

# *Town of Palmer*

Bondsville, Depot Village, Thorndike & Three Rivers

# **Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report**



**July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014**



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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 Rte 20
HIGHEST ELEVATION	Colonel's Mountain 1179 feet
POPULATION	11,476
FORM OF GOVERNMENT	7-Member Town Council Town Manager
TAX RATE – FY2013	
TOWN	\$18.06 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
FIRE DISTRICT TAX	
DISTRICT #1	\$1.30 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #2	\$2.00 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #3	\$1.91 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
DISTRICT #4	\$2.19 per \$1,000.00 of evaluation
NUMBER OF DWELLINGS	Approximately 4,329
PROPERTY VALUATION	\$920,606,916
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 Scott Turner 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

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

PUBLIC LIBRARY

1455 North Main Street, Palmer

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

**UNITED STATES SENATORS**

Elizabeth Warren, Democrat

Edward Markey, Democrat

**REPRESENTATIVE IN U.S. CONGRESS**

First Congressional District

Richard E. Neal

Second Congressional District

James P. McGovern

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Seventh Councilor District

Jennie Caissie

**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**

Mark G. Mastroianni, Springfield  
James C. Orenstein, Springfield (appointed 6/9/14)

**BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

**BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

**BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

Lawrence M. Jasak  
Michael J. Burns  
Linda Leblanc

**BOARD OF REGISTRARS**

Susan Coache  
Chester Toper  
Rose Tyburski  
Margaret Higgins

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Paul Benard, Chairman  
John Lukaskiewicz  
Jayne Heede  
Josh Mathieu, Health Agent

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Robert J. Ring, Chairman  
Donald R. Duffy  
Peter Izyk  
Dennis Cote  
Sean O'Donnell  
Tharyn Nein-Large  
Angela Panaccione, Conservation Agent

**COUNCIL ON AGING**

Genevieve Bates  
Ernie Charland  
Linda Lamay  
Mary Hubert  
Peggy Corriveau

Betty Koss  
Gloria Brouillette  
Ruth Manning  
Debbie Nathanson  
Cathy Plouffe

LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Alan Roy – Palmer Fire-Rescue/LEPC Chairman  
Andrew Golas – Town Manager’s Office  
Charlann Griswold – Media Representative  
Craig Dolan – Department of Public Works  
David Clark – Palmer Ambulance Service  
Donald Elliot – Emergency Manager  
James Ammann – Palmer Water Department  
Gerry Skowronek – Waste Water Department  
John Sasur – Three Rivers Water Department  
Kathy Piechota – Wing Memorial Hospital  
Open – Transportation Representative  
Open – Citizens Representative  
Open – Conservation Commission  
Paul Benard – Board of Health  
Robert Frydryk – Palmer Police Department  
Ronald Krystofik – UMass Wing Memorial Hospital  
Scott Gustafson – Bondsville Fire Department  
Scott Turner – Three Rivers Fire Department

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Alice Davey, Community Development Director  
Linda Leduc, Planner  
Linda Leblanc, Assessor  
John Kuzmiski, Accountant  
Charles Blanchard, Town Manager

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Eric Raymond, Chairman  
Marion P. Lis, Treasurer  
Stephen Nowak  
Robert Ring

INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Paraprofessionals/Aides- Melanie Leibold, CMS  
Palmer Teachers Association – Deborah Charwick, OMP  
Palmer School Nurses/Clerical Workers – Richard Brown  
Palmer School Custodial Association – Peter Galica, CMS  
Palmer School Cafeteria – Catherine Les, OMP  
Palmer D.P.W.- Paul Eurkus  
Palmer Police NEPBA – Chris Burns and Paul Lukaskiewicz  
School & Town Clerical Workers UFCW #1459 – Richard Brown  
Emergency Telecommunicators UFCW#1459 – Tammy Piechota

LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

Richard L. Fitzgerald, Chairman  
Robert Frydryk  
Jason Polonsky  
Theodore Simard  
Michael Magiera

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Angela Panaccione  
Linda Leduc  
Michael Marciniac  
Alice Davey  
David Cotter  
Bonnie Weeks  
Donald Blais, Jr  
Jim Ostrout  
Tharyn Nein-Large  
Sean O'Donnell

