

Town of Palmer

Bondsville, Depot Village, Thorndike & Three Rivers



Forest Lake – circa 1950

Annual Report **July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008**

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FACTS ABOUT PALMER

SETTLED	1716
INCORPORATED AS A DISTRICT	1752
ACCEPTED AS A TOWN	1776
LOCATION	About 15 miles east of Springfield on Route 20
HIGHEST ELEVATION	Colonel's Mountain 1179 feet
POPULATION	12,750
FORM OF GOVERNMENT	9-Member Town Council Town Manager
TAX RATE – FY2007	
TOWN	\$13.12 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
FIRE DISTRICT TAX	
DISTRICT #1	\$1.08 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #2	\$1.30 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #3	\$1.59 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #4	\$1.30 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
NUMBER OF DWELLINGS	Approximately 4,254
PROPERTY VALUATION	\$1,041,655,651
AREA	Approximately Land 20,110.00 acres; Water 457.5 acres; Total 20,568.4 acres; Square Miles: 32.14
HOSPITAL	Wing Memorial Hospital
STREETS AND HIGHWAYS	Approximately 150 miles
PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Palmer High School Converse Middle School Old Mill Pond Elementary Pathfinder Regional Technical High School
FIRE PROTECTION	Four Fire Districts: Palmer Fire District 1: Chief Alan Roy heads a 32-member call force with a full time Captain and Lieutenant;

Three Rivers Fire District 2: Chief Patrick O'Connor heads a 34-member call force;

Bondsville Fire District 3: Chief Scott Gustafson heads a 26-member call force;

Thorndike Fire and Water District 4 is protected by Palmer Fire District 1.

TRANSPORTATION

PVTA Village Bus, Peter Pan Bus (Walnut Street, Palmer), Council on Aging Van for transportation for seniors.

POLICE

Well established full time police department and
Emergency Dispatch center headed by Chief of
Police, Robert Frydryk

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
Legion Field. Eager

Walter (Beebe) Chase Memorial Park,
Playground, Palmer, Nick Laviolette Park,
Three Rivers, plus playground and
recreational equipment at Three Rivers
Common, and Endelson Playground,
Bondsville.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

North Main Street, Palmer

**GOVERNMENTAL DISTRICT
AND REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE
TOWN OF PALMER**

UNITED STATES SENATORS

Edward M. Kennedy, Boston

John F. Kerry, Boston

REPRESENTATIVE IN U.S. CONGRESS

Second Congressional District

Richard E. Neal

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Seventh Councilor District

Thomas J. Foley

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

Worcester, Hampden, Franklin

and

Hampshire Senatorial District

Stephen M. Brewer

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

First Hampden Representative District
Todd M. Smola

HAMPDEN COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

William M. Bennett, Springfield

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

BOARD OF APPEALS

Antonio Andre, Chairman
Ingrid Thompson
Norman Z. Czech
Gary Doane, Alt.
Dennis Fountain
Walter Solzak, Alt.
Russell Brown

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Lawrence M. Jasak
Michael J. Burns

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Patricia C. Donovan
Genevieve Janosz
Margaret Higgins
Barbara J. Stone

BOARD OF HEALTH

Paul Benard, Chairman
John Lukaskiewicz
Jayne Heede

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

David E. Johnson, Chairman
Donald R. Duffy
Peter Izyk
Harry Johnson
Vincent Yurkunas
Robert J. Ring
Matthew Trybus

COUNCIL ON AGING

Alice J. Smith, Chairperson
Genevieve A. Bates, 1st Vice Chair
Mary Hubert, 2nd Vice Chair
Deborah Strauss, Secretary

Edward Bradlenski
Betty Koss
Gloria Brouillette
Pearl Coyer
Linda Lamay
Audrey Julian
Ernest Charland

AUXILIARY POLICE FORCE

Jason S. Pare
John A. Banas

BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Beverly Morin
David Johnson
Alice Davey

ORDINANCE STUDY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Resident (John Auchter)
Building Inspector (Richard Rollet)
Police Chief (Robert Frydryk)
Fire Chief (Alan Roy)
Fire Chief (Pat O'Connor)
Fire Chief (Jeff Jambora)
Council (2)
Resident (1)

CABLEVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

George Backus
Bruce Henriques
(vacant – 3)

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Michael Magiera, Chairman
Richard Cartier
William Lizotte
School Rep. (Robert Janasiewicz)
Theresa Niemczura
Library Rep. (Mark Contois)
DPW Rep. (Richard Kaczmarczyk)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Emer. Mgt. Director – Donald C. Elliott, Jr.
Officer Kenneth White
Fire Chief (Alan Roy)
Fire Chief (Scott Gustafson)
Fire Chief (Patrick O'Connor)
Dispatcher (Tammy Piechota)
Police Chief (Robert Frydryk)
Board of Health Rep (Paul Benard)

Hospital Rep. (Vacant)
Palmer Water District (James Ammann)
Thorndike Water District (M. Marciniac)
Three Rivers Water District (J. Sasur Jr.)
Bondsville Water District (Gary Pierce)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Alice Davey
Julie Manning
Linda Haley
Pam Herbert
Paul Wisnewski
Robin Lamothe
Robert Haveles

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Paul E. Burns, Chairman
Roger R. Duguay, Jr.
John B. Dinuovo
John L. Sasur, Jr.
Steven Cormier
Renee Stolar
Robert Young
Russell Brown
Susan Bryant
Joseph Turek

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

John Sasur, Chairman
Nicholas Zeo
Board of Health Rep. (Paul Benard)

HANDICAPPED SERVICE COMMITTEE

Neil Metcalf
Nancy Bauer
Richard Rollet

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Stephen Nowak, Chairman
Marion P. Lis, Treasurer
Lorraine Novak, Secretary
Jane E. Golas
Harold Olson
Rose Riskalla
Donna Guerin, Associate Member

HOUSING PARTNERSHIP/FAIR HOUSING COMMITTEE

Real Estate Broker - Vacant
Developer - Vacant
Attorney - Vacant

Resident-Margaret Higgins
Planning Board-Joseph Slowick
Housing Authority-Jean Leonard
School Committee Rep.
Gerald Madigan

INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Paraprofessionals/Aides- Melanie Leibold, CMS
Palmer Teachers Association – Deborah Charwick, OMP
Palmer School Nurses/Clerical Workers – Scott Macey
Palmer School Custodial Association – Peter Galica, CMS
Palmer School Cafeteria – Catherine Les, OMP
Palmer D.P.W.- Michael Moynahan
Palmer Police IBPO – Robert Dickson and Paul Lukaskiewicz
School & Town Clerical Workers UFCW #1459 – Scott Macey & Susan Fontaine
Emergency Telecommunicators – Neal Byrne

LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

Richard L. Fitzgerald
Robert Frydryk
Matthew Lovell
Dennis Gaudreau
Theodore Simard

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Board of Health Rep (Paul Benard)
Conservation Commission (Dave Johnson)
Palmer Ambulance Service (Dave Clark)
Palmer Fire Chief (Alan Roy)
Three Rivers Fire Chief (Patrick O'Connor)
Three Rivers Water Dept. (John Sasur Jr)
Capt. Palmer Fire Dept. (David Pranaitis)
Palmer Water Superintendent (James Ammann)
Chief of Police (Robert Frydryk)
Emergency Mgt. Director (Donald Elliott, Jr.)

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT ADVISORY BOARD

James Lynch
Attorney Timothy J. Rogers
Robert P. Frydryk

OPEN SPACE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Conservation Agent (Sheryl Becker)
Conservation Members (Donald Duffy, Harry Johnson)
Town Planner – Linda Leduc
Planning Board Rep. (M. Marciniac)
Council Rep. (Vacant)

PALMER CULTURAL COUNCIL

Deborah Queiros
Lynn Plotczik

Tom Arventos
James Athearn
Mary Bernat
Christine Miarecki
Ann Wright
Kathleen Hood
Alice Smith
Erin Pincince, Chairman
Matthew Lovell – Council Liaison

PALMER HOUSING AUTHORITY

Veronica A. Strzemienski, Chairman
Margaret M. Higgins
Ronald W. Lemanski
Mildred Jasak
(Germaine Lefebvre – State Appointee)

PALMER REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Blake Lamothe, Chairman
Margaret Higgins
David Swirk
Anthony Matejczyk
(Michael Pajak – State Appointee)

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Diana Strzemienski
Ronda Brown
Donna Corbin
Marilyn Barry
Christopher Howlett
DPW Rep. (Richard Kaczmarczyk)

RECYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Margaret Higgins
Building Inspector (Richard Rollet)
Arthur Biron
Sandra Noonan

SAFETY/TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Police Chief (Robert Frydryk)
DPW Director (Richard Kaczmarczyk)
Building Inspector (Richard Rollet)
Palmer Fire Chief (Alan Roy)
Three Rivers Fire Chief (Pat O'Connor)
Bondsville Fire Chief (Scott Gustafson)
Ambulance Rep. (Vacant)
Ronald Masnicki

FIRE & WATER DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE

James Ammann
Alan Roy

David Supczak
Mark MacDougall
Patrick O'Connor
Russell Brown
Michael Marciniac
Robert Haveles
Albin Les
John McElduff
Keith Parent
John Dinuovo
Gerald Chudy

TOWN COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES

APPOINTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

John Dinuovo
David Whitney
Roger Duguay

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET/ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Public Service Division:

Paul Burns
Matthew Lovell
Roger Duguay, Jr.

Public Safety Division:

George Backus
David Whitney
Philip Hebert

Public Works Division:

Michael Magiera
Paul Burns
Matthew Lovell

Municipal Finance Division:

Barbara Barry
John Dinuovo
George Backus

HEALTH INSURANCE STUDY COMMITTEE

Roger Duguay, Jr.
Michael Magiera
Matthew Lovell
Philip Hebert

NON-TAX REVENUE COMMITTEE

Barbara Barry
Michael Magiera
Philip Hebert
Matthew Lovell

TOWN MANAGER GOALS COMMITTEE

Barbara Barry
Michael Magiera
Matthew Lovell

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNOR'S CASINO LEGISLATION

Roger Duguay, Jr.
John Dinuovo
Michael Magiera
David Whitney

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

John Dinuovo

ELECTED OFFICIALS

COUNCILLORS AT LARGE

(4-yr. Term ending 2009)

George A. Backus
John B. Dinuovo
David E. Whitney
Michael R. Magiera
Paul E. Burns

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

(4-yr. Term ending 2011)

Philip J. Hebert, District #1
Barbara A. Barry, District #2
Matthew Lovell, District #3
Roger R. Duguay, Jr., District #4

TOWN CLERK

Patricia C. Donovan (Exp 2011)

PLANNING BOARD (4 YRS)

Michael Marciniac (Exp 2009)
Diane R. France (Exp. 2011)
Norman Czech (Exp. 2011)
James Haley (Exp. 2009)
Thomas Skowrya (Exp. 2009)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE (4 yrs.)

Mary Salzmann (Exp. 2009)
Muareen R. Gallagher (Exp. 2011)
James St Amand (Exp. 2011)
David Lynch (Exp. 2009)
Robert Janasiewicz (Exp. 2011)

PATHFINDER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Michael J. Cavanaugh (Exp. 2010)
David M. Droz (Exp. 2008)

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Town Accountant	Valerie Bernier
Town Planner	Linda Leduc
Community Development Director	Alice Davey
Veteran's Agent/Burial Agent/Graves Officer	Mark Avis
Town Counsel	Charles Ksieniewicz
Associate Town Counsel	Michael Ciota
Town Auctioneer	Kevin Gouvin
Building Inspector	Richard Rollet
Assistant Building Inspector	Leslie Chip Lapointe
Gas Inspector	Gary Stahelski
Electrical Inspector	Arthur Miner
Assistant Electrical Inspector	
Plumbing Inspector	Gerald Nichols
Constable	Norberto Garcia
Constable	James Lynch
Constable	William McCarthy
Constable	Robert Frydryk
Fence Viewer	Joseph Nietupski
Forest Warden	Alan Roy
Animal Inspector/Dog Officer	Frederick Guzik
Asst. Animal Inspector/Asst. Dog Officer	Wanda Guzik
Hazardous Waste Coordinator	Donald Elliott, Jr.
Recycling Coordinator	Margaret Higgins
Sealer of Weights & Measures	Joseph Serrato
Asst. Sealer of Weights & Measures	John L. Auchter
Sexual Harassment Grievance Officer	Patricia A Kennedy
Sexual Harassment Grievance Officer	Richard Rollet
Milk Inspector	Walter J. Swiatlowski
Vermin Inspector	James Chadwick
Director of Public Safety	Robert Frydryk
Treasurer/Tax Collector	Janet A. Pierce
Emergency Management Director	Donald C. Elliott, Jr.
Town Assessor	Beverly Morin
Department of Public Works Director	Richard Kaczmarczyk
WWTP Superintendent	Gerald Skowronek
Council on Aging Director	Erin Pincince

Hampden County Housing Services Advisory Comm.	Jean Leonard
Palmer Public Library Trustee	John DiNuovo
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	Michael Marciniac,
Pioneer Valley Planning Comm. Policy Advisory Rep.	Commissioner
P.V.T.A. Advisory Council Member	Richard Kaczmarczyk, Joint
Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation	Trans Rep.
Subregional Housing Committee Designee	James L St. Amand
Environmental Certifying Officer	Ronald P. Christiansen
Hearings Officer/Building Code Violations	David Johnson
	Matthew Streeter

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

TOWN MANAGER

I hereby submit the report of the Town Manager's Office for the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. Since April 22, 2008, the office has been managed by Patricia Kennedy, Interim Town Manager who was appointed by the Town Council following the absence of Richard Fitzgerald.

I would like to thank all the department heads and the town employees as well as members of the public who helped me during my service as Interim Town Manager. I couldn't have done this alone, so thanks again to everyone. Thanks also to the Town Council for having enough faith in me to entrust me with the challenge.

Town Council passed the FY08 budget in the amount of \$32,927,304.00 and voted to transfer \$41,450.00 from Free Cash to balance this budget. Town Council also transferred funds from the Stabilization account to fund Highway and Park and Police capital projects.

The Town held a special election for an Override of Proposition 2 ½ on August 21, 2007 and a total of 2,021 voters cast their votes. Five questions ranging from Public Safety, Palmer Library, Public Schools, and Parks and Recreation appeared on the ballot. Voters rejected all 5 override questions.

Town Council voted for David Whitney and Paul Burns to represent the Town on the Regional Casino Impact Committee and appointed a Citizens Casino Impact Study Committee to look at the impacts to Town services should the Legislature pass the Casino bill and a casino is built in town. A Council sub-Committee was also formed with John Dinuovo, Michael Magiera and Roger Duguay to study the casino legislation. An Economic Development Advisory Committee of Roger Duguay, Paul Burns and John Dinuovo was named to look at economic development opportunities in town.

Elections were held in November and Philip Hebert was elected to represent District #1, formerly represented by Keith Parent and Roger Duguay, Jr. was elected to represent District #4, formerly represented by John Sasur, Jr.

Town Council held elections at their January meeting and elected Matthew Lovell, President, Michael Magiera, Vice-President and David Whitney, Clerk.

During this fiscal year, the town implemented Connect-CTY, the town-wide emergency notification system and it has proven effective on several occasions.

Town Council also voted to put the Charter review question on the November 2008 ballot. As of the end of this fiscal year, Town Council has begun the search for a new Town Manager and interviews will be held at the end of the application period.

Be sure to visit our Town website often at www.townofpalmer.com to keep abreast of community events, calendars, meeting agendas and minutes, budgets, and much more. Thanks to Chief Frydryk and all others who work so hard to keep this website running and current.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia A. Kennedy

TOWN CLERK

DEATHS 2007

January

3	Mary G. Moran	82
9	Cheryl L. Ross	46
10	Sally V. Nadolski	88
10	Luz D. Santiago	62
11	Elizabeth Rogers	73
16	Margery C. Cooley	85
16	Beth M. Stone	94
17	Kathleen S. Kreinest	79
17	Lena M. Southworth	87
24	Vivian Trespas	88
30	Alphonse Perella	81

February

1	Jean S. Lockwood	75
1	Freida B. Roman	89
5	Herbert C. Kingston, Jr	42
10	Joy R. Coggins	46
16	Ada R. Greenbaum	90
19	Ernest Brothers	73
20	Robert Therrien	78
21	Carl J. Fischer	68
21	Dorothy I. Minney	67
23	Doris M. Booth	71
23	Edna A. McCormick	89
24	Irene Janulis	76
26	Ciro E. DelNegro	77

March

7	Marilou M. Kinney	46
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10	Barbara E. Damm	68
11	Anne R. Jamrog	87
14	John X. Hoague	49
14	Lucy M. Muller	54
16	Alice J. Oakes	68
16	Kermit J. Pike, Jr.	70
18	Mary A. Champion	97
20	George L. Carpenter	82
21	Marguerite Corriveau	62
21	Edith E. Gliesman	89
21	Thomas Haley	95
22	Anna S. Salamon	95
22	Elizabeth R. Andrews	1 day
24	Gene A. Ufford	66
26	Janet Messier	70
31	George Woffenden	83

April

2	Joanne E. Rowland	59
2	Pamela V. Bilton	66
3	Lucille M. Fitzgerald	78
6	Opal Day	79
7	Gurecia Frank	89
8	Margaret Daly	74
10	Wallace J. Roberts	81
16	Gilbert V. Vieu	72
17	Clanthea Kostolecki	84
20	Frances A. Godek	86
21	Paul Nahabedian	79
22	Louise Burnham	79
22	James M. Kennedy	51
22	Helen Midura	88
22	John Sousa	83
26	Frances Golas	91
28	Diane R. Kirby	62
29	Aleksandra Pilch	92

May

2	Richard F. Messier	73
2	Paul W. Grady	82
3	Arthur Comforte	97
3	Richard McDonald	75
7	Bertha Goodreau	78
9	Virginia Papazian	69
9	Sarah E. Desorcy	51
15	Theresa a. Lewicki	78
16	Lorraine V. LaFleche	72
18	Paul Normand	72
20	Gaston Lachance	62
20	Eileen W. Glod	82

22	Elaine D. Page	66
22	Thaddeus A. Domey	65
25	Florence M. Lynch	92
31	Louis J. Wrubel	87
31	Roland J. Chartier	69

June

4	Edward Goldberg	68
13	Ann E. Aniskiewicz	82
14	Joseph J. Pobieglo	94
14	Florence V. Curtis	92
17	Craig D. Robinson	54
21	Alexander A. Sierakowski	88

July

2	Douglas H. Watson	75
4	Tadeusz M. Zajac	55
7	Alice L. Fitzhet	89
11	Lyman W. Felton	86
13	Ardra Mae Karczmarczyk	76
14	Andrew L. Parker	33
19	Stephen N. Burnham	57
20	Muriel G. Harding	83
22	Benita R. DeCosta	85
27	Hilda M. Randlett	82
30	Barbara Silva	77

August

2	Walter Kazierad	89
2	Timothy Hurley	51
4	Gail A. Arsenault	55
15	Linda J. Anderson	59
15	Joyce A. Holt	62
19	Bertha Muniec	89
21	Earl J. Murray	63
21	Elmer F. Lamb	69
23	Robert F. Plattner	80
22	Alice F. Hartman	54
24	Guilherme Rebelo	85
31	Vito Mucaria	90
31	Raymond Smith	75
31	Marilyn Morris	74

September

8	Charles Manning	77
13	Joanne Antunes	65
15	John J. Ligus	93
22	Ferdinanda A. Furgal	89
28	John P. Karcz	89
29	Michael J. Cataudella	86
29	Gary Stabach	55

29 Lillian A. Mainville 81

October

2 Walter Bates, Jr. 72
12 Ida C. Adams 92
16 Amelia Golonka 89
20 Joan M. Bernier 76
20 Lawrence Roberts 85
20 Jane M. Ziergiebel 23
21 Peter Ditto 73
24 Dominick Pecora 59
31 Richard Reilly 60

