin Poirot	
Co-Ordinator	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>	Andrew Kachel	
Corey Swistak		Heather Emerson	
Asst. Emergency Management		Delegate to Northern Berkshire	
Co-Ordinator	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>	Solid Waste Management Program	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>
Fred Balawender		Richard Salvi	
Animal Control Officer		Northern Berkshire Cable Representative	
Animal Inspector	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>	Rent Control Board	
Myron Proper		Conservation Commission	
Keeper of the Pound	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>	Memorial Day Parade	
Everett Martin		Board of Selectmen	

<b>Police</b> (Appointments made May 12th)	<i>Yearly Appointment</i>
<b>Police Chief</b>	Timothy Garner
<b>Police Staff Sergeant</b>	Alison Warner
<b>Police Sergeant</b>	Steven Charon
<b>Police Officers</b>	Michael Alibozek Joseph Charon Shaun Gariepy Corey Demary David Tarjick
<b>Special Police Officers</b>	Peter Mazzaco Paul Maloney
<b>Fire Chief</b>	<i>Yearly Appointment</i> Thomas Francesconi
<b>Fire Committee</b>	Ralph Biagini Robert Belini Gary Lamb Raymond Kellermann Paul Astorino
<b>Emergency Planning Committee</b>	Carol Francesconi Paul Astorino Robert Ciskowski Peter LeFebvre Corey Swistak Timothy Garner Thomas Francesconi Francis Waterman Richard Salvi
<b>School Crossing Guards</b>	<i>Yearly Appointment</i> Susan Tracy

<b>Council on Aging</b>	<i>Three Year Appointment</i>
	Anna Farnam 2016 Karmen Field-Mitchell 2018 Elsie Zaleski 2018 Harrison King 2016 Margaret Gwozdz 2016 Peter Traub 2018 Helen Dargie
<b>Historical Commission</b>	<i>Three Year Appointment</i>
	Diane Hitter 2016 Doris Martin 2016 Robert Hitter 2016 Barry Emery 2017 Elaine Daniels 2018 Vern Emerson 2018 Eileen Nuttall Emeritus
<b>Board of Registrar of Voters</b>	<i>Three Year Appointment</i>
	Gary Herzog 2016 Doris Martin 2017 Diane Hitter 2018
<b>Election Official</b>	<i>Yearly Appointment</i> Alison Warner
<b>Asst. Election Official</b>	<i>Yearly Appointment</i> Ronald Lancia
<b>Harbor Master</b>	<i>Lifetime Appointment</i> Paul Maloney
<b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b>	<i>Yearly Appointment</i> Thomas Zappula Dale Grimshaw Stephen Marko
<b>Alternate Zoning Member</b>	<i>Yearly Appointment</i> Ronald Tenczar

## Appointments by the Moderator

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<b>Advisory Board</b>	
	William Craig 2016 John Tremblay 2016 Kathleen Levesque 2016 John Burzimati 2016 Ralph Biagini 2016 Denise Gregoire 2016

# Annual Report of the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator

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The Board of Selectmen meets each Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM at the Cheshire Town Hall, 80 Church Street. We encourage residents to attend our meetings and if you have a specific item that you wish to discuss, please contact the Selectmen's office at 743-7728 or via email at: [admin@cheshire-ma.gov](mailto:admin@cheshire-ma.gov) and we'll place you on an upcoming meeting agenda. Also, most every Town Official and Department holds Town Hall office hours each Tuesday evening, including the Board of Health, Tax Collector and Treasurer, Town Clerk, Chief of Police, Board of Assessors, Water Commissioners and the Board of Assessors.

A number of exciting initiatives and grant opportunities have borne fruit this past year. These include:

- Receipt of a \$10,000 grant from the Margery Barrett Fund for an expansion of the Cheshire Elementary School Playground equipment. The Board thanks Cheshire Elementary School parents and volunteers for their efforts in raising an additional \$6,000 in donations for this project along with furnishing additional materials and labor.
- Capitalizing on a .5 megawatt commercial solar array project at the former Bushika gravel bed by negotiating beneficial net metering and personal property tax agreements with the operator. The net metering agreement will save the Town approximately \$17,000 annually on its electric bills over the next 20 years. The tax agreement for the same project will provide the Town with an average of \$12,400 of new revenue for each of the next 20 years.
- Approval of the Town's application with the Department of Public Utilities to join the Berkshire Electrical Aggregation. This program provides Cheshire residents and commercial accounts an opportunity to take advantage of lower and predictable electricity rates afforded by the expanded buying power of 12 other Berkshire municipalities. As a bonus, the power will be purchased from existing hydroelectric facilities and will be 100% green. Cheshire residents will have the option of opting out of this program at any time with no penalties if they choose to go with another power supplier.

Fiscal year 2017 will be another trying year for Town budgets. Fortunately, the Town has a very engaged and knowledgeable Advisory Board to assist us during the budget process. As always, education funding will drive all other Town spending as the school district accounts for 56% of the Town's available revenue each year. Although the Board wholeheartedly supports local education, we have made it clear to the school district that the Town is not prepared to support another Proposition 2½ override vote.

Again with the help of our Advisory Board, we strive to limit Town spending while providing effective and essential Town services and the Board continues to search out grant opportunities along with collaborative and shared services programs in order to save money for our taxpayers. With a very limited commercial base, Cheshire depends almost exclusively on residential property taxes to fund education and Town services and we are acutely aware that one of our primary missions is to maintain Cheshire's position as one of the more affordable and attractive communities in the Berkshires.

On behalf of the Selectmen, I wish to thank the outstanding efforts of our dedicated appointed and elected Town Officials. Cheshire is fortunate indeed to have such talented and dedicated people working on behalf of its citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Webber  
Town Administrator  
on behalf of the  
Cheshire Board of Selectmen

# Town Clerk

## VITALS RECORDS RECORDED

<b>Births</b> .....		27
Male	15	
Female	12	
<b>Deaths</b> .....		30
Male	17	
Female	13	
<b>Marriages</b> .....		6
<b>Census</b> .....		3,356
16 years and over	2,965	
0 to 15 years	400	
<b>Registered Voters</b> .....		2,247
Democrats	596	
Republican	200	
Libertarian	5	
Other	6	
Unenrolled	1,439	

## GASOLINE STORAGE PERMIT RENEWALS

Bedard Bros.	\$ 25
H.D.Reynolds	25
Hoosac Valley Middle & High School	25
O'Connell Oil	25
MGE Realty	25
Republic Services	25
Whitney Farm	25
	<hr/>
	\$ 175

## BUSINESS CERTIFICATES ISSUED

New	7	
Renewals	20	
	<hr/>	
<b>\$20 for 4 year period</b>		<b>\$540</b>

## SALE OF DOG LICENSES

Dog License period 4/1/2015-3/31/2016

Males	37
Neutered Males	183
Females	20
Spayed Females	220
4 Multi Dog Unit	4
10 Multi Dog Unit	6
25 Multi Dog Unit	1
	<hr/>

**Amount turned over  
to the Town Treasurer (includes Late Fees)      \$5,980**

To the Town Official and Boards for continual help and support. I would be remiss if a huge thank you was not given to the Board of Registrars Poll Workers and Counting Crew for continued dedication and service to the Town. A thank you also to the residents of Cheshire for making my job enjoyable.

I, hereby, submit my twenty-second Annual Town Report.

Christine B. Emerson



# Town Accountant

To the Board of Selectmen and the Residents of the Town of Cheshire:

I hereby submit to you my 13th Annual Town Accountant's report for Fiscal Year 2015. Once again this year, every department has managed to spend appropriately within their budget which has helped a great deal in maintaining our certified free cash balance. Massachusetts Department of Revenue certified the Town of Cheshire's free cash balance as of July 1, 2015 in the amount of \$266,367. This is a 13% increase over the prior year July 1, 2014 balance of \$235,630.

I am submitting the Schedule A Revenues and Expenditures which summarize the FY2015 receipts and expenditures along with the General Fund Balance sheet as of June 30, 2015.

In closing, I would like to thank the Selectmen and the town officials who have supported me throughout the year.

Sincerely,  
Lynne M. Lemanski  
Town Accountant

## Town of Cheshire - Balance Sheet

JUNE 30, 2015  
(GENERAL FUND)

### ASSETS

<b>CASH</b>	852,824.05	<b>MOTOR VEHICLE &amp; TRAILER EXCISE</b>	
<b>ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE TAXES</b>		Levy of 2011	639.59
<b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b>		Levy of 2012	1,183.10
Levy of 2003	744.05	Levy of 2013	3,080.42
Levy of 2004	763.46	Levy of 2014	4,965.54
Levy of 2005	659.29	Levy of 2015	19,344.25
Levy of 2006	588.77		29,212.90
Levy of 2007	184.84	<b>TAX POSSESSIONS</b>	26,285.72
Levy of 2008	366.23	<b>TAX TITLES</b>	45,673.00
Levy of 2009	84.55	<b>WATER LIEN (TAX TITLE)</b>	1,001.05
Levy of 2011	199.16	<b>WATER DEPARTMENT RECEIPTS DUE</b>	48,770.49
Levy of 2012	193.00		
Levy of 2015	458.46		
	4,241.81	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	1,162,919.71
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b>			
Levy of 1999	1,127.88		
Levy of 2004	5.43		
Levy of 2005	449.38		
Levy of 2006	1,314.95		
Levy of 2008	2,689.00		
Levy of 2009	3,139.35		
Levy of 2010	(5.37)		
Levy of 2011	751.52		
Levy of 2012	1,327.50		
Levy of 2013	7,447.81		
Levy of 2014	31,685.40		
Levy of 2015	104,997.84		
	154,930.69		

**LIABILITIES & RESERVES****OVERLAY RESERVE FOR ABATEMENT**

Levy of 1999	(1,164.39)
Levy of 2003	(745.00)
Levy of 2006	(1,315.00)
Levy of 2009	(3,224.00)
Levy of 2010	(713.00)
Levy of 2011	(1,878.00)
Levy of 2012	(4,132.00)
Levy of 2013	(11,486.55)
Levy of 2014	(7,263.70)
Levy of 2015	<u>(6,820.91)</u>

**(38,742.55)****CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Town Clerk Dog Fees	(10.00)
Payroll Deductions	(3,429.68)
Police Comp Time	-
Board of Health Perc Teats	(210.00)
Edwin Wells Revolving Acct	(1,000.00)
Tax Collector Fees	5.00
Deputy Collector Fees	(9.00)
NOI Revolving Account	<u>(846.34)</u>

**(5,490.02)****SPECIAL DONATIONS ACCOUNT****(8,431.86)****DONATION - SKATING RINK****(230.47)****SCHOLARSHIP FUND****(15.00)****REVENUE RESERVED UNTIL COLLECTED**

Real Estate & Personal Property	(120,429.95)
Motor Vehicle Tax	(29,212.90)
Tax Titles	(45,673.00)
Tax Possessions	(26,265.72)
Water Revenue	<u>(49,771.54)</u>

**(271,353.11)****FUND BALANCE****APPROPRIATION BALANCES**

Wire Inspector Expenses	(1,394.53)
Town Clerk Book Repair	(2,198.89)
Library Books	(1,730.56)
Library Expenses	(478.01)
BOH Expenses	(330.28)
Town Compactor Salary	(117.00)
Town Clerk Census	(225.00)
Planning Board Expenses	(199.83)
BOH Secretary	(240.00)
Assessors Contracted Services	(320.00)
Treasurer Tax Title Fees	<u>(9,073.97)</u>

**(16,308.07)****WATER SURPLUS****(221,489.94)****UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE****(SURPLUS REVENUE)****(430,858.69)****FUND BALANCE RESERVED FOR****FY 2016 EXPENDITURE****(170,000.00)****TOTAL LIABILITIES &  
FUND BALANCE****(1,162,919.71)**

**Schedule A**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE  
 DIVISION OF LOCAL SERVICES

**ANNUAL CITY AND TOWN FINANCIAL  
 REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED  
 JUNE 30, 2015**

CITY/TOWN OF: \_\_\_\_\_ **CHESHIRE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

This report is based upon the fund account activity descriptions from the Uniform Massachusetts Accounting System (UMAS) of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. Please report data for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. Data supplied in this report will be used by the Department of Revenue, other State and Federal Agencies, and public interest groups. The information will also be furnished to the U.S. Census Bureau. Please read instructions carefully before completing your Schedule A.

For assistance, please call your Bureau of Accounts Field Representative.

**PART I GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (FUND 01)**

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT (Omit Cents)
	<b>A. TAXES</b>	
4110	Personal Property Taxes	\$ 82,129
4120	Real Estate Taxes	3,363,944
4150	Excise Taxes	488,876
4179	Penalties and Interest	20,465
4180	In Lieu of Taxes	
4191	Other Taxes - Hotel/Motel	
4198	Urban Redevelopment Excises	
4199	Other Taxes	18,458
	<b>A. TOTAL TAXES (NET OF REFUNDS)</b>	<b>3,973,872</b>
	<b>B. CHARGES FOR SERVICES/ OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES</b>	
4211	Water Charges	267,930
4212	Other Utility Charges	
4229	Other Charges	
4243	Parking Charges	
4244	Park and Recreation Charges	
4246	Sewerage Charges	
4247	Trash Collection Charges	102,683
4248	Transit Charges	
4370	Other Department Revenue	51,473
	<b>B. TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES/ OTHER DEPARTMENTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>422,086</b>
	<b>C. LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES</b>	
4322	Fees Retained from Tax Collection	
4400	Licenses and Permits	43,653
	<b>C. TOTAL LICENSES, PERMITS AND FEES</b>	<b>43,653</b>

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT (Omit Cents)
	<b>D. FEDERAL REVENUE</b>	
4540	Unrestricted - Direct	
4580	Unrestricted - Through the State	
	<b>D. TOTAL FEDERAL REVENUE</b>	
	<b>E. REVENUES FROM STATE</b>	
4600	State Revenue	704,419
	<b>E. TOTAL REVENUES FROM STATE</b>	<b>704,415</b>
	<b>F. REVENUES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS</b>	
4695	Court Fines	1,485
4720	Received From the County for Services Performed	
4730	Received From Other Municipalities for Services Performed	
	<b>F. TOTAL REVENUES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS</b>	<b>1,485</b>
	<b>G. SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS</b>	
4750	Special Assessments	17,760
	<b>G. TOTAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS</b>	<b>17,760</b>
	<b>H. FINES. AND FORFEITURES</b>	
4770	Fines and Forfeitures	
	<b>H. TOTAL FINES, AND FORFEITURES</b>	
	<b>I. MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES</b>	
4800	Miscellaneous Revenues	
4820	Earnings on Investments	1,815
	<b>I. TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES</b>	<b>1,815</b>
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES</b>	<b>5,165,090</b>
	<b>J. OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>	
4990	Other Financing Sources	
	<b>J. TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>	
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>	<b>5,165,090</b>
	<b>K. INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS</b>	
4972	Transfers from Special Revenue Funds	
4973	Transfers from Capital Projects Funds	
4975	Transfers from Enterprise Funds	
4976	Transfers from Trust Funds	
4977	Transfers from Agency Funds	
	<b>K. TOTAL INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS</b>	
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUES, OTHER FINANCING SOURCES AND INTERFUND OPERATING TRANSFERS</b>	<b>\$ 5,165,090</b>

# SCHEDULE A

## PART II GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES (FUND 01) FISCAL YEAR 2015

GENERAL GOVERNMENT (100)												
Account Number	Item Description	Legislative	Executive	Accountant/Auditor	Collector	Treasurer	Law Dept. Town/City Counsel	Public Building Properties Maintenance	Assessors	Operations Support	License & Registration	Conservation Commission
5100	Salary and Wages		36,167	22,294	21,700	15,600		4,416	25,086		27,896	1,500
5700	Expenditures	7,500	4,038	2,935	7,667	6,534	2,878	46,424	31,562	22,482	7,369	555
5800A	Construction											
5800B	Capital Outlay											
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>40,205</b>	<b>25,229</b>	<b>29,367</b>	<b>22,134</b>	<b>2,878</b>	<b>50,840</b>	<b>56,648</b>	<b>22,482</b>	<b>35,265</b>	<b>2,055</b>

PUBLIC SAFETY (200)				
Account Number	Item Description	Police	Fire	Other
5100	Salary and Wages	86,637	2,639	
5700	Expenditures	23,130	25,496	25,559
5800A	Construction			16,190
5800B	Capital Outlay			
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>109,767</b>	<b>28,135</b>	<b>16,190</b>

EDUCATION (300)						
Account Number	Item Description	Education	Regional School Assessment 1	Regional School Assessment 2	Regional School Assessment 3	Regional School Assessment 4
5100	Salary and Wages					
5700	Expenditures	2,833,810				
5600A	Construction					
5800B	Capital Outlay	52,874				
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,886,684</b>				

PUBLIC WORKS (400)									
Account Number	Item Description	Highway/Streets Snow & Ice	Highway/Streets Other	Waste Collection & Disposal	Sewer Collection & Disposal	Water Distribution	Street Lighting	Other	
5100	Salary and Wages		247,508	25,320		41,268		22,602	
5700	Expenditures	172,000	341,266	106,666		145,777	42,078	16,149	
5800A	Construction								
5800B	Capital Outlay		41,340						
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>172,000</b>	<b>630,114</b>	<b>131,986</b>		<b>187,045</b>	<b>42,078</b>	<b>38,751</b>	

TOTAL ALL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	
Account Number	Item Description
	<b>Expenditures</b>
5100	Salary and Wages
5700	Expenditures
5800A	Construction
5800B	Capital Outlay
5900	Debt Service
0001	Unclassified
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES</b>
	<b>Other Financial Uses</b>
5960	Transfers to Other Funds
5990	Other Financing Uses
	<b>TOTAL TRANSFERS AND OTHER FINANCING USES</b>
	<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES</b>