PALMER CULTURAL COUNCIL

Christine Miarecki  
Eileen Benoit  
Mary Bernat  
Ann Wright

PALMER HOUSING AUTHORITY

Ronald W. Lemanski, Chairperson  
Mildred Jasak  
Margaret Higgins  
Russell Webb  
Victoria Miner

PALMER REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

David Swirk, Chairman  
Joseph Turek  
Dan Slowick  
Albert Lasota  
(Vacant – State Appointee)

SAFETY/TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Police Chief (Robert Frydryk)  
DPW Director  
Building Inspector (Bonnie Weeks)  
Palmer Fire Chief (Alan Roy)  
Three Rivers Fire Chief (Scott Turner)  
Bondsville Fire Chief (Scott Gustafson)  
Ambulance Rep. (Vacant)

## **TOWN COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES**

### **APPOINTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Barbara Barry  
Paul Burns  
Mary Salzmann

### **TOWN MANAGER GOALS COMMITTEE**

Barbara Barry  
Mary Salzmann  
Paul Burns

### **ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Donald Blais  
Paul Burns  
Phil Hebert

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE LIASON**

Barbara Barry

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

### **COUNCILLORS AT LARGE**

Paul Burns (Exp. 2014)  
Mary Salzmann (Exp. 2016)  
Jason Polonsky (Exp. 2015)

### **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Philip J. Hebert, District #1 (Exp. 2014)  
Barbara A. Barry, District #2 (Exp. 2015)  
Matthew Lovell, District #3 (Exp. 2015)  
Donald Blais, Jr., District #4 (Exp. 2016)

### **PLANNING BOARD (4 YRS)**

Michael Marciniec (Exp 2016)  
Andrew Golas (Exp. 2016)  
Norman Czech (Exp. 2015)  
Kathleen Burns (Exp. 2014)  
Thomas Skowyra (Exp. 2014)

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE (4 yrs.)**

Gary A. Blanchette (Exp. 2015)  
Andrea Mastalerz (Exp. 2016)  
Lisa Murray (Exp. 2016)  
David Lynch (Exp. 2014)  
Robert Janasiewicz (Exp. 2014)

### **PATHFINDER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Michael J. Cavanaugh (Exp. 2014)

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

Town Manager	Charles T. Blanchard
Director of Municipal Finance/Town Accountant	John Kuzmiski
Economic Development Director/Town Planner	Linda Leduc
Town Clerk	Susan Coache
Community Development Director	Alice Davey
Veteran's Agent/Burial Agent/Graves Officer	Deborah Shilikis
Town Counsel	Charles Ksieniewicz
Building Inspector	Bonnie Weeks
Gas Inspector	Gary Stahelski
Electrical Inspector	Gerald Weston
Plumbing Inspector	Gerald Nichols
Constable	Robert Frydryk
Forest Warden	Alan Roy
Animal Inspector/Dog Officer	Wendy LaSage
Sealer of Weights & Measures	Joseph Serrato
Director of Public Safety	Robert P. Frydryk
Treasurer/Tax Collector	Kristine Bissell
Emergency Management Director	Donald C. Elliott, Jr.
Town Assessor	Linda Leblanc
Acting Department of Public Works Director	Rudy Pisarczyk
WWTP Superintendent	Gerald Skowronek
Council on Aging Director	Erin Pincince
Hampden County Housing Services Advisory Committee	Jean Leonard
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	Michael Marciniac,
Pioneer Valley Planning Comm. Policy Advisory Rep.	Vacant
P.V.T.A. Advisory Council Member	Paul Burns
Environmental Certifying Office Hearings Officer/Building Code Violations	Bonnie Weeks

## ELECTIONS

### Special Town Election November 5, 2013

Adoption of the Host Community Agreement with Mohegan Sun, LLC.