November

1 Frances Lemanski 89
2 Doris Barber 78
2 Urban Perry 75
4 Priscilla Hartwell 94
7 Eleanor L. Garvey 77
11 David Coache 73
13 Edward Flemming 86
13 Hector J. Tremblay 81
14 Sophie Noga 93
16 Patrick Bernat 87
17 Edna Borkowski 82
19 Lucy Jandrow 79
23 Judith Bannon 63
23 Jeannette Marshall 91
23 Lucille Engel 98
24 Richard Tucker 83
27 Dawn Mendrala 44
27 David Grundstrom 48

December

1 Richard Dulude, Sr. 74
2 William J. Ellithorpe 95
11 Fred Mastalerz 90
16 Oda Witkoski 99
16 Paul Oliver 29
19 Carl Dumont 79
30 Robert Beckman 72
30 Shawn McIntyre 42

MARRIAGES 2007

January

5	Dawid R. Dawidowicz	Palmer	Cynthia A. Hammond	Palmer
12	Christopher J. Shea	Palmer	Janice M. Franco	Palmer
27	Philip J. Dunaj	Palmer	Sara T. Phelps	Palmer

February

14	Shawn A. Troche	Palmer	Sarah M. Fredette	Palmer
23	John M. Destromp	Granby	Amanda M. Story	Warren
25	Michael C. Marciniac	New Hampshire	Xuany W. Segura	Peru
March				
10	John M. Piechota, Jr.	Ware	Dominique M. Richard	Ware
10	Daryl J. Hensley	Brimfield	Nicole L. O'Dell	Palmer
17	James J. Lussier	Palmer	Lisa L. Laroche	Palmer
23	John C. Mariani	Palmer	Christine G. Laliberte	Palmer
27	Patrick M. Cote	Monson	Lisa M. Vandenberg	Monson
27	Patrick Cantwell	Palmer	Laurel J. Marshall	Palmer
28	Kristopher N. Longtin	Palmer	Bettina M. Converse	Palmer
31	Stephen N. Lasky	Palmer	Robyn L. Morrison	Palmer
April				
7	Lawrence J. Caputo, Jr.	Palmer	Crystal Ann Rogers	Palmer
21	Jeremiah W. Johnson	PA	Heather Mayberry	PA
May				
4	Michael Palmere	Palmer	Angela M. Birchenough	Palmer
5	John T. Storey	Ware	Rachel M. Bissonnette	Ware
11	Mark W. Blanchard	Ware	Robin M. Morin	Ware
15	Frederick C. Byrne	Palmer	Christine A. Gibb	Palmer
June				
2	William C. Wright	Springfield	Jeanine A. Mileskie	Springfield
9	Stephen S. Petrin	Maine	Rachel A. Casavant	Maine
10	Jeff R. Hatfield	Palmer	Courtney M. Blake	Monson
11	Alan M. O'Connor	Palmer	Dianna Mae Tidlund	Palmer
15	Daniel S. Lauber	Palmer	Lina Marie Morales	Palmer
16	Joshua J. Griswold	Palmer	Lindsey E. Kanode	Palmer
16	Kyle S. Tourville	Springfield	Heather M. Fitzgerald	Springfield
16	Stanley Zwyrbla, Jr.	Palmer	Amanda J. Slozak	Palmer
21	Alan R. Barthelette	Belchertown	Christine A. O'Connor	Palmer
21	Steven J. Petrowicz	Monson	Robin L. Quinn	Monson
23	Wesley M. Benware	Palmer	Laura W. Nadeau	Palmer
23	Timothy A. Kokoski	Palmer	Emily L. Davis	Palmer
23	Daniel W. Labrie	Palmer	Laurie Ann Kustra	Palmer
24	Jason L. Houle	Palmer	Amber S. Ulrich	Palmer
29	Timothy S. Hill	Palmer	Danielle M. Bachand	Palmer
29	Michael J. Swiatlowski	Palmer	Allison L. Brach	Palmer
30	Robert F. Hunter	Palmer	Denise F. Bellefeuille	Palmer
30	Jefferson B. Hurst	Palmer	Rosemary L. Demers	Palmer
30	Brian J. Przybycien	Tennessee	Heather Lee Clark	Tennessee
30	Angel L. Rivera	Palmer	Mariette G. Chapdelaine	Palmer
July				
7	Richard E. Stanley, Jr.	Monson	Michelle Pittore	Monson
7	Jesse T. O'Connor	Palmer	Elizabeth S. Kelley	Palmer
13	Philip N. Vanasse	Ware	Margaret P. Leighton	Ware

20	Thomas E. Wilson	Palmer	Patricia A. Hogan	Palmer
21	Randi F. Lipscomb	Palmer	April S. Germain	Palmer
21	Peter O. St.Andre	Holland	Nancy L. Record	Holland
28	D.William Boone	Palmer	Elaine J.Dustin-Nikodem	Palmer

August

4	Gerard G. Berthiaume	Palmer	Cathy L. Weirbrick	Palmer
4	Anthony J. Dart II	Palmer	Jillian A. Reed	Palmer
10	Charles F. Abbate,Sr.	Palmer	Teresa H. Livingstone	Palmer
11	Jeffrey D. Sterner	Wilbraham	Sheila J. Allen	Wilbraham
18	Matthew J. Holbrook	Palmer	Michele L. Pieczarka	Palmer
18	Michael A. Mazza	Palmer	Rachel A. St. Pierre	Palmer
18	Nicholas J. Powers	Brimfield	Margaret Christianson	Sturbridge
25	Ronald M. Izyk	Palmer	Lynn A. Forcier	Palmer
25	Bret M. Pisarski	Palmer	Rachel C. Eastlake	Palmer
25	Dean G. Miner	Palmer	Mary E. Voight	Palmer

September

1	Adam F. Anghilante	Georgia	Erin-Lynn Dziedzic	Georgia
1	Brian C. O'Neill	Rhode Island	Wendi A. Sacco	Rhode Island
7	Eric Przybycien	Palmer	Michelle L. O'Connor	Palmer
8	Carl A. Beauregard	Palmer	Christine A. Holmes	Palmer
22	Keith A. David, Jr.	Palmer	Betsy Ann Dinito	Framingham
22	William S. Bray	Palmer	Heather A. Marriott	Palmer
22	Jeremiah J. Woodward	Palmer	Sara A. Destromp	Palmer
23	Michael C. Ladue	Palmer	Brittany A. McMahon	Palmer
28	Michael Arroyo	Palmer	Maegen M. Clark	Palmer
28	Nathaniel R. Messier	Palmer	Jaime Ann Powers	Palmer
29	Jamie A. Chevalier	Palmer	Megan L. Erickson	Palmer

October

5	Richard M. Kellett	Palmer	Heidi A. Robbins	Palmer
12	Allen Stoner	Palmer	Debra K. White	Palmer
13	Christopher J. White	Palmer	Sarah M. Sweryda	Palmer
14	Glenn H. Lewis	Ware	Kathleen M. Jarosz	Ware
14	Daniel R. Ramirez	Brimfield	Nadine M. Marchand	Brimfield
19	Jil H. Lesko	Palmer	Deborah C. Kracht	Palmer
19	Martin J. Hough	Wilbraham	Carey J. Fountain	Wilbraham
27	Kenneth A. Dorey	Palmer	Arlene L. Domey	Palmer
27	Scott A. Giard	Palmer	Elizabeth B. Ford	Palmer
27	Anne M. Lombardi	Quincy	Scott J. Taddei	Quincy
30	Christopher L. Tolpa	Palmer	Anjel L. Morin	Palmer

November

10	Jeremy A. Goncalves	Palmer	Andrea L. Dionne	Palmer
24	Randall P. Benoit	Chicopee	Dene E. Sarette	Monson
24	Nelson R. Fisk, Jr.	Palmer	Christine R. Healy	Palmer

December

15	Scott N. Gower	Springfield	Jessecah M. Vandermost	Springfield
15	Rebecca J. Hawkins	Wales	Babette D. Chavez	Wales
27	Kenneth R. Marsden	Palmer	Laurie A. Rivers	Palmer

Biennial Town Election – November 6, 2007

TOWN CLERK 4 yr term vote for 1
Patricia C. Donovan – 39 Smith St 1181

DISTRICT COUNCILOR 4 Yr term

DISTRICT 1 Vote for 1
Philip J. Hebert – 4231 High St 174
 Carl F. Bryant 3155 High St 170

DISTRICT- 2 Vote for 1
Barbara A. Barry – 14 Colonial St 265

DISTRICT – 3 vote for 1
Mathew Lovell – 1051 Park St 258

DISTRICT– 4 -Vote for 1
Roger R. Duguay, Jr. - 18 North St 246

COUNCILOR at LARGE 2 yr unexpired term VOTE FOR 2

Christopher S. McGrath 4152 Main St 199
 Franie L. Rhodes – 274 Gates St 202
David E. Whitney – 65 Jim Ash St 884
 Mary R. Comerford, 88 Stimson St 168
Paul E. Burns 15 Gay St 786
 Mark D. Shea - 1505 North Main St 190

SCHOOL COMMITTEE - VOTE FOR 3 4 Yr term

Robert R. Janasiewicz – 9 Breton St 1057
James L. St.Amand 65 Buckland Rd 1013
Maureen R. Gallagher - 77 Buckland Rd 885

PLANNING BOARD – 4 Yr term vote for 2

Norman A. Czech – 2022 Oak St 932
Diane R.France – 140 Thompson St 669
 John M. Comerford – 88 Stimson St 565

WARRANT FOR 2 ½ OVERRIDE SPECIAL ELECTION

TOWN OF PALMER
 COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
 COUNTY OF HAMPDEN

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth, town of Palmer, you are hereby required to notify the inhabitants of the town who are qualified to vote in elections to meet at several

polling locations in said Palmer, designated by the Council to wit: Precinct 1 at SS Peter & Paul Parish Center, 2267 Main St.; Precinct 2 and Precinct 3 at the Converse Middle School, 24 Converse St., and Precinct 4 at the SS Peter & Paul Parish Center, 2267 Main St on TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2007 from 10:00 A.M. to 8:00P.M.
for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the Special Election as follows:

Question #1

“Shall the Town of Palmer be allowed to assess an additional \$310,054 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding two additional full time police officers, increasing part –time officer hours, purchasing two cruisers and providing additional officer training for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2007?

YES NO

Question #2

Shall the Town of Palmer be allowed to assess an additional \$40,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding a part-time Recreational Director and recreational programs for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2007?

YES NO

Question #3

Shall the Town of Palmer be allowed to assess an additional \$24,179 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding operations, materials and programming of the Palmer Public Library for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2007?

YES NO

Question #4

Shall the Town of Palmer be allowed to assess an additional \$150,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding \$100,000 in village park repair and development and \$25,000 for sidewalk reconstruction materials and \$25,000 for road maintenance for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2007?

YES NO

Question #5

Shall the Town of Palmer be allowed to assess an additional \$250,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding public education in the Plamer Public schools for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2007?

YES NO

And you are hereby directed to serve this warrant by posting in the Office of the Town Clerk and in some one public place in each of the voting precinct. Given under our hands this the 11th day of July, 2007

PALMER TOWN COUNCIL

Barbara A. Barry, President
Matthew Lovell
John L. Sasur, Jr. Clerk
George A. Backus

Michael S. Magiera, Vice-President
Keith Parent
David E. Whitney
Peter E. Pappas

John Dinuovo

At the close of registration on August 1st -- 7,778 voters were registered in the Town of Palmer

2,021 Voter cast their ballots at the Special Election:

		Precinct #1	Precinct #2	Precinct #3	Precinct #4	Totals
QUESTION #1						
Police	Yes	198	219	196	180	793
	No	332	356	245	289	1222
	Blanks	1	1	1	3	6
Question #2						
Recreation	Yes	53	87	78	46	264
	No	471	481	354	415	1721
	Blanks	7	8	10	11	27
Question #3						
Library	Yes	69	111	106	59	345
	No	456	459	330	404	1649
	Blanks	6	6	6	9	27
Question #4						
DPW	Yes	93	105	123	81	402
	No	431	466	315	384	1596
	Blanks	7	5	4	7	23
Question #5						
Schools	Yes	92	130	129	93	444
	No	432	441	305	373	1551
	Blanks	7	5	8	6	26

A true Copy Attest
 Patricia C. Donovan, Town Clerk

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Palmer Conservation Commission has seven volunteer members, and a Conservation Agent, who have as their charge the protection of Palmer Township's natural resources. Over the past 12 months the Commission has acted upon or issued (Tables 1 & 2):

Table 1. Palmer Conservation Commission Summary for 2007.

150 Site Inspections	2 Certificates of Emergency
10 Determinations of Applicability	5 Certificates of Compliance
30 Notices of Intent	1 Warning Notices
25 Orders of Conditions	2 Forest Cutting Plan Reviews
3 Amended Order of Conditions	3 Enforcement Orders

Table 2. Palmer Conservation Commission Summary of July 1, 2007 thru June 30, 2008.

125 Site Inspections	3 Certificates of Emergency
4 Determinations of Applicability	2 Certificates of Compliance
12 Notices of Intent	3 Warning Notices
12 Orders of Conditions	3 Forest Cutting Plan Reviews
2 Amended Order of Conditions	2 Enforcement Orders

The Palmer Conservation Commission has been conserving and protecting the town’s wetlands and waterways for over 40 years. We express tremendous gratitude to David Johnson, the Chairman of the Conservation Commission, for his dedication and hard work. His wealth of knowledge and experience is a valuable asset to the town. Donald Duffy and Harry Johnson have also contributed an enormous amount to the Commission throughout the years. We are *extremely* fortunate to have these members, as they are great assets to the town.

The Commission would like to welcome Matthew Trybus, the newest member, who joined in March 2008. Mr. Trybus is a nice addition, as he has worked with Palmer land for many years in his own landscaping business, has a pesticide license, and works for Home Depot in the garden center.

The Commission was the host of a series of MACC (Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions) workshops in Spring 2008, for the second year in a row. The Palmer Town Library is apparently a great location for the MACC workshops.

Both Vincent Yurkunas and Sheryl Becker attended the annual Trustees of Reservations Conference in Worcester, which was very educational and provided us with informative resources.

Paula Therrien, coordinator for the State Community Service Program, Office of Community Corrections, was a wonderful help this past year, due to her offering to clean up Bacon Road using the inmate program. Her program has also helped clean up other locations in town.

The Commission has also been working with Fuss & O’Neil towards a new GIS program. The program will provide us with a map containing three layers – a 100’ buffer zone for Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, a 200’ Riverfront Area, and a 50’ Riverfront Area in Densely Developed Areas.

Another piece of good news about the Commission is that they voted to work towards meeting the 2009 Commonwealth Capital criteria of numbers 19 through 22 under ‘Protect Land and Ecosystems’.

The Commission also voted to promote the Town’s adoption of a 10-acre parcel that was offered to the town for conservation purposes from Dauphinais & Sons, Inc. The Town Council has yet to vote on the acceptance of that land.

Finally, the Commission wrote a letter to the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority asking for them to donate land-locked property, consisting of 100 acres. There has been no reply as of yet.

The Commission will continue to work diligently to protect Palmer's precious natural resources. The Commission holds meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month; the meetings begin at 7:00pm and are open to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

David Johnson, Chairman
Donald Duffy
Harry Johnson
Conservation Agent

Peter Izyk
Robert Ring
Matthew Trybus

Sheryl Becker,

PLANNING BOARD

The Palmer Planning Board, consisting of five elected members, met regularly during the twelve-month period of July 1, 2007 thru June 30, 2008. It is the Board's policy to meet as often as necessary to conduct business deemed appropriate under General Laws and the Charter of the Town of Palmer, generally the first and third Mondays of each month.

The Planning Department is comprised of the following elected members and staff.

Elected Board Members

Chairman

Michael S. Marciniac

Vice Chairman

Norman Czech

Clerk

James Haley, Jr.

Thomas Skowyra

Diane France

Staff

Town Planner

Linda Leduc

Principal Clerk

Mary Watson

During the past 12-months, the Planning Board held twenty-one regular meetings and two special meetings, as well as conducted numerous site inspections and review inspections. In addition to our own meetings, we have also had meetings with other Boards and Committees and have attended seminars and workshops to help better prepare our members for the positions for which they have been elected. During these various meetings, the Board held hearings or acted on eleven Special Permits, seven Site Plan Approvals, and nine Subdivision Approval Not Required (SANR) plans that meet current zoning requirements and are deemed exempt from subdivision regulations, four Special Permit Renewals for Earth Removal with one new Earth Removal Permit issued. There was one Zoning Amendment and two new zoning ordinances approved.

In January of 2008 the Board members bid long-time member Joseph Slowick, Jr. farewell. Mr. Slowick served on the Board for over thirty years. New member, Diane France, was elected to take his place. The Board wishes to sincerely thank Joe for his years of dedication and expertise and welcomes Diane to the Board.

Over the past twelve months, the Planning Board has been involved in permitting many new and interesting projects. Site Plan approval was issued for a variety of new small businesses within the Industrial and Business districts. Special Permits were issued for an array of new projects including a 28-unit age restricted condominium project,

construction and re-development of two service businesses along Wilbraham Road and Park Street, mini-golf and batting cages along Ware Street, a race track on West Ware Road and a new office building within the Chamber Road Industrial Park. The Planning Board worked with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to finalize a bike trail feasibility study along an abandoned section of rail line in the north end of town and a hiking trail along a section of the Ware River, and applied for an energy audit grant from the Division of Energy Resources to have three town-owned buildings and the three public schools assessed for their current energy use. This detailed assessment will guide the town in making informed decisions in regards to future energy use and consumption.

The Stormwater Advisory Committee worked closely with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to finalize and adopt a Stormwater Ordinance in response to the State's Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requirements. Other ordinances adopted were a Seasonal Cottage Resort Ordinance to accommodate a new residential use within the town's Rural Residential District, and a flexible set-back ordinance addressing new construction within already densely developed areas in town.

Economic Development is of course a priority for many Palmer residents and is also a concern for the Planning Board and staff. Job losses have been severe over the past several years and have contributed to increased personal property tax rates. As an economic development tool, the Town of Palmer adopted the local option of Chapter 43D, also known as the Expedited Permitting Law, and designated five parcels as Priority Development Sites (PDS) in the fall of 2007. In the granting of the PDS designations, the state also awarded a development grant for \$150,000 to the town. The grant money is currently funding two extensive infrastructure studies that will assist in the future development of each PDS, as well as procurement of permit tracking software for the town departments. These individual PDS sites are also receiving marketing on the national level and will receive priority consideration for state grant opportunities.

In April 2008, the Cascade Diamond (Energy Thorndike) Mill complex was chosen to be a design site for a Re-use Ideas competition sponsored by the Valley Development Council and Western MA American Institute of Architects. The international competition will expose the Palmer site to conceptual designs that will concentrate on Smart Growth Design principles. The competition is to kick off this summer, and will include a People's Choice Award, with the winning design to be chosen in early 2009.

During fiscal 2009, the Board will continue to work with its engineers on the 43D infrastructure studies, and hopes to submit a grant application to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to fund the design phase of a pedestrian trail along the Ware River connecting Thorndike to Three Rivers. The Board also plans to reevaluate its Subdivision Regulations as they were last updated in 1993. Some of the technical sections must be updated to reflect current construction methods and more innovative design techniques. Commitment tasks, as required by the Commonwealth Capital application, will also receive priority and include writing a clean energy ordinance, and adopting a Right to Farm Ordinance.