# Town of Cheshire FY 2015 Expenditure Report

Account Number	NAME	BUDGETED	EXPENDED	UNEXPENDED
<b>Code: 001 - Moderator</b>				
01-5-001-001	Moderator Salary	50.00	-50.00	0.00
01-5-001-002	Moderator Expenses	25.00	0.00	25.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>75.00</b>	<b>-50.00</b>	<b>25.00</b>
<b>Code: 002 - Selectmen</b>				
01-5-002-001	Selectmen Salary Chair	2,500.00	-2,500.00	0.00
01-5-002-002	Selectmen Clerk	2,500.00	-2,500.00	0.00
01-5-002-003	Selectmen Third Member	2,500.00	-2,500.00	0.00
01-5-002-004	Selectmen Secretary	5,437.00	-5,437.00	0.00
01-5-002-005	Selectmen Expenses	3,000.00	-3,153.87	-153.87
01-5-002-006	Select Conserv Comm 1st Member	500.00	-500.00	0.00
01-5-002-007	Select Conserv Comm 2nd Member	500.00	-500.00	0.00
01-5-002-008	Select Conserv Comm 3rd Member	500.00	-500.00	0.00
01-5-002-009	Select Conserv Consult S.	500.00	0.00	500.00
01-5-002-010	Select Conserv Expenses	900.00	-555.26	344.74
01-5-002-011	Selectmen Town Council	7,500.00	-2,878.00	4,622.00
01-5-002-012	Select Clean Lake Program	11,000.00	-11,000.00	0.00
01-5-002-013	Selectmen Administrator	20,000.00	-20,000.00	0.00
01-5-002-014	Selectmen Admin Expenses	300.00	-128.70	171.30
01-5-002-015	Selectmen Group Purchasing	400.00	-600.00	-200.00
01-5-002-016	Town Audit	7,500.00	-7,500.00	0.00
01-5-002-018	Town Administrator Assistant salary	4,264.00	-3,179.82	1,084.18
<b>Total</b>		<b>69,801.00</b>	<b>-63,432.65</b>	<b>6,368.35</b>
<b>Code: 003 - Accountant</b>				
01-5-003-001	Accountant Salary	22,294.00	-22,294.00	0.00
01-5-003-002	Accountant Expenses/Dues	1,709.97	-1,721.17	-11.20
01-5-003-004	Accounting Software	1,214.00	-1,214.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>25,217.97</b>	<b>-25,229.17</b>	<b>-11.20</b>
<b>Code: 004 - Treasurer</b>				
01-5-004-001	Treasurer Salary	15,600.00	-15,600.00	0.00
01-5-004-002	Treasurer Expenses Postage	5,200.00	-4,950.69	249.31
01-5-004-003	Treasurer Mileage & Trips	200.00	-120.00	80.00
01-5-004-004	Treasurer Education	200.00	-90.00	110.00
01-5-004-005	Treasurer/Accountant Software	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00
01-5-004-006	Treasurer/Tax Title Fees	9,446.97	-373.00	9,073.97
<b>Total</b>		<b>31,646.97</b>	<b>-22,133.69</b>	<b>9,513.28</b>
<b>Code: 005 - Tax Collector</b>				
01-5-005-001	Tax Collector Salary	21,700.00	-21,700.00	0.00
01-5-005-002	Tax Collector Postage	2,500.00	-2,494.94	5.06
01-5-005-003	Tax Collector Office Expense	4,200.00	-4,172.03	27.97
01-5-005-004	Tax Collector Contract Serv.	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00
01-5-005-005	Tax Collector Tax Title/Fees	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>31,400.00</b>	<b>-29,366.97</b>	<b>2,033.03</b>

Account Number	NAME	BUDGETED	EXPENDED	UNEXPENDED
<b>Code: 006 - Assessors</b>				
01-5-006-001	Assessors Salary Chairman	3,167.00	-3,167.00	0.00
01-5-006-002	Assessors Clerk	2,639.00	-2,639.00	0.00
01-5-006-003	Assessors Third Member	2,639.00	-2,639.00	0.00
01-5-006-004	Assessors Admin. Assessor	16,641.00	-16,641.00	0.00
01-5-006-005	Assessors Supplies	1,000.00	-765.90	234.10
01-5-006-007	Assessors Computer	1,700.00	-1,079.99	620.01
01-5-006-008	Assessors Education	500.00	-627.20	-127.20
01-5-006-011	Assessors Contracted Svcs	29,450.00	-29,089.00	361.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>57,736.00</b>	<b>-56,648.09</b>	<b>1,087.91</b>
<b>Code: 007 - Advisory Board</b>				
01-5-007-001	Advisory Board Expenses	50.00	0.00	50.00
01-5-007-002	Advisory Board Dues	150.00	-155.00	-5.00
01-5-007-003	Advisory Board Meetings Mileage	100.00	0.00	100.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>300.00</b>	<b>-155.00</b>	<b>145.00</b>
<b>Code: 008 - Town Clerk</b>				
01-5-008-001	Town Clerk Salary	16,700.00	-16,700.00	0.00
01-5-008-002	Town Clerk Expenses	2,074.61	-1,920.67	153.94
01-5-008-003	Town Clerk Dog License Exp	500.00	-297.00	203.00
01-5-008-004	Town Clerk Education	1,200.00	-858.70	341.30
01-5-008-005	Town Clerk Book Repair	4,500.00	-2,301.11	2,198.89
01-5-008-006	Town Clerk Copy Machine	759.14	-410.80	348.34
01-5-008-007	Town Clerk Service Contract	950.00	-944.00	6.00
01-5-008-008	Town Clerk Census/Lists	3,000.00	-1,929.65	1,070.35
	<b>Total</b>	<b>29,683.75</b>	<b>-25,361.93</b>	<b>4,321.82</b>
<b>Code: 009 - Board of Registrars</b>				
01-5-009-001	Board of Registrars Registrars	11,105.11	-4,271.45	6,833.66
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11,105.11</b>	<b>-4,271.45</b>	<b>6,833.66</b>
<b>Code: 010 - Elections</b>				
01-5-010-000	Elections	11,698.54	-6,924.55	4,773.99
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11,698.54</b>	<b>-6,924.55</b>	<b>4,773.99</b>
<b>Code: 011 - Vital Statistics</b>				
01-5-011-000	Vital Statistics	133.00	-61.00	72.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>133.00</b>	<b>-61.00</b>	<b>72.00</b>
<b>Code: 012 - Town Reports</b>				
01-5-012-000	Town Reports Printing	3,000.00	-2,186.31	813.69
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>	<b>-2,186.31</b>	<b>813.69</b>
<b>Code: 013 - Planning Board</b>				
01-5-013-001	Planning Board Expenses	3,000.00	-2,750.24	249.76
01-5-013-002	Planning Board Berksh. Reg. Plan. Comm.	2,163.00	-2,278.18	-115.18
01-5-013-003	Planning Board Contracted Serv	2,376.00	-2,310.75	65.25
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,539.00</b>	<b>-7,339.17</b>	<b>199.83</b>
<b>Code: 014 - Zoning Board of Appeals</b>				
01-5-014-000	Zoning Board of Appeals	600.00	-526.08	73.92
01-5-014-001	Zoning Board - Contract Svcs	800.00	0.00	800.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,400.00</b>	<b>-526.08</b>	<b>873.92</b>
<b>Code: 015 - Berkshire Cty Retirement</b>				
01-5-015-000	Berkshire Co. Retirement Syst	79,184.00	-79,184.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>79,184.00</b>	<b>-79,184.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>



Account Number	NAME	BUDGETED	EXPENDED	UNEXPENDED
	<b>Code: 016 - Health Insurance</b>			
01-5-016-000	BC/BS	201,500.00	-184,550.45	16,949.55
	<b>Total</b>	<b>201,500.00</b>	<b>-184,550.45</b>	<b>16,949.55</b>
	<b>Code: 017 - Medicare ER Share</b>			
01-5-017-000	MEDC Employer Share (SS Tax)	8,300.00	-8,049.65	250.35
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,300.00</b>	<b>-8,049.65</b>	<b>250.35</b>
	<b>Code: 018 - Town Buildings</b>			
01-5-018-001	Town Bldg Town Hall	19,600.00	-16,189.24	3,410.76
01-5-018-002	Town Bldg Fire Dept	9,300.00	-12,143.68	-2,843.68
01-5-018-003	Town Bldg Town Shed	4,300.00	-6,136.06	-1,836.06
01-5-018-004	Town Bldg Senior Center	4,300.00	-3,547.29	752.71
01-5-018-005	Town Bldg Telephone System	9,000.00	-11,075.98	-2,075.98
01-5-018-006	Town Bldg Janitor	4,416.00	-4,416.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>50,916.00</b>	<b>-53,508.25</b>	<b>-2,592.25</b>
	<b>Code: 019 - Special Repairs</b>			
01-5-019-000	Special Repairs Town Bldg	11,000.00	-8,407.75	2,592.25
	<b>Total</b>	<b>11,000.00</b>	<b>-8,407.75</b>	<b>2,592.25</b>
	<b>Code: 020 - Insurance</b>			
01-5-020-000	Insurance	65,188.00	-62,959.62	2,228.38
	<b>Total</b>	<b>65,188.00</b>	<b>-62,959.62</b>	<b>2,228.38</b>
	<b>Code: 022 - Police Dept.</b>			
01-5-022-001	Police Dept Chief Salary	2,639.00	-2,639.00	0.00
01-5-022-002	Police Dept Officers Salaries	83,875.00	-83,998.38	-123.38
01-5-022-003	Police Dept General Expenses	4,000.00	-3,740.16	259.84
01-5-022-004	Police Dept Auto Expenses	14,754.00	-15,136.47	-382.47
01-5-022-005	Police Dept Equipment	4,500.00	-4,253.99	246.01
	<b>Total</b>	<b>109,768.00</b>	<b>-109,768.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	<b>Code: 023 - Animal Control</b>			
01-5-023-001	Animal Control Officer Salary	3,090.00	-3,090.00	0.00
01-5-023-002	Animal Control Expenses	600.00	-396.20	203.80
01-5-023-003	Animal Control Trans/Disposal	450.00	-35.00	415.00
01-5-023-005	Animal Control Train/Meetings	300.00	0.00	300.00
01-5-023-006	Animal Control Cell Phone	600.00	-523.08	76.92
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,040.00</b>	<b>-4,044.28</b>	<b>995.72</b>
	<b>Code: 024 - Fire Dept</b>			
01-5-024-001	Fire Dept Chief Salary	2,639.00	-2,639.00	0.00
01-5-024-002	Fire Dept Expenses	26,435.00	-25,495.97	939.03
01-5-024-004	Fire Dept EMS Supplies	4,000.00	-4,357.59	-357.59
01-5-024-008	Fire Dept Rescue Veh Loan	9,817.00	-9,817.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>42,891.00</b>	<b>-42,309.56</b>	<b>581.44</b>
	<b>Code: 024 - Fire Dept</b>			
01-5-025-000	Police/Fire Dept Accident Ins.	7,778.00	-7,778.00	0.00
01-5-025-002	Police/Fire Disability Ins.	6,182.00	-6,182.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,960.00</b>	<b>-13,960.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
	<b>Code: 026 - Communications Ctr</b>			
01-5-026-000	Communication Center	16,190.00	-16,190.02	-0.02
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16,190.00</b>	<b>-16,190.02</b>	<b>-0.02</b>

Account Number	NAME	BUDGETED	EXPENDED	UNEXPENDED
<b>Code: 027 - Building Inspector</b>				
01-5-027-001	Building Inspector Salary	12,300.00	-12,300.00	0.00
01-5-027-002	Building Inspector Exp/Mileage	1,194.70	-328.89	865.81
01-5-027-003	Building Inspector Meetings/Train	1,000.00	-325.00	675.00
01-5-027-004	Building Inspector Assistant	4,000.00	-4,000.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>18,494.70</b>	<b>-16,953.89</b>	<b>1,540.81</b>
<b>Code: 028 - Gas Piping</b>				
01-5-028-001	Gas Piping Inspector Salary	960.00	-960.00	0.00
01-5-028-002	Gas Piping Inspector Expenses	600.00	-600.00	0.00
01-5-028-003	Gas Piping Inspector Travel Exp	210.00	-210.00	0.00
01-5-028-004	Gas Piping Inspector Assistant	480.00	-480.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,250.00</b>	<b>-2,250.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Code: 029 - Wire Inspector</b>				
01-5-029-001	Wire Inspector Salary	1,845.00	-1,845.00	0.00
01-5-029-002	Wire Inspector Expenses	1,520.00	-96.55	1,423.45
01-5-029-004	Wire Inspector Assistant Salar	410.00	-410.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,775.00</b>	<b>-2,351.55</b>	<b>1,423.45</b>
<b>Code: 030 - Tree Warden</b>				
01-5-030-003	Tree Warden Tree/Stump Removal	10,000.00	-10,000.00	0.00
01-5-030-004	Tree Warden Tree Replacement	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>11,000.00</b>	<b>-11,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Code: 031 - Civil Defense</b>				
01-5-031-001	Civil Defense Expenses	500.00	0.00	500.00
01-5-031-002	Civil Defense Supplies	500.00	0.00	500.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>
<b>Code: 032 - Board of Health</b>				
01-5-032-001	Board of Health Chairman Salary	2,742.00	-2,742.00	0.00
01-5-032-002	Board of Health 2nd Member	2,742.00	-2,742.00	0.00
01-5-032-003	Board of Health 3rd Member	2,742.00	-2,742.00	0.00
01-5-032-004	Board of Health Expenses	3,000.00	-2,618.41	381.59
01-5-032-005	Board of Health Software	150.00	0.00	150.00
01-5-032-006	Board of Health Equipment	150.00	0.00	150.00
01-5-032-007	Board of Health Secretary	2,665.00	-2,112.00	553.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>14,191.00</b>	<b>-12,956.41</b>	<b>1,234.59</b>
<b>Code: 032 - Board of Health</b>				
01-5-033-001	Animal Inspector Salary	794.00	-794.00	0.00
01-5-033-002	Animal Inspector Expenses	150.00	0.00	150.00
01-5-033-003	Animal Inspect Rabies Testing	540.00	-97.00	443.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,484.00</b>	<b>-891.00</b>	<b>593.00</b>
<b>Code: 034 - Plumbing Inspector</b>				
01-5-034-001	Plumbing Inspector Salary	1,200.00	-1,200.00	0.00
01-5-034-002	Plumbing Inspector Expense	600.00	0.00	600.00
01-5-034-003	Plumbing Inspector Travel Exp	390.00	0.00	390.00
01-5-034-004	Plumbing Inspector Assistant	480.00	-480.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,670.00</b>	<b>-1,680.00</b>	<b>990.00</b>

Account Number	NAME	BUDGETED	EXPENDED	UNEXPENDED
<b>Code: 035 - Town Compactor</b>				
01-5-035-001	Town Compactor Caretaker Salary	25,254.00	-24,784.60	469.40
01-5-035-002	Town Compactor Board of Health Collector	1,000.00	-534.50	465.50
01-5-035-003	Town Compactor Oper Exp	89,000.00	-75,374.06	13,625.94
01-5-035-004	Town Compactor Site Maint	2,600.00	-1,310.00	1,290.00
01-5-035-005	Town Compactor Bags/Stickers	8,500.00	-7,984.34	515.66
01-5-035-006	Town Compactor Training/Edu	150.00	-195.00	-45.00
01-5-035-025	Town Compactor Bags & Stickers Volunteer Firefighters	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>131,504.00</b>	<b>-110,182.50</b>	<b>21,321.50</b>
<b>Code: 036 - Recycling</b>				
01-5-036-000	Recycling Account	31,800.00	-21,803.10	9,996.90
	<b>Total</b>	<b>31,800.00</b>	<b>-21,803.10</b>	<b>9,996.90</b>
<b>Code: 037 - Street Lights</b>				
01-5-037-000	Street Lights	41,380.00	-42,077.86	-697.86
	<b>Total</b>	<b>41,380.00</b>	<b>-42,077.86</b>	<b>-697.86</b>
<b>Code: 039 - Highway Admin</b>				
01-5-039-001	Highway Salaries	215,901.00	-203,230.50	12,670.50
01-5-039-002	Highway Vacation & Fringe Benefits	25,866.00	-44,276.72	-18,410.72
01-5-039-003	Highway Dues & Meetings	500.00	-283.00	217.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>242,267.00</b>	<b>-247,790.22</b>	<b>-5,523.22</b>
<b>Code: 040 - Highway Tools/Gas/Oil</b>				
01-5-040-000	Road Machinery Tools/Gas/Oil	120,000.00	-113,780.32	6,219.68
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120,000.00</b>	<b>-113,780.32</b>	<b>6,219.68</b>
<b>Code: 041 - Snow &amp; Ice Removal</b>				
01-5-041-000	Snow & Ice Removal	172,000.00	-172,000.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>172,000.00</b>	<b>-172,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Code: 042 - Highway Maintenance</b>				
01-5-042-001	Highway Dept Repair Town Roads	37,310.36	-37,310.36	0.00
01-5-042-002	Highway Dept Town Roads/Bridges	43,843.56	-43,843.56	0.00
01-5-042-003	Highway Dept Street Repair	32,000.00	-32,000.00	0.00
01-5-042-004	Highway Dept Curbing & Culverts	2,000.00	-2,164.84	-164.84
01-5-042-005	Highway Dept Guard Rails	20,000.00	-15,068.00	4,932.00
01-5-042-006	Highway Dept Blacktop	67,205.14	-67,205.14	0.00
01-5-042-007	Highway Dept Engineering Serv	7,500.00	-7,500.00	0.00
01-5-042-008	Highway Dept Stream Cleaning	6,000.00	-6,000.00	0.00
01-5-042-009	Highway Dept New Truck Payment	41,340.00	-41,340.00	0.00
01-5-042-025	Heavy Equipment Rental	6,335.00	-5,110.64	1,224.36
	<b>Total</b>	<b>263,534.06</b>	<b>-257,542.54</b>	<b>5,991.52</b>
<b>Code: 043 - Recreation</b>				
01-5-043-000	General Recreation Expense	9,540.00	-7,775.00	1,765.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9,540.00</b>	<b>-7,775.00</b>	<b>1,765.00</b>
<b>Code: 044 - Memorial Day</b>				
01-5-044-000	Memorial Day	1,000.00	-757.86	242.14
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>-757.86</b>	<b>242.14</b>

Account Number	NAME	BUDGETED	EXPENDED	UNEXPENDED
<b>Code: 045 - Library</b>				
01-5-045-001	Library Salary	13,000.00	-10,487.25	2,512.75
01-5-045-002	Library New Books Magazines	7,800.00	-6,069.44	1,730.56
01-5-045-003	Library Insurance	950.00	-725.00	225.00
01-5-045-004	Library Exp Supplies Misc.	1,200.00	-721.99	478.01
01-5-045-007	Library ILL Loan Replacemts	100.00	0.00	100.00
01-5-045-008	Library Education	200.00	0.00	200.00
01-5-045-009	Library Programs	500.00	-478.18	21.82
<b>Total</b>		<b>23,750.00</b>	<b>-18,481.86</b>	<b>5,268.14</b>
<b>Code: 046 - Veterans</b>				
01-5-046-001	Veterans Agents Salary	1,500.00	-1,250.00	250.00
01-5-046-002	Veterans Agents Expenses	500.00	0.00	500.00
01-5-046-003	Veterans Benefits	10,000.00	-11,392.50	-1,392.50
01-5-046-004	Veterans Schooling	440.00	0.00	440.00
01-5-046-005	Veterans Cemetery Flags	600.00	-447.50	152.50
01-5-046-006	Veterans Dues for Assoc.	50.00	0.00	50.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,090.00</b>	<b>-13,090.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Code: 047 - Cemetery</b>				
01-5-047-001	Cemetery Chairman Salary	738.00	-738.00	0.00
01-5-047-002	Cemetery 2nd Member Salary	738.00	-738.00	0.00
01-5-047-003	Cemetery 3rd Member Salary	738.00	-738.00	0.00
01-5-047-004	Cemetery Labor	24,465.00	-20,388.33	4,076.67
01-5-047-005	Cemetery Maint & Expenses	0.00	-319.33	-319.33
01-5-047-006	Equip Mowers Loam Tools	5,531.00	-3,632.77	1,898.23
01-5-047-007	Cemetery Admin & Supplies	530.00	-1,196.81	-666.81
<b>Total</b>		<b>32,740.00</b>	<b>-27,751.24</b>	<b>4,988.76</b>
<b>Code: 048 - Reserve Fund</b>				
01-5-048-000	Reserve Fund	20,000.00	-16,507.69	3,492.31
01-5-048-025	Stabilization Fund	20,000.00	-20,000.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>40,000.00</b>	<b>-36,507.69</b>	<b>3,492.31</b>
<b>Code: 050 - Council on Aging</b>				
01-5-050-001	Council on Aging General Expenses	500.00	-563.17	-63.17
01-5-050-002	Council on Aging Van Expense	5,900.00	-2,830.19	3,069.81
01-5-050-003	Council on Aging Van Operator Salary	12,171.00	-13,525.44	-1,354.44
01-5-050-004	Council on Aging Contracted Services	2,348.00	-2,348.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>20,919.00</b>	<b>-19,266.80</b>	<b>1,652.20</b>
<b>Code: 051 - Historical Commission</b>				
01-5-051-000	Historical Commission	500.00	0.00	500.00
01-5-051-001	Cheshire Agricultural Commission	500.00	0.00	500.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>
<b>Code: 052 - Interest on Notes</b>				
01-5-052-000	Interest on Anticipated Notes	5,000.00	-1,500.00	3,500.00
01-5-052-001	Well Bond Payment	108,656.00	-108,656.26	-0.26
<b>Total</b>		<b>113,656.00</b>	<b>-110,156.26</b>	<b>3,499.74</b>
<b>Code: 053 - Unemployment Compensation</b>				
01-5-053-000	Unemployment Compensation	0.00	-63.25	-63.25
<b>Total</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>-63.25</b>	<b>-63.25</b>

