

TOWN OF HAMPDEN
Annual Town Report
District of Eastern Hampden County Veterans Services
Serving Brimfield, Holland, Hampden, Monson and Wales

Calendar year 2000 has seen increased activity in many areas of the Department of Veterans Services. First, the State department of Veterans Services, under the direction of Medal of Honor Winner, Thomas G. Kelley, has broadened the scope of Veterans Agents. This has taken the Veterans Agents scope of work to new and exciting heights and changed the Agents title from "Agent" to Veterans Service Officer. Commissioner Kelley has directed that all VSO must be pro active in seeking out and providing support and services to all veterans covered by Mass. General Law Chapter 115. This office has endeavored to do just that. It has always been the mission of this district to support and service all eligible veterans and do it with the compassion and dignity they deserve. It is no secret that we are losing over 5000 WW2 veterans per week throughout the U.S. and over 1800 per week from the Korean conflict. This has placed a tremendous burden on the VSO's throughout the state to assist, support and provide services to widows and widowers who are left behind.

New legislation this year has resulted in \$1500.00 annuity payments being awarded to the unmarried widows of deceased veterans who were 100% service connected or killed in action similar to the Gold Star Parents annuity. In addition, property tax exemptions for veterans 10% disabled or more, now revert to their unmarried spouse upon their death. Pending legislation that will also have an impact on the VSO activity is the change in the definition of a veteran. Current language specifies dates and conflicts that must be met in order to qualify for benefits under Chapter 115. However, if the revised legislation is passed, all members of the Armed Forces (peacetime) will qualify, so long as they have served honorably and meet certain longevity requirements.

During this report period your Veterans Service Officer has increased efforts in the area of outreach by providing ongoing information to the news media, COA's, and local cable stations to get the message out regarding benefits and services. This activity, along with assisting veterans, their widows and dependents through the morass of Federal paperwork has kept the office busy. In addition to benefits provided from the Hampden Veterans' Benefit Account, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) has awarded in excess of \$455,000 to veterans for service-connected disabilities, retirement pay, medical benefits and widows benefits.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur A. Booth
Director/VSO

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REGISTRARS

The number of registered voters on Jan. 1, 2000 was 3266. On Dec. 31, 2000 the number was 3348.

Voter attendance during the year 2000:

Democratic Presidential Primary, March 7, 2000	299
Republican Presidential Primary, March 7, 2000	563
Libertarian Presidential Primary, March 7, 2000	1
Republican Party Caucus, March 23, 2000	32
Democratic Party Caucus, March 24, 2000	22
Special Town Meeting, April 24, 2000	261
Annual Town Meeting, April 24, 2000	261
Annual Town Election, May 1, 2000	1108
Special Town Election, June 8, 2000	624
Special Town Meeting, June 19, 2000	199
Republican State Primary, September 19, 2000	31
Democratic State Primary, September 19, 2000	31
Libertarian State Primary, September 19, 2000	0
State Election, November 7, 2000	2638

INSPECTORS AND TELLERS

Republican

Beth Burger
 Edith Casey
 Andree Crowley
 Irene Cutting
 Beryl Doten
 Gerald Doten
 Mary Dunklee
 Barbara Dunwoody
 Kathleen Duquette
 Beth Fatse
 Rebecca Gibb
 Mary Hamel
 Miles Hapgood
 Dorothy Hill
 Joyce Libby
 David Kingsbury
 Elaine Kingsbury
 Chesley Metcalf
 Nancy Salerno
 Philip Schneider Jr
 Sheila Slawiak
 Thomas Slawiak
 Patricia Smith
 Elizabeth Wells
 Robert Wells
 Carolyn Whipple
 Richard Willis

Democratic

Brenda Ahlberg
 Arthur Booth Jr
 Ann Burian
 Joan Cady
 Mary Cesan
 Carol Collins
 Sophie Davenport
 Nancy Downey
 Kathleen Flynn
 Sheila Flynn
 Richard Gouvan
 Shirley Gouvan
 Sandra Gray
 Judith Jackson
 Sally Kealy
 Dorothy Kibbe
 George Lavallee
 Ronald Lech
 Gail Lefebvre
 Janet Redin
 Kathleen Rochford
 Margaret Rochford
 Evelyn Schmidt
 Rita Southworth
 George Walsh

Unenrolled

Mary Lou Black
 Carolyn Brennan
 Aline Burt
 Mildred Davis
 Robert Dieckmeyer
 Catherine Herchel
 Diane Hildreth
 Nancy Joy
 Deborah O'Brien
 Doris Ouimet
 Doreen Rauch
 Susan Rauscher
 Donna Easton-Vicalvi
 Lynn Zanolli
 William Zanolli

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Registrars
 Arthur Booth Jr
 Janet Redin
 Elizabeth Wells
 Rita Vail, Clerk

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

The Town of Hampden received a grant from the State in December 1999 for the purpose of reviewing and revising the Zoning bylaws. A task force was assembled, chaired by John D. Flynn. Through the efforts of these individuals, and the assistance of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, a major revision of the Town's Zoning Bylaw was presented and passed at the Special Town Meeting on November 13, 2000.

We would like to thank the members of the task force: Art Booth, Carolyn Brennan, Mark Casey, Mark Feeney, Bonnie Geromini, Rick Green, Sherry Himmelstein, Richard Jones, Joe Kruzel, Joan Letendre, Dalton Philpott, Tom Poulin, Robin Warner, Gary Weiner and Connie Witt. The Board was saddened by the passing of Dalton Philpott. Dalton, in his many years of service to the Town, especially in the Planning Board, brought a common sense approach to every project.

The Board would like to thank Mark Feeney, Building Inspector, and Judy Jackson, Planning Board Clerk, for their tireless efforts.

The Board meets every second and fourth Wednesday of each month and welcomes the input of Town residents.

Respectfully submitted

John D. Flynn, Chair
Duane Mosier, Vice-Chair
Joseph A. Dolben
Joseph Kruzel
Joseph Mascaro

REPORT OF THE RIDGELINE AND HILLSIDE COMMITTEE

The Ridgeline and Hillside Committee provide an advisory function to the Planning Board. Applications for development in this overlay district are reviewed by the members; site visits and progress reviews are held; and a recommendation is then passed to the Building Inspector.

All residents are welcome at any meeting and any volunteer help is greatly appreciated. We encourage all residents to make suggestions and comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Warner
John D. Flynn
Jim Moriarty

REPORT OF THE COMPUTER STUDY COMMITTEE

The Computer Study Committee is an ongoing task committee organized by the Board of Selectmen in 1986. Since that time, it has assisted the Town departments in purchasing, installing, and maintaining their computer systems. We have stressed a practical and consistent approach to implementing these systems with an emphasis on productivity and good value. The Committee provided assistance to several departments, such as the Assessors, Police, and Library, with research and recommendations for their technology needs.

The Committee has a master plan that we feel represents a prudent, fiscally responsible path for the Town to follow. In these tough economic times, it is sometimes difficult to recognize the advantages of capital investment in computers and software. We are always available to respond to any questions or inquiries that residents may have. We wholeheartedly welcome any suggestions and advice.