In closing, the Planning Board would like to thank the citizens of Palmer, elected officials, town boards and the Planning Department staff for assisting us in our planning endeavors.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael S. Marciniak, Chairman

BUILDING INSPECTOR

The following is a summary of my activities for fiscal year 2008. Permits were approved, specifications reviewed, and construction monitored for:

New Single Family Dwellings	4
New Two Family Dwelling	0
New Commercial	6
Additions to Residential Buildings	25
Additions to Commercial Building	10
Renovations to Residential Buildings	38
Replace Mobile Home	3
Barns	2
Carports	5
Decks	55
Demolition	18
Garages	12
Gazebo	2
Pools Above Ground	16
Pools In Ground	3
Roofing, Siding and Window Permits	312
Sheds	44
Signs	19
Wood Burning Stove Permits	48
Inspections for Specified Use Groups	43
Telephone Messages	2,480
Inspections	692
Occupancy Permits	73
Electrical Permits	507

Plumbing Permits	134
Gas Permits	82

TOTAL	4,633

Respectfully Submitted Richard W. Rollet, Building Inspector

PLUMBING INSPECTOR

As plumbing Inspector for the Town of Palmer, I hereby submit the following report for inspections made by me from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008:

New Plumbing Permits	29
Renovations	79
Water Heaters	38

I have also investigated complaints of potentially dangerous plumbing work and also violations of Chapter 142 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerald Nichols, Plumbing Inspector

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

Residential	79
Industrial	4
Commercial	35

Submitted by,
Arthur Miner, Electrical Inspector

GAS INSPECTOR

As gas inspector for the Town of Palmer, I am responsible for the inspection, testing and issuing of permits in accordance with the codes and regulations of the Massachusetts General Laws. In this capacity about eighty inspections and permits were made and issued between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008.

The second phase of work done by this department includes investigating complaints of old and potentially dangerous gas fitting installations, violations of the law, and hazardous and defective material.

I would like to thank all the personnel involved with the Building Department for their cooperation during the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Stahelski, Gas Inspector

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

I hereby submit the report for the Department of Weights and Measures. So far this year, a total of 179

Measuring and weighing devices were tested and sealed. Fees charged for these tests totaled \$1,781.00. A total of \$947.00 was turned in to the treasurer leaving an uncollected balance of \$834.00. A total of five complaints were received so far this year. They were followed up and corrected.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Serrato Sealer of Weights and Measures

BOARD OF HEALTH

No report for this period.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Palmer Community Development Department is located in Memorial Hall at 1029 Central Street Palmer. The office is open Monday – Friday from 9:00am to 4:30pm.

The Community Development Department was established in 1991 for the purpose of administering a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Town of Palmer. Over the years the department has expanded its services by becoming a Local Rehabilitation Agency for the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, and by applying for and receiving grants from other agencies/programs.

Community Development Block Grant Program

The Community Development Block Grant Program is funded under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended. The primary objective of the statute is “... *to develop viable, urban communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities principally for low – moderate income persons.*”

The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development encourages: programs which develop and preserve affordable housing; planning toward both resource protection and sustainable economic activity; downtown revitalization integral to community development; and community-based planning that assesses needs and identifies strategies for addressing those needs. Projects eligible for funding under the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program include: planning; housing rehabilitation and creation of affordable housing; economic development projects which create and/or retain jobs; efforts directed toward rehabilitation and stabilization of existing neighborhoods, commercial areas and downtowns; infrastructure; construction and/or rehabilitation of community facilities; and public social services.

The Palmer Community Development Department relies entirely on grant dollars to finance its projects and operate its office. The Town of Palmer provides space, heat and electricity.

The Palmer Community Development Department completed and closed out the FFY04 and FFY05 Community Development Block Grants previously awarded to the Town of Palmer, and began expending funds from the FFY06 Community Development Block Grant awarded July 31, 2006.

✓ FFY05 Community Development Block Grant

Total expenditures in FY08: \$26,652.66 expended for Housing Rehabilitation Deferred Payment Loans.

On July 12, 2005 the Town of Palmer was awarded \$235,787 from the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program. These funds were awarded to finance: \$42,126 of Housing Rehabilitation Administration, \$115,000 for six (6) Housing Rehabilitation Deferred Payment Loans, \$4,021 for Public Service Program Administration, \$35,000 to provide services to 50 senior citizens, and \$39,640 for General Program Administration. As of June 30, 2008 the Palmer Community Development Department has expended \$42,126 for Housing Rehabilitation Administration, \$123,373 (includes \$8,530.50 in program income funds) to rehabilitate 10 living units occupied by 24 low to moderate income residents, \$4,021 for Public Service Program Administration, \$35,000 to finance 1,903 hours of volunteer time to provide 1,348 services to 78 low to moderate income senior citizens, and \$39,721.19 for General Program Administration.

✓ FFY06 Community Development Block Grant

Total expenditures in FY08: \$24,756.11 expended for Housing Rehabilitation Administration, \$34,850.98 expended for Housing Rehabilitation Deferred Payment Loans, \$9,114.87 expended for Public Facility/Infrastructure Program Administration, \$162,352.89 expended for Streets and Sidewalks servicing Chestnut and Arch Streets, \$94,028.01 expended for water main replacement servicing Chestnut and Arch Streets, \$18,182.37 for sanitary sewer replacement servicing Chestnut and Arch Streets, \$0 expended for storm drain replacement servicing Chestnut and Arch Streets, \$43,800 for architectural services for the design of the Memorial Hall rehabilitation project, \$2,770.65 for Public Service Program Administration, \$27,291.85 for Public Services, and \$38,884.71 for General Program Administration.

On July 27, 2006 the Town of Palmer was awarded \$923,855 from the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program. These funds were awarded to finance: \$24,477 of Housing Rehabilitation Administration; \$59,598 to be supplemented with \$89,882 in program income funds to finance eight (8) Housing Rehabilitation Deferred Payment Loans; \$44,236 of Public Facility/Infrastructure Program Administration; \$214,674 to be supplemented with \$8,520 in in-kind services to reclaim and repave 600' of Chestnut Street, to grade-gravel-pave 290' of Arch Street, to reconstruct 900' of sidewalk parallel to Chestnut Street including ADA features; \$227,934 to be supplemented with \$9,000 of in kind services and \$15,000 from the Palmer Water District for the replacement of 890' of water main, \$142,062 to be supplemented with \$856 of in kind services for the replacement of 1,125' of sanitary sewer main, the Town of

Palmer committed \$127,376 in program income funds to replace 720' of storm drain, \$73,000 for architectural services relative to the rehabilitation of Memorial Hall, \$10,765 for Public Service program administration, \$40,000 to provide services to 75 senior citizens, and \$87,109 for General Program Administration.

As of June 30, 2008 the Palmer Community Development Department has expended \$28,531.38 for Housing Rehabilitation Administration, \$121,252.98 (includes \$86,402.00 in program income funds) to rehabilitate 5 living units occupied by 13 low to moderate income residents, \$12,946.01 for Public Facilities Administration, \$204,150.58 for upgrades to the Streets and Sidewalks servicing Chestnut and Arch Streets, including engineering and construction oversight, \$138,647.13 for the replacement of water mains and hydrants servicing Chestnut and Arch Streets including engineering and construction oversight, \$93,974.26 for the replacement of the sanitary sewer servicing Chestnut and Arch Streets including engineering and construction oversight, \$52,383.26 for the replacement of the storm drainage system servicing Chestnut and Arch Streets, including engineering and construction oversight, \$70,380.00 (includes \$11,980.00 in program income funds) for architectural services to design the rehabilitation of Memorial Hall, \$3,196.56 for Public Service Program Administration, \$46,299.26 (includes \$6,299.26 in program income funds) to finance the provision of services to low and moderate income senior citizens, and \$42,168.82 for General Program Administration.

✓ FFY07 Community Development Block Grant Program

Total expenditures in FY08: \$2,200.35 expended for Housing Rehabilitation Administration, \$0.00 expended for Housing Rehabilitation Deferred Payment Loans, \$5,647.45 expended for Public Facility/Infrastructure Program Administration, \$16,211.53 expended for Streets and Sidewalks servicing Fox Street, \$21,324.09 expended for water main replacement servicing Fox Streets, \$22,479.58 for sanitary sewer replacement servicing Fox Streets, \$10,426.37 expended for storm drain replacement servicing Fox Streets, \$1,682.48 for Public Service Program Administration, \$18,557.70 for Public Services, and \$11,609.16 for General Program Administration.

On July 11, 2007 the Town of Palmer was awarded \$815,679 from the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant Program. These funds were awarded to finance: \$29,487 of Housing Rehabilitation Administration; \$25,000 to be supplemented with \$40,000 in program income funds to finance three (3) Housing Rehabilitation Deferred Payment Loans; \$41,935 of Public Facility/Infrastructure Program Administration; \$107,864 to be supplemented with \$39,988 in in-kind services and a cash contribution to reclaim and repave 1,800 square yards of Fox Street, to reconstruct 725' of sidewalk parallel to Fox Street including ADA features; \$186,203 to be supplemented with \$41,000 of in kind services and a cash contribution for the replacement of 610' of water main servicing Fox Street, \$127,198 to be supplemented with \$36,200 of in kind services and a cash contribution for the replacement of 800' of sanitary sewer main servicing Fox street, \$142,805 to be supplemented with \$2,342 of in kind services for the replacement of 635' storm drain servicing Fox Street, \$9,727 for Public Service program administration, \$50,000 to provide financial literacy

education to 30 low to moderate income Palmer Residents and to create a Domestic Violence Task Force to be supplemented with \$40,378 of in-kind services, and \$95,460 for General Program Administration.

As of June 30, 2008 the Palmer Community Development Department has expended \$2,200.35 for Housing Rehabilitation Administration, \$0.00 \$5,647.45 for Public Facilities Administration, \$23,931.50 for upgrades to the Streets and Sidewalks servicing Fox Street, including engineering and construction oversight, \$54,324.09 for the replacement of water mains and hydrants servicing Fox Street including engineering and construction oversight, \$55,479.58 for the replacement of the sanitary sewer servicing Fox Street including engineering and construction oversight, \$10,426.37 for the replacement of the storm drainage system servicing Fox Street, including engineering and construction oversight, \$1,682.48 for Public Service Program Administration, \$7,501.24 for the Domestic Violence Task Force, \$13,615.00 for Financial Literacy Education, and \$11,609.16 for General Program Administration.

- ✓ On February 15, 2008 the Town of Palmer submitted an application in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 the Department of Housing and Community Development, Community Development Block Grant Program to finance \$50,000 (to be supplemented with \$33,650 in private financing) Housing Rehabilitation Deferred Payment Loans, \$16,867.00 for Housing Rehabilitation Program Administration, \$733,585 for the Rehabilitation of Memorial Hall, \$44,294 to administer the Rehabilitation of Memorial Hall, \$35,000 for the Domestic Violence Task Force to be supplemented with \$4,350 of in-kind services, \$2,243 to administer the Domestic Violence Task Force Program \$35,000 for the Senior Volunteer Program to be supplemented with \$22,232 of in-kind services and cash contributions, \$2,463 to administer the Senior Volunteer Program, and \$88,048 for General Administration.

✓ Economic Development Fund

On March 19, 2008 the Town of Palmer acting as the Lead Community on behalf of Belchertown, Brimfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Holland, Monson, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Spencer, Wales, Ware, Warren, and West Brookfield was awarded \$500,000 from the Massachusetts Economic Development Fund Program to finance \$69,598 for Community Economic Development Administration, \$160,000 for For Profit Loans to create and/or retain 16 jobs in the region, \$156,000 for Micro enterprise loans to create/retain 6 jobs in the region, \$10,989 for Public Service Program Administration, \$35,000 for 110 tuition waivers for computer training and business planning training, and \$68,413 for General Program Administration. The proposed program will be managed by the Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation (QVBAC), a private non-profit corporation, whose activities are administered by the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation (QVDC).

MassHousing Get the Lead Out Program

Through a partnership with Departments of [Public Health](#) and [Housing and Community Development](#), MassHousing offers an affordable way to remove hazardous lead paint from your home. The Palmer Community Development Department serves as a local rehabilitation agency assisting homeowners in getting living units inspected, determining the scope of work to be performed, getting quotes for the work to be done, applying for loans, inspecting the work that was performed and paying the contractors.

MassHousing First Time Homebuyer Purchase and Rehabilitation Program

The Palmer Community Development Department is a Local Rehabilitation Agency for the MassHousing Purchase and Rehabilitation Program.

MassHousing Purchase and Rehab loans help borrowers cover both the cost of purchasing a home in need of repairs, as well as the expense of rehabilitating that property. The maximum loan amount for a Purchase and Rehab mortgage is 97% of the purchase price plus rehabilitation costs or the estimated value of the home after rehabilitation (whichever is less). A 3% downpayment is required. To qualify for a Purchase and Rehab mortgage, you must: Be a first-time home buyer, Have a signed Purchase and Sales Agreement for a 1- to 4-family home, Be creditworthy, Have housing debt of less than 33% of your income and total monthly debt of less than 41% of your income.

The minimum rehabilitation amount for all property types is \$7,500. Rehabilitation costs include the cost of repairs, as well as such expenses as inspection fees, title update fees, and a required contingency reserve equal to 10% of the total rehabilitation cost. The lender will collect a quarter-point (0.25%) to cover loan administration. A mortgage payment reserve not to exceed four mortgage payments may be included in the cost of rehabilitation if the property will not be occupied during rehabilitation. The lender may charge fees as high as \$900 based on the cost of rehabilitation. Licensed contractors must complete all rehabilitation work. At the time of loan closing, the borrower will be responsible for the full mortgage payment on the total principal amount.

USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant

The objective of the Housing Preservation Grant program is to repair or rehabilitate individual housing, rental properties, or co-ops owned and/or occupied by very low- and low-income rural persons. Grantees will provide eligible homeowners, owners of rental properties, and owners of co-ops with financial assistance through loans, grants, interest reduction payments or other comparable financial assistance for necessary repairs and rehabilitation

On October 24, 2007 the Town of Palmer was awarded \$33,778.45 from the USDA/Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant Program to finance \$28, 12.45 Housing Rehabilitation Deferred Payment Loans and \$5,066.00 to administer the program.

On April 17, 2008 the Town of Palmer submitted an application in the amount of \$50,000 to the USDA/Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant Program to finance

\$42,500 Housing Rehabilitation Deferred Payment Loans and \$7,500 to administer the program.

Massachusetts Turnpike Authority Tourism Grant Program

On September 13, 2007 the Town of Palmer submitted an application in the amount of \$14,500 to the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority Tourism Grant Program to finance \$1,500 Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce Movie in the Park to be supplemented with \$1,450 in private financing, \$3,000 for Nostalgia Day to be supplemented with \$4,400 in private financing, \$5,000 for publishing One Town and Seven Railroads to be supplemented with \$15,000 in private financing and \$5,000 for Palmer Events Planning to undertake a marketing program.

Respectfully submitted by:

Alice Davey, Community Development Director

COUNCIL ON AGING

The mission of the Palmer Council on Aging/Senior Center is to identify the total needs of the senior population, to promote and encourage new and existing activities, to provide services and education to enhance the quality of life for elders and to assist elders to age with dignity and independence.

The Senior Center staff is obligated to create an atmosphere that acknowledges the value of human life, affirms the dignity and self-worth of the older adult participant, and maintains a climate of respect, trust and support. Within this atmosphere, the staff creates opportunities for older adults to apply their wisdom, experience and insight and to exercise their skills.

Council on Aging Board Members

Alice J. Smith, Chairperson

Genevieve Bates, 1st Vice Chair

Mary Hubert, 2nd Vice Chair

Ed Bradlenski

Betty Koss

Pearl Coyer

Debbie Strauss, Secretary

Linda Lamay

Gloria Brouillette

Audrey Julian

Ernie Charland

The Council on Aging/Senior Center had 11,712 visitors this past year. The Council on Aging provided a broad range of services to Palmer's 60+ population during the year July 1, 2007 thru June 30, 2008. Of the 2,361 Senior Citizen's of Palmer, 1,300 unduplicated elders received a direct service from the Council on Aging. Twelve issues of the Senior Center newsletters were printed and a total of 9,600 newsletters were distributed.

To care for the physical needs of our 60+ population, A Health Fair (in conjunction with Wing Hospital), Health screenings, Hearing Screenings, Eye Care, Foot Care, Exercise programs, Line Dancing & Nutrition Classes were provided at the Palmer Senior Center. 5,795 duplicated individuals took advantage of these programs. Twenty one speakers engaged to discuss health related issues and medical equipment was available at the Palmer Senior Center to be loaned at no charge as needed. Ninety five individuals took

advantage of this program. Wing Memorial Hospital provided the senior center with a nurse for 6 hours a week. She provided 369 duplicated seniors with blood pressure checks, glucose screenings and medication consultations. The Arthritis Foundation certified instructor held exercise class one day a week providing 374 duplicated seniors with this service.

A congregate meal program was held at the Palmer Senior Center, sponsored through Greater Springfield Senior Services, Inc. and the Council on Aging providing 3,785 meals. The Council on Aging continues to provide supportive services to homebound elders. Sixty two unduplicated elders were contacted by phone on a regular basis through the R-U-O-K program. In Home Meals provided 80 frail elders with a hot meal five days a week, totaling 13,427 meals.

1,320 Brown Bags were distributed to 110 seniors as part of the Western MA Food Bank Program for Seniors. Twelve seniors received fresh vegetables from the Farmshare Program, part of the Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture. They received \$10.00 per week worth of fresh vegetables for 10 weeks provided by Sully's Farm of Belchertown.

In and Out of Town Van Transportation: 165 unduplicated passengers, including 45 passengers under 60 utilized this service. 5,082 trips were taken totaling 16,063 miles. Total cost to operate this program was \$5,535.00 for oil, tires, repairs and extra driver wages paid through our Transportation Gift Account from donations. \$4,722.00 was contributed to this program through rider donations.

Individuals were helped through the Free AARP Income Tax Program. Tax Assistance, Transportation, Information and Referrals and Congregate Meals were also available to those under age 60 who are disabled. We held a celebration for every holiday and our Annual Veteran's Day Luncheon & Annual 90+ Birthday Party.

11,712 signatures were acquired from the Senior Center daily registration sheets. 12,950 phone calls were taken and 1,757 calls were from those under age 60.

There are 330 Veterans over the age of 60 and there were 108 deaths.

GRANT FUNDING

\$15,347.00 in Formula Grant money was awarded to the Palmer Council on Aging from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs in Boston for an Outreach Service Coordinator, Activities Coordinator & Volunteer Coordinator. An Outreach Service Coordinator accesses and assesses the 60+ population to all Federal, State and County Programs they may be entitled to. There were a total of 676 visits made to seniors in home or at the senior center. There were a total of 442 unduplicated units of service provided by the Outreach Service Coordinator. There were a total of 1,776 units of service provided to seniors. The Volunteer Coordinator supervised sixty five volunteers who continued to assist in various programs and activities and home assistance and transportation to doctors and grocery shopping. A total of 3,300 volunteer hours were donated to the Senior Center. If paid \$7.50 per hour, they contributed \$24,750.00 worth of service.

Springfield Senior Services for the Outreach Position for 12 hours/week.

\$35,000.00 was awarded from CDBG Monies for the Volunteer Coordinator and stipends for volunteers.

\$200.00 was awarded from CISA to provide 12 seniors on the Farmshare Program with vegetable steamers.

\$1,325.00 was awarded from the Palmer Cultural Council Grants for various programs.

\$500.00 was awarded from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care for exercise programs.

The Palmer Council on Aging has two wonderful organizations who work very hard at fundraising to benefit the senior center. The Friends of the Palmer Senior Center and The Palmer Senior Citizens Club both gave generously to purchase items for the senior center in 2007-2008. Thanks for all your hard work to improve our senior center.

I would like to thank all of the staff, volunteers and the Council on Aging Board Members for all the work that they do all year. They are very dedicated and caring people who strive to provide the best services for the elders in Palmer.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Pincince, Director

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICE

The year 2008 has been both trying and satisfying for the Veterans' Service Department. The department has reached out to its Veterans by holding Office hours (9 to 11 A.M.) on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Palmer Senior Center. Traffic has been steady at this new location and it seems to be a good situation for the seniors. Veteran's traffic in the Office has remained steady and the number of Veterans filing for Federal benefits has picked up some.

The Commonwealth has been making changes to benefit the Veteran and their families. I continue to keep myself informed by attending conferences/ meetings on the changes in Chapter 115 benefits and changes in the Federal regulations on Veterans' Benefits. This is all done with keeping the Veteran and their needs in mind.

During these times, the Town of Palmer has stayed committed to helping the Veterans' of this Town. The Offices increased efforts in the area of outreach has helped in getting the word out on what is available to the Veteran and his Spouse (widow) and stays committed to serving the Veteran Community.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark A. Avis, Director of Veterans' Service

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Palmer Historical Commission's monthly meetings are held on the last Wednesday of each month in the History Room of the Palmer Public Library. At these meetings, which are open to the public, topics of historical significance as they pertain to the Town of Palmer are discussed.