Account Number	NAME	BUDGETED	EXPENDED	UNEXPENDED
<b>Code: 054 - Water Dept</b>				
01-5-054-001	Water Dept Chairman Salary	2,772.00	-2,772.00	0.00
01-5-054-002	Water Dept 2nd Member Salary	2,772.00	-2,772.00	0.00
01-5-054-003	Water Dept 3rd Member Salary	2,772.00	-2,772.00	0.00
01-5-054-004	Water Dept Superintendent	15,191.00	-12,292.80	2,898.20
01-5-054-005	Water Dept Collector	7,611.00	-7,611.00	0.00
01-5-054-006	Water Dept Licensed Operator	13,048.00	-13,048.00	0.00
01-5-054-008	Water Dept Main Replacements	40,000.00	-11,543.00	28,457.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>84,166.00</b>	<b>-52,810.80</b>	<b>31,355.20</b>
<b>Code: 055 - Water Operating</b>				
01-5-055-000	Water Dept Operating Exp	46,653.00	-54,138.77	-7,485.77
	<b>Total</b>	<b>46,653.00</b>	<b>-54,138.77</b>	<b>-7,485.77</b>
<b>Code: 056 - Water Dept Maint</b>				
01-5-056-000	Water Dept Maint. Costs	24,000.00	-64,328.24	-40,328.24
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24,000.00</b>	<b>-64,328.24</b>	<b>-40,328.24</b>
<b>Code: 057 - Improvements - Water Dept</b>				
01-5-057-001	Improvements Pipe Replace	22,172.00	-15,766.58	6,405.42
01-5-057-002	Improvements Debt Service	104,000.00	-103,337.98	662.02
	<b>Total</b>	<b>126,172.00</b>	<b>-119,104.56</b>	<b>7,067.44</b>
<b>Code: 058 - ACRSD</b>				
01-5-058-001	ACRSD Foundation Budget	1,756,516.00	-1,756,516.00	0.00
01-5-058-002	ACRSD Transportation	146,199.00	-146,199.00	0.00
01-5-058-003	ACRSD Over-Foundation	312,867.00	-312,867.00	0.00
01-5-058-004	ACRSD Major Capital Repairs	38,889.00	-38,889.00	0.00
01-5-058-010	ACRSD Cheshire Elementary Boiler	13,985.00	-13,985.00	0.00
01-5-058-011	ACRSD Building Project Interest Only	228,619.00	-228,619.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,497,075.00</b>	<b>-2,497,075.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Code: 061 - Vocational School</b>				
01-5-061-000	Vocational School	389,609.00	-389,609.00	0.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>389,609.00</b>	<b>-389,609.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Code: 100 - State Assessments</b>				
01-5-100-001	State Assess - Air Pollution	0.00	-836.00	-836.00
01-5-100-002	State Assess - RMV Nonrenewal	0.00	-2,620.00	-2,620.00
01-5-100-003	State Assess - Regional Transi	0.00	-23,476.00	-23,476.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-26,932.00</b>	<b>-26,932.00</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>5,365,393.10</b>	<b>5,277,725.36</b>	<b>87,667.74</b>

# Treasurer's Report

To the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Cheshire:

The Annual Report of the Town Treasurer for FY 2015 is hereby submitted:

Departmental Receipts	Receipt Detail	Total Receipts	Departmental Receipts	Receipt Detail	Total Receipts
<b>Board of Assessors</b>			<b>Refunds</b>	37,469.36	37,469.36
Copy charges	162.00	162.00	<b>Plumbing Inspector</b>		
<b>Board of Health</b>			Permits	3,210.00	3,210.00
Bags & Stickers	102,583.00		<b>Police Dept</b>		
Transfer Station - Demo	5,928.00		Details	46,622.25	
Permits	795.00		Permits	6,655.00	
Perc Tests	1,325.00	110,631.00	Fees/Fines	4,241.64	
<b>Board of Selectmen</b>			Special Donations	200.00	57,718.89
Licenses/Fees	18,512.16		<b>Tax Collector</b>		
Misc Receipts	24,624.89	43,137.05	Taxes/Interest/Fees	4,027,657.34	
<b>Building Inspector</b>			Tax Title Transfers	(24,496.97)	4,003,160.37
Permits	11,613.50	11,613.50	<b>Town Clerk</b>		
<b>Cemetery</b>			Dog Licenses	7,275.00	
Grave Openings	7,500.00		Fines/Late fees	2,260.00	
Misc Work/Weekend	100.00		Rental Town Buildings	770.00	
Equipment Use	450.00		Miscellaneous	957.60	11,262.60
Deed Fees	70.00		<b>Treasurer</b>		
Sale of Lots	1,625.00		Health Insurance Premiums	50,868.90	
Perpetual Care Fund	2,600.00	12,345.00	Tax Titles	18,457.64	
<b>Commonwealth of MA</b>			Tax Title Interest/Fees	3,259.46	
CMVI - RMV Infractions	13,562.50		Miscellaneous	515.74	73,101.74
General Government			<b>Water Department</b>		
(Lottery)	532,699.00		Rents	267,046.39	
State owned land	109,150.00		Work Permits	740.00	
Elderly/Blind Exemption			Interest/fees	144.32	
Reimbursements	20,251.00		Insurance Refund	5,682.00	273,612.71
N. Berkshire District			<b>Wire Inspector</b>		
Court Reports	1,485.00		Permits	10,046.65	10,046.65
Fire Dept Federal Grant	111,530.00		<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		
Other State Revenue	150.00		<b>FY 2015:</b>	<b>5,640,258.21</b>	<b>5,640,258.21</b>
Elder Affairs Grant	6,352.00				
Elder Affairs Incentive Grant	7,264.00				
Library Grant	3,953.25				
PILOT	787.00				
<b>Board of Health</b>					
Recycling Program	1,200.00				
Veteran Services	95.00				
Extended Polling	792.00				
Chapter 90	174,720.34	983,991.09			
<b>Council on Aging</b>					
Van Receipts	1,280.00	1,280.00			
<b>Fire Dept</b>					
Permits	3,125.00	3,125.00			
<b>Interest</b>					
General Fund	1,815.02				
Trust Funds	2,576.23	4,391.25			

<b>SCHEDULE OF TRUST FUNDS:</b>	
Stabilization	\$ 443,698.48
Capital Equipment Stabilization	30,118.22
Cemetery Dept.- Perpetual Care	158,321.44
Cemetery Dept.- Sale of Lots	21,536.35
Cemetery Dept.- Whipple and Harkness	32,175.85
Cemetery Dept.- Dumont	6,080.85
Cemetery Dept.- Benjamin & Phyllis Bissell	1,441.89
Cemetery Dept.- John L. Brown	1,583.99
Cemetery Dept.- Lorraine N. Braund	51,980.28
Philip Burns Public Library	7,652.49
Philip Burns Public School	19,615.37
Westminster Chime	1,458.03
Veteran's Memorial	3,786.98
<b>Balance June 30, 2015</b>	<b>\$ 779,450.22</b>

**SCHEDULE OF GRANT FUNDS**

Police Dept.- Bullet Proof Vests	\$ 20.00
Police Dept.- Equipment	(4,000.00)
Council on Aging – Elder Affairs	0.00
Library	17,770.12
Council on Aging Incentive	6,224.25
MA Technology Collaborative	584.77
MEMA Performance	0.00
Fire Equipment	0.00
MArtap	(291.02)
Board of Health Recycling Program	1,200.00
<b>Balance June 30, 2015</b>	<b>\$21,508.12</b>

**LOANS**

**BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE –  
DEPARTMENTAL EQUIPMENT**  
**Greenfield Co-operative Bank**

Loan Amount	\$ 570,000.00
Highway Truck:	\$ 170,000.00
Fire Truck:	\$ 400,000.00
Issue Date – February 4, 2015	
Due Date – February 4, 2016	
Interest Rate – 0.52%	
Balance July 1, 2014	0.00
Annual Payment Amount	0.00
Interest Expense	\$ 0.00
<b>Balance June 30, 2015</b>	<b>\$ 570,000.00</b>

**BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE –  
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS (4th RENEWAL)**  
**UniBank for Savings**

Renewal Loan Amount	\$ 455,000.00
Issue Date – June 19, 2015	
Due Date – June 17, 2016	
Interest Rate – 0.50%	
Balance July 1, 2014	0.00
Annual Payment Amount	0.00
Interest Expense	\$ 0.00
<b>Balance June 30, 2015</b>	<b>\$ 455,000.00</b>

**BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE –  
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS (3rd RENEWAL)**  
**Easthampton Savings Bank**

Original Loan Amount	\$ 556,000.00
Paydown on Loan	(101,000.00)
Renewal Loan Amount	455,000.00
Issue Date – December 19, 2014	
Due Date – June 19, 2015	
Interest Rate – 0.52%	
Balance July 1, 2014	0.00
Annual Payment Amount	455,000.00
Interest Expense	\$ 1,183.00
<b>Balance June 30, 2015</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>

**BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE –  
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS  
(2nd RENEWAL – Original Loan Amount \$556,000.00)**  
**Greenfield Cooperative Bank**

Loan Amount	\$ 556,000.00
Issue Date – March 28, 2014	
Due Date – December 19, 2014	
Interest Rate – 0.58%	
Balance July 1, 2014	556,000.00
Annual Payment Amount	556,000.00
Interest Expense	\$ 2,337.98
<b>Balance June 30, 2015</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>

**HIGHWAY DEPT. TRUCK LOAN**  
**Hampden Bank**

Loan Amount	\$ 195,000.00
Issue Date – March 7, 2013	
Due Date – March 7, 2018	
Interest Rate – 1.50%	
Balance July 1, 2014	156,000.00
Annual Payment Amount	39,000.00
Interest Expense	\$ 2,340.00
<b>Balance June 30, 2015</b>	<b>\$ 117,000.00</b>

**LAND ACQUISITION BOND ISSUE**

Amount of Bond Issue at Inception	\$1,158,925.00
Issue Date – December 15, 2009	
Term of Bond – 15 years	
With interest payable semiannually	
Interest Rate – 2.25%	
Balance July 1, 2014	880,000.00
Annual Payment Amount	75,000.00
Interest Expense	\$ 33,656.26
<b>Balance June 30, 2015</b>	<b>\$ 805,000.00</b>

**FIRE DEPT. –  
EMERGENCY RESCUE VEHICLE BOND ISSUE**  
**USDA Rural Development**

Issue Date – March 11, 2008	
Due Date – March 11, 2023	
Total vehicle cost	\$ 165,000.00
Less Grant award	57,750.00
Loan Amount	107,250.00
Interest Rate – 4.25%	
Balance July 1, 2014	72,148.08
Annual Payment Amount	6,750.71
Interest Expense	\$ 3,066.29
<b>Balance June 30, 2015</b>	<b>\$ 65,397.37</b>

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Herzog

# Tax Collector

To the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Cheshire:

The Annual Report of the Tax Collector for FY 2015 is hereby submitted:

**Outstanding Taxes as of July 1, 2014:**

Real Estate	\$ 121,246.73
Personal Property	4,155.03
Motor Vehicle	54,490.02
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 179,891.78</b>

**Committed to Collect:**

Real Estate	\$ 3,449,904.20
Personal Property	82,077.47
Motor Vehicle	499,787.39
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,031,769.06</b>

**Turned Over to the Treasurer:**

Real Estate Taxes	\$ 3,367,018.59
Personal Property Taxes	81,989.66
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	496,919.30
Tax Title Accounts	24,496.97
Mobile Home Excise	17,760.00
Interest	17,095.82
NSF Fees	50.00
Registry Marking Fees	3,340.00
Municipal Lien Fees	1,525.00
Tax Collector Fees	8,065.00
Deputy Collector Fees	9,397.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,027,657.34</b>

**Abatements/Exemptions:**

Real Estate	\$ 27,683.80
Motor Vehicle	36,188.16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 63,871.96</b>

**Refunds:**

Real Estate	\$ 2,978.76
Motor Vehicle	8,165.08
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 11,143.84</b>

**Outstanding Taxes as of June 30, 2015:**

Real Estate	\$ 154,930.33
Personal Property	4,242.84
Motor Vehicle	29,335.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 188,508.20</b>

**Hoosac Lake District**

Outstanding Taxes July 1, 2014:	\$ 1,701.26
Committed to collect:	14,647.75
Turned over to Treasurer:	-13,952.85
Tax Titles:	0.00
Abatements:	0.00
Refunds:	0.00

**Outstanding Taxes June 30, 2015: \$ 2,396.16**

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Herzog



# Board of Assessors

The annual report of the Board of Assessors for Fiscal Year 2015 is hereby submitted.

Fiscal year 2015 Real Estate and Personal Property taxes were committed to the Tax Collector on September 30, 2014.

The elected Board of Assessors is required to value all property in the town annually, at full and fair cash value (market value). Much of our direction comes from Chapter 59 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

The Department of Revenue is charged, by statute, with the responsibility of certifying every three years that the Assessors are complying with the statutes and that they do so, fairly and equitably. The next certification will be FY 2016.

Market value of property is generally determined by using the sales price of similar properties from the preceding year. These sale prices are extrapolated into previous cost tables, to then be applied to all parcels.

Property values did not change in Cheshire.

The tax rate increased to \$11.94

## Real Estate & Personal Property Commitments and Abatements

### Commitments

Type	No. of Bills	Tax	Valuation
Real Estate	1614	\$ 3,446,682.79	\$ 288,666,895.00
Personal Prop	24	82,077.47	6,874,159.00
Hoosac Lake Dist	107	14,647.75	24,012,600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1745</b>	<b>\$3,543,408.01</b>	<b>\$319,553,654.00</b>

### Abatements & Exemptions

Abatements	4	\$ 423.86
Elderly Exempt	23	6,950.00
Veteran Exempt	23	18,234.94
Blind Exempt	4	1,750.00
Clause 18 Exempt	1	325.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>\$27,683.80</b>

## Motor Vehicle Excise Commitments & Abatements

### Commitments

Year	No. of Bills	Tax
2014	577	\$ 52,212.25
2015	3873	446,954.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>4450</b>	<b>\$ 499,167.08</b>

### Abatements

Year	No. of Abatements	Tax Abated
1997-2012	various	\$ 23,412.57
2013	6	761.76
2014	61	3,716.93
2015	102	8,296.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>\$ 36,188.16</b>

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Astorino  
Everett Martin  
Laurie Charon

## Board of Health

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To the citizens of Cheshire, the Board of Health hereby submits the annual report for 2014-2015.

Our recycling efforts were very good this year. Cheshire was in the top five in the district for recycling. This afforded us two grants totaling \$1,500. These funds were used to repair the roof of one of the buildings and the compactor. We thank the residents for their efforts in recycling and would like to remind you that bottle caps and plastic caps are NOT recyclable.

Our operating expenses were stable this year. We have returned \$110,631 back to the town for bags, stickers, demo and permits.

We do foresee some increases in operating expenses in the coming year, but hope to continue maintaining a stable operating budget.

We would like to thank the Highway Department for helping maintain and assist with operations at the compactor site this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Salvi  
Jeffrey Warner  
Michael Biagini

## Cemetery Commission

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### FY 2015 Annual Report

To the Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of the Town of Cheshire:

Once again the year was fairly calm for the Cemetery Department, in spite of a cold, snowy, long winter. At the start of the season in mid-April there were 8 full burials in the winter vault, or tomb, awaiting interment.

During the year the Cemetery handled 14 full burials and 8 interments of cremains. "Cremains" is the designation for cremated remains. The Cemetery Commission sold 7 lots.

The Commissioners again wish to thank our Cemetery staff, the Cheshire Highway Department and the Town Clerk for their assistance and cooperation to provide our services to the people of Cheshire.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil W. Baker  
Josephine A. Lewis  
Jack Girard

# Council on Aging

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## FY 2014-2015 Annual Report

The following services were provided by the Cheshire Council on Aging (COA) between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015:

- The COA van traveled 6,185 miles providing 632 life support trips for Medical and food needs for 106 persons.
- The senior aid services served 60% women and 40% men, 6% minority, 2% nursing home, 12% disabled, 21% over 71, and 15% non-Elder (under the age of 55).
- The Senior/Community Center has provided a place to serve over 1,246 hot lunches on Mondays and Wednesdays. This year we have added Tuesday.
- Over 900 person/hours of exercise classes.
- Over 360 "Brown Bags" (staples supplied by the Food Bank each month) have been prepared by 9 Cheshire volunteers in Adams and distributed from the Senior/Community Center.
- Over 144 foot clinic appointments have taken place.
- Over 200 person/hours of quilting time.
- Over 720 person/hours of BINGO playing.
- 3 special lunches have been provided. Two included music by "Champagne Jam" and the third at the Bass Water Grill with a presentation by Barry Emery from the Historic Commission.
- Third Annual Strawberry Festival was held and served 36 citizens.
- 97 children and adults attended the annual intergenerational Children's Christmas party held at the Senior/Community Center with refreshments being provided by the COA and the town of Cheshire.
- 35 Cheshire seniors and shut-ins were provided with Christmas cookies.
- 8 seniors were provided with Computer instruction upon request.
- "File of Life" cards were given to 24 seniors.
- Over 1900 hours of volunteer work was donated. Thanks to everyone involved.
- 320 hours paid for a Senior Aid/Outreach person.

Karmen B. Field-Mitchell was our senior aid and was able to assist in meals/referrals/Cheshire Chatter events and paper work. Elder Services has provided an assistant to Karmen for one year.