We would also like to remind the residents that the Town continues to expand its public communications through the Town's Web page at <http://www.hampden.org>. We would like to thank Springfield Public Access (www.the-spa.com) for their generous donation of unlimited Internet access for all Town departments. We would also like to extend our gratitude to those individuals in Town who have donated computer hardware.

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Flynn, Chair
Jim Moriarty
Richard Rediker

TOWN OFFICES WEBSITES:

selectmen@hampden.org
health@hampden.org
chief@hampden.org
police@hampden.org
planning@hampden.org
parks@hampden.org
treasurer@hampden.org
library@hampden.org
assessors@hampden.org
highway@hampden.org
coa@hampden.org

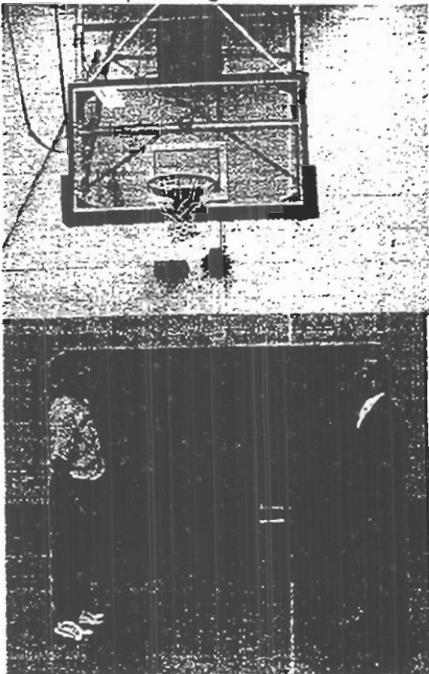
RECREATION ASSOCIATION OF HAMPDEN

[RAH]

The Recreation Association of Hampden's primary focus is to provide a youth sports program which fosters participation, skill development, and, most importantly, fun for the youth of Hampden. The youth sports program offered enrollment in the traditional sports of soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball.

With the addition of the Town's Recreation Director position, RAH is now able to focus more of its time on the development and implementation of youth sports programs. We would like to thank Peter Murray for his service to the Town, and we welcome Cindy Coughlin as the new Recreation Director.

During the past year, RAH saw an increase in the number of Hampden children involved in the Town-sponsored sports programs, with record numbers in baseball and basketball. In the early spring, RAH donated a pair of glass backboards to the gymnasium at TWB Middle School.



RAH would also like to thank the Sunday Men's Basketball group for funding the installation of the basketball shot clocks at TWB Middle School.

We would like to thank the Hampden Parks and Recreation Commission for their cooperation and assistance in providing the best programs possible. We would like to thank Mike Bearse, Paul Conlon, Tom Crogan, Jeff Demarey, Mike Ford, Skip Gunn, Tracey Sugermeyer, Everett Williford, and Al Struthers for serving on the RAH Board.

RAH meets monthly at the Hampden Town Hall and encourages all residents to attend our meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

John Flynn, President

Chris McDonald, Vice Pres.

Rick DeSanti, Treasurer

Mary Kay Theoharides, Clerk

Directors Dave Avery, Mark Dentzau, John Donaruma, Rick Green, Karen Hatch, Rick Kapinos, Barbara Rose, Claire Sibilia, Steve Sugermeyer, Rick Willis

PARKS & RECREATION

This was a year of growth for the Parks Department. Peter Murray brought great enthusiasm to the position of Parks Director. There were new programs, such as the trip to New York to see Phantom Of The Opera, the bus trip to a Red Sox game, and vacation week events. Changes were made in the sports programs, which will enable the programs to run more smoothly. More children than ever attended our Summer Activities Program. Movie Nights continue to be a success.

However, Peter decided to make a change. He was offered a position at a State College with the option of getting his Master's Degree. Peter left in October and we noticed the void right away! We thank Peter for the long hours he put into the job, and for the dedication he had to the people of Hampden.

We had many fine applicants for the Director position and, after many interviews, Cindy Coughlin became our new Director. Cindy lives in Springfield with her husband, two daughters and a son. She has a lot of experience with the Springfield Park Department, and as a teacher at a local school. We are really looking forward to working with Cindy, and encourage all residents to make her acquaintance.

Some changes were unfortunate. The playground equipment at Green Meadows School had to be removed for safety reasons. This was not a decision that was made lightly. A group of concerned citizens is currently working to raise funds for new equipment. Play is a very important part of a child's learning process, and we look forward to new, safe equipment for the children in Town.

We are upgrading other areas as well. Look for a new outdoor basketball court at Thornton W. Burgess Middle School this spring. Residents will be much safer playing on the new court as opposed to playing in the parking lot. There will be changes at Memorial Park, also. Thanks to the Town's support at the Nov. Town Meeting, many improvements will be made, including improving the bathrooms and the art area, removing and replacing outdated, unsafe equipment, improvement to the pool area, and installation of aluminum bleachers at the ball fields.

Another successful Fall Festival was held in September. Many residents enjoyed the beautiful crafts and weather, while games and rides amused the children. Thank you to the many businesses, civic organizations, and restaurants that participated. The Fall Festival 5K Run drew over 60 people to its 2nd anniversary.

The Commissioners would like to thank the terrific staff from last year's summer program. Over 25 young people from Town were employed by the Parks Department. They were very enthusiastic and dedicated. We look forward to working with many of them again.

A large THANK YOU must also go to Dana Pixley and the Highway Department. They are always willing to help us with problems that arise. The staff at the Town Hall also deserve our thanks. They are professionals and work very hard for the Town.

The Town Sports Programs are run with the help of the Recreation Association of Hampden (RAH). RAH is a group of very committed volunteers who work to organize and monitor our sports programs. They are vital to the programs. Please let them know that you appreciate their hard work when you see them.

Respectfully submitted,
James Morris, Chairman
Glennice Flynn Kathleen Duquette
Robert Majkut Honor Takorian
Cindy Coughlin, Director

CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Commissioners have been active overseeing the maintenance of Prospect Hill and Old Cemetery. Arrangements were made for the excavation and refilling of graves at the time of interment. Seventeen interments were made this year. Activities this year also included marking out several graves for the installation of monuments and the placement of corner markers on several lots.

Several lots were sold in Old Cemetery and space is still available there. We are anticipating opening up a new section of Old Cemetery in the spring to make more lots available. A review of space usage is in progress in Prospect Hill Cemetery with the hope of making some lots available there. This is taking longer than anticipated but progress is being made. We are exploring the possibility of putting a water supply in both cemeteries. This would allow better upkeep of the lawns and we could upgrade their appearance by replanting with the expectation that the grass would live. This would also allow easier care for the plantings on the gravesite.

Please remember that the maintenance of anything planted in the gravesite is the responsibility of the owner. Plantings which exceed the boundaries of the gravesite should be removed. Please dispose of any trash in the barrels provided at the cemeteries.

Quarterly meetings of the Cemetery Commission are held at the Town House the second Tuesday of January, April, July and October at 7:30 PM. Commissioners may be contacted at this time or by calling an individual commissioners at the phone numbers listed below or calling 566-2204 and leaving a message.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry W. Dunwoody	566-3357
Renate Oliver	566-8684
David Quill	566-3552

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY

The mission of the Hampden Free Public Library is to provide materials of popular interest to our adult and juvenile patrons, and to provide materials and services to help local residents satisfy their informational and educational needs.