Members of the Palmer Historical Commission frequently interact with personnel at the Massachusetts Historical Commission on topics related to historical preservation and projects pertaining to National Historic Register nominations.

is located at 13 Fletcher Street. The facility consists of 48 one bedroom units that originally opened up in 1971. The state-aided complex operates under the State Chapter 667 Elderly/Handicapped Program. All the rules and regulations are promulgated by the Department of Housing and Community Development and have been adopted by the Palmer Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, carried out by 2 part times staff

Applications are available upon request in the office on 13 Fletcher Street or by phone, 283-9311. A preference is given to local residents and local veterans of 60 years of age or better. The current net income for eligibility is \$40,450 for one person and \$47,350 for two persons. As units become available they are filled from the waiting list of eligible applicants. Ten vacancies were filled between July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008, of which seven persons were local residents.

The Board of Commissioners consists of 5 members, 4 elected and 1 governor appointee. The Commissioners meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 4:00 P.M., to conduct the authority business.

The goal of the Board of Commissioners is to maintain the properties and to continue to provide clean, safe and affordable housing to those in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica A. Strzemienski, Chairperson
Treasurer

Margaret Higgins, Assistant

Ronald W. Lemanski, Vice Chairperson
Germaine Lefebvre, Treasurer/State Appointee

Mildred Jasak, Commissioner

PALMER REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

No report this period.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Palmer Zoning Board of Appeals received 2 applications for various petitions in efforts to meet the dimensional requirements to the Town of Palmer Zoning Ordinance for the 12-month time period from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

The Board held public hearings on all applications received according to the provisions of Chapter 40-A, Section 11, of the Massachusetts General Laws. As a result of the hearings, 1 Variance was filed and denied, and 1 Finding was filed and granted. No other applications were received.

Additionally, the Board saw new activity regarding the Comprehensive Permit issued for the Chapter 40B Condominium project known as Crystal Lake Village, Fuller Street, Bondsville. The new Shareholder re-initiated construction of the development and due to this, the ZBA held three consultation meetings with the developer. These meetings included detailed reviews of the various required documents and approval of a lottery agent. At this time three occupancy permits have been issued with the project completion date anticipated to be within the next two years.

Income from the Board received was in the amount of \$200.00. These fees are collected to cover public hearing expenses.

Respectfully submitted,

Antonio Andre, Chairman
Norman Czech, Vice Chairman
Ingrid Thompson, Clerk
Russell Brown, Member

Dennis Fountain, Member
Walter Solzak, Alternate
Gary Doane, Alternate

(continued on next page)

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL FINANCE
TOWN ACCOUNTANT
FY08 Appropriation Report

Dept	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered	Original	Transfers/ Appropriation Amendments	Revised	Expended	Balance	Encumbered	Ending	
											From 2007
					Appropriation Amendments						
111	Town Council	Expenditures		325.00	(250.00)	75.00	33.05	41.95		41.95	
123	Town Manager	Salaries		156,664.00	46,101.00	202,765.00	198,057.94	4,707.06		4,707.06	
		Expenses		16,168.00	750.00	16,918.00	15,891.09	1,026.91		1,026.91	
130	Audit	Expenditures		21,000.00		21,000.00	19,500.00	1,500.00		1,500.00	
132	Reserve	Transfers		7,500.00	(7,500.00)	-	-	-		-	
	Actuarial	Expense		8,000.00	(8,000.00)	-	-	-		-	
135	Accountant	Salaries		74,929.00	50.00	74,979.00	74,934.49	44.51	25.79	18.72	
		Expenses		900.00	3,594.00	4,494.00	4,494.00	-		-	
137	Central Purch.	Expenses	5,861.97	190,500.00	40,351.03	236,713.00	231,341.07	5,371.93		5,371.93	
141	Assessors	Salaries		79,763.00	-	79,763.00	77,244.51	2,518.49	26.83	2,491.66	
		Expenses	37,291.00	15,075.00	-	52,366.00	41,041.54	11,324.46	11,280.00	44.46	
145	Treasurer	Salaries		67,920.00	(4,900.00)	63,020.00	61,057.88	1,962.12	360.00	1,602.12	
		Expenses			382.00						

146 Collector	Salaries	12,825.00	13,207.00	5,308.05	7,898.95	7,898.95
	Expenses	84,302.00	80,352.00	71,083.43	9,268.57	9,268.57
151 Laws & Claims	Salaries	2,525.00	10,525.00	10,506.71	18.29	18.29
	Contract	21,000.00	21,000.00	21,000.00	-	-
155 Computer Maint.	Expenses	11,800.00	11,300.00	10,155.00	1,145.00	1,145.00
161 Town Clerk	Salaries	48,308.00	66,296.00	66,000.67	295.33	295.33
	Expenses	79,215.00	79,215.00	78,512.75	702.25	702.25
162 Elections & Reg	Salaries	1,990.00	2,111.40	1,988.56	122.84	122.84
	Expenses	3,310.18	18,418.18	15,970.84	2,447.34	2,447.34
171 Conservation	Salaries	9,175.00	12,310.35	10,760.38	1,549.97	1,549.97
	Expenses	10,400.00	10,400.00	10,300.00	100.00	100.00
175 Planning Board	Salaries	1,275.00	1,291.20	1,097.11	194.09	194.09
	Expenses	74,355.00	74,355.00	73,329.70	1,025.30	1,025.30
	Other Misc.	7,000.00	11,969.00	8,541.43	3,427.57	3,393.64
176 Board of Appeals	Expenditures	1,450.00	1,450.00	1,075.80	374.20	374.20
192 Building	Custodian	100.00	100.00	45.00	55.00	55.00
	Expenses	8,482.00	7,979.85	7,979.62	0.23	0.23
193 Memorial Hall	Custodian	1,600.00	36,132.29	35,618.68	513.61	282.61
		6,785.00	6,785.00	6,648.60	136.40	136.40

Expenses	160.47	8,950.00	(961.00)	8,149.47	7,977.68	171.79	171.79
195 Town Reports	Expenses					-	-
210 Police	Salaries	1,800.00	16.49	1,816.49			
	Expenses	1,583,489.00	11,568.26	1,595,057.26	1,594,028.71	1,028.55	983.02
210 Police	Capital	112,950.00	6,228.44	135,403.46	127,166.87	8,236.59	5,217.44
220 Forest Warden	Salaries	30,000.00	(3,796.70)	26,203.30	26,203.30	0.04	0.04
	Expenses	2,500.00		2,500.00	2,499.96		
241 Building Inspec.	Salaries	150.00		150.00		150.00	150.00
	Expenses	46,634.00		46,634.00	46,257.76	376.24	350.00
242 Gas Inspector	Salaries	100.00		100.00	90.00	10.00	10.00
243 Plumbing Inspec.	Salaries	100.00		100.00		100.00	100.00
244 Sealer	Salaries	100.00		100.00		100.00	100.00
	Expenses	2,750.00		2,750.00	2,750.00	-	-
245 Electrical	Salaries	250.00	137.00	387.00	386.03	0.97	0.97
291 Civil Defense	Salaries	100.00		100.00	85.00	15.00	15.00
	Expenditures	3,500.00	0.04	3,500.04	3,500.04	-	-
292 Dog Officer	Salaries	500.00	(0.04)	499.96	339.27	160.69	160.69
	Expenses	18,087.00		18,087.00	18,087.00	-	-
293 Animal Insp.	Salaries	3,300.00	(0.04)	3,306.17	3,297.96	8.21	8.21

294 Forestry	Expenses	1,448.00	0.04	1,448.04	1,448.04	0.99	
310 Schools	Salaries	20,000.00	(109.00)	19,891.00	19,890.01		0.99
	Expenses	1,761,339.54	(410,731.24)	12,396,243.30	10,782,326.52	1,613,916.78	1,613,916.78
320 Pathfinder	Assessment	167,000.00	410,731.24	4,792,096.24	4,607,888.65	184,207.59	183,771.89
410 Consulting Eng.	Expenditures	1,385,345.00	(14,000.00)	1,371,345.00	1,371,293.00	52.00	52.00
421 Highway	Salaries	75.00		75.00		75.00	75.00
	Expenses	325.00	2,159.00	447,687.00	443,841.78	3,845.22	3,845.22
422 Hwy Construction	Maintenance	491.42	17,104.75	60,896.17	49,266.94	11,629.23	11,265.91
423 Snow & Ice	Overtime	7.80	(2,243.25)	65,514.55	62,917.01	2,597.54	2,597.54
	Supplies	18,000.00		18,000.00	73,722.30	(55,722.30)	(55,722.30)
424 Street Lights	Expenses	49,425.00		49,425.00	263,277.76	(213,852.76)	(213,852.76)
	Expenses	1.46		108,506.39	108,504.93	1.46	1.46
425 RR Crossing	Expenses	92,000.00	16,504.93	108,506.39			
433 Waste Removal	Expenses	4,000.00	(3,600.00)	400.00		400.00	400.00
435 Ground Water	Expenses	10,500.00	(1,000.00)	9,500.00	9,341.61	158.39	158.39
491 Cemetery	Salaries	3,000.00		21,500.00	18,848.44	2,651.56	2,589.75
	Expenses	85,593.00	125.00	85,718.00	84,958.47	759.53	759.53
510 BOH	Salaries	136.67	(125.00)	14,561.67	13,334.07	1,227.60	1,227.60
	Expenses	18,495.00		18,495.00	18,344.50	150.50	150.50
523 Valley Human Services	Expenses	850.00		850.00	800.49	49.51	49.51
							-

919 Medicare		197,783.00		197,783.00	197,690.75	92.25	92.25
945 Gen. Ins.	Misc.				323,669.15	21.85	21.85
Total G.F. Budget		316,000.00	7,691.00	323,691.00	323,669.15	21.85	21.85
		<u>2,620,770.31</u>	<u>31,297,418.00</u>	<u>34,008,663.47</u>	<u>32,292,927.35</u>	<u>1,715,736.12</u>	<u>1,832,129.41</u>
							<u>(116,393.29)</u>

Snow and Ice to recap							\$ 269,575.06
Total to Fund Balance							\$ 153,181.77

Palmer WWTP

Dept	Dept. Name	Encumbered	Original	Transfers/ Amendment s	Revised	Expended	Balance	Encumbered	Ending
		From 2006	Appropriation		Budget		To 2008		Balance
443	WWTP Salaries	\$ 527,986.00	\$ 527,986.00		\$ 527,986.00	517,474.37	\$ 10,511.63		\$ 10,511.63
	WWTP Expenditures	\$ 40,155.19	\$ 951,900.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 1,017,055.19	889,029.87	\$ 128,025.32	\$ 603.25	\$ 127,422.07
	Sewer Maintenance	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00		\$ 75,000.00	73,416.88	\$ 1,583.12		\$ 1,583.12
	Due to G.F.	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 562,880.00	\$ 637,880.00	590,710.29	\$ 47,169.71		\$ 47,169.71
Total WWTP Budget		\$ 40,155.19	\$ 1,629,886.00	\$ 587,880.00	\$ 2,257,921.19	\$ 2,070,631.41	\$ 187,289.78	\$ 603.25	\$ 186,686.53

Total Budget	\$ 32,927,304.00
Revision December 07(Pathfinder Assessment)	\$ (14,000.00)
Final	<u>\$ 32,913,304.00</u>

ASSESSORS

LOCAL EXPENDITURES

Appropriations	\$33,162,338.00
Offsets	40,072.00
Deferral of Teacher's Pay	152,807.00
Snow & Ice Deficits	148,382.64
State & County Charges	277,096.00
Overlay	178,874.49

TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE RAISED **\$33,959,570.13**

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS AND OTHER REVENUE SOURCES

Cherry Sheet Estimated Receipts	\$13,827,040.00
Massachusetts School Building Authority Payments	2,025,950.00
Local Estimated Receipts	4,034,968.00
Other Available Funds	234,034.00
Free Cash	15,000.00
Free Cash to reduce the tax rate	41,450.00
Teacher's Pay Deferral	114,606.00

TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS **\$20,293,048.00**

NET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED **\$13,666,522.13**

NET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED / TOTAL VALUATION = TAX RATE FY2007

\$13,666,522.13 / 1,041,655,651 = \$13.12

CLASSIFIED PERCENTAGES

	LEVY PERCENTAGE	LEVY BY CLASS
RESIDENTIAL	83.1475	\$11,363,372.58
OPEN SPACE	0	0
COMMERCIAL	7.8810	1,077,055.96
INDUSTRIAL	5.0166	685,601.34
PERSONAL PROPERTY		3.9549
		<u>540,492.25</u>
	100.00%	\$13,666,512.13

VALUATION BY CLASS

RESIDENTIAL	866,110,715
OPEN SPACE	0
COMMERCIAL	82,092,680
INDUSTRIAL	52,256,200
PERSONAL PROPERTY	41,196,056
TOTAL VALUATION	1,041,655,651

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly A. Morin, Assessor

TAX COLLECTOR / TREASURER

The office of tax collector/treasurer has been in transition during the past fiscal year. Gregory Falcone was hired on August 6, 2007 and resigned in January, 2008. Bruce Turner was hired on March 17, 2008 and resigned in May of 2008. At the time of this report, the town is actively searching a replacement for this position.

PARKING CLERK

The Tax Collector/Treasurer also holds the title of Parking Clerk and there is no report for this period.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE DEPARTMENT

From July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, the Palmer Police Department answered approximately 14,759 calls for service. From these calls, 1,712 criminal offenses were recorded and investigated. Additionally, 785 individuals were arrested and/or summoned to court. More than 1,893 traffic citations were issued and 381 traffic accidents, involving 610 operators, were investigated. These accidents resulted in injuries to 132 individuals, including one fatality. A complete statistical report of the year's activity follows this report.

The department is currently comprised of 19 full-time and 2 part-time police officers, who are supported by 6 full-time and one part-time non-sworn staff members.

The department received the following grants during this reporting period:

Community Policing Grant (Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security) - \$38,000 to aid in the development, implementation, and maintenance of community policing programs and initiatives. Our programs include Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) training, bicycle patrols, targeted traffic enforcement patrols, seat belt enforcement, public presentations,

and many others. We owe a debt of gratitude to our state senator, Stephen Brewer, and our representative, Todd Smola, who were instrumental in securing these funds for us.

Traffic Enforcement Grant (Governor's Highway Safety Bureau) - \$10,000 total award. \$7,000 used for speed, seat belt, drunk driving and red light enforcement as part of the state's "Click It or Ticket" and "You Drink – You Drive – You Lose" campaigns. \$3,000 used to purchase radar units and tint meters.

Financing The Repair, Renovation, And Construction Of Municipal Police Stations (Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety) - \$25,000 for the repair and renovation of the police section of the town building. Along with \$25,000 in matching funds provided by the town, these funds were used to renovate the Dispatch Center. New ergonomic dispatch consoles were installed, new flooring was installed, old and obsolete electrical wiring was removed, and the public lobby was made more secure by installing a more secure door, and bullet-proof plating and glass between the lobby and the dispatch center.

I would like to thank the staff of the Police Department for their dedication and commitment to their department and to their community. Statistically, we remain one of the busiest municipal police agencies in our area. We provide a high level of service with a substandard police facility and far fewer resources than many police departments of similar size. In spite of this, our staff remains true to their mission to provide professional services to the town.

I would also like to thank President Matthew Lovell and the members of the Town Council, former Town Manager Richard Fitzgerald, Interim Town Manager Patricia Kennedy, the town's fire departments and fire chiefs, acting DPW Director Richard Kaczmarczyk and his staff, and all the other town offices and departments for their support and cooperation throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert P. Frydryk
Chief of Police

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OFFENSE (IBR)	FY 2008												JUN TOTALS
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
ARSON			3	1					1				5
ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED	8	7		3	4	1	3	6	4	2	7	5	50
ASSAULT - SIMPLE	8	15	14	12	17	11	8	4	8	7	17	10	131
BAD CHECKS							1					1	2
BURGLARY / BREAKING AND ENTERING	12	11	6	11	4	9	12	9	7	5	9	6	101
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY		2	1		2		1		1				7
CREDIT CARD / ATM FRAUD			1										1
DESTRUCTION / DAMAGE / VANDALISM	8	9	16	15	6	19	11	9	9	14	10	6	132
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	8	5	7	5	2	5	9	12	3	8	19	8	91
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	8	1	2	2	6	2	1	4	1	4	1		32
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	7	2	2	3	5	1	7	5	3	6	42	4	87
DRUG EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS				1									1
DRUNKENNESS	22	14	17	15	12	18	7	14	8	14	20	8	169
EMBEZZLEMENT			1									1	2
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE	1		2			1	2		2				8
FORCIBLE FONDLING		1					1		1				3
FORCIBLE RAPE			2		1								3
IMPERSONATION		3		1	1						2		7
INTIMIDATION		2	6	1	9	5	1	4	2	4	5	3	42
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	7		15	1		13			2	1	1	2	42
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	4		2		2	1			2	3	1	1	16
MURDER AND NONNEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER	1												1
PORNOGRAPHY / OBSCENE MATERIAL	2												2
PURSE-SNATCHING						1			1				2
ROBBERY	2				1		1						4
RUNAWAY								1		2			3
SEXUAL ASSAULT WITH AN OBJECT	1								1				2
SHOPLIFTING		1	2			2				5	2	1	13
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES		1		1					2	1	1		6
THEFT FROM BUILDING	1		2	5	6		6		1		1		22
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	1		1	3	3	2	2	4	9	2	2	5	34
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS/ACCESSORIES		3	3	4			4	1	4	1		2	22
TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES	43	23	27	38	53	31	33	22	28	35	31	12	376
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY	5	6	2	1	2	6	1	1	2	5	3		34
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS	1				9	2			1	1	1		15
ALL OTHER LARCENY	8	9	10	7	8	8	3	3	12	8	5	7	88
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	14	14	20	8	14	10	13	11	14	8	14	16	156
TOTALS	172	129	164	138	167	148	127	110	129	136	194	98	1,712

OFFENSE (IBR)	FY 2008												TOTALS
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED	4	3	0	0	2	0	1	3	5	1	3	3	25
ASSAULT - SIMPLE	6	9	8	9	13	4	7	0	5	6	9	7	83
BURGLARY / BREAKING AND ENTERING	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	2	1	0	3	13
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
CREDIT CARD / ATM FRAUD	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
DESTRUCTION / DAMAGE / VANDALISM	1	0	2	6	0	12	0	0	1	0	2	3	27
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	3	2	3	1	0	2	5	7	2	4	6	3	38
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	7	0	2	1	5	2	1	3	1	4	1	0	27
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	6	3	3	2	3	4	6	5	6	5	19	3	65
DRUG EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
DRUNKENNESS	22	14	17	15	12	18	7	14	8	14	20	8	169
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
FORCIBLE FONDLING	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
FORCIBLE RAPE	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
INTIMIDATION	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	5
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	5	0	7	1	0	14	0	0	1	0	1	24	53
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
RUNAWAY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
SEXUAL ASSAULT WITH AN OBJECT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
SHOPLIFTING	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	2	0	1
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	5
THEFT FROM BUILDING	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS/ACCESSORIES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES	11	7	9	15	16	17	12	7	10	9	14	7	134
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY	4	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	15
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	6
ALL OTHER LARCENY	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	8
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	4	9	11	6	5	8	10	8	8	5	7	7	88
TOTALS	76	57	67	58	64	85	50	53	56	59	87	73	785