The Northern Berkshire Cultural Council granted the COA funds to provide a trip to the Williamstown Theater for 23 people to attend the performance.

Senior Housing has been put on hold until funds become available.

No new members were appointed to the COA.

The members of the Cheshire Council on Aging are:

Anna Farnam, Chairman,  
Helen Dargie  
Mel Gwozdz  
Butch King  
Karmen Mitchell  
Peter Traub  
Elsie Zaleski

# Historical Commission

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## Annual Report 2015

The Historical commission has received official notice that the Town Hall Complex is now on the fast track for complete acceptance as a State and National Historic site. The required question and feedback periods are close to completion.

We are very grateful to have received a treasure trove of old Cheshire pictures as donations from Simeon Wood and Eileen Nuttall. Also, the Petithory Family has generously donated copies of the Official Government documents and medals of their son, a hero of the Iraq War, Sergeant Danny Petithory (KIA).

The Commission welcomed new member Gus Martin. Member Barry Emery gave another of his well-received illustrated talks, this time on the early houses of Cheshire.

For the Annual Fireman's Ball, the Commission lent a selection of old town photos which were later placed on display in the Community Center. In our display cases at the Post Office the Commission placed a Memorial Display and tribute to the late Bernice Madigan, 115 years old (1898-2014), Cheshire's oldest citizen.

The Commission continues to seek out town homes over 100 years old, for honorary plaques. We are always glad to accept any items relative to Cheshire's History as we aim to preserve the collective memory of our town.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Daniels  
Vern Emerson  
Barry Emery  
Bob Hitter  
Dodi Martin  
Gus Martin  
Diane Hitter, Chair  
Eileen Nuttall, emeritus

# Building Inspector

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Fiscal Year: 07/01/14 – 06/30/15  
 Supplements to the Annual Report

To The Citizens of Cheshire,

The Building Inspection Department ensures that all new construction, alterations, renovations, repairs and demolitions are in conformance with 780 CMR, the Massachusetts State Building Code, Massachusetts General Laws, Town of Cheshire Zoning By-Laws and any other applicable codes and statutes enforced by the Building Inspector.

A total of 136 permits were issued.

**Job Code**

1	New Residential Homes .....	2
1A	Foundation only.....	0
2	Additions/Alterations-Residential.....	32
3	Accessory Buildings .....	11
4	Pools.....	2
5	Demolition.....	4
6	Other.....	55
7	Additions and Alterations Commercial.....	1
8	Garage Residential.....	3
9	Signs.....	0
10	Stoves.....	15
11	Fences .....	0
12	Commercial / New.....	0
13	Solar .....	11
Total Job Values .....		\$ 2,419,815.00
Permit Fees Collected.....		\$ 11,613.50

The Eighth Edition Massachusetts State Base Code (Commercial Code), which is based on the 2009 International Building Code (IBC) became effective August 6, 2010 and the Massachusetts Residential One and Two Family Building Code which is based on the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC) became in effect on February 4, 2011. The BBRS voted to adopt the 2012 IECC and ASHRAE 90.12010 on July 9, 2013.

I would like to thank the Board of Selectman for their appointment to this position, as well as all of the departments for their cooperation and dedication of service. I would also like to introduce to the community my assistant, Mark Kruzel, who has recently completed his testing and certification as a Certified Local Inspector of Buildings. We look forward to working with the citizens of Cheshire and assisting them in their endeavors to make this an enjoyable and safe community.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Gerald W Garner, CBO  
 Building Commissioner,  
 Inspector of Buildings

# Wire Inspector

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To the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Cheshire.

As Wire Inspector of the Town of Cheshire I submit this report from January, 2015 to December, 2015.

12 Minor Wiring	1 Burglar/Fire Alarm Systems
3 Boilers	1 Lighting Retrofit
8 Service Upgrades	3 New Homes
1 Replace Electrical Meter	1 Rewire House
1 Addition	1 Central Air
1 New Riser	2 Oil Heating Systems
1 Storm Damage	1 Garage
1 Swimming Pool	1 New Kitchen
1 Standby Generator	1 Fire Damage
3 New Services	2 Time Warner PWR. Supplies
1 Conversion Boiler	2 Services & Garages
1 Underground Service	1 400 Amp Underground Service
2 Sun Rooms	
52 Solar Electric Photovoltaic (PV) Systems	

Number of Permits	105
Number of Inspections	164
Total Fees Collected	\$ 26,931.65

Respectfully submitted,

George Sweet, Wire Inspector  
Les Rhinemiller, Assistant Wire Inspector

# Police Department

To the Board of Selectman and the residents of the Town of Cheshire.

As Chief of Police, It is my pleasure to submit to you my annual report for fiscal year 2015.

This year was a year of a bit of a change in our Department. Shawn Gariepy, our new full-time officer, entered the academy in August 2014 to become full-time certified and trained. Shawn came to us from the Lanesboro Police Department and has already shown a strong interest and desire to help move this Department even further forward. We had the opportunity to tie-in with our dispatcher at the Sheriff's department and use the IMC programming they currently use at a much cheaper rate then to purchase the program on our own. It has been working very well for the Department with a huge amount of information at the Officer's fingertips. Officer Gariepy attended out of Town training with the software company and will be our Department trainer on the new computer system. I would like to thank the Sheriff's office I.T. expert Jason Breault for his continued help and support on the new system we are using in both cruisers.

Our Department has its own Facebook page and encourage all who use facebook to like our page, Cheshire Police. We post whatever we feel important for you to know such as safety concerns, school closings, storm updates, community events and much more.

I would continue to ask residents who see anything suspicious to please call the cruiser cell phone at 413-446-3920. If a suspicious vehicle is seen, get a plate number first, and then if time permits, get a good description. We will follow up on any call we receive even if it turns out to be nothing. Thank you for any assistance.

"If you see something, Say something."

Our department members continue to take training and refresher courses as they become available. Some are mandatory and others are taken to further educate our members. We will continue to do the best job possible for the residents of the Town of Cheshire.

I would like to thank my Officers who continue to step up to the plate and volunteer for the various functions in Town that come up that require a police presence such as the Steel Rail Half Marathon that runs through town, various parades that are held, Memorial Day and Halloween as well as many other functions. My thanks.

At this time I would like to thank the members of the Cheshire Police Department for your continued dedication and professionalism. My thanks to the Board of Selectman for your continued support of our Department. Also to the members of the Cheshire Fire Department and E.M.S. squad for your outstanding hard work and assistance when needed. My thanks to the Mass. State Police and surrounding Departments for assistance when needed. And as always, Last but not least, My thanks to the residents of the Town of Cheshire for your much appreciated continued support of the Police Department. THANK-YOU

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Tim Garner



## CHESHIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT ROSTER

**CHIEF OF POLICE**  
TIM GARNER

**STAFF SERGEANT**  
ALISON WARNER

**SERGEANT/COURT OFFICER**  
**FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR**  
STEVE CHARON

**OFFICER/FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR**  
JOE CHARON

**OFFICER**  
DAVID TARJICK

**OFFICER**  
MIKE ALIBOZEK

**OFFICER**  
SHAWN GARIEPY

**OFFICER**  
COREY DEMARY

**BOAT AND HARBORMASTER DUTIES**  
PAUL MALONEY

# Police Department *(cont.)*

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2015

### Returned Fines to the Town of Cheshire

District Court Fines ----- \$ 1,485.00  
 Registry of Motor Vehicle Infractions ---- \$13,562.50

### Fees Returned to the Town of Cheshire

Pistol Permits ----- \$3,753.80  
 Report Fees ----- \$1,567.50  
 Parking Ticket Fines ----- \$ 60.00

### Motor Vehicle Infractions

Citations Issued -----267  
 Warnings Issued -----127  
 Civil Citations Issued -----121  
 Criminal Applications ----- 15  
 Arrests Made -----2

### Cruiser Mileage Logged

3130 - Crown Victoria Sedan ----- 2,336  
 3131- Ford Interceptor SUV ----- 24,509

**Total Returned Fines And Fees to the Town Generated by  
 the Police Department ----- \$20,428.80**

## TOTAL CALLS FOR FY 2015

Calls on Police Line ----- 97  
 Miscellaneous Calls -----173  
 Assist Other Police Depts. ----- 51  
 B & E Complaints -----9  
 Disturbances -----9  
 Assault and Battery -----0  
 A & B/Dangerous Weapon -----0  
 Domestic Disturbances ----- 17  
 Drunk Persons -----0  
 Missing Persons -----2  
 Prowler Complaints -----1  
 Shooting Complaints -----0  
 Repo Motor Vehicle -----1  
 Larceny Under -----5  
 Larceny Over -----3  
 Vandalism -----9  
 Animal Complaints ----- 36  
 Medical Calls ----- 94  
 Unattended Deaths -----0

Hit and Run -----2  
 Motor Vehicle Accidents ----- 24  
 A.T.V. Accidents -----0  
 Snowmobile Accident -----0  
 Stolen Motor Vehicle -----1  
 D.M.V. ----- 11  
 Harassing Phone Calls -----0  
 Harassment -----0  
 Abuse Complaints -----0  
 Alarm Calls ----- 26  
 911 Calls -----3  
 Abandoned 911 Calls ----- 11  
 Fire Calls -----6  
 M.V. Lockouts -----8  
 Arrest Without Warrant -----2  
 Arrest by Warrant -----1  
 Illegal Dumping -----2  
 Credit Card Fraud -----4

# Cheshire Fire Department - Hoosac Hose Co.

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To the Board of Selectmen and the citizens of the Town of Cheshire, it is my pleasure to submit to you the Cheshire Fire Department annual report for the year 2015.

Thanks to the continued support of the voters of Cheshire, our department took delivery of a brand new 2015 Pierce Saber Pumper as a replacement to the 1986 Pierce Pumper that had deteriorated to an unsafe state. Our new engine holds 1,000 gallons of water onboard, 30 gallons of firefighting foam, and is able to carry additional equipment the firefighters use on a routine basis. The engine also provides numerous modern safety features, advances in pump technology, a shorter wheelbase, and many other improvements that will help to serve the Town of Cheshire well for many years to come.

This year, we were awarded grant funding to purchase thermal imaging cameras. These devices enable us to seek out heat signatures within structures and dark environments. The primary use of these cameras is to visualize heat signatures from people inside a burning structure or rescue situation. They may also be used to seek out above normal temperature levels in structures and to find lost/injured people outdoors, especially at night.

As structural building materials change, automobile manufacturers add safety features to vehicles, new chemical compounds are available to the market and uncertain times bring new dangers to everyone in the world, continuous training for firefighters and emergency responders is essential. In addition to our Thursday night drills, our members regularly attend classes through the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stowe, MA to keep their certifications and skills up to date. Our internal training focuses on a variety of skills including: working with a variety of water supplies, firefighting operations, driver training, emergency medical skills, hazardous material response, and vehicle extrication. Each of our members is required to be at least a Certified Emergency Medical First Responder, be certified in the administration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED), and serve as hazardous material operators.

The Cheshire Fire Department belongs to the Berkshire County Mutual Aid System. This system allows Cheshire, and the other agencies involved, to give and receive aid from each other in times of emergency and/or need. We train with other departments to share skills and approaches to tactical areas along with maintaining a positive working relationship with our neighboring brother and sister firefighters and EMTs.

Our department is also proud to have a specialized unit within our department that serves as our Rapid Intervention Team (RIT). A RIT team is a designated crew of firemen that serve to be available for immediate search and rescue of any missing, trapped, injured or unaccounted for firefighters. They are trained to a higher standard and have obtained additional certifications and, when assigned, are dedicated solely to the search and rescue of other firefighters in distress. Our RIT team has been called to respond to numerous communities throughout Berkshire County, as it is one of only very few teams available.

During the year, the Cheshire Fire Department responded to 371 calls for service. Emergency medical situations continue to be the highest volume of calls requiring response. Additionally, the command staff of the department issued 274 permits including: 110 burning permits, 13 certificates of compliance, 26 oil burner installation permits, 33 propane tank installation permits, 2 underground storage tank permits, 8 oil tank installation permits, 1 fireworks display permit, and 81 smoke and carbon monoxide compliance permits.

In 2015, the fundraising arm of the Cheshire Fire Department, the Hoosac Hose Company, began to implement safeguards to protect the organization. Although separate from the fire department both financially and in governance, the Hoosac Hose Company is comprised of members of the CFD. By redeveloping the bylaws, instituting a system of checks and balances, and improving accountability, the Hoosac Hose Company is well on its way to aligning with a more modern corporate based structure. Moving into the future, the Hoosac Hose Company will continue to give back to our community. This association provides financial assistance to several middle and high school sports teams, local youth programs, youth sports teams, and supports a scholarship to local students moving on to obtain a college degree. The Hoosac Hose Company also runs our annual Cruz Night and fireworks in August and has maintained the tradition of the Cheshire Fireman's Ball which is now moving into its 117th year.

I am extremely thankful to the men and women who serve the Town of Cheshire as firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians. These men and women, and their families, continue to be dedicated to the Town of Cheshire. Their sacrifices are greatly appreciated by all. Being on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, all without compensation, is an enormous commitment and one that most people cannot comprehend. Your time and personal expenses are valued. I also thank the other fire, police, and medical agencies our department works with. Your continued support and assistance plays a vital role in our success. A special thanks to the Cheshire Highway Department for allowing your employees, who also serve as firefighters for Cheshire, to respond on calls for service during the day and allowing them to work with our local schools to implement safety drills.

Respectfully,

Thomas Francesconi  
Fire Chief





# CHESHIRE FIRE DEPARTMENT (Hoosac Hose Company)



## CHIEF

Thomas Francesconi

## ASSISTANT CHIEFS

Michael Biagini

Jason Mendonca

## CAPTAINS

E. Shawn Martin

Corey Swistak

Kim Martin

## EMS CAPTAINS

Fred Balawender

Kathie Baier

## FIREFIGHTERS

Tim Audet

Fran Gwozdz

Mark Biagini

Andy Heath

Ralph Biagini

Del Krzeminski

Craig Comstock

Brent Lancia

Joseph Deckro

Brian Lancia

CJ Garner

Fred Martin

Tim Garner

Gary Russell

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS

Joseph Deckro

Allison Biagini

Sandy Martin

## APPRENTICES

Kathie Baier

Ben Kelson

## RETIRED RESERVES

Robert Barrett

Bob Lamb

Stanley Tracy

Angela Lind

Ed Gwozdz

William Lewis

## HONORARY MEMBERS

Michael Biagini

George Sweet

Les Rhinemiller

## HOOSAC HOSE COMPANY FIRE COMMITTEE

Robert Belini

Paul Astorino

Ray Kellerman

Gary Lamb

Ralph Biagini

## HOOSAC HOSE COMPANY OFFICERS

Tim Garner - Secretary

Mark Biagini - Treasurer

## AUXILIARY MEMBERS

Joseph Wilk

Sean McMahon

Dodi Martin

Barry Emery

# Cheshire Library Association

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The past year has been a successful one for the Library. Our Library Director, Amy Emerson-Inhelder, has transitioned smoothly. Her enthusiasm is contagious!

Amy has led very successful story hours with many youngsters enjoying the story and related activities. It is so nice to see such young ones excited about visiting the Library. She has started reading programs for all age levels. Story hours are from 10 to 11 on Tuesday mornings. Please stop to check them out if you have little ones who may enjoy them.

Our book, magazine, DVD, and audio book collections continue to increase. Additions in the past year were 197 adult books, 5 adult audiobooks, 60 adult DVDs, 88 periodicals, 92 children's books, 5 children's DVDs, 4 young adult books and 85 miscellaneous materials. We have something for everyone and requests are welcomed. Amy can show you how you can request materials through the Inter Library Loan program. From the comfort of your own home, you can view all that CWMARS has to offer, order what interests you and pick it up at our library! You can even order ebooks to download to your device!

"Everyday Heroes," our summer reading program funded in part by the Phillip Burns Memorial Fund, was enjoyed by 36 youngsters under 10, 12 young adults between the ages of 10 and 18, and 16 adults.

Amy began a successful winter reading program last year which will start again at the end of January.

The programs offered by the Cheshire Public Library Association, with support of the Northern Berkshire Massachusetts Cultural Grant Program, have been another success. Some of the programs we presented were by Betty King on rug hooking, Barry Emery on "Made in Cheshire," Deb Janik O'Brien with her Fidelco puppy, Kathy Gwozdz on geocaching, the Adams Ambulance Service, the Cheshire Fire Department, Michelle Smith doing make and take earrings and bracelets and a Chat with Gail Cariddi. More will be coming so check the Library, our website: [www.cheshirepubliclibrary.wordpress.com](http://www.cheshirepubliclibrary.wordpress.com), or "like" us on Facebook.

We now have 838 patrons. A total of \$89,736.39 of materials have been borrowed by our patrons! What a bargain! We also have a collection of passes to local cultural venues available to Cheshire residents.

Interested in volunteering? Stop by and sign up with Amy. We'd love to have your help.

Please stop by, sign up for a library card if you don't already have one and take advantage of all we have to offer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Baker  
President, Cheshire Library  
Board of Trustees

Members:

Joanne Pasquini	Christine Emerson
Ruth Andrew	Inez Jepson
Jack Girard	Doris Perrault
Suzanne Boyle	Diane Hitter
Heather Emerson	

# Planning Board

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## In Appreciation

The Cheshire Planning Board would like to dedicate our 2015 Annual Report to

**CHARLES HOWARD, Jr.**

Charles Howard has dedicated 18 years of service to the Cheshire Planning Board as a strong leader and Mentor to new members. Best wishes are extended to Charlie as he takes on the challenge of an employment opportunity out of the area.

The Cheshire Planning Board has been active this year in offering informational meetings for the submission of a reorganized by-law book for approval by the Massachusetts Attorney General. This task was accomplished with the help of Brian Domain of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and a subcommittee. The subcommittee members consisted of: Charles Howard, Daniel Speth, Bernard Bator, Peter Traub, Steve Marko, and Dale Grimshaw. This committee will continue to meet to continue working on the by-laws to bring them up to date. All meetings are open to the public and posted in the Town Hall and on the website.

- 8 By Law Informational Meetings were held
- 2 Hearings
- 2 Photovoltaic Informational Presentations
- 1 Created a Rules and Regulations for the Town of Cheshire Planning Board

The Cheshire Planning Board monthly meeting takes place on the fourth Monday of the month at 7pm at the Cheshire Town Annex. Meetings are open to the public.

Daniel Speth has been voted in as the Chairman and Peter Traub as the representative to the Berkshire Regional Planning Board.

Respectfully submitted,

The Board:  
Daniel L. Speth  
Bernard F. Bator  
Francis M. Griswold  
Peter H. Traub  
Christopher Walsh  
Carole A. Hilderbrand,  
Board Secretary:

# Water Department

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Mission Statement adopted  
by the Board of Water Commissioners:  
*To provide safe drinking water to our customers,  
be in compliance with all current and new drinking  
water regulations, be fiscally sound,  
and be sensitive to our customers needs.*

Annual Report  
July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

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The Board of Water commissioners are pleased to submit their Annual Report for the year 2015.

The Board of Water commissioners meets at the Town Hall every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m.