In an effort to fulfill this mission, we have tried to create a welcoming and helpful atmosphere, providing materials and information in a variety of formats including traditional print, audio books, Internet, videos and CD's. To make the library more accessible, we changed our hours to be open 3 evenings until 8.

Technology plays a dominant role in the lives of individuals and businesses today, and the library is no exception. Our circulating system and catalog were converted to a Windows-based system this summer, providing easy access to our collection. The library now offers two Internet workstations, three catalog stations, plus a workstation for word processing and viewing CD-ROM resources. The children's room is also equipped with a computer, which was made possible by a grant from the East Longmeadow, Hampden and Wilbraham Community Partnership. The programs available on the computer include educational and entertaining software designed for children ages 2 to 4.

Once again, children's programming was very successful. Weekly story hours for children ages 3 ½ to 5 were very popular and filled to capacity. A new program designed for toddlers to age 3 was also introduced and was an overwhelming success. Participation in summer reading continued to grow. This year's theme was "Open Books, Open Frontiers." A total of 166 children from preschool to entering grade 5 successfully completed the program and were rewarded for the efforts at a party at the end of the summer. Participants were awarded certificates of completion, and took part in a raffle to which many local businesses had contributed. We are grateful to the following businesses for their support: Monson Savings Bank, Fenway Golf, Village Food Mart, Pop's Pizza, Mercury Swim Institute, Annie's Place, Mt. View Drive-In, Blockbuster and McDonald's. We are also grateful to the Wilbraham/Hampden Rotary for their generous donation, which allowed us to present "The Adventures of Thornton W. Burgess." We are also especially grateful to the Hampden Cultural Council, without whose support we would not be able to offer the exciting weekly performers.

The summer program for students entering grades 6 through 8 also saw an increase in participants. Thirty-five students gave up one hour of their time each week during the summer to volunteer at the library. The staff appreciated their youthful exuberance. Additionally, 12 middle-schoolers completed the summer reading requirement. Both readers and volunteers were rewarded for the efforts at the end of summer pizza party and raffle. Finally, 12 students completed the American Red Cross Babysitting Course, funded in part by the Hampden Lions Club. We appreciate their annual support of this worthwhile program.

We would like to thank the Friends of the Hampden Public Library for their support in providing funds for children's programs, and video and CD acquisitions. Also, thanks to the Hampden Garden Club, whose members once again decked our walls and windows with beautiful seasonal decorations.

Some of the faces of the staff changed this year. We were sorry to lose long-time employees, Maria Yacovone, who left to attend graduate school, and Kristy Schoolcraft, who took a full-time job and continues with her college education. Our thanks go to our dedicated staff: Monica Tronsky, children's librarian, Cindy Rowley, technical services librarian, and Brandy Fagan, page.

NEW LIBRARY HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	Noon to 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	Noon to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Closed Fridays and Sundays	

Report of the Library P2

LIBRARY STATISTICS

General Services

Circulation

Print Material - Adult	16,406	Volumes Added	1205
Print Material - Juvenile	11,717	Volumes Discarded	486
Non-print Material	11,926	Total Collection	24,289
Inter-library Loan	504	Magazine Subscriptions	71
Total	40,553		

Finances FY2000

Receipts	
Municipal Appropriation	\$71,680
State Aid	2,333
Monetary Gifts, Trust and Endowment Income	885
TOTAL	\$74,898

Expenditures	
Wages	54,080
Books and Materials	15,338
Maintenance Agreements	2,292
Other Expenses	3,188
TOTAL	\$74,898

(Note: The status of the library's trust funds is listed in the "Report of the Town Accountant.")

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Burger, Trustee Chair
Kathleen Hutchison, Trustee
Elaine Kingsbury, Trustee
Ellen C. Bump, Director

HAMPDEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Volunteer Fire Department responded to 108 calls for assistance to the community in 2000. These calls were diverse in nature including Carbon Monoxide Detectors, house fires, car fires, chimney fires, brush fires, and wires down, with the majority being false alarms.

I would like to request from you the voters, your continued support at the Annual Town Meeting for the purchase of a new pumper to replace our current 1964 pumper. We would also like to thank you in advance for your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Poulin
Chief, H.V.F.D.

REPORT OF THE FOREST FIRE WARDEN

The Fire Department responded to 8 Brush or Grass Fires in 2000.

Burning Season is from January 15th through May 1st. Permits may be obtained by calling **566-3314** after 9:00 a.m. daily. Burning hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Permits are issued on a daily basis.

1421 Permits were granted in 2000.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Poulin
Forest Fire Warden

TREE WARDEN

In 2000, the members of the Highway Department, along with the occasional assistance of a local tree service, removed 127 trees that were dead, dying or diseased, from town roadsides. Below, I have listed the streets where a total of 75 trees were taken down and cleaned up by the Highway Department and 52 trees that were felled by a professional tree service and then cleaned up by the Highway Department. This continued maintenance of the trees within the town helps reduce our exposure to personal injury, power outages and in general improves the overall appearance of the town.

Trees removed by the Highway Department were as follows:

Allen Street – 2	North Road – 2
Bennett Road – 27	Ridgeway Road – 1
Chapin Road – 18	South Monson Road – 20
East Longmeadow Road – 1	Wilbraham Road – 4

Trees removed with the assistance of a professional tree service were as follows:

Allen Street – 1	East Longmeadow Road – 6
Ames Road – 9	Glendale Road – 2
Bennett Road – 16	Mill Road – 3
Carmody Road – 9	North Monson Road – 1
Chapin Road – 4	Springmeadow Lane – 1

In conjunction with Bennett Road reconstruction, 22 stumps were ground on this road alone. A total of 12 stumps were ground, loamed and seeded at several other locations throughout the town in an effort to keep our roads clean and neat. They were located as follows:

Allen Street – 4	Springmeadow Lane – 1
East Longmeadow Road – 6	Wilbraham Road – 1

If anyone has any questions regarding a town tree or would like to report a tree that they feel is in poor condition, please feel free to contact me at the Highway Department office (566-8842).

Sincerely,

Dana S. Pixley
Tree Warden

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

In the year 2000, the Highway Department worked on a wide variety of projects. We completed two road reconstruction projects, several maintenance projects and were pleased to assist many groups and organizations in a number of ways. The majority of the roadwork was made possible by the funding of Chapter 90 Agreements through the Massachusetts Highway Department.

Before detailing the specific projects referred to above, it is important to keep in mind that the overwhelming majority of the departments time is spent on maintenance type activities or activities that are performed due to reoccurring events. Some examples of the "maintenance type" activities completed would be; the continuous patching of the roads, cleaning of drainage ditches, street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, grading of dirt roads, repairing equipment and tree and brush removal. Several sections of numerous roads, as well as the entire lengths of Rock-a-Dundee, Chapin and Somers Roads, were all trimmed. A considerable number of dead trees along the tree belt were also removed. [See the Tree Warden's Report.] Annual reoccurring events such as plowing and sanding operations due to winter storms, cleanup of all town properties in the spring, cleaning the pool and preparing the grounds for the opening of the parks in the summer and leaf collection in the fall were, once again, all completed.