OFFENSES (IN ARRESTS) BY AGE GROUP – FY 2008

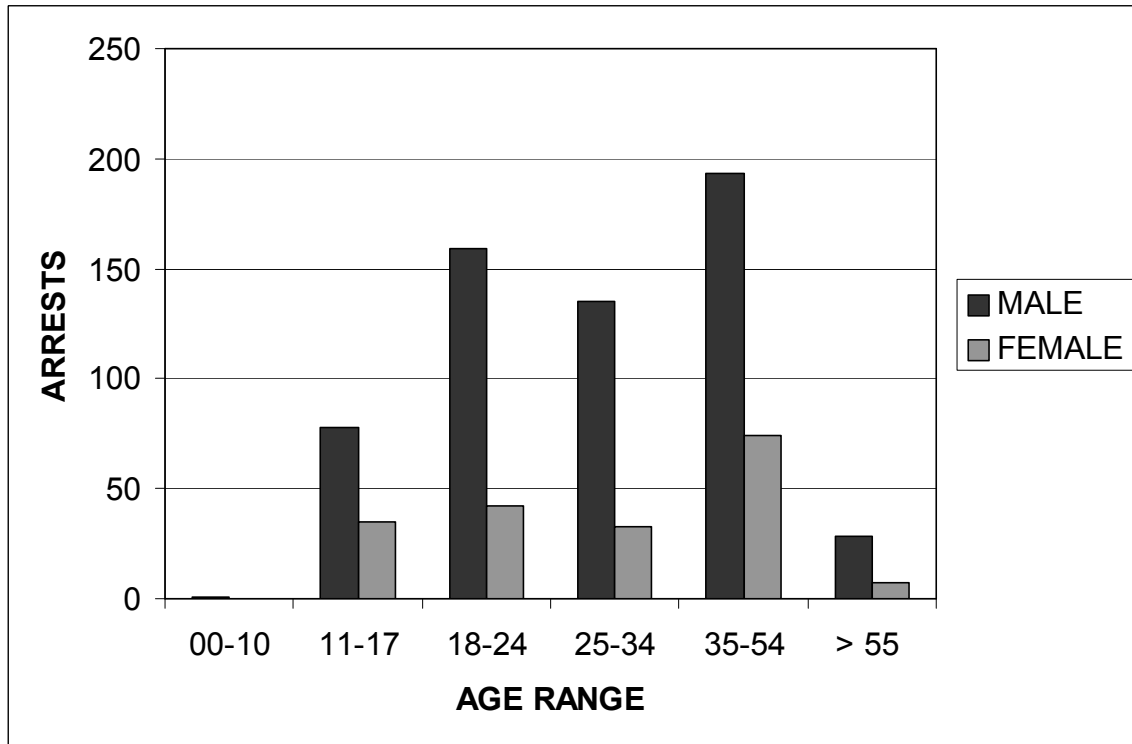
OFFENSE	OFFENDER AGE RANGE						TOTALS
	00-10	11-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	> 55	
ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED	1	7	6	5	6		25
ASSAULT - SIMPLE		10	20	18	31	4	83
BURGLARY / BREAKING AND ENTERING			2	7	3	1	13
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY					1		1
CREDIT CARD / ATM FRAUD				2			2
DESTRUCTION / DAMAGE / VANDALISM		15	3	6	2	1	27
DISORDERLY CONDUCT		3	8	11	15	1	38
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE			5	5	12	5	27
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS		19	24	12	9	1	65
DRUG EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS				1			1
DRUNKENNESS		2	45	31	83	8	169
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE		1					1
FORCIBLE FONDLING					1		1
FORCIBLE RAPE				1			1
INTIMIDATION			1	1	3		5
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS		26	27				53
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT					1		1
RUNAWAY		2					2
SEXUAL ASSAULT WITH AN OBJECT		1					1
SHOPLIFTING		1	5	2	1		9
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES		2	1		2		5
THEFT FROM BUILDING			1		1		2
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS/ACCESSORIES		2					2
TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES		6	37	35	48	8	134
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY		2	2	1	8	2	15
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS		1	1	2	2		6
ALL OTHER LARCENY		3	2		3		8
ALL OTHER OFFENSES		6	15	28	35	4	88
TOTALS	1	109	205	168	267	35	785

WEAPONS INVOLVED IN OFFENSES – FY 2008

Weapon Type	Occurrence(s)	Percentage
None	1,509	88.14%
Personal Weapons (Hands/Feet/Etc)	130	7.59%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	22	1.29%
Blunt Object	17	0.99%
Other	17	0.99%
Rifle	4	0.23%
Shotgun	4	0.23%
Unknown	3	0.18%
Handgun	2	0.12%
Motor Vehicle	2	0.12%
Firearm (Unspecified)	2	0.12%
Total Occurrences	1,712	100.00%

RACE/SEX	AGE GROUP						TOTALS	Hispanic
	00-10	11-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	> 55		
Asian/Pacific Islander								
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black								
Female	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0
Male	0	2	3	8	5	1	19	2
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian/Alaskan Native								
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown								
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White								
Female	0	35	41	33	73	7	189	18
Male	1	76	156	127	186	27	573	7
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
TOTALS	1	113	201	168	266	35	785	29

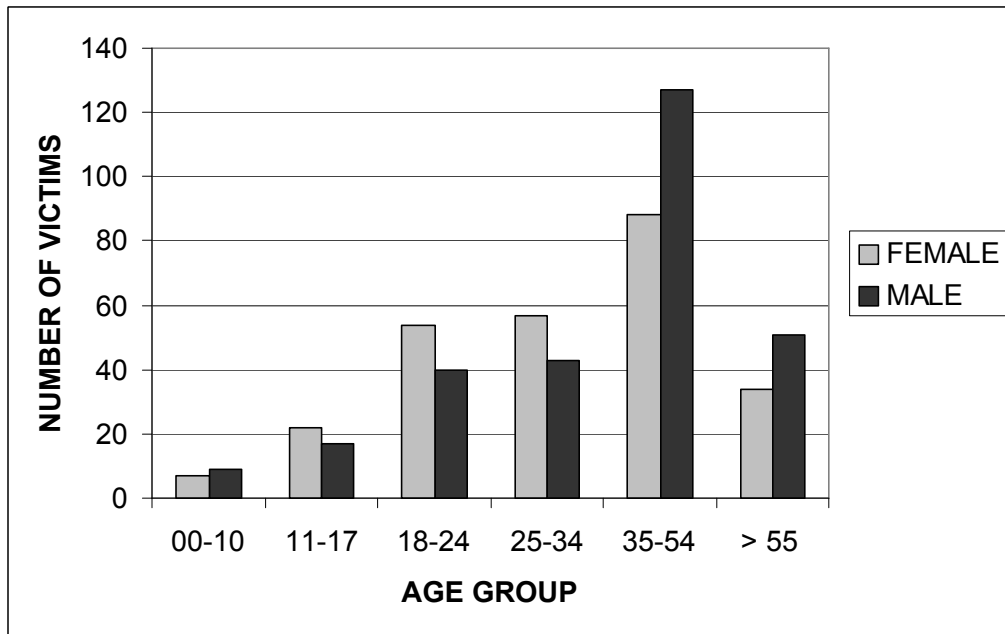
ARRESTEE BY AGE AND SEX (GRAPH) – FY 2008



VICTIMS BY AGE / SEX / RACE – FY 2008

RACE/SEX	AGE GROUP						TOTALS	Hispanic
	00-10	11-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	> 55		
<u>Asian/Pacific Islander</u>								
Female	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black								
Female	0	1	4	1	1	0	7	0
Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian/Alaskan Native								
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown								
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White								
Female	7	21	50	55	86	34	253	2
Male	9	17	40	42	127	51	286	7
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	16	39	94	100	215	85	549	9

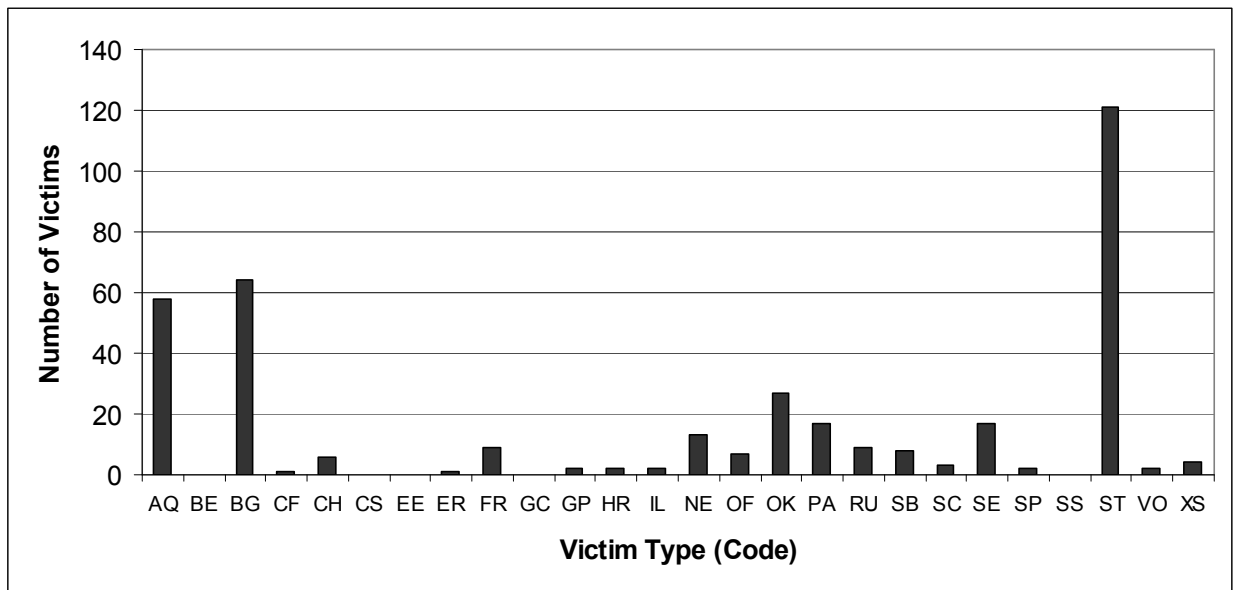
VICTIMS BY AGE GROUP AND SEX (GRAPH) – FY 2008



RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIMS TO OFFENDERS – FY 2008

CODE	RELATIONSHIP	TOTALS	CODE	RELATIONSHIP	TOTALS
AQ	Acquaintance	58	NE	Neighbor	13
BE	Babysittee	0	OF	Other Family Member	7
BG	Boy/Girl Friend	64	OK	Otherwise Known	27
CF	Child of Boy/Girl Friend	1	PA	Parent	17
CH	Child	6	RU	Relationship Unknown	9
CS	Common-Law Spouse	0	SB	Sibling	8
EE	Employee	0	SC	Stepchild	3
ER	Employer	1	SE	Spouse	17
FR	Friend	9	SP	Stepparent	2
GC	Grandchild	0	SS	Stepsibling	0
GP	Grandparent	2	ST	Stranger	121
HR	Homosexual Relationship	2	VO	Victim was Offender	2
IL	In-Law	2	XS	Ex-Spouse	4
TOTALS					375

RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIMS TO OFFENDERS (GRAPH) – FY 2008



VICTIM INJURIES – FY 2008

Injury Type	Occurrence(s)	Percentage
None	108	56.25%
Apparent Minor Injury	73	38.02%
Severe Laceration	5	2.60%
Possible Internal Injuries	3	1.56%
Other Major Injury	2	1.04%
Unconsciousness	1	0.52%
Total Occurrences	192	100.00%

ANIMAL INSPECTOR

All inspections ordered by the Division of Livestock Disease Control have been completed and requirements of Section 19, Chapter 129 of the General Laws of Massachusetts have been complied with and reports filed with the Division at 100 Causeway Street, Boston, MA.

Between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008, there were 42 visits made to examine and quarantine dogs and cats known to have bitten people and animals. None showed symptoms of rabies and were released after ten days.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederick J. Guzik, Animal Inspector
Wanda Guzik, Asst. Animal Inspector

DOG OFFICER

544 Complaints were received and followed up for compliance.

36 Lost dogs and cats were reported

8 Dogs were adopted @\$10. each

Burials

6 cats	5 raccoons
1 snake	2 foxes
1 opossum	10 deer

Fines issued to dog owners who did not obey the Palmer Leash Law.

1st Offense \$25.00

2nd Offense \$35.00

3rd Offense \$50.00 In 2007 there were 18 fines issued at \$25. each and 1 fine at \$35.00 each.

Total fines collected for FY08 = \$485.00

Respectfully submitted,
Frederick J. Guzik, Dog Officer
Wanda Guzik, Asst. Dog Officer

NOTICE TO TOWN RESIDENTS

2008 Dog licenses are due April 1-May 31. All stray dogs are held for ten days and then become the property of the Town of Palmer. They are then offered for adoption for a fee of \$10.00.

License Fees: Male \$15.00	Female \$15.00
Neutered Male \$5.00	Spayed Female \$5.

REPORT OF THE FOREST FIRE WARDEN

There were 62 responses for this period

Incident Type:

Forest, woods or wildland fires:	0
Brush, or brush and grass mixture fires:	16
Grass Fires:	2
Unauthorized burning:	41
Authorized controlled burning:	2
Citizen's complaint:	1

I would like to thank our Firefighters and Officers for their response, neighboring fire departments for providing mutual aid, Town Manager Richard Fitzgerald, Town Council, Palmer Police Department, and the Central Emergency Dispatchers for their assistance and cooperation provided during the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan J. Roy, Forest Fire Warden

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is a federally mandated committee that will help our community protect public health, safety, and the environment from chemical hazards. The LEPC will become the focal point for all activities involved with Title III, Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act. The following activities will become the primary responsibility of the LEPC; data collection and information management, development of an emergency response plan, data collection on accidental chemical release, dealing with public inquiries about the risks of a chemical release, and to increase public awareness about the presence of hazardous materials within the Town of Palmer.

I have attended meetings and seminars sponsored by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to ensure that we are current on emergency planning and hazardous materials response procedures. We continue to maintain and update the town's master plan for hazardous materials response and conduct drills for response agencies. Required administrative and emergency personnel have been tested and certified in the National Incident Management System. The LEPC has been attending meetings to become a participant in a Regional Emergency Planning Committee. It is out intentions to become a more efficient system by sharing information, ideas, and resources within the REPC.

Chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction present new dangers to first responders and the public. Local emergency response agencies attend training and seminars to be prepared

in the event of an emergency. The Palmer Fire Department maintains a federally funded Mass Decontamination Unit in partnership with the UMass Wing Memorial Hospital. Firefighters, Fire Officers, and hospital personnel have completed training on this unit and will expand our training to other local fire departments. We have received grant funds to operate and maintain inventory for the mass decon unit.

I would like to recognize the private and public agencies that are members of the Local Emergency Planning Committee:

Town Manager's Office, Town Council, Palmer Police Department, Palmer, Three Rivers, Bondsville Fire Departments, Board of Health, Department of Public Works, Office of Emergency Management, Conservation Committee, Palmer School Department, UMass/Wing Hospital, Palmer Waste Water Treatment, Palmer, Three Rivers, Bondsville, Thorndike Water Departments, Palmer Ambulance Service, Inc., and community representatives.

In closing, I thank all the agencies and representatives who have taken their own time to attend meetings held throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan J. Roy, Chairman, Local Emergency Planning Committee

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Highway – Parks – Cemetery - Wastewater

The Department Of Public Works consists of four divisions: Highway, Parks, Cemetery and Water Pollution Control.

With the exception of the Water Pollution Control Plant, which is funded with sewer user fees, all other divisions are funded through the town's general operating budget.

HIGHWAYS

The maintenance of roads and highways throughout the town requires various methods of treatment to maintain 110 plus miles of roads. Methods range from complete rebuilding to milling and paving, crack sealing, stone and oil and chip sealing.

Last year over a mile and a half of road was reconstructed using the reclamation and paving method and an additional 16 roads received crack sealing. Additionally four low traffic roads were surfaced with stone and oil.

Due to high cost of oil which affects the price of asphalt, the amount of paving that we were able to accomplish this past year has diminished 60% from where it was five years ago. Although Chapter 90 funds were restored to levels they were five years ago, no increase was included to cover the rising cost of materials. The towns portion of road material funds has not been increased over the last several budgets which has also made it difficult to keep up with routine maintenance with no funds available for construction.

We continue to encounter problems not only with the roads but also drainage and sewer issues. As the infrastructure ages, the severity of problems increase. Last year, several main line sewer

collapses were addressed in different areas of the town with the majority of problems encountered in the village of Thorndike.

With the ability to not only clean the lines with the Vacuum truck but also to inspect them using video technology, we are now able to identify problems, know exactly what the problem is and where to excavate to correct it, thereby eliminating costly unnecessary excavation and guess work.

A system for the cleaning of catch basins and culverts has been used to pinpoint areas, that require attention to reduce the potential for flooding during heavy rain events. Although some flooding does still occur due to undersized pipe and other factors, the incidents compared to several years ago has decreased.

Tree trimming and removal of dead and diseased trees is ongoing over the last several years. Many trees, that would have been likely to fall during a storm, have been removed or trimmed reducing the number of trees that are damaged by high winds or storms.

Problems still remain with trash and unwanted furniture and appliances being discarded along back roads and tree belts. Although the town has bulky days, this problem has been increasing steadily and is an eyesore to the public.

The snow and ice season was a long and expensive one. The season began on November 20,2007 and lasted until March 27,2008. Crews responded to over 47 different incidents to plow sand or remove snow within this time period. The largest increase in the snow operations can be attributed to cost of salt and fuel. Even with all equipment from the parks and cemetery division assisting in snow removal, there is still the need to hire additional equipment to clear the 110 plus miles of roads as well as all town owned parking lots, schools, library and senior center.

The Fox Street infrastructure project was underway this past summer. This is a continuation of projects in conjunction with the Community Development, Palmer Water Dept and the Dept Of Public Works Department. Work involves the complete replacement of water, sewer and storm drain and repaving to enhance and upgrade the neighborhood. The previous year Chestnut and Arch streets were completed in the same manner. This is the fourth in this series of projects, which has resulted in over 2 million dollars of work being done to local streets with grant money.

The need to begin replacing equipment within the Public Works Department is rapidly approaching. Trucks in the Parks and Highway division need repairs and the age and condition of these vehicles make repairs impracticable. Also the town needs to consider the option of moving the present Highway garage to a new location where all the Public Works divisions can be housed and equipment maintained in a centralized location.

PARKS

The Parks division continues to struggle with loss of employees. Last year's retirement of Mr. Richard Les, who had worked for the department for sixteen years, resulted in that position not being filled. With the loss of this position, over 5 full time employees have been reduced in the

Parks since 1991. Presently, the Parks has three times the area and fields to maintain and less personnel than ever before.

Legion Field has been used to the extent that in the near future it will be ready for a complete rehabilitation. Since the installation of the lights, field use has increased to the point where over 54 events were held in the fall in less than 45 days. The field was last graded and turfed in the late sixties and although it is constantly seeded and maintained, the amount of use is more than it can withstand without doing some type of renovations and improvement.

The wading pool at Eager Field was open last summer for the area children to enjoy. This will be open again beginning July 1st this year for an 8-week period.

The old concrete wading pool located at Burleigh Park was removed this past fall. After being constructed in the late sixties, the pool was deemed beyond repair. It was decided to remove the pool for insurance reasons. Plans call for the area around the pavilion and the pool to be regraded and seeded to increase the useable area around the pavilion.

With the loss of personnel and the shifting of personnel from other departments, it was still a problem to prepare fields for the upcoming sports season. Park crews received help preparing the fields at Burleigh Park from volunteers from the Peewee organization, which was appreciated. The fields at Burleigh Park are in dire need of reconstruction. First built in the late sixties, these fields have not been overhauled in over 40 years. They need to be upgraded to insure a safe area for the children to continue their baseball programs. The ability to properly fund the maintenance of the fields is something the town has not been able to do for years and has resulted in field deterioration.

All areas were used to the fullest extent during the year with minimal amount of downtime. This fall plans call for Chase Field to be refurbished to allow for better field rotation. Additionally, two portable water cannons were purchased to provide watering to such areas as Chase field that has no irrigation.

The area around the gazebo in Three Rivers was spruced up with removal of the older and overgrown plants and replaced with a new landscape. The Chamber Of Commerce of Three Rivers continues to help with the upkeep of the common with annual planting of flowers around the war memorial. There remains a set of conceptual plans on file for the rehabilitation of this area but again funding is the key to the project.

The Bondsville Boy Scout Troop also helped this past year as they donated their time to clean and repaint the playground equipment in Endelson Park.