The Cheshire Water Department continues to look for efficiencies in operating your water system.

The Cheshire Water Department is also looking to find ways to conserve the land which we care for. Through this process we have hired Tighe and Bond, an Engineering Firm, to apply for grants for wind possibilities on water department land. We believe that land conservation, wildlife protection and preservation are part of our water shed area. We vow to protect these resources, as well as, our most basic need for life, water!! Our hope for the future is some type of wind or water powered electricity which will reduce costs for the water users and tax payers of Cheshire. At this time we are still looking for more grants for wind power.

Listed below are the projects completed by the Water Department in 2014/2015.

- Consumer Confidence Report compiled and delivered to water users.
- Statistical Report completed and submitted to Mass DEP.
- Serviced Emergency Generator.
- Sanitary Survey conducted and completed with Mass DEP.
- Completed all mandatory water quality testing including lead, copper, Arsenic, and nitrates.
- Updated our Emergency Response Plan.
- Updated our Operation and Maintenance Plan.
- Storage tank inspection completed and professionally documented.
- Installed new well pump in well #1.
- Achieved requirements regarding state Water Meter Project.

Please feel free to stop in any Tuesday evening if you have any comments or suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,

The Cheshire Water Department  
**Board of Water Commissioners**  
Francis A. Waterman, Jr., Chairman/Commissioner  
Rick Gurney, Commissioner  
Donald F. Rueger, Commissioner

# Recreation Committee

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Annual Report 2015

The Recreation Committee continues to support all athletic leagues in town, offering donations each year in order to help with insurance costs, uniforms and referees. The town supports baseball, football, soccer and cheerleading for youth and teens as well.

This year we had great attendance for the Halloween Parade co-sponsored by the Cheshire Police Association. There were over 90 children in attendance.

During the summer, we hosted several concerts in the courtyard at Cheshire Elementary School.

Terry A La Berry and Friends performed some children's favorites for a young audience.

The Recreation Committee sponsored Jason Rodriquez with his Free Cycle Action Sports Team. Using 4 athletes, 1 launch and landing box jump with one extra large quarter pipe ramp, they awed the audience with huge aerial and floor stunts.

The team delivered safety messages to children and teens as they stressed the importance of living a drug-free life and wearing proper safety gear when riding bicycles.

The Recreation Committee also donated prizes to be distributed to students who had a year-long record of good behavior at Cheshire Elementary School. The prizes promoted physical activity and outdoor play in anticipation of keeping children active and healthy during summer months.

Thank you for your continued support of our town's youth at the various events sponsored throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Poirot  
Heather Emerson  
Andrew Kachel

# Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District

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[www.nbswmd.com](http://www.nbswmd.com)

For Calendar Year 2015, tonnage of paper, glass, cans and plastic was slightly down with 905.64 tons recycled District-wide. The Town of Cheshire recycled 56.01 tons of paper and 37.27 tons of glass, cans and plastic.

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

Twelve paint collections were held from June until the end of September. We shipped out 1100 gallons of latex paint, 928 gallons of oil-based stains, varnishes and paint, and two 55-gallon drums of spray paint at a cost of \$8,125. Bulk packing the latex and box packing the oil-based paints is a messy job. Special thanks to Toni Alizio, Mickey Biagini, and Rick Salvi for their volunteer efforts and hard work. Thanks also to the Cheshire, Hinsdale and Williamstown DPW crews who provide us with assistance and storage space for our machine and supplies.

We began the Paint Program in 1998 to meet a need. It is now consuming more and more of our program budget. We are currently working with Paint Care (paint manufacturers group), the Product Stewardship Institute and Massachusetts

Product Stewardship Committee to pass legislation that would have the paint manufacturers pay for paint collection, either at retail stores or municipal transfer stations. As this is written, Bill #S2109 has passed in the State Senate and is currently in the Mass. House Ways and Means Committee. We are actively advocating its passage.

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

Cheshire, Williamstown and Windsor were again recognized and awarded additional funds under the Mass. DEP Recycling Dividends Program. This program awards points for achievements. Cheshire and Windsor received \$1200 to further enhance their recycling and solid waste programs. Williamstown was awarded \$1400.

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

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

Waste not, want not,

Sandy Totter  
NBSWMD Program Coordinator  
Rick Salvi  
NBSWMD Commissioner  
for the Town of Cheshire

**Polls open 9:00 am to 7:00 pm**  
**Cheshire Community/Senior Center 119 School Street**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

List of Candidates to be voted at the Annual Town Election

**Cheshire, Monday, May 4, 2015**

**SPECIMEN BALLOT**

**Penalty for willfully defacing, tearing down, removing or destroying a list of candidates or specimen ballot, fine not exceeding one hundred dollars.**

*Christine B. Emerson*  
TOWN CLERK

**To Vote, Mark a Cross  in Space at Right**

<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Moderator</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 Year Term</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Vote for not more than ONE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EDMUND ST. JOHN IV</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Candidate for Re-election 37 Main Street</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Board of Selectmen</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 Year Term</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Vote for not more than ONE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ROBERT S. 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3 Year Term	Vote for not more than ONE																																																																																																				
JACK GIRARD	Candidate for Re-election 30 Church Street																																																																																																				
<b>Water Commissioner</b>																																																																																																					
3 Year Term	Vote for not more than ONE																																																																																																				
RICK GURNEY	Candidate for Re-election 124 Greylock Road																																																																																																				
<b>Tax Collector</b>																																																																																																					
3 Year Term	Vote for not more than ONE																																																																																																				
REBECCA HERZOG	Candidate for Re-election 612 Notch Road																																																																																																				
<b>Town Clerk</b>																																																																																																					
3 Year Term	Vote for not more than ONE																																																																																																				
CHRISTINE B. EMERSON	Candidate for Re-election 44 Richardson Street																																																																																																				
<b>Planning Board Member</b>																																																																																																					
5 Year Term	Vote for not more than ONE																																																																																																				
DANIEL L. SPETH	Candidate for Re-election 88 Hutchinson Lane																																																																																																				
<b>Planning Board Member</b>																																																																																																					
4 Year Term	Vote for not more than ONE																																																																																																				
<b>Adams-Cheshire Regional School District School Committee Member — CHESHIRE</b>																																																																																																					
3 Year Term	Vote for not more than ONE																																																																																																				
DARLENE M. RODOWICZ	Candidate for Re-election 319 East Harbor Road																																																																																																				
<b>Adams-Cheshire Regional School District School Committee Member — ADAMS</b>																																																																																																					
3 Year Term	Vote for not more than ONE																																																																																																				
STEPHEN J. VIGNA	Candidate for Re-election 26 Forest Park, Adams																																																																																																				
<b>Question:</b>																																																																																																					
1. "Shall the Town vote to increase the term of office for Moderator from one (1) year to three (3) years?"																																																																																																					
YES _____	NO _____																																																																																																				

# Cheshire Annual Election Results - May 4, 2015

Cheshire Community/Senior Center

119 School Street

Monday, May 4, 2015

Polls open: 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

<b>Moderator</b>		<b>Tax Collector</b>	
Edmund St. John IV	144	Rebecca Herzog	146
Blanks	15	Blanks	13
<b>Selectmen</b>		<b>Town Clerk</b>	
Robert Ciskowski	134	Christine B. Emerson	142
Blanks	24	Blanks	17
<b>Board of Assessors</b>		<b>Planning Board Member</b>	
Everett "Gus" Martin	99	Daniel Speth	120
Linda Garner (write-in)	6	Blanks	39
Blanks	22	<b>Planning Board Member</b>	
<b>Board of Health Member</b>		Peter Traub (write-in)	29
Richard Salvi	137	Other write-ins	6
Blanks	22	Blanks	124
<b>Cemetery Commissioner</b>		<b>ACRSD School Committee Member from Cheshire</b>	
Jack Girard	138	Darlene Rodowicz	129
Blanks	21	Blanks	30
<b>Water Commissioner</b>		<b>ACRSD School Committee Member from Adams</b>	
Rick Gurney	134	Stephen Vigna	124
Blanks	24	Blanks	35

## QUESTION:

"Shall the Town vote to increase the term of office for Moderator from one (1) to three (3) years?"

Yes	116
No	38
Blanks	5

159 Ballots Cast

Attest: TRUE COPY

Christine B. Emerson  
Cheshire Town Clerk

# Annual Town Meeting - June 8, 2015

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Berkshire SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of CHESHIRE in the County of BERKSHIRE

**GREETING.**

In The Name of THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in elections and in Town affairs, to meet at said Cheshire at:

Cheshire Elementary School Auditorium  
191 Church St., Cheshire  
Monday, June 8th, 2015  
7:00 pm

Voter check-in to begin at 6:30 pm

**CHESHIRE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

---

Moderator opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Voters present: 177 Non-voters present: 24

---

Moderator read the warrant heading.

Motion to waive the reading of the balance of the warrant and the return of service made by Mrs. Francesconi; seconded by Mr. Astorino.

**Discussion:** None

Voice vote called.

**Unanimous.**

Mr. St. John introduced the Advisory Board, William Craig, Ralph Biagini, Denise Gregoire, Kathleen Levesque; Selectmen, Mrs. Francesconi, Mr. Astorino, Mr. Ciskowski; Town Administrator, Mr. Webber; Town Counsel, Mr. St. John III; and Town Clerk, Mrs. Emerson.

**Article 1.** To hear the Annual Report of the Selectmen and the other officers and to act thereon.

Mrs. Francesconi, Selectmen Chair addressed the meeting.

The budget that the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Board is presenting to you tonight is for \$5,492,691.00 which represents an increase of \$191,490 or 3.6% over the current year. Town department spending is up \$84,151 or 3.5% and education is up \$107,339 or 3.7%. Major increases on the Town side are: Assessors' Contracted Services, for a revaluation year, \$10,050; Employee Health Insurance and Retirement, \$34,824; Snow and Ice Removal, \$8,000; and the majority of Town employees and some officials received a salary increase of 2% or \$13,156.

We are asking for a transfer from free cash of \$170,000 to reduce the tax rate. The balance of free cash, after tonight's meeting and until July 1st will be \$66,630.

Our Stabilization Account is currently \$443,332.

There are seventeen articles on tonight's warrant, fourteen presented by the Board of Selectmen and three by citizen petition.

Approval of the Town budget as presented tonight will require a Proposition 2 1/2 Override Vote. The Town budget is under 2 1/2 levy limit but in order to fund the requested Adams-Cheshire

Regional School District budget we will need an Override of Prop 2 1/2 for \$90,000. If an Override Vote is needed, it will be held on Monday, June 15th from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Motion to accept the reports (Annual Report) as presented: Mr. Astorino; second:

Moderator did not call for a vote.

**Article 2.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from available funds in the Treasury such sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the ordinary expenses of the Town for the ensuing year, and to pay interest on loans maturing in this year, or take any other action in relation thereto.

**[Note: This article has been reviewed and approved by the Advisory Board with the exception of Water Department budget items.]**

Motion to amend the article, that this budget is contingent on the passing of the 2 1/2 Override Vote on June 15th made by Mrs. Francesconi; seconded by Mr. Ciskowski.

Voice vote taken.

**Unanimous.**

Budget was read by the Moderator, not line by line item but by office/department totals.

Set-asides: Water Department by Mr. Waterman and School Budget by Mrs. Francesconi.

Motion to pass the balance of the budget without set-asides made by Mr. Astorino; seconded by Mrs. Francesconi.

Voice vote called.

**Unanimous.**

**Discussion** of set-asides.

**Water** after lengthy discussion.

Motion to move the water department budget made by Mr. Waterman; seconded by Mrs. Francesconi.

Voice Vote.

**Motion Carried.**

**Education Budget.**

Motion to approve this budget made by Mr. Astorino; seconded by Mrs. Francesconi. Noting that if this budget is approved it means an Override Vote.

**Again a very lengthy floor discussion.**

Motion to move the Education budget made by Mrs. Francesconi; seconded by Mr. Craig and Mr. Astorino.

Voice vote called.

**Motion Carried.**

A round of applause.

**Article 3.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund and transfer the same amount to the Cheshire Elementary School Laptop Computer Account for the purpose of purchasing laptop computers and associated equipment for the exclusive use of students attending the Cheshire Elementary School, with the express understanding that these computers shall not be utilized for other purposes without the approval of the Town, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

**[Note: This article requires a two-thirds majority vote for approval.]**

***(This article has been reviewed and approved by the Advisory Board.)***

Motion to accept the article as read: Mr. Astorino  
Second: Mrs. Francesconi

Mrs. Francesconi stated that these computers are laptops not the CELTIC donated Computer Lab and they would be purchasing Chromebooks for the Cheshire students.

Requesting the computers as the new school testing is done on computer on line by State mandate.

Card Vote called for. **Yes 153 No 0 Article passed.**

**Article 4.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from certified free cash the sum of \$170,000 (one hundred seventy thousand dollars) to reduce the tax rate, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

***(This article has been reviewed and approved by the Advisory Board.)***

Motion to accept this article as read: Mr. Ciskowski  
Second: Mrs. Francesconi

**Discussion:** This is standard article the language does not mean the tax rate itself is reduced, was explained by Town Administrator, Mr. Webber.

Voice Vote called.

**Motion Carried.**

**Article 5.** To see if the Town will vote to borrow and appropriate any additional sum or sums of money which will be reimbursed by the Commonwealth under any applicable State Aid Highway Programs for construction or improvements to Town roads and bridges as requested by the Selectmen, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept this article as read: Mrs. Francesconi  
Second: Mr. Ciskowski

Card Vote called by Moderator.

**Yes 163 No 0**

**Article 6.** To see if the Town will vote, per MGL Chapter 30b, Section 16, to allow the Board of Selectmen to declare a certain parcel located at 77 Depot Street as shown on Town of Cheshire Assessor's records as Map 109, Lot 85 and further described as Book 1348, Page 227 at the Northern Berkshire Registry of Deeds, as available for disposition, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

**[Note: This property was taken by the Town via tax title.]**

Motion to accept this article as read: Mr. Astorino  
Second: Mrs. Francesconi  
**Discussion:** None.

Card Vote called by Moderator.

**Yes 152 No 0 Article Passed.**

**Article 7.** To see if the Town will vote to approve the following article, *or take any other language in relation thereto:*

**[Note: This article is placed on the warrant via registered voter petition.]**

Whereas, issues facing the Town are increasing in numbers, complexity and difficulty, and the need for citizen involvement in local government is more critical than in any time since the founding of the Town; and believing more citizen participation in Town government will be helpful in addressing these challenges, and Whereas, expansion of Town Boards of Selectmen (Select Boards) from three (3) to five (5) members has been done in Towns across the Commonwealth, including Towns in Berkshire County;

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Registered Voters of Cheshire Massachusetts do hereby direct the Town to place a Question on the Ballot of the 2016 Annual Election to see if the Town will increase Membership on the Board of Selectmen (Select Board) from three (3) to five (5) members. If approved, persons elected to those new positions will include one (1) Member elected for a three year term and one (1) Member elected for a two (2) year term. Thereafter, Members elected at the expiration of a position's term will serve a three (3) year term;

Be it further resolved, contingent upon approval of this Warrant Article at the 2015 Annual Meeting, the Town is directed to identify any and all references in Bylaws, Ordinances or other Town Governing Documents that refer to the size of the Board of Selectmen (Select Board) as consisting of three (3) Members and prepare Revised Documents changing the Members to five (5) in all such Documents well enough in advance of the 2016 Annual Election so that said Revised Documents will be ready, if required by Law, to be placed on the 2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant in the

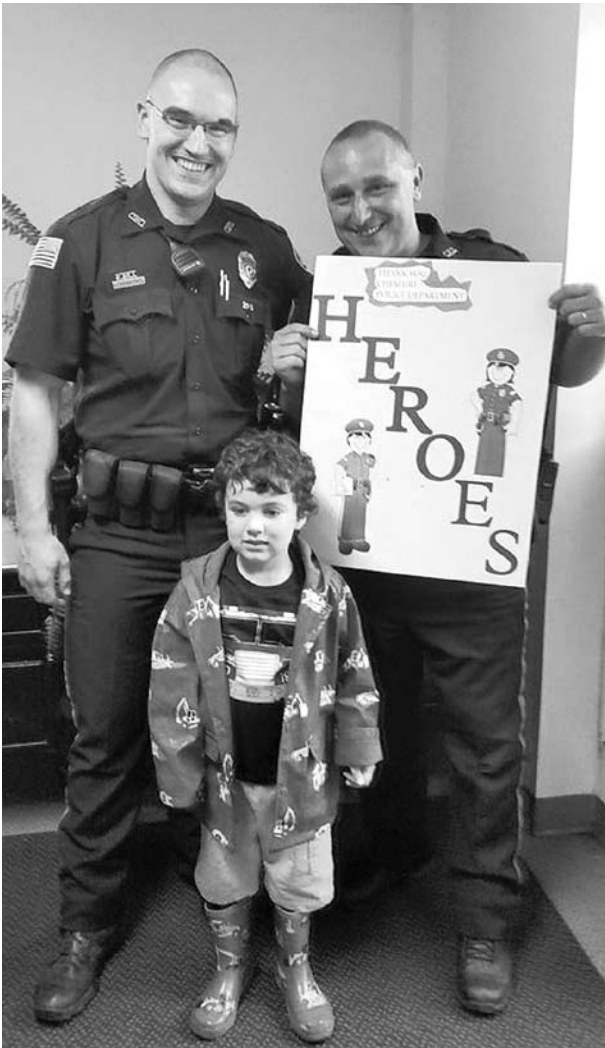


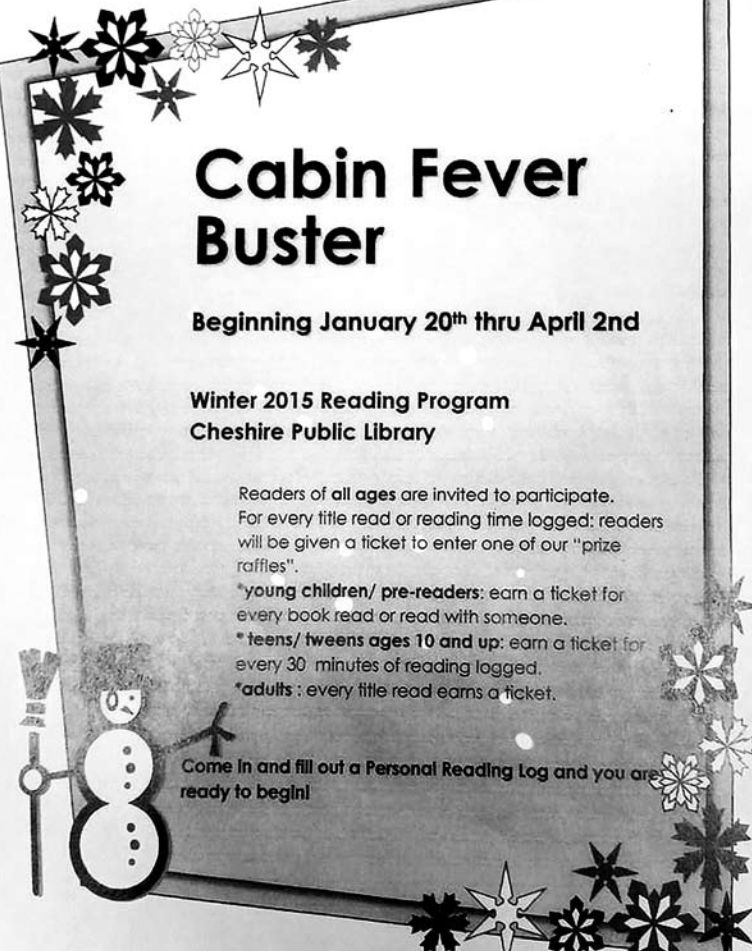


# Events at the Cheshire Library



The Cheshire Library hosted a wide range of events for patrons of all ages in 2015 including: a presentation by local historian Barry Emery, Jewelry Making with Michelle Smith, a Children's Reading Program Caricaturist, a Children's Summer Program, a Police Dog in Training, and a Winter Reading Program.