The department also completed several other jobs, many of which resulted in significant cost savings to the town. We removed and replaced the roof on the entrance to the salt storage building. We installed a new roof on a section of the highway department garage. At the schools, we dismantled and disposed of skateboard equipment and excavated and removed material from the playground area. We installed a generator and accessory equipment at the Well House. At the Senior Center, we backed up all the curbing with loam, graveled in a secondary parking area and installed a new flagpole.

The Town Common received a face-lift by having the roadways around it leveled and sealed with asphalt and stone. All trees were trimmed and new flagpoles and lighting were installed.

Colonial Village, Hickory Lane, Old Coach Road and Old Coach Circle were all extensively patched and resurfaced with asphalt and trap rock. A catch basin and some piping were installed on North Road and Circle View Drive. Sub-drainage was installed on Valley View and Forest Hills Roads, to correct drainage problems in those areas. Failed culverts and catch basins were replaced on Rock-a-Dundee and Ridgeway Roads, and culverts were installed on Howlett Hill Road.

There were two roads that received significant amounts of work. Carmody Road was completely reclaimed, graded and paved with both a base and top courses. All shoulders were graded, loamed and seeded. The second, Bennett Road, had the entire first half-mile reconstructed. Trees were removed to open the line of sight, the roadway was shimmed and all shoulders were graded, loamed and seeded. Work is expected to continue on Bennett Road this year.

I would like to thank the Board of Selectmen, their secretaries, the various members of the Town Hall, the Police and Fire Departments along with the members of the Highway Department (Patrick Markham, Robert Richards, Albert Rosati, Matthew Frederick and John Ouellette) for their continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Dana S. Pixley
Highway Superintendent

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

2000 was a year in which full time police officers of the Hampden Police Department brought to the town residents areas of concern, but with the Board of Selectmen providing leadership and addressing these issues with myself, I am happy to report that your police department is alive and well. Goals were set for all department personnel and we are currently working towards those goals. Our "Mission Statement" is still encouraging all of our department personnel to work towards improving the overall quality of life in this community. We will take this vision and work to improve and foster positive communication between all members of this police department.

A major goal for myself, along with the Board of Selectmen, is to maintain spending within the approved budget that is passed by town residents at our annual town meeting. Monthly breakdowns are being submitted to supervisors, officers, Advisory Committee members, and to the Board of Selectmen. For the first time in recent memory, we now have a working agreement with the full time officers for living within our approved budget. I am hopeful that this is a start in the right direction in providing residents with the service that they deserve at a "reasonable" cost.

This year we expanded our community policing programs, and a citizen advisory committee was formed to represent our total community. The committee is comprised of a person from the business sector, the clergy, school representative, a seasoned citizen, a resident, and finally a police officer. This committee will decide how our focus and money will be directed towards our officers in serving the total community. This committee has renewed our past programs in the schools, our Citizen Police Academy and added other programs like children and senior citizens being together for common concerns, and officers being used for the Meals on Wheels program during the weekends. This committee will also use a survey instrument to measure the impact of these community policing programs.

We have experienced another officer being injured on the job this year. This officer is currently on light duty status with efforts towards using work hardening in having this officer return to full duty. This is an unforeseen situation and weighs heavily on the budget, which required the Board of Selectmen to request additional funds at our special town meeting in October.

As in years past, the Hampden Police Department has seen the addition of new personnel, as well as the loss of a few valued members of the Department. New to the Department in 2000 are Luke Lessard and Keith Timme, who are Dispatcher/Reserve Officers. Leaving the force this past year were Dispatch/Reserve Officers Bradford Caney, Christopher J. Doyle, Ralph E. Jensen Jr., and John LaPlante. We are always looking for part-time personnel and invite all town residents who may be interested in law enforcement to get involved with your police department.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Board of Selectmen, their staff, and all other town hall employees for their support and cooperation throughout the year. I would also like to thank the Fire Chief and the members of his department, as well as the Highway Superintendent and the members of the Department of Public Works. A special thanks to all of the men and women of the Hampden Police Department who work towards the goals of our "Mission Statement". And finally, I would like to thank the residents of Hampden for their part, big or small, in making this police department what it is today. Hampden is a safe and friendly community.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip J. Adams
Chief of Police

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

I submit herewith, the Annual Report for the police department for the year ending, December 31, 2000.

During the year, the Police Department received 11,563 calls for service. Most of the calls received by this department were for assistance, complaints and for reporting crimes or accidents. The following is a general breakdown of some of the types of complaints received and investigated by this department.

Accident (Property Damage)	103	Illegal Dumping	16
Accident (Personal Injury)	16	Larceny (Over \$250)	18
Accident (Hit & Run)	7	Larceny (Under \$250)	28
Alarm (Burglary)	293	Medical Assist	163
Alarm (Fire)	86	Missing Person	13
Alarm (Hold-Up)	7	M/V Stolen	1
Alarm (Other)	17	M/V Disabled	54
Alarm (Panic/Trouble)	10	M/V Stop	996
Animal Complaint (Domestic)	179	Officer Assistance	57
Animal Complaint (Wild)	48	Property (Lost)	13
Annoying/Obscene Phone Calls	13	Property (Found)	24
Assault & Battery	9	Property (Returned)	39
Assist Citizen	295	Restraining Order Served	20
Assist Motorist	7	Restraining Order Violation	3
Assist Other Agencies	103	Runaway	2
Assist Other Police Departments	76	Suicide Attempt/Threat	2
Breaking & Entering/Burglary	10	Summons Served	101
By Law Violation	72	Suspicious Automobile	133
Disturbance (General)	24	Suspicious (Other)	60
Disturbance (Domestic)	24	Suspicious Person(s)	63
General Services	1,083	Threat Report	8
House/Building Checks	212	Trespass Complaint	22
Hunting Violations	9	Vandalism	101

During the year we had 619 total offenses committed, with 149 total arrests and 19 juvenile arrests. Listed below are some of the complaints filed.

Assault	27	Larceny (All Other)	57
Burg/Breaking & entering	16	Liquor Law Violation	24
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	130	Motor Vehicle Theft	5
Driving Under the Influence	7	Other Offenses	94
Drug/Narcotic Violations	6		

We had 109 motor vehicle accidents this year. There were a total of 1,047 citations issued during the year with a total of \$57,460 in fines. The town has received \$21,510.00 from the Registry of Motor Vehicles, which represents the town's share of fines on tickets written. 73% of these citations were measured by radar. The average speed is 49 mph. Average mph over speed limit is 16 mph.

Police Department P2

WARNING CITATIONS

Fail to yield at intersection	2	Speeding Violation	278
License/Reg not in possession	7	Stop Sign Violation	46
Plate Missing	15	Unregistered M/V Trailer	3
Marked Lanes Violation	4	Vehicle Violations	58
Seat Belt Violation	3		

CIVIL CITATIONS

Fail to yield at intersection	3	Speeding Violation	332
License/Reg not in possession	14	Spillable Load	1
Marked Lanes Violation	4	Stop Sign Violation	31
Number Plate Missing	4	Unregistered MV/Trailer	3
Oper MV – License Restrictions	11	Vehicle Violations	45
Seat Belt Violation	16		

CRIMINAL CITATIONS

Fail to stop for school bus	1	Speeding	17
Fail to signal	2	Uninsured Vehicle	11
License/Reg not in possession	4	Unlicensed Operation of M/V	18
Op. M/V with Revoked Lic/Reg	27	Unregistered MV/Trailer	6
OUI	13	Vehicle Violations	6

During the year \$3,296.00 was turned over to the Town Treasurer for firearms identification cards, pistol permits, photographs, unregistered vehicle, and various report fees.