Although neighborhood parks are an ideal situation for the users, the reality is that in the future if funds cannot be allocated, the smaller areas may have to be consolidated into one central recreation area to eliminate duplication of equipment and services.

CEMETERY

The Cemetery Division is also feeling the strain of loss of manpower over the last several years. Maintaining the town's four cemeteries is a constant chore. The present labor force of two has

been augmented with part-time summer help over the past two years funded by the perpetual care fund interest. Additional help is provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Trial Court Community Service Program, which provides trimming and other chores. These individuals have also assisted the other departments on occasions and always do a fine job.

During the past year there were a total of 34 burials, that resulted in revenue of \$19,135.00 for the town. Aside from the weekly chores of mowing and maintaining the town's four cemeteries, personnel were finally able to replace the 70 year old water line that services the top of Oak Knoll Cemetery. Also, the windows that date back over 60 years in the main garage were replaced with new energy efficient windows to try and further reduce energy cost.

The cemeteries are in need of some improvements such as new ornamental fencing at the front of Four Corners Cemetery and restoration of the iron fence at Oak Knoll. A number of large trees need to be removed or trimmed and replaced with more ornamental or specimen trees. A total of twelve trees have been lost due to lightning strikes and decay in just the last two years.

Other areas, that will need attention soon are the stone walls along the roads at Oak Knoll. Constructed in the early 1900, the issue of proper drainage behind or at the bottom of the walls was never addressed. This has resulted in the tipping of the walls as well as rocks becoming loose and falling onto the roadways.

In June, vandals caused damage to many gravestones not only in town cemeteries but also other ones owned by area churches. Cost to fix the headstones was expensive and although the Palmer Police were able to apprehend those responsible with the help of citizens the cost may never be recouped. Vandalism not only in the cemeteries but also in other areas of the town continues to be a problem and even though the person or persons are caught in many cases they are unable to pay the cost of fixing the damage. This is passed along to the taxpayer and is money wasted in the already lean budgets of many departments.

In closing I would like to acknowledge all the employees of the Public Works Department, The Town Council and Managers Office as well as Police, Fire and Water Departments the Community Development Department all other town departments and personnel who have assisted us in the past years. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Richard Kaczmarczyk, Acting Public Works Director

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY

The past year has brought many new challenges to the PWPCF. We have just begun the renewal process for our discharge permit. This permit is written by the USEPA with local assistance from the MADEP. It consists of many different limitations and monitoring requirements to have us stay in compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act, which is amended often to tighten the requirements that we have on the effluent that leaves our treatment plant. When the permit requirements are tightened, process changes need to be made and/or different chemicals need to be used to assist us meeting these new parameters in our discharge permit. Some proposed changes cannot be met as the treatment plant is close to thirty years old and the new technologies have to be retrofitted to the existing plant structures. Needless to say, retrofitting comes with a

large price tag. Last year, I wrote of the nutrient removal project that is being mandated by the USEPA to alleviate eutrophication of Long Island Sound and Narragansett Bay that causes excessive nitrogen that in turn causes harmful algae to bloom. The end product is lower oxygen levels that can affect the fish stocks. The MADEP commissioned a study to assess the technical and financial impact to the treatment plants that discharge to the Connecticut River and its tributaries. The engineering firm that did the study in 2007 estimated that it would cost Palmer about \$24 million dollars to upgrade the treatment plant to reduce the nitrogen in our effluent. This should not come into effect for at least five years. As of now, there is no federal or state assistance except for low interest loans.

We have begun Phase 4 of the CSO separation project that needs to be completed by 2011. With the jetter/vactor truck being utilized daily, we have already completed the cleaning of the sewer and storm lines and have implemented a preventive maintenance program. The work that was done has saved the town in excess of \$70,000 because of the vactor truck compared to an outside vendor. But, when you begin to do more cleaning and inspecting than ever before, you also find problems that need to be repaired. Under the direction of the DPW Superintendent Kaczmarczyk, the wastewater/sewer and highway divisions has been able to repair or replace about 300 feet of damaged sewer lines. In the upcoming year, we have already identified nearly 600 feet in dire need of repair.

The USEPA and the MADEP are becoming much more strict with laboratory reporting. The job that took one man has now turned into a two-man job. More limitations on Palmer's discharge permit are imminent as the regulatory agencies become stricter to improve the water quality in the region's rivers.

One easy way for the community to help in keeping the sewer rate down is to check your property to insure that no sump pumps, roof leaders and floor drains are connected to your sanitary sewer. This will prevent clear water from entering the sewer system that in turn ends up at a pump station that eventually pumps the water to the main plant for treatment. By reducing the amount of water that does not need treating, it saves us money by using less chemicals and also saving electricity.

Lastly, I would like to thank the entire staff at the wastewater treatment plant for their commitment, cooperation, and professionalism that they demonstrate on a daily basis.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Skowronek, Superintendent, Palmer Water Pollution Control Facilities

PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Planning for the future and defining the role of the library in the community continued to challenge the Trustees and Staff during FY 2008. Following a ten-month process that included a patron survey, an evaluation of existing services, and a vision of the library for the next five years, the Trustees adopted the long-range plan prepared by the Strategic Planning Committee. In December 2007, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners approved the plan addressing the collection, programming, and operation of the library. In addition to establishing goals and objectives, acceptance of the five-year plan allows the library to apply for Library

Services and Technology Act grant funding. The plan serves as a guide for improving current services as well as outlining the library's future needs.

Annually at the start of the fiscal year, the Summer Reading Program offers incentives for participants who log their reading time during the 8-week program. The 2007 theme, *Catch the Beat at Your Library* involved 824 participants who logged over 7,600 days of reading. In addition, the library offered 60 programs with a total attendance of 908 including weekly story hours with crafts, guest performers, and a free roller-skating party funded in part by a \$1,760 grant from the Palmer Cultural Council. Once again, free t-shirts for all participants were made possible through the generous donations of 36 local businesses and organizations. A new program, *Books 'n Brunch*, offered a weekly opportunity to gather in the Community Room for a few hours of reading and refreshments on Monday mornings. Theme-based music programs featuring a musical petting zoo, a drum circle, a rock & roll show highlighting local bands, an Interactive DJ and karaoke dance party, and movies supported the *Catch the Beat* summer reading program. Justin Locke, author of *Real Men Don't Rehearse*, shared his experiences as a professional bassist with the Boston Pops, and A. John Thorpe & John Francesco presented *Life Rhythms*, music for relaxation. Other summer activities included creative writing and the return of *Seniors Surf the Web*, a program during which Tech-Teens assist older adults in computer use and navigating the Internet.

Although one pre-school program was eliminated due to budget constraints, a weekly schedule of story times for 3 and 4 year olds as well as toddler playgroup continued from October through March. These popular programs offer stories, playtime, and crafts for our youngest patrons.

Young Adult programming expanded its after-school Dance Dance Revolution sessions with the addition of the interactive video game Guitar Hero. Creative writing and a book club were also available options for teens. In March 2008, the library partnered with River East School-to-Career, to showcase the creativity of local teens. Students were encouraged to enter their work in visual, performing, and other communication-based arts. This *Festival of the Arts* included an exhibit, people's choice awards and a reception for attendees. In addition, The Teen Advisory Board planned and implemented its first *Fall Festival* with activities for children and their families, as well as hosting a most successful second annual *Gingerbread House Workshop*.

The work of our computer-savvy Tech-Teens now includes *Tales by Mail* offering patrons the opportunity to record stories for grandchildren and loved ones who may be far away. Using a laptop and microphone, stories are recorded and then transferred to a CD which can be mailed to a family member or friend. Also, Tech-Teens are available to assist adults in one-to-one computer instruction including e-mail, document printing, and help with the library's on-line databases.

The library introduced several new programs with their own unique appeal this year. In answer to patron requests for a book discussion group, the library proposed "Wicked Wednesdays – Mystery Book Club." This popular book club meets monthly to discuss favorite mystery novels. In October, the library offered a glimpse of the PBS series "Art:21," a four part program about contemporary visual art in America. In co-operation with the Palmer High School Art Department faculty, the program presented informal discussion, performance, exhibits, and a

“clothesline sale” of local art. “Platinum Patrons” gave the library the chance to reward some of its most avid readers. 45 Palmer residents fit the criteria of having checked out 1,000 items, accruing low or no fines, and having a recent checkout at the library. Each Platinum Patron received a certificate, chose a book or other material to be added to the collection in his/her honor, and received an invitation to preview newly purchased items.

In support of adult programming and literacy, the library offers space and resources for the extensive learning opportunities provided through Top Floor Learning. This ongoing partnership with TFL strengthens the literacy and life-long learning possibilities available at the library.

In FY 2008, what began as an initiative to promote Palmer’s distinctive history as the Town of Seven Railroads resulted in the premiere of the first book published by the Palmer Public Library. After sixteen months of preparation and exhaustive research, the skilled writers/historians on the Railroad Advisory Board produced *One Town & Seven Railroads: The Railroads of Palmer, Massachusetts - Past, Present & Never Were*. Introduced at the Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show in January, the book has received rave reviews by railroad enthusiasts and historians. In addition to intriguing stories, the 128 pages are brimming with rare photographs and maps of the railroad lines crossing through Palmer on their way north, south, east and west. Palmer’s story has had a far-reaching effect with orders for the book filled for readers all across the country as well as internationally.

Outreach activities continued through delivery service by the library van to day-care centers, Kirkwood Place, Laurel Manor, Palmer Green Estates Community Center, and the Palmer Senior Center. In addition, the outreach van provides accessibility to the library by bringing materials to those patrons who are unable to come to the library.

The work of dedicated volunteers is essential not only to fundraising efforts but also to the library’s daily operations. Among their many tasks, volunteers help to prepare craft projects, assist with the Summer Reading Program, photocopy, clean books and read shelves to keep the collection in order. In addition, this year volunteers conducted several fundraising projects including the Annual Bike Race which raised \$3,000 for special library projects. A Poetry Pageant provided an entertaining evening with 20 participants reading original or favorite poems and pledging a contribution to the library. In an effort to repay the library for help he received when he first arrived here from China, a high school student volunteer offered Chinese lessons for a fee. All money raised was returned to the library. The Library Loft Book Store, in its tenth year of operation at Schoolhouse Commons, continued to fund library projects including landscaping expenses.

A fundamental benefit of the library’s membership in C/W MARS (Central Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing) is the ability for patrons to download audio and video titles, reserve books on-line, and access the catalogs of other Massachusetts libraries. In Palmer, system-side holds activity increased 26% in FY 2008. Palmer loaned 19,736 items to other libraries and borrowed 9,978 items for our patrons from other libraries.

In FY 2008, the library applied for and was awarded two grants. A \$20,000 Library Services and Technology Act grant will expand services to our youth over the next two years. “In Tune: Reaching out to ‘Tweens & Teens” focuses on programming for creative expression as well as

health and wellness issues. A \$4,860 matching grant from the Amherst Railway Society will help fund the purchase of a digital microfilm reader/printer located in the Railroad Research Center.

Statistics confirm that library use increases during challenging economic times and activity at the Palmer Public Library validates this assertion. Despite budget constraints, the library continues to offer diverse programming, provide community meeting space, and develop a collection serving the varied interests of its patrons. Maintaining these services has been accomplished through the co-operative effort of dedicated Trustees, an experienced and knowledgeable Staff, and the support of our Town Officials.

Respectfully submitted,
For the Library Board of Trustees
Nancy Bauer, Library Director

PALMER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The 2007-2008 school year began with the notable hiring of three new assistant principals: Mr. Joseph Bianca, at Palmer High School; Mrs. Jacqueline Haley, at Converse Middle School, and Dr. Susan Farrell, at Old Mill Pond School, each having excelled in their first administrative year under the direction of their respective principals.

The population of the school district has decreased by 55 students this year, ending the 2006-2007 school year with 1,912 students compared to 1,857 students ending the 2007-2008 school year. While the trend is projected to continue for at least the next few years according to the New England School Development Counsel (NESDEC) who conducted the enrollment study in the 2006-07 school year, the high school anticipates an increase of about 40 students due to a large-entering eighth grade and fewer ninth graders enrolling at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School. Converse Middle School expects a decrease of about 15 students with an anticipated September 2008 enrollment of 452 students. Old Mill Pond's enrollment will remain about the same at roughly 740 students.

Because declining enrollment has multiple implications on the budget, staffing, transportation, athletics, extra-curricular activities, and grade level configurations, the School Committee directed the Superintendent to investigate the feasibility of various relocation/restructuring options. These included 1) relocating Grade 7 from CMS to PHS, and Grade 4 from OMP to CMS; 2) relocating grades 6 & 7 from CMS to PHS, and grade 5 to OMP; and 3) relocating Grade 8 from PHS to CMS, and Grade 5 from CMS to OMP. The result of this study was a recommendation by the Superintendent suggesting that nothing be done for the immediate future to alter the present grade configurations.

The high school began a year-long self study as it prepares for Visiting Team representatives from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEAS&C) charged with determining the accreditation status and recommendations for the high school. The Visiting Team is anticipated to arrive in March 2009.

Palmer High School students continued to perform well on both the ELA and Math portions of the MCAS test. For the sixth consecutive year, 100% of the graduating class achieved a competency determination requirement established by the Massachusetts State Board of Education to earn a diploma. Seventy-nine percent of tenth graders scored in the advanced or proficient levels in ELA, and 75% of tenth graders scored in the advanced or proficient levels in Math. Student attendance district-wide continues to hover around 96%. The percentage of graduating seniors attending post-secondary institutions of higher learning remains high at 85%.

While middle school students met achievement results on the ELA and Math portions of the MCAS in the aggregate, for the fifth consecutive year, subgroups continue to struggle with making adequate yearly progress (AYP). As a result, CMS was again placed on a corrective action notice by the Department of Education. In response, CMS administration and staff endeavored to apply for an Extended Learning Time (ELT) grant that would enable the school to extend the school day by 100 minutes with funds provided by the Department of Education for transportation, supplies, and staff salaries for the extra time. Because of time constraints CMS was unable to meet the grant deadline. However, it is anticipating applying for a planning grant during the 2008-2009 school year that would enable staff to be compensated for the time necessary to complete the lengthy application process.

The School Committee, administration, faculty, and staff are truly proud of the Palmer Public Schools, and the quality of education provided to the students of the district as a result of the hard work demonstrated by all those engaged in the educational process. We remain committed to our mission of continuing to become a community of learners; a partnership among home, school and community; a source of academic excellence evidencing a safe, healthy, disciplined environment that meets the needs of all students as they prepare to fulfill their roles in a democratic and increasingly global society. To these ends, we gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the ongoing support of the Palmer community.

Respectfully,

Palmer School Committee

Mary A. Salzmann, Chair
David M. Lynch, Vice Chair
James St. Amand, Member
Robert Janasiewicz, Member
Maureen R. Gallagher, Member

OLD MILL POND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

First and foremost, it is the Old Mill Pond School Council's undertaking to address both short-term and long-term goals in order to improve the educational quality of our students at Old Mill Pond Elementary School. Our School Improvement Plan's practicality reflects an active document which serves as a guide for the future. Progress accountability reporting has been directly highlighted in the Council's activities. As a work in progress, the council has addressed,

amended and enhanced the document's format to reflect SMART GOALS which are aligned with the Palmer Public Schools' Strategic Plan.

The following is a list of some of the activities which have occurred within the Old Mill Pond School during the 2007-2008 school years.

- *Communication through a monthly parent newsletter, Connect-Ed, and the school website.*
- *Transition activities for students Pre-K, K-4 including a preschool graduation, Kindergarten Scavenger Hunt, and step-up days for grades 1-4.*
- *Training and implementation of Writing and Thinking Across the Curriculum, Everyday Mathematics, Mass ONE, Creative Curriculum, Autism and Restraint Training.*
- *Training and implementation of Test Wiz, and the STAR assessments.*
- *Completed the Performance Improvement Mapping (PIM) Process.*
- *Began curriculum revisions in the content areas of English Language Arts and Social Studies.*
- *Reviewed and updated Mathematics and Science Curriculum.*
- *Implementation of school-wide character education and violence prevention programs including Peaceful Playground, Second Step Program, Steps to Success Program, Anti-Bullying Education, Character Trait Training, Student Recognition Program and Responsive Classroom.*
- *Initiated the implementation of the Old Mill Pond After-School Program*
- We would like to thank the following members of our School Council for their commitment and dedication:

Mary Lou Callahan, Co-Chair, Principal
Denise Kennedy, Co-Chair, Parent
Susan Farrell, *Ex-Officio*, Assistant Principal
Katherine Sasser, Secretary,
Melissa Edwards, Secretary, Teacher
James Lynch, Community Representative
Paul Burns, Community Representative
Laurie Stevenson, Parent

The Palmer Public School System is dedicated to providing professional development opportunities where the staff at Old Mill Pond School is kept abreast of current educational standards and teaching methods. The core of our evolving curriculum is the continued incorporation of the state standards as outlined in the current Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. We have solicited the talents and expertise of our Assistant Principal, Dr. Susan Farrell, to train a District Team in the PIM (Performance Improvement Mapping) Process, analyzing MCAS data and developing a District Improvement Plan. Dr. Farrell has been most successful in facilitating training with our teachers at Old Mill Pond in Curriculum Mapping in the content areas of English Language Arts and Social Studies.

Through the District Professional Development funds, we have been able to maintain the work of Mr. Bill Atwood from the Collins Education Associates to work with our staff in order to ensure the continuity and consistency for the improvement of open response answers in the area of

mathematics within the MCAS Assessment. Nancy Dorsky has provided training in the implementation of the Everyday Mathematics Program. This program was newly adopted this year. All staff also received training in the teaching and learning needs of children with Autism and other Developmental Disabilities. At the early childhood level, ongoing training and support was provided to facilitate the implementation of the Creative Curriculum Program. One teacher from each grade level (1-4) had the opportunity to participate in Responsive Classroom training. This program integrates children's social, emotional and academic learning to create a strong and safe community within the classroom and larger school environment. It was the goal of the district, also, to have every staff member trained on the software programs of Mass ONE and Manhattan.

Congratulations to all our students, parents and staff for supporting and raising over \$14,000 dollars during the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser. Old Mill Pond School was the top fundraiser in Western Massachusetts. A special thank you to Lori Maliga, our physical education teacher, for leading the way. Congratulations to Joseph Marek who was a state finalist in the Doodle for Google contest. His work was selected from a pool of 1,000 submissions as one of the best to demonstrate artistic merit and creativity and most clearly expressing the "What If" theme of the contest.

Last year the Grinspoon Foundation invited the Palmer Public Schools to participate in a very exciting teacher recognition program established by Harold Grinspoon. It is Mr. Grinspoon's desire to honor and celebrate educators for the work they do and to bring recognition to the importance of the teaching profession. This year we were proud to announce that Old Mill Pond staff, Mrs. Charwick, second grade teacher, was the recipient of the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award. This award was presented to an individual who possesses professionalism through qualities such as excellence in teaching practices; his/her own professional development, good attendance, and their ability to demonstrate collaboration and cooperation.

Character Education...Panther Pride... Come on Cubs, show us your character ~

Our students and teachers at Old Mill Pond School are to be commended for taking an active part with their students in celebrating the character traits that students demonstrated by rewarding them with a token symbolizing the character trait for each month. In a school wide effort, teachers took the time to positively reinforce that which we wanted students to demonstrate consistently. Teachers received monthly character traits to work on with definitions and indicators along with tokens. We celebrated monthly through grade level assemblies to reinforce the continued growth in the character of our students. It's great to have all the students together building a sense of community and developing good character. Students receiving monthly character tokens had the opportunity to be chosen for the District Student of the Month. We honored nine students from Old Mill Pond School for the District Student of the Month.