## Cabin Fever Buster


**Beginning January 20<sup>th</sup> thru April 2nd**

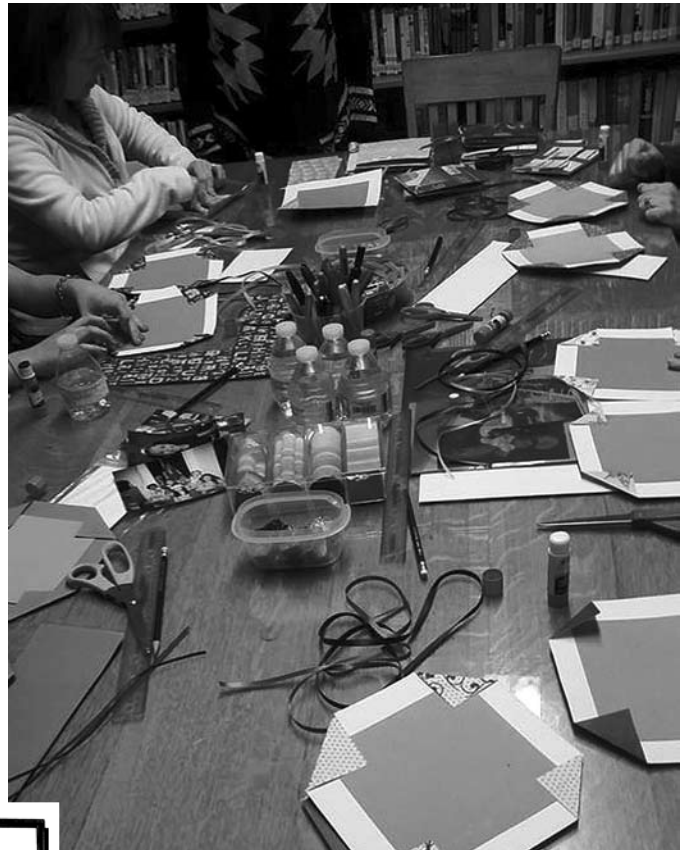
**Winter 2015 Reading Program  
Cheshire Public Library**


Readers of **all ages** are invited to participate. For every title read or reading time logged: readers will be given a ticket to enter one of our "prize raffles".

- \* **young children/ pre-readers:** earn a ticket for every book read or read with someone.
- \* **teens/ tweens ages 10 and up:** earn a ticket for every 30 minutes of reading logged.
- \* **adults:** every title read earns a ticket.


**Come In and fill out a Personal Reading Log and you are ready to begin!**







**EVERY HERO  
HAS A STORY**



**Summer Reading 2015  
at the Cheshire Library**

Registration will begin June 22<sup>nd</sup> and will be an open enrollment throughout the summer

- ⬇ This year's program will be open to readers of ALL ages.
- ⬇ Cheshire Library has reading records, challenging games, and incentives for everyone
- ⬇ Summer StoryTime & Crafts will remain Tuesdays at 10 am but will expand to pre-school through age 8.

**Basic Reading Program is open to EVERYONE!**

Pre-readers and young readers: pledge to read for 5 days every week. Every title earns one ticket toward raffle drawing.

Tween/ Teen readers (10 and up): pledge to read in 15 minutes increments for 5 days a week. Each 15 minute block will earn one ticket toward raffle drawing

Adult Readers: Every title read will earn one ticket toward raffle drawing

Weekly "Treasure Box" prizes when reading log is completed

**Summer StoryTime and Crafts: Hero (& Villans) themed activities**

- ⬇ Open to preschoolers through age 8
- ⬇ Will be held Tuesdays at 10 am.
- ⬇ Sign ups required due to space/ numbers/ vacation conflicts
- ⬇ You may sign up for one or all the weeks

Tuesdays: June 30<sup>th</sup>, July 7<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup>, July 21<sup>st</sup>, July 28<sup>th</sup>, & August 4<sup>th</sup>

\*sign up at Cheshire Library, call 413.743.4746, or contact us through our Facebook page!



- h) **Religious/Municipal Uses.** Any bell or chime or other sound generated from a school, municipal facility or place of worship.
- i) **Municipal Events.** Noise generated from municipally sponsored or approved celebrations or events.
- j) **Snow Removal Activities.** Noise from snow blowers, snow throwers and snow plows.

**E. Enforcement Procedures:**

1. Enforcement of this bylaw is through the Cheshire Board of Selectmen and the Cheshire Police Department. The municipal enforcement officer shall initially determine the extent and nature of any violations of the bylaw, and having determined that such violations have occurred or are continuing to occur, shall serve a written Notice of Violation on the offender. A Notice of Violation is deemed served on the day it is received, if served by hand or by certified mail, return receipt requested, and is deemed served on the third day after mailing, if served by first class mail, postage prepaid.
2. Each Notice of Violation shall state that the Board of Selectmen shall hold a public hearing, at which the offender shall be allowed to appear and present evidence in his behalf, to determine if the violation(s) set forth in the notice constitutes a violation of the bylaw. The municipal enforcement officer responsible for issuing the initial Notice of Violation shall also be present at the hearing. After listening to the evidence presented, the Board of Selectmen shall determine whether or not to issue a Cease and Desist Order. If the Cease and Desist Order is violated, the offender shall be subject to the fines as set forth below and/or referred to the appropriate Court. Notice of such a public hearing shall be served on the offender in the manner set forth for the above service of a Notice of Violation, such hearing to be held no later than twenty-five (25) days from the date that such notice is served.

**F. Penalties:** The first violation of this bylaw shall be punished by a fine of not less than two-hundred dollars (\$200.00). The second violation of this bylaw shall be punished by a fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). Further violations shall be punished by a fine of three hundred dollars (\$300.00). Each such act which either continues or is repeated more than one-half (½) hour after issuance or a written Notice of Violation of this bylaw shall be a separate offense. If the violation occurs on the premises of rental property where there is a non-resident owner, the owner must also be notified in writing that the violation has occurred.

**G. Other Remedies:** If the person or persons responsible for an activity which violates Section 2 cannot be determined, the person in lawful custody and/or control of the premises, including but not limited to the owner, lessee or occupant of the property on which the activity is located, shall be deemed responsible for the violation.

**H. Severability.** If any provision of this bylaw is held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of this bylaw shall not be invalidated.

Card Vote will be needed.

Motion to accept the article as presented: Mrs. Francesconi  
Second: Mr. Astorino

**Discussion:**

Questions were asked about measurement, fines and time-frames.

Mrs. Francesconi stated that about ten years ago the Town attempted to pass this ordinance, but it failed. Many residents have requested some type of noise ordinance since the first one failed, so the Board decided to bring this article to the Annual Town Meeting. This noise ordinance is the same one Lanesborough has. The police discretion will be used to enforce the ordinance if passed. The Board feels that as presented this is a positive way to deal with noise problems. The police will be able to issue citations and then a hearing would take place.

Card Vote called.      **Yes 87      No 37      Article Passed.**

**Article 10.** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the provisions of MGL Chapter 166, Section 32A, whereas a licensed electrician who is appointed inspector of wires may practice for hire or engage in the business for which licensed while serving as such inspector, provided that he shall not exercise any of his powers as inspector over wiring or electrical work done by himself or his employer, or employee, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept the article as read: Mr. Sweet  
Second: Mrs. Francesconi

**Discussion:** Question why was this necessary.

Mrs. Francesconi stated that this article allows our current wire inspector to work in Town for himself as an electrician.

Voice Vote called.      **Article Passed.**

**Article 11.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a net metering credit purchase agreement with the solar photovoltaic generating facility located at 926 North State Road (Route 8) as shown on Assessor's Map 255, Lot 50 for a term of twenty (20) years and to take all actions necessary to implement and administer such agreements, *or to take any action relative thereto.*

Motion to accept the article as read: Mrs. Francesconi  
Second: Mr. Astorino

**Discussion:** None

Voice Vote called.      **Article Passed.**

**Article 12.** To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of MGL Chapter 59, Section 38H to authorize the Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the Town of Cheshire, to negotiate and enter into a payment in tax agreement for a term of twenty (20) years with the lessee/operator of the solar photovoltaic energy generating facility located at 926 North State Road (Route 8), as shown on Assessor's Map 225, Lot 50, upon such terms as the Board of Selectmen shall deem to be in the best interest of the Town, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Motion to accept the article as read: Mr. Astorino  
Second: Mr. Craig

Mr. Webber stated that this agreement would decrease the Town electrical bill.

Voice Vote called.

**Article Passed.**

**Article 13.** To see if the Town will vote to initiate the process to aggregate electrical load pursuant to M.G.L. c. 164, § 134 and, further, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has engaged in a process to establish a competitive market place through the restructuring of the electricity market; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Cheshire have a substantial economic and social interest in terms of greater customer choice and opportunities for savings in this restructured market; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Cheshire hereby finds that it may be in the interest of its citizens who are electric ratepayers, both residential and commercial/industrial, to develop and secure such approvals and enter into appropriate agreements with consultants, experts and attorneys in connection with the establishment and operation of an electricity aggregation plan.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Town of Cheshire hereby:

Publicly declares its intent to become an aggregator of electric power on behalf of its residential and business electric customers and to reestablish such plan if its operation is suspended; and

To negotiate and enter into such contracts for power supply pursuant to the plan or services for such plan, with the understanding that if a power supply contract is executed, individual consumers would retain the option not to participate in the aggregation plan and, instead, to choose any electricity alternatives they desire and, *further, to take such other action relative hereto as may be appropriate and necessary.*

Motion to accept the article as presented: Mr. Ciskowski  
Second: Mr. Astorino and Mrs. Francesconi

**Discussion:** Mr. Ciskowski explained how this would work.

Mr. Emery praised the Selectmen for bringing this article to the Town.

Voice Vote called.

**Article Passed.**

**Article 14.** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following non-binding resolution, *or take any other action in relation thereto:*

[Note: This article is placed on the warrant via registered voter petition.]

#### **Resolution Opposing the Gas Pipeline in Cheshire, MA**

Whereas a proposed High-Pressure Pipeline carrying natural gas obtained through hydraulic fracturing may come

through Cheshire, MA or neighboring communities, and

Whereas said pipeline goes against current Massachusetts commitments to renewable energies and combating global climate change; and

Whereas said pipeline would destroy unknowable amounts of forest, wetland conservation land and farmland; potentially harm drinking water and personal health; and infringe on personal property rights; and

Whereas a high-pressure gas pipeline, by its nature, carries the potential for leak, rupture or devastating explosion causing untold damage to property and lives; and

Whereas the projected route of the pipeline traverses under the Cheshire Reservoir thus risking contamination of the lake, this would affect not only the people and wildlife in the area, but also the economics and reputation of the Town of Cheshire; and

Whereas the cost of said pipeline may require Massachusetts citizens to pay a utility bill tariff as well as environmental costs not required by law for Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, L.L.C. ("TGP", a subsidiary of Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P.), making ratepayers bear financial risk for the endeavors of a private corporation; and

Whereas we, the citizens of Cheshire, Massachusetts choose not to participate in such encumbrances to the life, vibrancy, economic stability, and general well being of our neighbors in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and in the State of New York and elsewhere, wherever hydraulic fracturing is occurring and the pressurized pipeline is running;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the residents of Cheshire, Massachusetts:

1. Hereby call on our Select Board to stand in opposition to any high-pressured pipeline and not allow it within our town borders; and
2. Stand in solidarity with nearby communities who are taking measures to disallow the pipeline within their borders and to ban its construction in our region, including: Dalton, Hancock, Lenox, North Adams, Pittsfield, Richmond, Sandisfield, Washington, Windsor (Berkshire); Chesterfield, Cummington, Northampton, Pelham, Plainfield, Worthington (Hampshire); Ashfield, Buckland, Conway, Deerfield, Gill, Greenfield, Leverett, Montague, Northfield, Orange, Shelburne, Warwick, Wendell (Franklin); Ashburnham, Athol, Berlin, Bolton, Royalston, Templeton, Winchendon (Worcester); Ashby, Dracut, Dunstable, Groton, Pepperell, Townsend, Tyngsborough, Wilmington (Middlesex); Brookline (Norfolk); and Brookline, Hollis and Mason (Hillsborough County, New Hampshire); and
3. Cause a copy of this resolution to be presented to the Town of Cheshire's state and federal legislative representatives, FERC and the Governor and Secretary of the Department of Conservation and

Recreation, asking them to take action to prevent construction of the Pipeline within the borders of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to enact legislation and take such other actions as are necessary to disallow such projects that go against our commitments to life, the environment, our economic well being and our bodily safety, and instead to legislate more stringent energy efficiency and further exploration of subsidies for renewable energy sources.

Motion to accept the article as presented: Mrs. Francesconi  
Second: Mr. Ciskowski

**Discussion:**

Motion from Mr. Franz to postpone this article indefinitely; seconded by Mr. Rueger.

Moderator did not act on this motion.

Ms. Eileen Quinn took the floor to read a statement of why the Town should oppose Kinder Morgan’s proposed pipeline. Ms. Quinn was joined by her son, Dylan who held a model of the size of the proposed pipeline (with the existing Tennessee Gas Pipeline size illustrated).

Much discussion followed both for and against the pipeline.

Voice Vote called. **Motion carried. Article Passed.**

**Article 15.** To see if the Town will vote to delete the existing Town of Cheshire’s Protective and Planning Zoning Bylaw adopted at a special town meeting on May 10, 1978 in its entirety and replace it with the Town of Cheshire’s Protective and Planning Zoning Bylaw dated June 2015, as proposed by the Planning Board, all as set forth in a document with the same name on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and made available for review at Town Meeting, *or take any other action thereto.*

**Summary from the Planning Board:** *The primary purpose of this warrant article is to reorganize the zoning bylaws in a logical and orderly manner making it easier to read and understand without making a large number of changes that alter the substance of the zoning bylaws. A secondary purpose of this warrant article is to clarify the permitting processes and the administration of the zoning bylaw. The Planning Board made a conscious decision to exclude any controversial changes from this version because it might defeat the real purpose of this warrant article which is to achieve a reorganized zoning bylaw with a clear permitting process.*

*To help explain the changes the Planning Board has prepared an annotated version of the proposed zoning bylaws which shows and explains each of the proposed changes between the existing zoning bylaw and the proposed bylaw. A copy of the Town of Cheshire’s Protective and Planning Zoning Bylaw dated June 2015 as proposed by the Planning Board and the Annotated Version of the same are both on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and available on the town’s website.*

Card Vote needed.

Motion to accept the article as presented: Mr. Astorino  
Second: Mrs. Francesconi

Mr. Astorino stated the Planning Board had worked extremely hard on these two articles and thanked them for their efforts.

**Discussion:** None.

Card Vote taken. **Yes 80 No 10 Article Passed.**

**Article 16.** To see if the Town will vote to amend Section 3.2 (a)(23) of the Town of Cheshire’s Protective and Planning Zoning Bylaw to require a special permit from the Planning Board for “office, bank, retail business or consumer service establishment unless otherwise specifically regulated in this By-law” in the A-R and B districts, *or take any other action relating thereto.*

(*New text in italics, deleted text in strikethrough*)

	Zoning Districts		
	R-1	A-R	B
23. “Office, bank, retail business or consumer service establishment, unless specifically otherwise regulated in this By-law”	NO	SPP YES	SPP YES

Card Vote needed.

Motion to accept the article as presented: Mr. Ciskowski  
Second: Mr. Astorino

**Discussion:** None

Card Vote called. **Yes 76 No 6 Article Passed.**

**Article 17.** To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Cheshire bylaws to increase the term of office for the Town Moderator from one year to three years, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

Second part of changing Town By-law, already voted YES by ballot at Annual Election.

Card Vote needed.

Motion to accept the article as read: Mr. Astorino  
Second: Mrs. Francesconi

**Discussion:** None.

Card Vote taken. **Yes 94 No 0 Article Passed.**

**Article 18.** To do and transact any other business that may properly come before this meeting, *or take any other action in relation thereto.*

At this point Mr. Tremblay addressed the meeting, thanking everyone for the large turnout and for voting and to celebrate there will be two Block Parties, July 16 and August 13.

Mr. St. John, Town Moderator thanked everyone for coming and give yourselves a round of applause.

Motion to dissolve this meeting: made by the Moderator at 10:15 pm. Second: Mrs. Francesconi.  
Motion to dissolve passed.

**Attest: TRUE COPY**

Christine B. Emerson  
Cheshire Town Clerk  
June 18, 2015

\*\*\*Just a footnote: A tornado watch had been issued for the evening until 11:00pm. Our Town Moderator before actually opening the meeting, stated that the meeting would have to be held in the basement for safety. Got quite a laugh.

HEREOF FAIL NOT,  
and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 26th day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen.

\_\_\_\_\_ Carol Francesconi  
\_\_\_\_\_ Paul Astorino  
\_\_\_\_\_ Robert Ciskowski

A true copy: Attest:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Ralph Biagini, Constable

Berkshire, ss.

PURSUANT TO THE WITHIN WARRANT,  
I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Cheshire by posting up attested copies of the same at:  
Cheshire Town Hall, Town Hall Annex, Cheshire Post Office,  
H.D. Reynolds General Merchandise and the Cheshire Community/Senior Center.  
\_\_\_\_\_ days before the date of the meeting, as within directed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Constable of Cheshire

# Special Election Ballot/Results - June 15, 2015

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Question to be voted at the Special Town Election

**Cheshire, Monday, June 15, 2015**

## SPECIMEN BALLOT

Penalty for willfully defacing, tearing down, removing or destroying a list of candidates or specimen ballot, fine not exceeding one hundred dollars.

*Christine B. Emerson*  
TOWN CLERK

---

To Vote, Mark a Cross  in the Box

---

### QUESTION ONE

#### OVERRIDE

"Shall the Town of Cheshire be allowed to assess an additional \$90,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015?"

YES  NO

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

TOWN OF CHESHIRE  
SPECIAL ELECTION OVERRIDE

Monday, June 15th, 2015  
Cheshire Community/Senior Center  
119 Church St., Cheshire  
Polls open: 9:00 am to 7:00 pm



Total votes cast: 412

Registered voters: 2,247

#### QUESTION:

"Shall the Town of Cheshire be allowed to assess an additional \$90,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015?"