HAMPDEN-WILBRAHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
621 Main Street
Wilbraham, Massachusetts 01095

2000 Regional School District Town Report

"Excellence First, Learning Always"

The student population continues to grow as the district enrollment is now approaching 4,000 students. This year marked some unique experiences in the short history of the K-12 Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District. The district completed renovations at Mile Tree School and re-opened the building as a full-day kindergarten, first grade center for Wilbraham students. An override was required to fully fund the district's budget which included the opening of an eighth building in the school district, funding full-day kindergarten in both towns, adding staff at Minnechaug Regional High School and at Mile Tree, as well as increasing Special Education positions and custodial hours. A joint Town Meeting was held in July to ask the townspeople to fund the district's budget request. The joint Town Meeting approved the budget.

The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District completed the projects undertaken through the passage of the \$1.5 million bonding approved in 1999. The exterior doors in the front of Minnechaug Regional High School, as well as the girls' lockers in the gym, the maintenance building, the telephone system, and new technology labs were installed. Other notable changes and improvements included the replacement of the 1958-era cafeteria tables and the repainting of several hallways, classrooms and lockers. Due to the sale of the district-owned buses and the negotiation of a new bus contract, all buildings received several rooms of new classroom furniture and other physical enhancements this year.

An oil spill and hot water heater leak in the boiler room at Wilbraham Middle School in February resulted in the Town of Wilbraham agreeing to replace the old 1970's boiler in the fall of 2000.

A Facilities Study Committee was formed in the fall to evaluate the space issues in the Hampden schools of Green Meadows and Thornton Burgess. The Facilities Study Committee will make a recommendation to the School Committee regarding the formation of a Building Study Committee to consider adding classrooms at Green Meadows and renovating Thornton Burgess.

The Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District continues to provide a quality education for all students. Each year brings its own unique challenges and opportunities for growth. With the help of the two Towns, our students will continue to excel in all areas and be regarded as some of the best and brightest in the state.

Curriculum

A great deal of emphasis was placed on improving student writing in the elementary and middle grades. Fall and Spring Writing Prompts were scheduled for students in grades 3 through 8. The results were used to evaluate student achievement in writing. In the primary grades, 18 teachers were trained in the First Steps Writing Program which will be used to guide writing instruction in a standards-based environment.

Mathematics at the middle and high school level continues to be an area of focus. Teachers worked together to create a notebook of open-ended questions that staff could use with all students as MCAS practice. Teachers also completed work on course changes which included moving the seventh grade pre-algebra program to grade six and implementing the Carnegie Math software program to support low-achieving students at the high school. These changes were implemented in September 2000. During the 2000-2001 school year, the K-12 mathematics curriculum will be mapped and reviewed as part of our five-year curriculum cycle.

A full-day kindergarten program was successfully implemented in the fall of 2000. A kindergarten grant from the Department of Education was awarded to the district for \$154,000 to help fund the program. The full-day program provides a relaxed, unhurried school day with more time for a variety of experiences, greater opportunity for screening to detect and deal with potential learning problems, and more opportunities for good quality interaction between teacher and students.

The district assessment plan continues to be reviewed and improved. As a district project, all administrators compiled data about our assessment initiatives as part of the requirements for their training in *Leading the Learning*. An assessment brochure was sent to all parents this year, too, and the district is creating a data base which will be used to modify instruction.

Technology

A Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District's five-year technology plan continues to provide guidance for the purchase and implementation of technology enhanced learning opportunities in our buildings. Using a combination of construction bonds, grants, donations and local budget funds we were able to complete the following tasks in our district.

- **Mile Tree School** classrooms were wired for cable, network data, telephones and have five computers in each classroom with a fully automated library.
- A mini lab with 8 PC computers and 2 printers was created at **Memorial School**. All administrative and student software was updated.
- Thanks to a contribution from the Hanson family, a nine-station PC lab was purchased and installed at **Soule Road School** for student use. All administrative and student software was updated, and the library has been automated.
- The second small lab was created at **Wilbraham Middle School** using 18 computers donated from an area company. Next year, the Wilbraham Middle School library will be automated.
- The "Meadows Publishing Center" at **Green Meadows School** was upgraded. New computers, printers and wall-mounted TV/VCR units were purchased from the Kindergarten Grant for the three kindergarten classrooms.
- The computer lab at **Thornton W. Burgess Middle School** library has been totally refurbished with 25 new computers and furniture. The library has been fully automated with installation of the new Winnebago circulation program and six new computers.
- A state-of-the art A+ Certification Computer Lab was installed at **Minnechaug Regional High School** and will have 15 computer units and a "Smart" board for instructional purposes. The D-15 Business Lab was refurbished and a new Math Lab was created to assist low achieving students using Carnegie PLATO educational software. New computers were also purchased for the foreign language, social studies and science departments.

School Based Initiatives

Memorial Elementary School celebrated its 50th year with the opening of school on August 30, 2000. In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the school-wide theme for the year is "We are a Community." In addition to this special occasion, Memorial School welcomed back grades 5 and 6, creating a Grade 2-6 school. With the addition of the upper elementary grades, our theme of community was fulfilled by several community service projects throughout the year. During the Thanksgiving holiday and winter break, the students at Memorial collected 810 lbs. of food and three boxes of hats, gloves and socks that were donated to the Survival Center in Ludlow. The most touching outpouring of support and compassion was demonstrated when the school community, organized by a group of sixth grade students, raised \$617 for one of our families who lost their home and all of their possessions when their house burned down one week before winter break. From an academic perspective, Memorial's School Improvement Plan included three goals which focused on improving literacy skills, creating a positive and safe school environment,

and incorporating technology into the curriculum to support and enhance student learning. Positive steps were reached in attaining the goals set forth by the School Council. Our 2000 MCAS scores showed improvement in all areas and the addition of the Mini Computer Lab, funded by the PTO, allowed teachers and students to access technology in a more meaningful manner.

Memorial School's physical plant will be upgraded in many areas this year and next including installing a new cafeteria floor, new windows throughout the building, new exterior doors and restroom renovations in the main hallway. These projects will be completed by the spring of 2001.

Soule Road School - Soule Road School also reorganized in the fall of 2000 to become a grade two through six building. Soule Road School has a very active PTA. In September the students were delighted with the construction of a new \$40,000 playscape made possible by the generous support of the PTA and community. The PTA also sponsored a variety of events to enhance the second through sixth grade curriculum. In November, the second grade enjoyed a trip to Barnes and Noble bookstore to gain first-hand experience with the publishing business. The students were also able to visit a Star Lab (portable planetarium) in the Soule Road Gym. Fifth grade students were invited to attend a Stargazing Party in December. Participants had a brief introduction to the constellations through an indoor slide show and then went outside to find and view the constellations. Several community service projects have been undertaken at Soule Road School. In December, the third grade classes performed a holiday concert for the residents of the Wilbraham Life Care Center. The sixth grade sponsored a "Hat Day" in December to benefit a local family who lost their belongings in a house fire. Holiday crafts were made by grade five students and given to the residents of a local nursing home. Soule Road School students became part of the 2000 Operation Christmas Child project sponsored by the staff and volunteers at Life Care Center of Wilbraham. Soule Road School's Improvement Plan contains three goals, including improving student's writing skills across the curriculum at all grade levels, improving student achievement in reading and math through the use of technology and assessment, and expanding the role of the school as a resource to the community.

