

## CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Hampden Cultural Council is responsible for distributing funds allocated by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Applications for funds are submitted to the local council in October of each year. The council then meets to consider those requests. The applicants who are rejected are given time to appeal and under the new streamlined granting process; those who are approved are notified by the local council of their approval in December following a brief review by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The actual funds to approved applicants are then available for distribution by the end of January pending budget passage by the state legislature.

Local groups or individuals who would like to request funds can get more information and the grant applications from the Selectman's office. It should be noted that the council gives preference to projects sponsored by town organizations or residents. Due to limited funds, requests are rarely granted in full.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council granted the Hampden Cultural Council our yearly allocation of \$2,500.00. This was an increase of \$500.00 from the amount we received for 2005-2006. The council has recently made decisions regarding the re-granting of these monies. Projects and activities that have been awarded grants for 2007 include:

- ❖ Springfield Symphony program for grades 3 and 4
- ❖ Patriot Printer program at Thornton Burgess Middle School
- ❖ Support to the Friends of the Hampden Public Library
- ❖ Art of Pastel Workshop at the Town House
- ❖ Juggling Performance at the Town House
- ❖ Reading is Magic program at the Town House

We have experienced great pleasure and satisfaction in being able to support these cultural events and hope to continue to support cultural education and enjoyment of town residents of all ages.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. McEwan, Chairperson  
Jerry Lesniak  
Patricia Regan-Loiko  
Marsha Miller-Spinelli  
Melissa Pearlman  
Hermine Weston