Yes 174

No 237

Blank 1

Override Failed.

Attest: True Copy:

Christine B. Emerson

Cheshire Town Clerk



# Special Election Ballot/Results - August 5, 2015

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Question to be voted at the Special Town Election

## Cheshire, Wednesday, August 5, 2015

### SPECIMEN BALLOT

Penalty for willfully defacing, tearing down, removing or destroying a list of candidates or specimen ballot, fine not exceeding one hundred dollars.

*Christine B. Emerson*  
TOWN CLERK

---

To Vote, Mark a Cross  in the Box

---

#### QUESTION ONE

##### OVERRIDE

"Shall the Town of Cheshire be allowed to assess an additional \$90,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015?"

YES     NO

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

TOWN OF CHESHIRE  
SPECIAL ELECTION OVERRIDE

Wednesday, August 5, 2015

Cheshire Community/Senior Center

119 Church St., Cheshire

Polls open: 9:00 am to 7:00 pm



Total votes Cast: 824

Registered voters: 2245

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#### QUESTION:

"Shall the Town of Cheshire be allowed to assess an additional \$90,000 in real estate and personal taxes for the purpose of funding the Adams-Cheshire Regional School District operating budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015?"

Yes 499

No 325

Blank 0

Override Passed.

Attest: True Copy:

Christine B. Emerson

Cheshire Town Clerk

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



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



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

# Report of the Chairman

## Adams-Cheshire Regional School District

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

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

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

As you were probably aware, the budget for this year was a difficult one. Passage of this budget required a proposition 2 ½ override vote in the town of Cheshire. It is important to remember that the overall budget only went up around 3% and that included a significant increase in our health insurance. However, as has happened over the last several years, the amount that the state has increased our chapter 70 school funding has only gone up slightly. It simply is not keeping pace with the actual increases to costs associated with running this school district. Soon the school committee will be holding meetings to discuss the budget for next school year. Early projections look for next year to also be challenging. Anyone from the community is invited to these public budget hearings to learn just what we are up against as we put together a budget to educate your children for the 2016/2017 school year. Look for the meeting dates to be posted around late February through March. The school committee is required to pass a budget by the end of March for submittal to the towns.

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

Maintenance of the three buildings within our district continues to be an enormous task. Even with a newly renovate building, maintenance issues do happen and must be dealt with in addition to the daily and routine work being done in each building. As with other areas of our operation, budget cuts over the last several years have led us to run very lean in this department. Still, we are committed to have buildings that at the very least offer clean and comfortable environments for our students and staff. The use of technology in the classroom helps improve the learning environment both for students and teachers alike. Most of our students will look forward to a workplace dominated by the use of technology. We feel it is important to integrate

technologies in the classroom at every feasible opportunity. Kids today grow up surrounded by electronics. It is only natural for them to also embrace an educational environment that incorporates technology in the learning process. Many of you know that the district instituted on-line grade books a few of years ago and it has been instrumental in allowing parents and students to track their grades from home over the internet. Rather than waiting until progress report time, families are able to see exactly how their child is doing with respect to their school grades in each class. This year, thanks to the generosity of the taxpayers of Adams and Cheshire, the district was able to purchase a great number of "Chrome books". These low cost, easy to use computers enable many more students to work with technology much more often than what was previously possible. The result of all this increased technology will be that students will be better prepared to enter a world of increasing dependence on technology in the workplace. This is such an important asset to the schools and to the students and their families.

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

The chairman's report would not be complete without a few words about our students. Most of the members of the school committee are parents and most of us have children or have had children who attend school here in this district. We are naturally concerned and proud not only of our own children but of all the students in the district as well. There are always so many exciting things happening in our schools that it would be impossible to list them all. Without overshadowing the reports of the Superintendent and the Athletic Director, I simply want to say go out and enjoy an event involving students and there are many. Perhaps take in a football, baseball, or basketball game. Attend a soccer game or a ski meet. Wave to the band as they march in one of the local parades. Go see the high school musical or one of the concert and jazz band and chorus performances. Support a pancake breakfast or spaghetti supper. Students enjoy being supported by their communities and you will probably be amazed by the level at which our students perform.

Finally, as chairman of the Adams Cheshire Regional School Committee, I would once again like to thank everyone in the community for their continued support for the school district and for the children who attend class here every day. We are very proud to represent this school district. Are there challenges that lie ahead? Absolutely there are. But our mission is clear; the education of all of our children is of utmost importance. After all, they represent the future for all of us.

Paul K. Butler, Chairman  
Adams-Cheshire Regional  
School District

# Superintendent of Schools

## ANNUAL REPORT - 2015

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

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

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

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

### Adams Cheshire Regional School Committee

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

#### Adams-Cheshire Regional School Committee Members:

Paul Butler.....	Chairperson- Adams
Darlene Rodowicz.....	Vice Chairperson- Cheshire
Brian Astorino.....	Cheshire
Regina Hill.....	Adams
James Ryan.....	Adams
Ed St. John.....	Cheshire
Steve Vigna.....	Adams

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

### GUIDING BELIEFS

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

We believe that:

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

### VISION STATEMENT

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

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

Whether a student is interested in the arts such as drama; musicals; band; chorus or the fine arts such as sculpting; art shows at all levels; art through technology or STEM or athletics or AP courses--We have something for everyone! We are a district that meets the needs of all students with all abilities and all interests.

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

### CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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

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

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

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

## TECHNOLOGY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ACE

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

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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

## BAY STATE READING INSTITUTE

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

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

## MASSACHUSETTS MATH SCIENCE INITIATIVE

We are pleased to announce that Hoosac Valley Middle High School became partners with the Massachusetts Math Science Initiative (MMSI). This is our first year as partners. As stated by

the MMSI, Massachusetts is one of six states selected to participate in an innovative program led by **National Math and Science** to address the drastic decline in math and science education in the United States.

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

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

### **BUDGET**

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

### **COMMUNICATION/COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

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

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

### **SAFETY**

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

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

### **STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

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

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

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

### **TEACHING AND LEARNING GOAL:**

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

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

### **COMMUNITY GOAL:**

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

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

### **STUDENT SAFETY AND WELLNESS GOAL:**

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

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

Respectfully submitted by,  
Kristen Robinson-Gordon  
Superintendent of Schools

# Hoosac Valley Middle & High School

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## 2015-2016 Annual Report

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

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

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

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

HVMHS Student Council members have been hard at work developing a proposal to rewrite the Hoosac tardy policy. Several students took the lead and developed a new plan, which offers some insight into why students might be tardy and how the school could better influence them into getting to school on time. They presented their ideas to the administrative team and are awaiting a formal answer. Additionally, Student Council members welcomed the incoming freshmen class with an ice cream social in September, held nominations for class officers,

provided tours of HVMHS in August to students and families, and successfully organized the 41st annual Art Hathaway Elderly Dinner in December. Approximately 200 seniors from Adams, Cheshire, and Savoy feasted on a homemade turkey dinner (turkeys donated by the Big Y in Adams) and enjoyed music provided by the HVMHS jazz band and chorus. Currently, members are busy organizing the annual Snowball, which will be held in February, and they are also preparing for 2016-2017 officer nominations.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremiah Ames  
Principal HVMHS

# C.T. Plunkett Elementary School

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

## District Beliefs

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

C.T. Plunkett Elementary School has one of the largest enrollments of any elementary school in Berkshire County. Currently we service students in grades K - 5. The school is located on Commercial Street in downtown Adams housing six grade levels with between 68-86 students in each. The original building was constructed in 1923 and served as the town's junior high school for almost fifty years. It was then converted to an intermediate elementary school and served as an instructional facility for students in fourth through sixth grades until it underwent a complete renovation. The school reopened as an elementary school with a fourteen-classroom addition constructed on the south side of the building for students in Kindergarten through grade five in September 1994.

The information included in this report highlights some of our special accomplishments, provides statistical information on enrollment and staffing, reviews some school-wide projects and initiatives, and tells about some significant changes. Special thanks to all of the teachers/staff who contributed submissions for this report; you are truly outstanding!

### Enrollment Comparisons

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

### STAFFING:

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

#### Kindergarten

Kristi Bachli, Roberta Urquhart, and Mara Woolley

#### Grade 1

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

#### Grade 2

Elizabeth Alibozek, Christine Kirchner, Kelly Ryan and Barbara Steuer

#### Grade 3

Beth Bourdon, Dawn Bombardier, Ashley DePaoli and Anne Prudhomme

#### Grade 4

Allison Collins, John Duval, and Antoinette Marquis

#### Grade 5

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

#### School-Wide

**Principal** Michelle S. Colvin  
**Dean of Students** Patricia Misiuk  
**Title I Director & Literacy Coach:** Dawn Bishop

**Special Education:** Nicole Crane, Dawn Daniels, Joann Kingsbury, Christine Harrington, Travis Poirot

**Math Interventionist:** Lynne Robinson

**Art:** Terri Cooper

**Music:** Jonathan Rowe

**Physical Education:** Kathleen Hill, Dan Wehle

**Elementary Coordinator:** Mary Tanner

**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

**Administrative Assistant:** Julie Little

**Main Office Para:** Cheryl Steuer

**Autism Specialist:** Michelle McCaffrey

**District Specialist:** Kim Biagini

**Library:** Laurie Gavazzi

**Nurse:** Kari Ann Delsoldato

**Cafeteria:** Kimberly Briggs, Amy Garner, Frances Jamros, Laurie Malloy, and Linda Pelczynski

**Daycare:** Sharon Girard, Miriam Serrano

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

#### Paraprofessionals:

Pat Alibozek, Susan Barthe, Susan Burzimat, Deb Ciempa, Brandon Crouse, Ashley Davis, Amoreena Gazaille, Deanna Guettler, Shelley Jenkins, Jennifer Kline, Susan Knapp, Dan Kondel, Donna LaBonte, Karen Levesque, Barbara Mallet, Paula Meczywor, Donna Mullany, Mary Murray, Shannon Speed, Lisa Waltermire, Becky Zaleski, Jackie Ziarnik



### **ACRS D Partners with Bay State Reading Institute, (BSRI)**

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

### **BSRI's model includes:**

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

### **As a BSRI Partner, each school receives:**

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

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

### **Kindergarten Update:**

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

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

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

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

### **Grade 1 Update:**

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

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

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

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

### **Grade 2 Update:**

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

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

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

Throughout the year 2nd grade will work in conjunction with MCLA STEAM Staff to incorporate lessons into our curriculum. We all take advantage of the fun, spirit days offered

to the staff and children at C.T. Plunkett. Of course, we will hold the annual “Alex’s Lemonade Stand” in June to support childhood cancer as well as a local youth that may be fighting a battle with cancer.

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

### **Grade 3 Update:**

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

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

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

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

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

Our students will be taking the PAARC online test this year in reading and language arts and math. Thanks to the generos-

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

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

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

### **Grade 4 Update:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Grade 5 Update:**

The fifth grade picked up right where it left off with the BSRI program. Students settled right into the routine of centers and rotations as well as picking up on the expectations of their new teachers quickly. Teachers are using this second year of BSRI to improve their instruction and are continuing to challenge their students daily during center work and at teacher table. Since the students really enjoyed working cooperatively with peers at centers, teachers have begun to implement center work during Math. Students are finding the math curriculum to be interesting, challenging, and most importantly, fun. The curriculum has an emphasis on long division, decimals, and fractions. For science during the fall term, they spent time learning about rocks and minerals. The culmination of this unit was a trip to a local industry, Specialty Minerals, Inc. Students were given the opportunity to see, first hand, how the mining industry works. They were amazed at the size of the quarry located here in Adams as well as the many different name brand items that you can find their product in! In the spring we will be studying populations and ecosystems finishing with a final project in which students present research on their ecosystems.

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

During the month of March fifth grade students will once again participate in the annual week-long Nature's Classroom trip. The time they spend on this trip is truly one of the highlights of the students' elementary experiences. It is filled with hands-on, multidisciplinary learning experiences that the children remember for the rest of their lives.

### **Library**

The C.T. Plunkett Library houses over 29,000 books, videos and magazines. The automated circulation and cataloging system makes it possible for students and staff to access the electronic card catalog. Approximately 5,600 items were checked out during the school year. Students visit the library once a week and have the opportunity to listen to stories and borrow a variety of books, including picture books, fiction, biographies and non-fiction.

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

### **Parent Group (PTG)**

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

### **Arts Enrichment:**

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

### **Activities**

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

### **Appreciation Days**

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

### **School Improvements/Equipment Maintenance:**

- Playground fundraising and maintenance

### **School Council**

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

1. Adopting educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards
2. Identifying the educational needs of students attending the school
3. Reviewing the annual school building budget
4. Formulating a school improvement plan

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

### **Title I**

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

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

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

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

### **Reading Is Fundamental**

C.T. Plunkett Elementary School is affiliated with the national RIF organization as part of its National Registry. This organization provides access to book suppliers who offer discounts to affiliate programs. The funding for our book distributions comes from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation. The goal of this program is to give children access to books and discover the joys and value of reading. The book distributions are enhanced by fun reading-motivational activities, designed to spark an interest in reading in our students. Past themes have included “Get on Board with Reading” (trains); “Warm up with a Good Book” (winter); and “Books on the Beach” (summer reading). Volunteers plan the distributions, order books, make bookmarks, and provide the classroom activities for motivational purposes. This program is vital for children who have few or no books in their homes, have limited access to bookstores, and who, without RIF would not experience the thrill of owning their own books.

### **Music Program:**

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

### **Art:**

The C.T. Plunkett Art Department will welcome the public to our annual Art Show on Thursday March 31, 2016 from 5-7 PM. Over 600 pieces of student artwork from grades K through 5th grade will cover the first floor hallways. Additional pieces of framed art will be on display in the cafeteria on the first floor. All artwork is literacy based with an emphasis on exploring various mediums including: collage, printmaking, sculpture, calligraphy,

design and ceramics, as well as drawing and painting. The Art Show is an exciting culmination of the endless amount of creativity that our students exhibit throughout the year.

### **Physical Education:**

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

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

All students participate in our “Kidnastics” unit which is an age-appropriate version of gymnastics, the NY Roadrunner’s Mighty Milers Program, as well as our Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser event. Students are engaged in cross-curricular activities including math, history, health and language. For example, as a warm-up, students run laps and will give the teachers a word that starts with the letter of the week. When a student says a correct word they earn a washable hand stamp, which eventually adds up to earn motivational prizes at certain milestones. Students with special needs have been actively engaged in our adaptive PE program where they get one on one attention focusing on their specific physical needs through the use of modified equipment and lesson plans.

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

### **Technology**

The current District Technology Plan continues to guide decisions in this vital area of educational practice. This year the District was able to increase internet-accessibility throughout the building by adding new cloud based access points. These access points allowed for the creation of a public network for guests of the building to access the Internet, while providing valuable data to monitor and control internet traffic. Additionally the school received 120 new chrome books to help aid in the upcoming state computer based testing. Lastly, 9 iPad mini’s were purchased through a BJ’s Wholesale grant that was written through combined efforts of the technology department and Ms. Andersons first grade class.

We continue to update content and improve communication between school/community/families through our district and individual school webpages. There is more work to be done on individual teacher pages; hopefully we will see greater utiliza-

tion in the coming months. We see this as an opportunity to give families direct access to homework assignments, classroom calendars, information and upcoming events, classroom policies and procedures.

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

### Community Connections

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

- The Berkshire Humane Society (pet care/classroom lessons)
- The Pittsfield Red Cross Unit (classroom lessons)
- The Counseling Center of the Berkshires (counseling)
- The Department of Social Services (family support)
- McCann Technical High School (hygienists for classroom visits)
- Hillcrest Dental (hygienists for classroom visits)
- The Massachusetts Audubon Society (classroom lessons)

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

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

*~Malala Yousafzai*

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

Submitted by,

Michelle Colvin,  
Principal

# Cheshire Elementary School

## 2015-2016 School Year

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

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

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

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

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

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

### PRE-SCHOOL

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

The Preschoolers have been busy working on Lexia Core5, an interactive computer software that helps children strengthen their Literacy and Language Arts skills. This year we have been able to increase the use of Core 5 by utilizing the new Chrome books donated to the school. To help provide more technology in the classroom, the preschool is implementing Moby Max, interactive software that also includes math practice. This year we have also incorporated the Second Step Curriculum to help with social skills practice. Second Step is a social/emotional curriculum that teaches friendship, problem solving, and self-regulation techniques in a child friendly way through the use of puppets, songs and movement activities. The Preschool staff

continues to follow Common Core standards and presents them in fun, motivating way to help children develop a lifelong love of learning.

**Preschool Teachers:** Laura Ziemba and Kelly Riechers

### KINDERGARTEN

It's been another fabulous productive year in kindergarten.

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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





## FIRST GRADE

The first graders have had many educational and fun experiences, while working on our fourth year with the new reading and math series. Around Thanksgiving we wrote a book about the Pilgrims and the Native Americans. We spent the month of December creating a 2016 calendar. For science, we will study nutrition and the food pyramid over the next few months. Through a STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math) grant, we have been lucky to have Ms. Dana Schildkraut visit and teach some engaging lessons. We will continue to collaborate with Ms. Dana to develop more STEAM curriculum for our classrooms.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Teachers:** Robin Poirot and Heather Emerson



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

Reading is a large focus in first grade. This year, first grade has continued to enthusiastically embrace the new BSRI method of implementing reading instruction. We deliver most of our reading instruction in a small group setting. This is allowing teachers to spend more time with each student and provide more individualized instruction. We set a grade-level reading achievement goal of reading to fill a bulletin board snowman with snowballs. For a spring reading goal, we will be reading to fill a bulletin board flower with petals. When the reading goals are reached, we will celebrate with a reading marathon celebration!

We also spend much of our time practicing addition and subtraction math facts up to 20. Students practice their facts by partnering up and playing whole-class math games. We will also be addressing the topics of place value, time (to the hour and half hour), basic geometry (shapes and solids), graphing, and fractions.

**Teachers:** Mrs. Katie Chenail and Mrs. Melissa Rusek

## SECOND GRADE

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

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



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

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

**Teachers:** Stephanie McCarthy and Kim Trimarchi

### THIRD GRADE

A look at third grade!

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

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

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

**Teachers:** Mrs. Dawn Prokopowicz and Ms. Danielle Taylor

### FOURTH GRADE

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

This year, we are in our second successful year of working closely with representatives from the Bay State Reading Institute

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

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

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

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

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

**Teachers:** Mr. Eric Brown and Mrs. Laurie Cantarella

### FIFTH GRADE

Fifth Grade at Cheshire Elementary School is a tremendous opportunity for students to develop academically and personally. Along with academic work, students are prepared for entry into the middle school and the responsibilities that go along with that. A strong emphasis is placed on Language Arts and Math. Students have enjoyed learning through the Bay State Reading Institute (BSRI) model for a second year, which focuses on small group instruction, high levels of student engagement, and differentiated learning. Fifth grade has seen amazing growth working with this model.

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



As students gain more responsibility throughout the year, they learn to view themselves as young adults who will be entering their middle school years.