Stony Hill Elementary focused on providing leadership roles for students as it, too, became a grades 2-6 building in the fall of 2000. A Student Ambassador Committee has been formed which acts as a student advisory group for the principal. Students give tours, act as greeters, and recommend ideas for the school. In addition, grade six students have formed a Senior Connection and sponsored a holiday breakfast for the senior citizens in Wilbraham. Students have also sponsored community service projects and spirit days. To improve student achievement in math, the Accelerated Math Program, a self-directed computer program designed for students to work at their own pace in math, was piloted. The major goal of Stony Hill's School Improvement Plan is to improve reading comprehension and writing. We have increased the number of volumes in the library, especially non-fiction titles. We are also developing a Student Publication Center that will pair parent volunteers with students and staff to publish student writing.

Mile Tree Elementary School re-opened in August 2000 after two years of construction and renovation. Mrs. Leone and her staff moved into the new building throughout the summer. Mile Tree School houses all of the early childhood, full-day kindergarten and grade 1 classes in Wilbraham. The staff has brought years of teaching talent to the early learning of children from ages three to six. At the rededication ceremony in October, the community was praised for its commitment to children and was congratulated for its gift of the magnificent Mile Tree building for their use. From a technological standpoint, the school is equipped with 96 computers, the Winnebago electronic/computerized library for student use, and televisions and VCR's in every classroom. The Mile Tree School Improvement Plan this year has focused on establishing a new school community, evaluating the full-day kindergarten experience and integrating the wealth of technology into the early childhood curriculum.

Wilbraham Middle School - The annual celebration of diversity called International Week was once again held during the first week of March. World Language teachers, the PTA and cafeteria staff planned daily activities and special lunch menus to recognize various world cultures and their customs. During the summer, two teams of teachers revised the "Startime" advisory curriculum. The new curriculum includes a

major component on Career Planning for both 7th and 8th grade students. The Career Program is made possible by a grant from the Massachusetts Office for School-to-Work Transition. Having career speakers visit the school this spring will reinforce the program. Numerous community service projects were conducted throughout the year. Blankets, clothing, food and monetary contributions were made to shelters in the local area as well as UNICEF. The Homework Center continues to assist students on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 to 3:10 p.m., as supported by the Scantic Valley YMCA. This fall, Wilbraham Middle School served as a pilot site for a special geography program developed by the United States Mint and the National Geographic Association. The program highlighted the new state quarter collection and tested the geographic skills of the students. The School Improvement Plan continues to focus on improving Math and Science achievement and the school climate.

Green Meadows School continues to focus on improving reading and language arts skills for its students. The staff is currently in the third year of implementing a writing initiative named "First Steps." Teachers will examine techniques to facilitate teaching the forms of writing. Five computers and two new printers have been added to the Meadows Publishing Center. Several parent volunteers have participated in the training session and the publishing handbook has been revised to improve the delivery of this service to students. April has been designated as "Poetry Month." In addition to language arts, Green Meadows teachers will focus on improving students' ability in math computation during the year and the implementation of a new School Safety Plan. Our library is truly becoming an extension of every classroom. Children and teachers can access it for longer periods of time for much more than borrowing books.

The community-service learning project in which Green Meadows staff and students participated was helping with the Hampden Emergency Fuel Fund. Staff and students planned a "Hats for Heat" day to raise funds to donate to the Fund. Each grade level is planning an "intergenerational activity" this year, with "Grandparent Day," pen pals and historical interviews some of the ideas being developed. Green Meadows hopes to be able to use grant money to fund an after-school program to help third graders prepare and develop skills for taking the spring MCAS. A committee has been working this year to analyze last spring's scores. This information will help us plan lessons and activities for success on this spring's testing. Third graders will be using educational supplements from the *Boston Globe* this year as one strategy to develop stronger test-taking skills.

Thornton W. Burgess Middle School's School Improvement Plan continues to focus on the improvement of reading comprehension skills, writing skills and math skills, as well as promoting a safe and positive school climate. The addition of a half-time Assistant Principal has allowed administration and faculty to work more efficiently on issues related to curriculum, student behavior and overall building management. Preparing students for the MCAS, and other such testing programs, continues to be a focus for all staff members at all grade levels. Teachers and administrators are actively involved in various grade level study groups and are immersed in curriculum review, curriculum mapping and rubric development. The Advisor/Advisee program continues to be a strength of the overall school environment. A committee of teachers that represented all grade levels revised this curriculum this past summer. Five advisory themes, ("Getting on Track", "Random and Planned Acts of Kindness", "Accepting Differences", "Creating a Better World", and "Life Choices") were revised and added to the school curriculum. Through these advisory activities, students focus on a variety of real life issues and become involved in developing strategies that improve their own skills and abilities while improving school climate and providing community service. The Awesome Student Program continues to recognize the good deeds of students in grades 6 through 8 at Thornton Burgess. Once a month, students assemble to honor their peers who were nominated and selected as "Awesome." This past year, students at Thornton Burgess were able to take advantage of a number of educational field trips and in-school programs that were offered at the various grade levels. Many thanks to the parents, PTO and VIP's for their continued support of such programs as our annual magazine drive and Career Day. Without their extraordinary support, we would not be able to offer such programs.

Minnechaug Regional High School

School year 2000-2001 is the fourth year in a long-block schedule at MRHS in which students take four classes each semester that are 85 minutes in length, thereby giving them the opportunity to take 8 classes each year. MRHS continues to offer an extensive array of student activities under the direction of Mr. Gary Petzold and an equally impressive interscholastic athletic program with Mr. Edward Doyle as director. As a result of resignations, retirements and increased staffing needs, 16 new teachers were added to our faculty for 2000-2001. MRHS also reorganized administratively by separating the position of Director of Guidance/Assistant Principal with the addition of Mrs. Carolyn Lewis as Director of Guidance, and Dr. Gaylord Saulsberry as Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Supervision.

Beginning with the members of the graduating class of 2003 and all graduating classes thereafter, students in the commonwealth of Massachusetts will be required to pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) in order to receive diplomas. Sophomore students will also be required to take tests in the areas of History/Social Science and Science/Technology. Over the history of its development, the MCAS test has had a significant number of supporters and detractors. However, we fully realize that the Department of Education and the governor of the commonwealth have made it clear that passing the MCAS test now, and in the foreseeable future, will be a requirement for graduation from high schools in Massachusetts.

Consistent with this reality, departments of English, Science, History and Social Science, and Mathematics will continue to analyze and adjust curriculum to prepare Minnechaug students to be successful in the MCAS tests. Perhaps the greatest change in the curriculum has been in freshman mathematics offerings for the 2000-2001 school year with the incorporation of the Carnegie Cognitive Tutor, a computer-based, state-of-the-art Algebra program that maximizes active learning and mastery of fundamental skills. Minnechaug has just completed a year and a half of extensive self-study and evaluation of course offerings and extra-curricular activities in preparation for an inspection visit by a team of educators from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. The NEASC Accreditation visit is a four-day extensive evaluation process that will occur in March of 2001. MRHS has been fully accredited since it opened its doors in 1957.