"Community building must become the heart of any school improvement effort." A strong school community is built through the talents and strengths of everyone. Thanks must be extended to the members of our School Committee, Mrs. Mary Salzmann, Mrs. Maureen Gallagher, Mr. David Lynch, Mr. James St. Amand and Mr. Robert Janasiewicz for their continued support and countless hours to the Palmer Public Schools. We wish to thank all of the parents, students, and volunteers who assisted our students and staff in all areas of school life ~

tutoring, fundraisers, parties, field trips, and the parent-teacher organization activities. Volunteers are a critical component to the success of our educational programs. Their work and support has truly enriched our students' school experiences. Our PTO Officers are committed to and support the children at OMP. We are grateful to Tracey Kroll, Kim McCloskey, Sheila Browne, Janine Andersen and Liz Lizotte for their countless hours of service.

The Palmer Public Schools joined in their effort to put together interested individuals, teachers, paraprofessionals, aides, janitors, kitchen staff and parents to assist our schools in recycling. Old Mill Pond's Green Team, along with the leadership of Katherine Sasser, ventured forward in recycling paper goods. Students took responsibility for their future.

The Old Mill Pond School had the opportunity to develop an After School Program offering three, five week sessions with a myriad of course offerings focusing on enrichment activities, ie, Drama and Creative Theatre, the Cycles of Nature, Homework Help, Kids Create, Learn a Language, Knitting...etc. We also had the opportunity to partner with the Community Music School of Springfield in bringing about an After School Chorus Program, attracting students who love to sing and wanted to develop their musical skills and have fun. The successes of these programs were as a result of the hard work and belief that the program will be successful. We appreciated the support and encouragement of Dr. Gerald Fournier, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Denise Kennedy, After School Program Coordinator, Mrs. Lizotte, Mrs. White and Mrs. Mary Lou Callahan provided a tremendous amount of time helping with the initial planning process. Parents, staff, high school students, and senior volunteers provided students with the necessary support as instructors with fun, excitement and educational learning experiences here at Old Mill Pond School. This excitement and enthusiasm of our students ignited an interest and desire on the part of other students to become involved. As a result of this, our after school program initially attracted 42 students and quickly expanded to 142 students in the third session. We look forward to providing many more opportunities next year for our students that will increase their appreciation of the arts, while supporting and strengthening our curriculum.

We continue our relationship with Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School (PRVTHS) as PRVTHS students work with the children and teachers in the Early Childhood Program. The Palmer High School National Honor Society students gave of their time in sharing their expertise as tutors within our classrooms. Students from the eighth grade Interact Club read to our Grade 1 students. We are forever grateful for their time and talents.

It is our staff that reflects the talents and strengths of our programs. We offer a welcoming, comfortable and enthusiastic school environment where each of us reflect and celebrate the differences of others. All of their contributions and presence make a significant difference.

CONVERSE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The 2007-2008 school year has been a year of continued commitment to the learning and success of every student in grades five, six, and seven and for their success on the MCAS. Grade 5 students were tested in ELA Reading Comprehension, Math, Science and Technology/Engineering, as well as History and Social Science. Grade six students were tested

in ELA Reading Comprehension and Math; and grade seven students were tested in ELA Reading Comprehension, ELA Long Composition, Math, and in History and Social Science. The staff at Converse worked diligently to have the students well prepared as students put forth a serious effort.

Extensive data analysis and work was done through the Performance Improvement Mapping System (PIMS) process to develop appropriate SMART goals for the Converse Middle School Improvement Plan. The focus of this process was to specifically address math and English/language arts, as well as science MCAS goals. In addition, our new Everyday Math program has been implemented, with the appropriate ongoing teacher training, as the new math series for the students in grades five and six. To support our seventh grade students in math, two homerooms of pre-algebra classes were successfully initiated this year.

The Cougar's Den after school program has continued to be both a successful and valuable resource to many Converse students. Students have the opportunity to stay for an extended day that provides them with the opportunity for extra help and study centers, as well as a variety of educational and fun learning opportunities. The Cougar's Den staff has been supportive of the learning needs of Converse students in their design of specific math and English/language arts goals. Funding is a critical issue for this program so they have continued to seek out fundraising and grant opportunities to maintain their level of support to the students. The support of the community has meant a great deal to the Cougar's Den program, Converse students and their families.

The Converse Middle School PTO has continued to provide significant support to the students and staff. Their fundraising has gone a long way to support a variety of activities including field trips, cultural activities and assemblies. The PTO has also continued to support and organize the 'Step-Up' Ceremony for the seventh grade students. Each seventh grade student was presented with a gift of a scientific calculator that should be quite useful to them as they enter Palmer High School. The PTO also supports the Converse Spring Fling each year as well as supporting the Converse School Yearbook that is produced each year. There are many parents and volunteers who provide many, many hours of work and support behind the scenes for the PTO and Converse - we cannot thank them enough for their support - it makes a big difference!

Converse had a new assistant principal appointed for the 2008-2009 school year. Mrs. Jacqueline Haley, formerly a sixth grade ELA teacher at Converse, was a wonderful addition to the administrative team.

PALMER HIGH SCHOOL

Palmer High School welcomed a new Assistant Principal, Joseph Bianca, this year. Mr. Bianca was a social studies teacher at Agawam High School before joining our administrative team. He has indeed been an asset to the high school and the district.

Palmer High School has a commitment to offer students a well rounded curriculum designed to promote learning as a life long process. We encourage students to participate in a variety of academic, artistic, athletic, co-curricular, and community activities. Our curriculum offers six Advanced Placement and seventeen Honors courses. Our electives include world languages (French and Spanish), art, music, technology education, physical education, health and nutrition, yearbook, and SaTL (Students as Technology Leaders). Activities and Clubs include Blood Bank, Chess Team, Diversity Club, Drama Club, Interact, International Club, Life Smarts, National Honor Society, Paw Print Newspaper, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), Student Council, Best Buddies, Chamber Singers, and Jazz Band.

The Palmer High School Girls' Varsity Basketball team won the Western Massachusetts Division II Championship for the 2007-2008 season. This was the first time in Palmer High School history that a girls' team won Western Mass! Congratulations to the girls and their coaches, Bernard Fontaine, Michael Glabicky, and Shawn Gersbach, for an outstanding season. Team members included Chantal Beliveau, Megan Breault, Katrina Caulfield, Emily Dykstra, Beverly Farris, Samantha Farquhar, Tara Ingram, Katelyn Miller, Alyssa Orszulak, Shannon Supczak, and Chelsea Wahlers.

The class of 2008 consisted of 97 seniors. On May 22nd, the top 20 students in the class were honored and recognized by the Palmer Rotary Club at the annual Student Achievement Luncheon. Seniors were rewarded for their years of hard work, effort, and academic success at the annual Awards and Scholarship Night on June 4th where over \$44,000 was awarded in scholarships. We sincerely appreciate the generosity extended to our seniors by the numerous individuals, families, and organizations of Palmer. Additional awards were presented during Class Day on June 6th. The culminating event, graduation, was held on June 8th in the auditorium at Palmer High. The change in venue for the ceremony was due to the extremely high temperatures forecasted for the day.

Palmer High hosted a September Open House for parents, November Parent Conference night, National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, Lions Club Speech Contest, the student drama production of "Fame," and an Arts R Academic Night in March. The Arts R Academic Night included the first annual PHS "Alumni Career Showcase." In the spring, we sponsored our first annual Career Day. Over 30 professionals shared information about their careers to the student body. Our Music Department performed at various events throughout the year: Eastern States Exposition, the fall concert, Festival of Bands and Choruses in December, the QVMEA concert hosted here at Palmer High School, the Spring Concert, and the Memorial Day parade.

This year, all of the athletic booster clubs merged into one club, the Palmer United Booster (PUB) club. The PUB and the Music Boosters were very active throughout the year. There were several fundraisers conducted, as well as recognition banquets for the student athletes and music students. We would like to extend special thanks to the members of both clubs for their time, hard work, and creative ideas for the benefit of the student body!

Members of the School Council met regularly to develop the annual School Improvement Plan. All of the goals of the plan are aligned with the goals of the Strategic Plan for the District as well as the District Improvement Plan. Members of the School Council are: Bonny Rathbone,

Principal; Kate Marceau and Shawn Gersbach, staff members; Mary Ellen Anton, Robert Haveles, and Gail Orzechowski, community representatives; Joanne McDiarmid, Barbara Barry, and Saskia Cote, parent representatives; Tyler France and Lia Rivera, student representatives; and ex-officio member, Joseph Bianca, Assistant Principal.

Palmer High School is a member of the River East School-to-Career Partnership. Partnership Activities included student attendance at a Communication, Art, Music Careers (C.A.M.) Fest at Western New England College and at a Construction Career Day at the New England Laborers' Training Center in Hopkinton, MA. Our School-to-Career Facilitator, Helena Naglack, worked collaboratively with Partnership Director Loretta Dansereau. Thirty-two students successfully completed their Work-Based Learning (actual work experience connected to classroom learning) placements during the school year. Additionally, students from our MCAS summer program worked at area businesses and hospitals after their morning MCAS classes. We thank and appreciate the worksite mentors for helping our students prepare for successful entry into the ever-changing demands of the workplace.

A great deal of time was spent during the 2007-2008 school year preparing for the accreditation process through the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEAS&C). NEAS&C membership requires that a school undergo a self study and formal evaluation at least once every ten years. The first component, which is a year long self-study, is a process in which the school determines its strengths and areas in which it needs to improve. A Steering Committee, which oversees the process, has been formed. The co-chairs of the committee are Sean Burns and Michael Fuller. Steering committee members are: Elaine Barse, Christopher Beaudry, Lynne DeLong, Robert Keenan, Ree Migliozzi, and Mary Newland. Palmer High School was last accredited in 1999 and has maintained continued accreditation since it received its initial NEAS&C membership. The next accreditation by a Commission Visiting Committee will be conducted in March of 2009.

To quote philosopher and educator, John Dewey, "Education is a social process...education is growth...education is not a preparation for life; education is life itself." We, therefore, thank and applaud the contributions of our staff members, parents, and community members in promoting life long learning skills and making a difference in the lives of our students.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Department of Special Services includes all special education programs, Title I programs, home and hospital tutoring, and Chapter 622 (discrimination). The department is also responsible for the screening of all youngsters entering kindergarten as well as three and four year-olds for possible special needs and early intervention programs. We are also responsible for writing many of the school system's state and federal grants.

The Palmer Public Schools is an Early Childhood (integrated preschool special needs) through Grade 12 School District and is a member of the Pathfinder Regional Vocational-Technical School District. It offers a full range of special needs programs at all levels and includes a full range of support services, including speech/language, occupational therapy, and school adjustment counseling. Services for low incidence children, such as vision teacher, services for

the hearing impaired children, physical therapy etc. are contracted annually as prescribed by the student's Individual Educational Plans.

Thanks to the efforts of the Superintendent, the School Committee, the Town Office and the community, we were able to continue a revolving Medicaid Account for medical type services. This account allows us to channel monies generated by current children enrolled in programs who receive Mass Health Insurance into the contracted service account, thus freeing up funds for general education. A similar practice was established for tuition from special needs youngsters tuitioned into the Palmer Public Schools.

For the Department of Special Services, the 2008 school year was one of continued program growth and development. As of December 2007, we show a decrease in the number of children receiving special education services. Our enrollment is 362 students as opposed to 386 in 2007. Of particular interest is the reduction in our student "Full Time Equivalence," which is an indicator of the amount of time a student is removed from the regular classroom to receive specially designed instruction. This decrease is attributed mostly to the efforts of the district in returning children to the regular classroom through 504 plans or, as the result of re-evaluations, no longer being eligible or requiring special educational assistance and only slightly due to reduced enrollment. The school system continues its effort, on the part of each of the schools, to meet children's needs within the classroom.

State and federal grants written and supervised by the department continue to assist in defraying some of the costs of special education. The federal (#240 (94-142)) Special Education Grant, continues to fully fund the cost of one of our Early Childhood Programs as well as one speech and language pathologist and a number of paraprofessional instructional assistant positions. The state (#262) Early Childhood Grant provides speech assistance and screening services to children enrolled in private preschool programs and other early childhood age groups. The federal Title I Grant (#305) continues to provide remedial math services to eligible youngsters in grades 3-7, as well as reading in grades 3-4 at Old Mill Pond School and reading and study skills at the middle school. The entire grant is committed to staff salaries and instructional materials, including technology. This program provides services to approximately 225 youngsters in the elementary and middle schools.

The Drug Free Schools Grant (#331) continues to provide drug awareness and prevention information to staff, parents and students. This grant funds a bullying awareness program at Old Mill Pond School as well as "Guiding Good Choices," a prevention program for parents of children ages 9-14.

This year we have continued our integration of our Early Childhood Programs. Both early childhood programs at Old Mill Pond School are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). A nominal fee is charged for the non-special needs children in the program. An evaluation of this program has shown tremendous support from the parents as well as a great benefit to the children.

The mainstreaming of special education students continues to be an area of emphasis. This year we have been able to mainstream a number of children through the use of one-to-one

paraprofessionals, and have received tremendous cooperation and assistance from school administrators and staff.

This past year we have continued our Parent Advisory Council for Special Education. This group of parents and professionals meets eight to ten times per year and addresses current topics of interest to parents. For more information on these meetings call Neil Metcalf, Director of Special Education at (413) 283-2651.

This year the Department of Special Services, in conjunction with the Palmer High School, has continued to utilize the alternative education program for Palmer High School students. This program increases options to high school students who are at risk of dropping out and helps direct them to a more goal-oriented program. It will also provide an option to return some students, currently placed in out-of-district programs, and hopefully avoid the placement of children out of district.

The Department of Special Services continues to advocate for the education of all children in the least restrictive environment and to the maximum degree possible.

FACILITIES

The Facilities Department oversees the work performance of maintenance and custodial members in the school buildings, school bus transportation services, facility rentals, grounds upkeep and facility maintenance and improvements.

The buildings and grounds are in use virtually 7 days a week and well into the late evening by many civic and private groups in addition to the school programs.

At Palmer High School the natatorium received touch pads and a scoreboard system thanks to Mrs. Dorothy Lech and Kevin Harkins, in memory of their daughter Shannon Harkins, a 2007 Palmer High School graduate.

Also, the lighting in the natatorium and the gymnasium was replaced/upgraded to energy efficient fixtures. This project was partially funded by an energy grant.

Converse Middle School had 13 classroom univents (heating units) replaced. This was the final phase of the univent project. All univents at Converse have now been replaced.

At Old Mill Pond School the fire alarm panel was replaced/upgraded as well as replacing/upgrading approximately 1/3 of the smoke detectors in this school.

All three schools received fuel catalyts on their boilers approximately one and a half years ago. This was done as an energy saving measure. The installation of these units has resulted in an approximate 20 percent savings in fuel oil usage.

As always, we cannot express enough how truly grateful we are to the other town departments who continually provide outstanding support, services and expertise.

Special thanks to the Parks and Highway Departments for all they do year round with the grounds. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

PATHFINDER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School District Committee presents this report to the citizens of the District. With the addition of the town of Warren to the District, the school committee currently consists of ten members. At the biennial state election in November 2006, incumbents Michael Cavanaugh, Robert Dupuis, Michael O'Connor, and Barbara Ray were re-elected to four-year terms. Mr. Cavanaugh and David Droz, of Palmer, continue as chairman and vice-chairman, respectively.

CURRICULUM

Pathfinder students have continued to “hold their own” and have demonstrated continued improvement in their performance and achievement on the MCAS tests. The number of students who scored in the “Advanced” category continued to be encouraging. Also, 97% of the sophomores passed the ELA portion during the March testing period, and 91% passed the mathematics portion. These results clearly indicate the dedication of the staff, the effectiveness of the extra classes, and the importance and value students now place on their MCAS performance. For the fifth consecutive cycle, Pathfinder met the standard for “Adequate Yearly Progress” prescribed in the “No Child Left Behind” law.

In an effort to address the upcoming science portion of MCAS, teachers continued to fine-tune the scope and sequence of the science curriculum to include several sections of Engineering and Technology.

To accompany the high quality curriculum mapping done in mathematics, the Department purchased a new set of Algebra I books so that all students taking that course would have the advantage of the same material. In addition, an Algebra II course for entering 9th graders was designed to challenge those students who had already taken Algebra I.

The school committee also approved a \$40,000 appropriation for the general area of “student assessment.” Those funds were utilized to purchase and install the computerized Reading program entitled *Read 180*. The funds also enabled the school to acquire equipment that will assist teachers in scoring and analyzing standardized tests. Both expenditures are expected to help boost students’ scores on MCAS.

As we entered our second year of *Project Lead the Way* (PLTW), the staff was and continues to be excited about the potential for this program. Currently a science elective, this offering will eventually lead to a comprehensive and rigorous pre-engineering program involving

several technical departments. Our instructors continued to participate in professional development training designed specifically for PLTW during the summer at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Following Department of Education approval, Pathfinder offered for the first time two separate programs in Information Technology: Programming and Web Page Design and Office Technology. Additional and updated technology was added to these programs as student numbers continued to increase.

In direct response to local employment needs and a steady increase in students selecting Health Occupations, Pathfinder expanded the program by adding an additional teacher. The school's affiliations with area hospitals and health care facilities continued to provide positive learning experiences for the students, and the expansion of the program should prove beneficial for all concerned.

Pathfinder continued to build on several of the efforts that were launched during the previous school year, including:

- Expansion of the mandatory portfolio requirement in academic and vocational studies for all freshmen and the continued investigation of the use of digital portfolios.
- Reinstitution of the Renaissance Program and the continuation of the trimester system for 2007-08
- Continued on-site staff development in cooperation with Westfield State College, including the course entitled *Standards Based Curriculum in a Vocational Environment*.
- Training in Red Cross CPR and First Aid and OSHA for students and staff as appropriate.
- Alignment of vocational programs with the newly developed state curriculum frameworks in preparation for offering the Certificate of Occupational Proficiency—a new credential for vocational students.

Municipal and community service projects continued to be important components of the Pathfinder curriculum for junior and senior students. These projects also constitute a major portion of the school's commitment to local town departments. The following list is a sample of such efforts completed over the past year:

- Auto Body students and their instructor organized and ran the Annual Pathfinder car show, the proceeds from which benefit the Skills/USA Program at Pathfinder. They also painted grave markers for the local AMVETS.
- Auto Re-conditioning students continued to service vehicles for police, highway, and water departments in member towns. These students continued to sponsor charity car washes.
- Building Services students provided regular maintenance to the Chamber of Commerce offices, Pathfinder offices, and rebuilt a ceremonial bridge for the local Cub Scouts.
- Carpentry students constructed a bench and computer desk for the Palmer Police Department and fashioned podiums for the local American Legion and Amvets,

- Cosmetology students provided services to the member town senior citizen centers. They also participated in the Business Expo sponsored by the Quaboag Valley Chamber of Commerce.
- Culinary arts students planned, prepared, and served meals for numerous local town and civic events. They continue to assist in the preparation of meals for the Elderly Lunch Program at Pathfinder.
- Electrical students improved lighting and wiring to the press box at St. Joe's Ballpark. They also continued to perform services and upgrades to systems in the Pathfinder building.
- HVAC students installed a new air conditioning system for the computer room in Ware High School.
- Machine shop students drilled and threaded grave markers and posts for the local AMVETS. They also designed and machined items to be donated for fund raising events at Top Floor Learning and the Chamber of Commerce, and to honor a number of retiring public officials.

The school's Cooperative Education Program allowed eligible seniors and second-term juniors to receive a paid, career-related job experience in lieu of attending their vocational program at the school. To be considered for and remain in the program, students must have demonstrated above average grades, attendance, and discipline.

Throughout the year, 23 students participated in the program. This "real world" opportunity allowed them to improve upon their previously acquired work ethic and basic skills. With employers acting as mentors, the young apprentices earned a fair wage and were exposed to a wide array of technical experiences. As the school year progressed, the students enhanced their skills, developed interpersonal skills, and experienced valuable lessons in maintaining a balance among their personal lives, school academics, and their jobs.

The ultimate compliment to the students, their parents, and to the school was the number of instances where employers elected to place co-op students on permanent status once they graduate. Similarly, the school was pleased to note that a majority of junior co-op students returned in September with the same employers.

At the River East School-to-Career Business & Education Partnership Breakfast, David Smith and Gerry Renaud were recognized as Pathfinder's outstanding Student/Mentor Team. David is a Palmer resident and graduated in June from the Machine Technology Program. Gerry is a graduate of Pathfinder and the owner of B&R Machine, a manufacturer of precision machine products for the aerospace industry.