**Teacher:** Mr. Justin Luciani

### ART

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

**Teacher:** Mrs. Wendy Lamberton

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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

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



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

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

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

Thank you.

**Teacher:** Mr. Dan Wehle

### MUSIC

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

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

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

Thank you,

**CES Music Education Specialist: Mr. Jonathan Rowe**

**THE REST OF OUR CHESHIRE SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TEAM**

- Administrative Assistant –** Paula Ciskowski
- Special Education –** Elaine Hunter (½ time)  
Open position
- Speech & Language Pathologist –** Judy Sirard
- School Adjustment Counselor (1/2 time) –** Jennifer Renzi
- Technology (Mon. & Weds.) –** Geoff Kondel
- Building & Grounds –** Dave Richards  
Stash Cote
- School Nurse –** Philip Grover
- Cafeteria –** Cindy Gajda  
Denise Moncecchi  
Marianne Mirke
- Extended Care –** Jenn Mach - Coordinator  
Jon-Luc Goodrich  
Clara Wilusz
- Paraprofessionals:**
  - Shannon Badorini Linda Bonnivier
  - Kathy Bradbury Monica Carpenter
  - Judy Gaylord Linda Giroux
  - Jon-Luc Goodrich Noreen Hoag
  - Julie Lech Kathy Malloy
  - Sue McLear Susan Randall
  - Clara Wilusz
- Library/ Gr. 3 Paraprofessional –** Karen Isbell

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

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

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

The Cheshire Fire and Police Departments as well as the Mass. State Police from the Cheshire Barracks are also reliable sources of support for the children and staff of Cheshire Elementary providing programs for fire safety and assistance for our Crisis Team with the various safety drills that are conducted throughout the year. There are various other local businesses and civic groups who have supported the school during the past year and for that we are all truly grateful. The Cheshire Lions Club generously provided funding for our Homework Help Program. Greylock Credit Union and the Adams Community Bank provided scholarship funds for students to attend Nature's Classroom in March. Adams Community Bank also awarded Cheshire School a generous donation for new playground equipment. Larabee Landscaping and Whitney's Farm Market have been generous with their products, time and talent to help our school grounds and entrance look beautiful. Bedard Brothers Auto dealership sponsored a literacy outreach project that provided books to 100 of the Cheshire School students. We have also applied and received grant funding from the ACE Foundation, The Taconic Foundation, and the Northern Berkshire Cultural Council. In these times of very tough budgets, it is so wonderful to have support for children and education. Without these funding sources, our children would not be able to attend the cultural enrichment events. While we are very grateful for the support of our tax payers through the annual school budget, it is just not enough to provide all that we need to for our students to be 21st century learners. So, thank you to all of the individuals and organizations that do provide these opportunities for our children!

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

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Peter J. Bachli  
Principal

# Athletic Director

## Hoosac Valley High School

The 2015 athletic program had over 300 student athletes participate in 27 varsity and sub-varsity programs that compete in the Berkshire County League. We also have cooperative teams in ice hockey, swimming, and wrestling.



*Girls Basketball – State Finalists*

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

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



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

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

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



*Football – 2016 WMASS Championship*

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Heneault  
Athletic Director

# Director of Food Services

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

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

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

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

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

Prices remain at

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

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne Schutz  
Food Service Director

# ACRSD Special Services

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## 2015 Annual Report

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

The ACRSD Special Services Department offers a full continuum of programs and services from the least restrictive full inclusion and academic support offerings through substantially separate self-contained models for our intensive at-risk populations. Academic support programs that offer direct, systematic instruction and remediation in content areas including reading and math, are part of the remedial and inclusion support that students receive during the school day. Special Education teachers and paraprofessional support staff are trained to provide such support and create specialized lessons and materials. Other services for students are provided by Speech and Language Pathologists, Speech Assistants, Occupational Therapist, Occupational Therapist Assistant, Sign-Language Interpreter, tutors, and an ESL instructor allowing us to provide services on site, thereby ensuring minimal disruption to the academic day for students. We continue to contract the services of a Physical Therapist, Teacher of the Visually Impaired - Richard Ely, Willie Ross School for the Deaf, the Carroll School as well as Perkins School for the Blind, to provide services on site for students who have the need.

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

When an older student is referred for special education, parent consent is sought and an evaluation is conducted. The district has hired a .2 school psychologist, Michael Vecchia, as well as contracted with Hillcrest Educational Support Services to assist in the intake and identification of students who may qualify for special services and provide recommendations for

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

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

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

The Elementary Level of Special Services provides experienced special education teachers and support staff to students with special needs in both Cheshire School and 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. Michelle McCafferey has been hired as the teacher of this program. 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 2015, we welcomed Nicole Crane as a special education teacher at CT Plunkett Elementary. Mary Whitman has retired from teaching this year. She has left her mark on early education at Adams-Cheshire and will be sorely missed!

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

One of these models in HVMHS is The Exceptional Program (EP), which is a safe, structured and predictable environment that provides multiple supports, rigorous social skill training and specific focus on preparing students to successfully transition to post graduation life including the working world. Therapeutic and behavioral supports augment a case management model that provides significant outreach to home, family and community ensuring a holistic model for educating these youth. We welcome Grace Mauk as the new High School EP special educator. The goal of transitioning students to less restrictive settings through a system of scaffolding supports remains constant.

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

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

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

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

Extended year programs continue to be available during the summer months to assist students who have shown documented substantial regression of their educational progress both academically and socially following vacations and or long illnesses. A program for our younger students balances academic growth with "camp like" experiential projects to foster social emotional and language development. The summer program for older students combines academic support and pre-vocational skill development with community and recreational outings. Tutoring is also provided on an individual or small group basis to maintain academics. These programs provide diverse offerings for students in Pre-K through age 22.

Our efforts to develop and sustain programs which support students within their communities have had a dramatic impact on reducing the cost of out-of-district residential placements and keeping kids at home. Nevertheless, we periodically have the need to place an intensive needs student out of district, where they are monitored by the special services department.

Recognizing the important role that they play in the lives of all students, we are striving to reach out to parents to become active members on our Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). The purpose of the SEPAC is twofold: to help guide the district in making programmatic decisions and to serve as a resource for parents of children with special needs. The board has developed and implemented by-laws for their organization and governance. Because we have a rather transient population, the ACRSD has joined together with neighboring SEPACs in North Adams, McCann, and Northern Berkshire School Union to share resources and maintain continuity of contact with families. The district has joined the Massachusetts Parent Advisory Council and set up informational workshops with community agencies and Title I to assist families with students with special needs. Anyone interested in joining the SEPAC should contact the ACRSD special services director.

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

thinking, and speaking. Our students worked diligently on this assessment and the data obtained has helped the district better determine the best educational approach for each of the students who participated.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquelyn Fortier  
Director of Special Services

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

### ACRSD SPECIAL SERVICES STAFF

STAFFING	POSITION	STAFFING	POSITION
Jacquelyn Fortier	— Director of Special Services	Michelle McCaffrey	— Special Education Teacher Cheshire/CT Plunkett
Mary Tanner	— Elementary Coordinator	Rebecca Cohen	— Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Mary Ellen Sutliff	— Administrative Assistant	Lisa Folino	— Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Diane Arduini	— Speech Language Pathologist CT Plunkett	Elizabeth Namislo	— Special Education Teacher HVMHS
Judith Sirard	— Speech Language Pathologist Cheshire Elem./HVMHS	Brandon Noyes	— Exceptional Program-EP HVMHS
Suzanne Harnick	— Occupational Therapist	Seth Jenkins	— Special Education Teacher Inclusion HVHS
Deb Silveira	— Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant	Grace Mauk	— Exceptional Program-EP HVMHS
Lora McGrath	— Physical Therapist	Christopher Tamburrino	— Life Skills Program HVMHS
Nicole Crane	— Special Education Teacher K-1 CT Plunkett	Jamie Lamour	— Emotional Support Program HVMHS
Dawn Daniels	— Special Education Teacher 2-3 CT Plunkett	<b>Other Related Services:</b>	
Joann Kingsbury	— Special Education Teacher 4-5 CT Plunkett	Rick Ely	— Teacher of the Visually Impaired
Christine Harrington	— Special Education Teacher 3-5 CT Plunkett	Greg Delisle, Director	— Willie Ross School for the Deaf
Travis Poirot	— Exceptional Program CT Plunkett	Eileen A. Daneri	— Teacher of the Deaf
Kim Biagini	— District Specialist	Stacey Ellery	— Interpreter/Sign Language
Laura Ziemba	— Preschool/Special Education Teacher District	Joshua Kellogg	— ESL Program
Kelly Riechers	— Preschool/Special Education Teacher District	Amy O'Brien	— Perkins Teacher of the Visually Impaired
Elaine Hunter	— Special Education Teacher Cheshire Elementary		



# Business Administrator

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## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

David E. Hinkell

Director of Business  
Adams Cheshire Regional School District

**Adams-Cheshire Regional School District**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**June 30, 2015**

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

**ADAMS-CESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
GENERAL FUND**

**Statement of Revenues and Other Sources,  
and Expenditures and Other Uses**

**- Budget and Actual -  
June 30, 2015**

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

**ADAMS-CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Assessments to Member Towns**  
**June 30, 2015**

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

**ADAMS-CHESHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**June 30, 2015**  
**Future Debt Service**

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

# Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District



The Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District, McCann Technical School, students, faculty and staff continued their record of noteworthy accomplishments in fiscal year 2015 and this report highlights some of these accomplishments.

Our mission is to graduate technically skilled, academically prepared, and socially responsible individuals ready to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Our mission and educational philosophy are implemented by adhering to the following core values:

- Communication strengthens partnership development and teamwork.
- Achievement is attained through a strong work ethic.
- Respect from all guarantees a safe learning environment.
- Ethics ensure a dedication to honesty and integrity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The results of the spring 2015 MCAS test once again echoed the continuous progress of our students through their dedication and that of our terrific faculty. Once again McCann posted solid scores highlighted below.

## GRADE 10 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

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

## GRADE 10 - MATHEMATICS

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

## GRADE 10 - SCIENCE AND TECH/ENG

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

The McCann Athletics program continues to enjoy success in the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association. We are very proud of our Football Team for claiming its first Western Mass Championship in the program's history. The team went through its historic season undefeated until the State Semi-finals, claiming its second league championship in as many years along the way. The rest of our sports programs had very successful seasons as well. Some key highlights were the Boys Soccer and Boys Cross Country teams winning the State Vocational Championship, Shane Fuller scoring 100 points in soccer and 1000 points in basketball and signing a national letter of intent to St. Rose College, and the Baseball team winning the Tri-County League Championship.

The integration of educational technology into our programs continues to be a priority. We received a donation of Siemens'

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

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

McCann students continued their ongoing participation in SkillsUSA, a national organization with more than 300,000 members. It is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. McCann is 100% member of SkillsUSA which has provided the opportunity for our students to earn scholarships, tools for their trade, opportunities for employment and awards in recognition of their accomplishments. At the 2015 SkillsUSA State Leadership Competition, McCann students earned gold medals in Sheet Metal at the high school level and Dental Assisting, Medical Assisting, and Job Interview at the post-secondary level. Silver medals were awarded to two high school students for the Costello Family Community Service Award, and to a post-secondary student in Job Interview. Bronze medals were earned in 3-D Visualization & Animation, Internetworking, Technical Computer Applications, and Welding at the high school level as well as Cosmetology at the post-secondary level. Additionally, for the third year in a row, a McCann student was elected to serve as a state officer, and two additional students were selected to serve as voting delegates at the national conference. At the 2015 National Conference, for the first time in the history of the school, a McCann student earned a seat on the SkillsUSA national officer team as the 2015-2016 National Region One Vice-President.

Business Professionals of America, BPA, is the leading CTSSO (Career and Technical Student Organization) for students pursuing careers in Business Management, Office Administration, Information Technology and other related career fields. The mission of Business Professionals of America is to contribute to the preparation of a world-class workforce through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills. The Workplace Skills Assessment Program (WSAP) prepares students to succeed and assesses real-world business skills and problem solving abilities in finance, management,

IT and computer applications. Students from our Business and Information Technology departments have been participating in BPA since 2005. During this time, our students have earned numerous awards at state competitions and have qualified for the National Leadership Conference every year. McCann students have received awards at the State Leadership Conferences in Finance, Business Administration, Management Information Systems, Digital Communication and Design, and Management Marketing Communication events. McCann has continued to achieve finalist placements at the National level, the most recent being a top ten finish in Database Applications. Additionally, at the 2015 National Leadership Conference, a McCann student (Class of 2014) was elected to national office for a second term and will now be serving as the 2015-2016 Post-secondary Division National Secretary/Treasurer.

Project Lead the Way is the leading provider of rigorous and innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education curricular programs for middle and high schools across the U.S. Students enrolled in the program take as many as four courses above and beyond their graduation requirements. Since its inception over 60% of participating students - over one hundred - have become eligible for between 3 and 9 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, 11 students achieved this eligibility.

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

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

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

The Career Vocational Technical Education, CVTE division of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, DESE, in conjunction with the Office of School Accountability conducted a Coordinated Program 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.

## Northern Berkshire Vocational Regional School District

FY15 Budgeted Revenues	Original	Actual
<b>City &amp; Town Assessments</b>		
Municipal Minimum	\$ 2,748,884.00	\$ 2,748,884.00
Capital	107,813.00	107,813.00
Transportation	202,403.00	202,403.00
Municipal Assessment	111,447.00	11,447.00
Ch. 71 Transportation	195,000.00	271,011.00
Ch. 70 General School Aid	4,629,241.00	4,609,241.00
Tuitions	682,802.00	699,922.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	10,241.00	10,241.00
State Bonus Aid		2,880.00
<b>Total Revenue Received</b>	<b>\$ 8,687,831.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,763,842.00</b>
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
	<b>\$ 8,687,831.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,687,831.00</b>

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

# Cheshire, Massachusetts



ASHUWILLTICOOK



CHEESE PRESS



CHESHIRE RESERVOIR



TOWN HALL & LIBRARY

Home

Selectmen's Minutes

Our Community

Schools

About

Municipal Directory

Forms & Permits

Bylaws, Regulations & Reports

Cheshire Library

SEARCH

Pay Town Bills



Town of Cheshire's  
Online Revenue Collection

Main Address

80 Church Street  
P.O. Box 647  
Cheshire, MA 01225

## OUR TOWN

### Cheshire, Massachusetts

Cheshire is one of several smaller Berkshire County communities in Western Massachusetts that is seeing its population grow! Come and visit and you will see why! Walk the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, take a boat out on our beautiful lake and hike the Appalachian Trail which crosses through the center of our town! These and so much more are what makes the town of Cheshire so special!

TOWN OF CHESHIRE - COMMUNITY CHOICE POWER SUPPLY PROGRAM  
AGGREGATION PLAN  
PREPARED BY COLONIAL POWER GROUP, INC. [PDF]

Notice of Public Hearing and Request for Comments [PDF] 11/3/15

### The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail

The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail is a former railroad corridor converted into a 10-foot (3.0 m) wide paved universally accessible scenic rail trail path. The Ashuwillticook (ash-oo-will-ti-cook) Rail Trail runs parallel to Route 8 through the towns of Cheshire, Lanesborough and Adams, Massachusetts and has become a popular resource for biking, walking, rollerblading, and jogging. The trail is managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). .... more

### COA Weekly Calendar

Monday, March 14	
Van available	8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Exercise	9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, March 15	
Van available	8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Senior Lunch	11:30 a.m.
Corn Beef and Cabbage at the Baptist Church- call for reservations 743-9719	12:00 p.m.

### Notices

Cheshire Master Plan Survey

Take The Cheshire Master Plan Survey!

Annual Town Election Information

The date of the Annual Town Election is **Monday, May 2nd**

[Read more ...](#)

2016 Dog Licenses

2016 Cheshire Dog Licenses will be on sale **beginning February 16th** at the Town Clerk's Office.

2016 Cheshire Annual Town Census

The 2016 Cheshire Annual Town Census has been mailed. The Census is mandated by Massachusetts General Law and is valuable to have a current and correct residential count.

[Read more ...](#)

Cheshire Cemetery

The Cheshire Cemetery is officially closed for the season.



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## Cheshire Information

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# Telephone Numbers for Town of Cheshire Services

Cheshire Board of Selectmen	743-1690 ext 11
Town Administrator	743-1690 ext 18
Town Clerk	743-1690 ext 22
Accountant	743-1690 ext 14
Treasurer	743-1690 ext 15
Water Department	743-1690 ext 16
Board of Health	743-1690 ext 17
Building Inspector	743-1690 ext 19
Tax Collector	743-2826
Board of Assessors	743-3929
Cheshire Highway Garage	743-3376

## EMERGENCY 9-1-1

<b>Cheshire Police</b> (non-emergency)	743-1501
<b>Cheshire Fire Department</b> (non-emergency)	743-3387

Cheshire Library	743-4746
Cheshire Community/Senior Center	743-9719
Cheshire Elementary School	743-2298
Hoosac Valley High School	743-5200
Cheshire Post Office	743-3184

Cheshire Town Website: [www.cheshire-ma.net](http://www.cheshire-ma.net)

Voice Mail is available for all of the above.

**REMINDER: The Cheshire Town Hall and Annex are NOT open on Fridays.**

**Weekly Hours of the Cheshire Town Offices**  
are posted at the 80 Church Street entrance of the Town Hall

Assessors  
Town Clerk

Tax Collector  
Water Department

## Tuesday Evening Hours

Board of Selectmen/ Conservation Commission	6:30 to 8:30 (Adjournment when business is concluded)
Board of Health, Water Department, Tax Collector and Town Clerk	6:30 to 8:30
Building Inspector at Annex	6:00 to 8:30
Cheshire Police at Police Department	6:30 to 8:30

## Cheshire Library:

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Phone: 413 743 - 4746  
Visit us on: Facebook  
Web: [cheshirepubliclibrary.wordpress.com](http://cheshirepubliclibrary.wordpress.com)  
Town Website: [www.Cheshire-ma.net](http://www.Cheshire-ma.net)  
**Look for notices  
on the Fire Dept. digital sign**

(HOURS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

## Town of Cheshire - Dogs, Taxes and Trash Info

### DOG LICENSES ARE DUE FOR RENEWAL APRIL of EACH YEAR.

Cheshire Town By-laws state that **all dogs must be licensed by June 1st** or a late fee of \$15 goes into effect; if the dog is not licensed by **August 1st** a fine of \$25 is added to the \$15 totaling \$40 plus the license tag fee.

Cheshire Town By-laws state that **all dogs must be restrained at all times.**

A **pooper-scooper** By-law is also in effect.

A **barking dog** (outdoors) for more than 15 minutes is subject to a fine.

**Real Estate Taxes** are semi-annual due May and November.

Tax Collector's hours are printed on bills.

**Water Bills** are quarterly

Water Collector's hours are printed on bills.

**Town Compactor Site:**

Mon., Fri. & Sat. .... 8:00 to 5:00  
Wednesdays ..... Noon to 5:00

### CESHIRE COMPACTOR STICKERS

are renewable **JULY 1st.**

Stickers are only available through the Board of Health.