HAMPDEN-WILBRAHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

FIVE-YEAR ENROLLMENT HISTORY

Grade	1996 - 1997			1997 - 1998			1998 - 1999			1999 - 2000			2000 - 2001		
	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T	H	W	T
K	82	149	231	43	129	172	50	162	212	50	144	194	63	193	256
P-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	75	183	258	92	179	271	58	149	207	67	177	244	59	176	235
2	73	208	281	71	188	259	86	196	282	57	175	232	66	179	245
3	83	191	274	73	216	289	73	194	267	91	213	304	64	185	249
4	81	208	289	80	203	283	67	224	291	72	204	276	96	217	313
5	68	207	275	83	201	284	82	204	286	72	240	312	75	210	285
6	80	205	285	67	203	270	84	205	289	82	213	295	80	244	324
7	86	202	288	75	207	282	65	204	269	84	216	300	88	221	309
8	67	205	272	83	199	282	78	219	297	64	217	281	88	219	307
9	77	203	280	66	210	276	80	220	300	89	245	334	60	192	252
10	63	168	231	72	183	255	68	202	270	73	209	282	77	200	277
11	61	159	220	62	160	222	66	173	239	63	190	253	82	231	313
12	52	149	201	64	156	220	62	158	220	69	182	251	68	229	313
9-12															
Other			64			77			87			88			85
TOTAL	948	2437	3449	931	2434	3442	918	2508	3516	933	2625	3646	966	2696	3747

SAT Accomplishments

1999-2000 COMPARISON OF SAT AVERAGE

VERBAL		MATH	
506	Minnechaug	515	
511	Massachusetts	513	
505	National	514	

Over 93% of Minnechaug graduates enrolled in colleges. The Class of 2000 placed 70% of its members in 4-year colleges. Our students continue to attend highly competitive colleges. The Class of 2000 sent graduates to Amherst College, Boston College, Colgate University, Dartmouth College, Middlebury College, Mount Holyoke College, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Syracuse University, Tufts University, University of Pennsylvania and the United States Military Academy at West Point. Over 21% of students attended two-year colleges.

One of our 2000 graduates was a National Merit Semi-Finalist.

MCAS Scores

The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) is in its third year as the commonwealth's state wide assessment program for public schools. MCAS measures the performance of students, schools, and districts on the academic learning standards contained in the Massachusetts *Curriculum Frameworks*, fulfilling requirements of the Education Reform Law of 1993. The MCAS tests are designed to measure student performance against the standards contained in the *Curriculum Frameworks*. Consistent with this purpose, results on the MCAS tests are reported according to performance levels. There are four performance levels: *Advanced*, *Proficient*, *Needs Improvement*, and *Failing*. School, district, and state level results are reported as the number and percentage of students attaining each performance level for each subject area and grade level tested.

In May 2000, students in grades 4, 8, and 10 in our district, and in all Massachusetts public schools, completed the third annual administration of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, which included tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science & Technology. We are particularly pleased that Hampden-Wilbraham students exceeded the state average in every area, and showed improvement from 1999 scores

Three-Year Score Analysis

Grade Four

Year	English/Language Arts	Mathematics	Science/Technology
1998	235	241	244
1999	235	240	248
2000	235	243	250

Grade Eight

Year	English/Language Arts	Mathematics	Science/Technology	History/Social Science
1998	242	232	232	
1999	243	233	233	225
2000	244	237	239	226

Grade Ten

Year	English/Language Arts	Mathematics	Science/Technology
1998	238	230	232
1999	235	230	233
2000	234	231	232

Key

200-219	Failing	220- 239	Needs Improvement
240-259	Proficient	259-280	Advanced

New Staff

A number of new certified staff joined us this year. They are:

Mary Aberdale	Jennifer Hebert-Bauduccio	Carolyn Peters
Sarah Algie	Patricia Hogan-Cerasuolo	Jill Pszeniczny
John Anderson	Deborah Kelly	Beth Richards
Diane Baron	Andrea Kotowski	Jane Ross
Leslie Barone	Carolyn Lewis	Gaylord Saulsberry, Ed.D.
Amanda Basile	Stanley Liszka	Assistant Principal
Kerri Bergeron	Bryan Lombardi	Karyn Shaw, Ph.D.
Margaret Brady	Diane Lounsbury	Sarah Shaw
Cheryl Clark	Kate Loyd	Eric Sharon
Michele Croteau-Hall	Carol Mahan-Doty	Ellen Schmutte
Daniel Donovan	Judith Maleckas	Janet Scully
Heidi Drawec	Linda Mandolesi	Mary Taft, Ph.D.
Christopher Eagan	Michelle Murphy	Mark Taylor
Eleanor Fernands, Principal	Carla Nelson	Tracy Waz
Ann Gagnon	Angelyn Noel	Elizabeth York
Mary Gardner		

Retirements during 2000 were:

Anne Avery, Memorial School
Shirley Bready, Minnechaug Regional High School
Donna Brown, Stony Hill School
George Desrosiers, Minnechaug Regional High School
Judith Gelinis, Green Meadows School
Diane Heiney, Minnechaug Regional High School
John Hines, Wilbraham Middle School
Phyllis Hultstrom, Thornton Burgess Middle School
Sallie Moore, Superintendent's Office
Delores Salamon, Wilbraham Middle School
Florence Sheehan, Minnechaug Regional High School
Phyllis Walsh, Green Meadows School
Gayle Whitehill, District Director of Food Services

School Councils

The committee wishes to acknowledge the effectiveness of the School Councils and to thank them for volunteering their personal time to pursue a commitment to the education of our young people. We would also like the community to recognize the services rendered by these parents and citizens of the HWRSD.

GREEN MEADOWS SCHOOL

T. Jeffrey Sullivan, Principal
Ellen Collins
Jean Hall
Cathy Leslie
Ann Marie Mielke
Richard J. Moriarty
Jennifer Peloquin
Katherine Pessolano
Carolyn Webber

MEMORIAL SCHOOL

Deborah Thompson, Principal
Denise Cargill
Wayne Carpenter
Robin Clifford
Kim Mele
Gail Smead
Sharon Tellier
Deborah Wandzilak

STONY HILL SCHOOL

Eleanor Fernands, Principal
Michelle Axtmann
Charles Brock
Shawn Lawrence
Judy Maleckas
Karen Murphy
Linda Rozolsky
Elaine Stinson

SOULE ROAD SCHOOL

John F. Cavanaugh, Principal
Cathy Brunelle
Maureen Burke
Claire Clini
Stephanie Harju
Betty Howarth
Cathy Mahoney
Charity Marlatt
Tom Moran

THORNTON BURGESS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Noel P. Pixley, Principal
Cheryl Clarke
Beth Crowley
Jean Godek
Phyllis Hultstrom
Pat Pastoreck
Ken Peterson
Susan Raimer
Lynn Schmitt
Mary Ellen Shea

WILBRAHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

Robert A. Dionne, Principal
Scott Berg
Donna Berrouard
Linda Cooper
Sue Fitts
Suzanne Laba
Hans Mentzen
Timothy Pelletier
Meg Robbins
Kyle St. Germain
Jane Stenning
Theresa Terbush

MINNECHAUG REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

John K. Logan, Jr., Principal
Judith Bowerman
Susan Bunnell
Elizabeth Contant
David Demos
Patricia Gordon
Lois Hedberg
Wilbur Jenkins
Clifton Johnson
Thomas Loper
Gregory Schmutte
Constance Shea
Ryan Tougias.