STUDENT BODY

Pathfinder's October 1st enrollment totaled 623 students, including the following numbers from member towns: Belchertown 78; Granby 24; Hardwick 16; Monson 83; New Braintree 3; Palmer 194; Ware 95.; and Warren 50. The remaining 80 students were residents of out-of-district communities.

During this past year, the Guidance Office—which also serves as the Admissions Office—received over 300 applications for September admissions. Of the applications received, 250 represented applicants for the 175 openings in the 9th grade. Once again, transfer opportunities into the 10th or 11th grades were very limited, and there was a waiting list for vocational offerings in grades 9, 10, and 11.

Parents or students seeking to learn more about Pathfinder or to visit the school had a variety of options available to them throughout the year. Each fall Pathfinder's Guidance Department visits the 8th graders in our member towns to provide an in-depth presentation about Pathfinder's offerings and the application process. The fall Open House event for students in grades 5-8 and their parents featured a free spaghetti dinner and a tour of the facility, including a stop in our technical areas. This year the evening attracted over 300 attendees. Each winter 8th grade students are invited to attend a field trip to visit Pathfinder and get a first-hand look at technical programs, facilities, and to interact with current students. This visit is a great opportunity for the students to experience a typical day at Pathfinder. In addition, the summer Youth Enrichment Program and the Afternoon Exploratory Program for middle school students continued to attract large numbers of enthusiastic participants. For students and parents with Internet access, Pathfinder's website (www.pathfindertech.org) provides detailed information about our academic and technical programs, sports and extracurricular activities, as well as the application process.

The Pathfinder Chapter of the National Technical Honor Society inducted a deserving group of new and existing members in an impressive ceremony. To qualify, students must have a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.5 or above and exhibit the qualities of skill, honesty, service, responsibility, scholarship, citizenship, and leadership. The induction ceremony is held in early spring so that senior inductees can include this recognition on college, scholarship, and work applications. The Chapter continued the practice of inviting as guests underclass students who had a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and who demonstrated potential for induction into the Society.

Pathfinder's Renaissance Program continued to be well received by staff and students alike. A faculty committee chaired by Judy Mercier oversees this popular initiative. Each trimester, the program recognizes and rewards students for academic and vocational accomplishments. Students who earn high honors are eligible for a "Gold Card"; students earning honors receive a "Silver Card"; and students who have made noticeable improvements are awarded "Most Improved Cards." Students who have perfect attendance for the year are also eligible for Renaissance recognition. Each level of card comes with its own perks and rewards ranging from homework passes, to free admission to school dances, to discounts at local businesses. In addition, each trimester Renaissance students earn raffle tickets towards the end-of-the-year drawing for prizes like televisions and video game systems. The Renaissance Program is supported through fundraising efforts as well as generous donations from local businesses.

At the Twenty-second Annual "Outstanding Vocational-Technical Student" awards dinner sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA) and

the Massachusetts Vocational Association (MVA), Monson resident Dianne Gilligan represented Pathfinder. Dianne also was selected as Pathfinder's nominee for the MAVA/MVA's Walter J. Markham Award. Dianne, a culinary arts student, excelled in her classes and ranked at the top of her class. With a cumulative GPA of 3.98, Dianne consistently earned high honors and Renaissance Gold Card recognition and received numerous awards for outstanding achievement and excellence in culinary arts and her academic studies, including Highest Academic Achievement her freshman, sophomore and junior years. Dianne served as Class President and was involved with SkillsUSA, the American Culinary Federation's Junior Chefs Association, the National Technical Honor Society, Pathfinder Student Mentoring, the Prom Committee, Tech Prep, and volunteered as a Pathfinder Tour Guide. In addition, Dianne was a multi-sport team participant—was a member of the school's soccer, basketball and softball teams. Junior year she received the Coach's Award in basketball and last fall was selected as an All-League Stopper in soccer. Dianne is currently attending HCC and is interested in event planning.

Yvonne Simard of South Hadley was selected as Pathfinder's nominee for the 2008 Massachusetts Vocational Association's Secondary Award. Yvonne was enrolled in Health Occupations and, like Dianne, was a consistent academic and technical award winner. In her four years at Pathfinder Yvonne earned ten awards for achievement and excellence in her studies. She also earned her CNA. Yvonne consistently made high honors and earned Renaissance recognition. As a junior she was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Yvonne had a cumulative GPA of 3.78. Yvonne is currently enrolled in the Pre-Health program at HCC and is interested in earning her degree in Nursing.

Students who participated in Skills USA competition brought recognition and honor to the school by winning medals at the district and state competitions.

In June 2008, the graduating class of 143 students received diplomas and technical certificates at commencement exercises. Approximately 54% of the graduates were had plans to continue their education at the post-secondary level, about 21 % planned to enter the workforce, while 7% had made commitments to serve in the military. Interest in four-year colleges also continued to be a popular option for graduating seniors. Additionally, seniors successfully participated in the Early College program offered through one of the local community colleges.

Over \$173,000 in scholarships was awarded to members of Pathfinder's Class of 2008. Once again, state and local organizations and businesses, post-secondary institutions, as well as private individuals, continued to recognize the ability and potential of Pathfinder graduates in the form of generous donations. The School Committee, administration-- and particularly the graduates-- are grateful for this support and are especially proud of the number of awards that have been made to honor the memory of former Pathfinder students and staff members.

STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ATHLETICS

Members of Pathfinder's Student Council continued their active participation in local service activities. During the Red Cross Blood Drive in May, they collected 63 pints of blood.

Once again the Thanksgiving Food Drive resulted in a successful campaign that delivered baskets to Valley Human Services for local needy families.

During what has become an annual event, 9th grade students participated in a Career Fair during which they were able to gather information to help them make a more informed decision on their permanent shop placement.

A number of student activities during the year were designed as fund raisers to supplement monies for field trips and other purposes. Notable examples were the “Penny War” held by the Mentoring Program as a competition between shops as well as the annual Fish Fry sponsored by the Fishing Club.

Under the direction of Faculty Adviser Ann Blake, the Drama Club performed two plays during the year, including *That Dreamer Will Shakespeare* on April 27th and May 4th and *Comic Book Artist* in November.

Pathfinder’s athletic teams enjoyed continuing success during 2007-08:

- The Varsity Football Team finished in 2nd place and qualified for the Super Bowl playoffs, losing to Dean Tech in overtime.
- Adam Wellington, Steve Salerno, and Kyle Pobliego were named to *The Republican’s* first team in Division 3.
- Kyle Phillips was selected to play in the Western Mass. Seniors’ All-star soccer game.
- The boys’ Varsity Soccer Team received the Soccer Officials’ Sportsmanship Award for Western Mass. Division 3 for the second consecutive year.
- Junior Varsity Girls’ soccer was added as a new team.
- Both Boys’ and Girls’ Varsity Basketball Teams qualified for the Western Mass. Tournament.
- Wrestling completed their 2nd season as a varsity sport, faring very well. Jeremy Lamotte won the Western Mass. Tournament in the 171 pound division and went on to the State Tournament.
- Jeremy Lamotte was named to *The Republican’s* All-Scholastic First Team.
- The Varsity Baseball Team had a difficult season due to numerous injuries.
- Phil Jett was named to *The Republican’s* First Team All-Scholastic Baseball Team for Division 3.
- Girls’ Softball finished 2nd in the Tri County League and qualified for the State Vocational Tournament finishing as runners up. They qualified for the Western Mass. Tournament.
- Megan Maska was named to *The Republican’s* All-Scholastic First Team.
- Golf had a most successful season in 2008. They finished first place in the Northern Division.
- Josh LeBeau finished 2nd overall in the Western Mass. Tournament.
- Josh LeBeau and Kyle Simard were named to *The Republican’s* All-Scholastic First Team.

- Phil Jett and Jessica Zarenko were named Outstanding Senior Athletes for 2008.

Overall

A very successful year for Pathfinder athletics with the most *The Republican's* All-Scholastic First Team players in the school's history.

Participation numbers continue to grow especially in boys and girls soccer.

SPECIAL SERVICES

During 2007-08, the Special Education Department continued to demonstrate its responsibility to provide a continuum of special education and related services for eligible students in accordance with the provisions of state and federal regulations. The Department is committed to finding opportunities to offer different pathways to learning so that the diverse ability levels of the students might be accommodated.

The Special Education Department strives to address the needs of all learners in grades 9-12 and to students enrolled in the Modified Vocational Instruction Program (MVIP). Through integrated efforts with students, parents, and other student support services, the Department focuses on promoting each student's self-awareness, ability to self-advocate, and sense of self sufficiency.

Staff members conducted Team evaluations, annual reviews, and diagnostic reviews for 58 students in the MVIP Program and 185 students in grades 9-12.

The Department includes 15 professionally licensed teachers, 7 paraprofessionals, and a full-time secretary. Licensed specialists include a Speech and Language Pathologist, School Psychologist, and Occupational Therapist.

Pathfinder continued to provide resource room instruction for all major courses offered in grades 9-12. The required history and science courses align with the state Curriculum Frameworks. Mathematics courses in the resource room feature an integrated approach to algebra and geometry in preparation for the MCAS tests. Resource English includes a variety of novels, short stories, and vocabulary exercises—all in preparation for the MCAS tests. Math, reading, and language arts instruction continued to be supplemented with Title I funded instruction.

This past year, the MVIP Program actually operated above full capacity with 58 students. All six shops offered instruction closely coordinated with Chapter 74 approved programs in which they are housed. Components of the program included:

- **Office Business:** Students work on printing, duplicating, and collating brochures and mailings for member communities and non-profit groups.
- **Building Services:** Students learn care of interior surfaces and coverings, building exteriors and grounds, and the use of some hand and power tools necessary in this line of work.

- **Horticulture:** Students learn maintenance of greenhouse and vegetable gardens, landscape maintenance, and floral design.
- **Auto Reconditioning:** Students learn the basics of cleaning and polishing cars along with professional workmanship, and they provide this service to the public.
- **Food Services:** Students learn the fundamentals of food preparation and service and assist in the preparation and production of the daily school lunch.
- **Health Occupations:** Students learn to maintain the patients' environment and to communicate with as well as assist them with various types of care. The students are trained in light housekeeping and shopping duties.

The vocational-technical personnel in the MVIP Program prepare the students for a *support* role in the aligned program area. At graduation exercises in June, 9 MVIP students received their certificates.

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

PATHFINDER 2007 GRANT AWARDS

GRANT	AMOUNT	USE
P.L. 94-142 (Special Education)	\$218,250	Funded 2 SPED staff salaries, 40 evaluations. ESPED software, and supplies.
SPED IMPROVEMENT	5,000.	Supported staff development through which 2 aides received full certification.
TOBACCO	2,000	Funded sustainable Tobacco Awareness Campaign.
BIOTECH GRANT	8,800	Provided equipment to expand into DNA tracing and mapping.
TEACHER QUALITY	26,792	Funded portion of Highly Qualified SPED staff salaries.
TOBACCO IN MEDIA GRANTS	1,400	Purchased video camera for Health class projects.
PERKINS	85,832	Funded Math Mentor, <i>Project Lead the Way</i> , Supported <i>Standards Based Curriculum</i> Course.
INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS	1,986	Provided training to utilize Internet based Renaissance Learning.

TITLE 1	88,783	Funded Language Specialist and Math Specialist.
ACADEMIC SUPPORT (School Year)	3,280	Supported the Afternoon MCAS Remediation Programs.
ACADEMIC SUPPORT (Summer)	9,932	Supported the Summer MCAS Remediation Program.
<i>HIGH SCHOOLS THAT WORK</i>	20,000	Enabled staff to attend Summer Conference, Funded Afternoon Remediation Program and <i>HSTW</i> Coordinator.
Workforce Investment Act (WIA)	54,621	Funded Summer Work/Enrichment for 25 disadvantaged youth.
WIA – PERFORMANCE AWARD GRANT	10,000	Offered 1,000 hours of school year employment to Eligible students.
SPED ELECTRONIC PORTFOLIO	1,500	Enabled 2 SPED staff members to train to administer alternative MCAS assessments and funded digital camera and scanner.
SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS	3,280	Provided teacher training and materials for <i>PEERS for PEACE</i> implementation
TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT	1,185	20 Seats for Inspiration
POWERUP	500	Electronics Kits
TOTAL	\$543,141.00	

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The school committee wishes to give recognition to the following special programs and activities that took place during the year.

The summer Youth Enrichment Program served 134 children between the ages of 9 and 13. The program ran for four one-week sessions during the months of July and early August. Participants had the opportunity to select from the following options: Carpentry, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Photography and Web Page Design, Vex Robotics, Electronics, and Environmental Explorers. The daily schedule placed participants in their specialty areas in the morning, sports and/or games after lunch.

The Spring and Fall Youth Enrichment Program was not offered due to the uncertainty over regulations governing vehicles for student transportation.

Parent and student satisfaction with the Youth Enrichment Program has been extraordinary. Many students return to the program several times and express regret when they become too old to participate. It serves as an excellent introduction to Pathfinder and its environment.

Pathfinder once again received a grant from the Regional Employment Board under the Workforce Investment Act and this year received a special additional incentive amount of \$10,000 as a result of a favorable review by the granting agency. A total of 25 participants took advantage of this program of part-time employment, including job counseling, academic support, and intensive follow-up by grant-supported staff.

Pathfinder's summer school program is designed to enable students to make up information missed during the school year and earn credit needed for their promotion or graduation. The academic summer school program was offered during the month of July. It ran Monday through Friday with two morning sessions, each two hours long. A total of 40 hours in attendance was required for completing the program. In order for the program to remain self-sufficient and to be competitive with other area programs, the course fee of \$150 has remained unchanged over the past 5 years. Thirteen academic courses were offered for students in grades 8-12.

Additionally, a vocational summer school program was offered during the last week of June. The combined summer school enrollment included 125 students from 9 school districts.

The entire school community was proud of the achievements of the newly formed Robotics Team. Under the direction of the Electronics Department, team members designed and constructed a robot which they entered into competition at an event in Pennsylvania. In their first-ever attempt, the team returned with one of the top prizes and were featured on local television news. The team and their teachers were further honored by being selected to host the *First Robotics* Northeast Competition at Pathfinder in March 2008.

FACULTY AND STAFF

The 2007-08 staff included an additional faculty member in Office Technology supported by Perkins funds and an additional faculty member in Special Education. Like many schools, Pathfinder has begun to experience increasing numbers of retirements. In 2007, the school bade farewell to Toni Kubiak (Special Education); Gary Roszkiewicz (Administration); Joan Markert (Clerical); Charlotte Fogarty (Mathematics); Ruth Cosmopoulos (Cosmetology) ; and Ed Penniman (Carpentry). At the initial faculty meeting in September 2007, Superintendent Gerald Paist announced the appointment of Anthony Papuga as the new Assistant Director with responsibility in the area of Student Affairs. Retirements in 2008 were Bruce Charwick (Mathematics); Barry Webb (Science); Anne Marie Blake (Social Studies); and Richard Ganter (Auto Reconditioning). In September 2008, Superintendent Gerald Paist announced the appointment of Michael Rooney as Director of Guidance.

Dr. Paist continued to serve on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators and on the Board of Directors of the Quaboag Hills Chamber of

Commerce. An active member of the Assn. for Career & Technical Education, he is one of three Region I Directors for that organization’s National Council of Local Administrators. He also completed a two-year term on ACTE’s Nominating Committee.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

As a result of an increase in the number of in-district students—attributed primarily to the addition of the town of Warren-- Pathfinder received \$5,113,578 in Chapter 70 monies, \$321,109 greater than the previous fiscal year. That welcome news enabled the school committee to adopt a budget that was favorable to a majority of the member towns. The FY09 budget that was ultimately approved by six of the eight member communities – and therefore binding all - was \$12,262,460. State aid and other reductions totaling \$7,175,128 resulted in an assessment of \$5,087,332 to be divided among the member towns according to the regional school budget law and the regional agreement.

PATHFINDER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS 2008-2009

TOWN	MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION	SHARE MVIP Program	ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION	SHARE OF REGULAR CAPITAL	4 th yr of 5 YR CAPITAL PLAN	TRANSPORTATION	CAPITAL ASSESSMENT	TOTAL
BELCHERTOWN	526079	70294	159106	14043	68929	37805	0	876256
GRANBY	218979	7810	62857	5548	30760	14935	0	340890
HARDWICK	85070	15621	35357	3121	10871	8401	0	158440
MONSON	470959	46863	115177	13696	39346	36872	0	762911
N. BRAINTREE	43652	7810	11786	1040	4425	2800	0	71514
PALMER	867599	78105	331962	29300	53031	78877	0	1438874
WARE	660893	78105	216070	19071	36388	51430	0	1061867
WARREN	205912	31245	90356	7975	19625	21470	0	376580
TOTAL	3079140	335851	1062670	93795	263376	252500	0	5087332

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

The School Committee is justly proud of the staff and students and of the contributions they have made to the economic health of our District. The committee recognizes that, in this era of accountability and high expectations, many changes need to be made. The increased

emphasis on academic skills needs to be maintained without diminishing the quality of students' technical studies.

The conclusion of the 2007-08 school year brought continued signs that budgets in FY09 will be significantly impacted by the state of the economy, rising costs of health insurance, and energy. The Committee therefore looks forward to next year with the caution to which it has become accustomed. It is, however, committed to providing the best educational opportunities for workforce development within the District.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael J. Cavanaugh, Palmer, Chairman
Judith C. Dudek, Belchertown
Michael O'Connor, Belchertown
Elizabeth Desrochers, Granby
Robert J. Dupuis, Hardwick
Barbara L. Beaulieu, Monson
George Castonguay, New Braintree
David Droz, Palmer
M. Barbara Ray, Ware
Vacancy, Warren

Gerald L. Paist, Superintendent-Director

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
 AMBULANCE, FIRE AND POLICE EMERGENCY - 911

For Questions Regarding: **Call this Department:** **Phone:**

Appeals (zoning issues)	Appeals, Board of	283-2605
Assessments, Abatements	Assessors, Board of	283-2607
Building Permits, Electric Permits, Plumbing, gas & wiring Permits, Zoning Enforcement	Building Inspector	283-2638
Burial Records, Cemetery Plots	Cemetery	283-2665
Emergency Preparedness, Catastrophe	Civil Defense	283-8792
Future planning for Palmer	Community Development Dept. Palmer Redevelopment Authority	283-2614 283-4100
Wetlands Management	Conservation Commission	283-2611
Senior activities, Information & Transportation	Council on Aging	283-2670
Animal Control	Dog Officer	283-7770
Health, Sanitation, Septic Permits/Title V, Food & Beverage License & Tobacco License	Health, Board Of	283-2606
Road Maintenance, snow & ice removal	Department of Public Works	283-2615
Alcohol Beverage Information	License Commission	283-2608
Federally funded elderly housing	Palmer Housing Authority	283-9311
All library services	Palmer Public Library	283-3330
Park & Field Maintenance	Department of Public Works	283-2615
Planning, Land Use, Zoning	Planning Board	283-2605
Public Schools	Schools:	
	Converse Middle School	283-2641
	Old Mill Pond Elementary	283-2630
	Palmer High School	283-2621
	Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School	283-9701
	Superintendent of Schools	283-2650
Scale, weight Certification	Sealer of Weights & Measures (Residence)	283-4070
Committee Appointments, Class I, II & III Licenses, Amusement/Entertainment Licenses, Street Entrance, Street Excavation	Town Manager	283-2603
Parking Tickets, Property & Excise Tax Bills	Tax Collector	283-2601
General Accounting	Town Accountant	283-2602
Births, Deaths, Marriages, Dog Licenses, Fishing & Hunting Licenses, Business Certificates, Elections & Voter Registration	Town Clerk	283-2608
Bill Payment, Payroll, Insurance Benefits	Town Treasurer	283-2600
Veteran's Information/Referrals Benefits	Veteran's Agent	283-2610
EMERGENCY NUMBERS - 911	Fire – Bondsville	283-9036
	Palmer	283-3861
	Thorndike	283-3861