School Committee

Ronald E. Thomson, Chairperson
Paula R. Tingle, Vice-Chairperson
Pamela C. Burch
Lois R. Megliola
Mary Anne Morris
Alan Neelans
Peter Salerno

TREASURER'S REPORT

In 2000, the Town of Hampden again lost another major banking relationship when BankBoston was merged with Fleet Bank. In the past eight years the town has lost relationships with Heritage Bank, Shawmut Bank and Bank of Boston. All of these institutions were taken over by or merged with Fleet Bank. While the Town has been well served by Fleet Bank as a financial advisor on many rather sophisticated borrowing issues, it is the philosophy of this office that the smaller institutions are better equipped to meet the needs of a small town like Hampden. Since the demise of the Heritage Bank, the town's general funds have been with the Bank of Western Massachusetts in their "sweep" account. The average monthly rate of return on this fund has ranged between 4.50% and 5.50%. This is the fund that has to remain liquid and is used to fund payrolls and accounts payable. The town trust funds, as well as the Stabilization Fund, are invested with the Monson Savings Bank. The average rate of return on these funds is between 5.00% and 7.00%. All of the Town funds are fully insured in the institutions at which they are invested.

An updated list of the properties that have been turned over to this office by the Tax Collector for foreclosure is included in this report. Please note that through much persistence the Town now holds absolute title to five of these properties. Anyone wanting more information on these parcels can contact this office.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Tax Collector/Town Clerk, Rita Vail. We have shared not only office space for the past eight years, but a dedication to serving the Town of Hampden. She has set high standards which she imparted as she served as my sounding board on more than one occasion. Although she won't be serving Hampden as Tax Collector/Town Clerk, it's sure that her energies will be felt throughout Hampden in many ways. So, I thank you, Rita Vail, for your friendship, sense of humor and advice, even when I didn't ask for it.

The Treasurer's office can be contacted at 566-2401.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Easton-Vicalvi
Town Treasurer

QUARTERLY REPORT OF RECONCILIATION OF TREASURER'S CASH

Quarter Ending:

30-Jun-00

PART I:

A Cash and checks in office 0

B. Non-Interest Bearing Accounts*

Collateral'd	Comp	Financial	Balance	
No	Bal	Institution		
No	No	State St	155.83	
No	No	Monson Sav/Sr. Center	\$6,442.58	\$ 6,598.41

C. Interest Bearing Checking Accounts*

Collateral'd	Comp	Financial	Purpose	Interest	Balance
No	Bal	Institution		Rate	
No	No	Bank of WMA	Gen Fund	4.63	473,388.89
No	No	BankBoston	WMLEC	4.391	74.23
No	No	Fleet	WMLEC	4.75	2058.06
No	No	Commonwealth	WMLEC	5.457	464987.01
					<u>940,508.19</u>

D. Liquid Investments *

Collateral'd	Comp	Financial	# of	Interest	Balance
No	Bal	Institution	Accounts	Rate	
No	No	Fleet	1	3.8	4,085.08
No	No	Mass Municipal Depository Trust	1	5.78	4,113.98
Yes	No	BankBoston	1	4.391	360,564.50
Total:					\$ 368,763.56

TOTAL OF ALL LIQUID INVESTMENTS: \$ 1,315,870.16

TOWN OF HAMPDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

E. Term Investments

Certificates of Deposit:

Collateral'd	Comp	Financial	Purpose	Interest	Balance
Bal		Institution		Rate	
No	No	Monson Sav	Stabilization	5	144,596.32
TOTAL:					<u>\$ 144,596.32</u>
U.S. Treasury Bills					0
Repurchase Agreements					0
Others _____					0
Total:					<u>\$ 144,596.32</u>

F. Trust Funds

Collateral'd	Comp	Financial	# of	Interest	Balance
Bal		Institution	Accounts	Rate	
No	No	Monson Sav	15	5	133,215.52
Total:					<u>\$ 133,215.52</u>

TOTAL OF ALL CASH AND INVESTMENTS: \$ 1,593,682.00

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The year 2000 has been a year of change as we enter a new millennium.

We were saddened by the death of our fellow assessor Henry P. Baush in May of 2000. Henry served the townspeople of Hampden for 28 years. His wealth of knowledge and experience in town government will be greatly missed.

In April, at the Annual Town Meeting, Chapter 41C of Massachusetts General Law was accepted by the town. This article provides limited tax relief to certain persons over the age of 70. Please feel free to contact the office for more information on this important article.

We began our computer upgrade from a DOS based system to a Windows format in the summer. The installation is now complete. This new system greatly enhances the function and everyday tasks in the office. This updated computer system is a more user friendly asset to realtors, appraisers, assessors and taxpayers seeking assessment information on any town property.

In 2000, the voters elected MaryLou Majkut to represent them in the Assessors office. MaryLou is the first woman elected to the position of Assessor in town history.

We encourage all registered voters to attend any and all town meetings. Fiscal decisions made by the voters have a great impact on our current and future tax rate.

The Board would like to thank the town boards, committees, clerks and officers for their support during our year of change.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley W. Witkop, Chairman
Richard A. Jalbert, MAA
MaryLou Majkut, Assessor
Susan Rauscher, Clerk

FISCAL YEAR 2001

Total appropriations to be raised	\$7,291,591.00
Other local expenditures	40,353.35
State and County Cherry sheet	36,561.00
Allowance for abatements and Exemptions (overlay)	<u>94,299.61</u>
GROSS AMOUNT TO BE RAISED	\$7,462,804.96

Board of Assessors P2

FY2001 Estimated Receipts by Cherry Sheet	\$695,367.00
Motor Vehicle Excise	\$470,215.00
Penalties and Interest on Taxes and Excises	36,308.00
Departmental Revenue-Schools	21,632.00
Departmental Revenue-Libraries	776.00
Other Departmental Revenue	.00
Licenses and Permits	4,644.00
Fines and Forfeits	23,130.00
Investment Income	32,542.00
Miscellaneous Non-Recurring	7,759.00
Additional Lottery Receipt	<u>61,977.00</u>
Total	\$ 695,367.00

Revenue Sources (other) \$ 274,925.00

Total Estimated Receipts \$ 1,729,293.00

Total amount to be raised by Taxation

Real Estate	\$5,514,794.13
Personal Property	<u>218,717.83</u>
Grand Total	\$5,733,511.96

Total Valuation \$ 303,842,711.00

Fiscal Year 2001 Tax Rate \$ 18.87

Statutory Exemptions Granted on Real Estate

Fiscal Year 2000 Exemptions \$12,797.87

Motor Vehicle Excise Committed in 2000

2000	\$ 534,590.88
1999	<u>18,941.26</u>

Total \$553,532.14

Motor Vehicle Excise Abated in 2000

2000	\$ 16,844.18
1999	<u>1,501.69</u>
Total	\$ 18,345.87