	PCT. 1A	PCT.1	PCT.2	PCT.3	PCT.4	Total
YES:	88	693	591	532	660	2564
NO:	98	555	836	581	587	2657

### Town Election June 10, 2014

Councilor At-Large	Pct. 1	Pct.2	Pct.3	Pct.4	Total
Write Ins	6	2	2	4	14
Robert B. Lavoie	202	209	136	168	715
Paul E. Burns	158	115	88	70	431
Blanks	14	18	20	8	60

District #1 Councilor	Pct. 1	Pct.2	Pct.3	Pct.4	Total
Write Ins	55				55
Philip J. Hebert	241				241
Blanks	84				84

Planning Board	Pct. 1	Pct.2	Pct.3	Pct.4	Total
Write Ins	2	5	4	1	12
Kathleen M. Burns	213	194	125	137	669
Thomas S. Skowrya	269	255	177	173	874
Blanks	276	234	186	189	885

## ELECTIONS

School Committee	Pct. 1	Pct.2	Pct.3	Pct.4	Total
Write Ins	1	1	0	0	2
Lisa J. Murray	246	235	150	139	770
David M. Lynch	220	189	152	142	703
Lorinda J. Baker	132	124	73	99	428
Blanks	161	139	117	120	537

Question #1 : Shall the Town of Palmer be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to finance the replacement pf the flooring at the Old Mill Pond School including design, removal and disposal of existing materials, floor preparation and moisture mitigation, and other measures necessary to prevent the recurrence of a mold problem?

	Pct. 1	Pct.2	Pct.3	Pct.4	Total
Yes	158	157	107	107	529
No	210	179	134	136	659
Blanks	12	8	5	7	32

Question #2 : Shall the Town of Palmer cease assessing the excise imposed under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 8A on certain animals, machinery and equipment owned by individuals and non-corporate entities principally engaged in agriculture?

	Pct. 1	Pct.2	Pct.3	Pct.4	Total
Yes	235	219	161	150	765
No	120	112	76	87	395
Blanks	25	13	9	13	60

# **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

## **TOWN MANAGER**

I herewith submit the report of the Town Manager for the Town of Palmer for the period July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

I would like to begin by again expressing my sincere appreciation to all of the dedicated department heads, town staff, elected officials and numerous volunteers who serve on the many boards, commissions and committees for all of their hard work and commitment to make Palmer a better community in which to live.

In accordance with the requirements of the Palmer Town Charter two major positions were filled for the first time. On July 1<sup>st</sup> Town Accountant John Kuzmiski was appointed to serve additionally as the Director of Municipal Finance, and Town Planner Linda Leduc was appointed to also serve as the Director of Economic Development.

Collector/Treasurer Paul Nowicki resigned effective September 30<sup>th</sup> and Kristine Bissell, formerly the Assistant Treasurer on Northampton, was appointed to this position.

Recreation Director Rip Pellaton relocated out of state and Jim Ostrout was selected from a large pool of qualified candidates to fill that position. Jim has been working hard with the newly formed Recreation Committee to continue and expand recreation programs for the entire community.

Some of the accomplishments of the Town during FY14 included:

- On August 29<sup>th</sup> a Host Community Agreement was signed with Mohegan Sun Massachusetts that would provide the Town with minimum annual revenues of \$16 to \$18 million, plus an additional \$1.0 to \$1.7 million in hotel occupancy and meals tax receipts per year. Public infrastructure improvements totaling over \$40 million would be made by MSM prior to the opening of the resort casino. At the referendum vote required by the Massachusetts Expanded Gaming Act held on November 5<sup>th</sup> the Town voted against allowing a casino in Palmer. A recount held on November 26<sup>th</sup> confirmed the vote to be 2,563 in favor and 2,657 against.
- The reconstruction of the tennis courts at PHS was advertised in September and the contract was awarded to Palmer Paving Corp. in October. The subsurface work and binder course paving was completed in December with final paving, fencing, surface coating and lining completed in time for the courts to begin being used in June.
- The design work on the major sewer line replacement project for the Brainerd Street, Riverview Parkway, Chudy Street, South High Street and High Street areas was completed on schedule and the project was bid on March 4<sup>th</sup>. The successful bidder was Ludlow Construction Corporation with the notice to proceed issued on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The project work has been continuing on schedule.
- The Notice to Proceed was given to General Mechanical Contractors on June 16<sup>th</sup> for the Phase II HVAC Improvements to the Town Hall that includes replacement of the unit ventilators, fan coil units, ductwork, piping and new automatic controls. The project was partially funded with a \$224,190 Green Community Grant and will be completed in October, 2014. This project is a follow up to the FY13 replacement of the original boilers and air conditioning equipment installed in 1962 that was also partially funded with a \$169,103 Green Communities Grant.
- Further improvements to the Town Hall included a new handicap access ramp on the east entrance to the building that was funded as part of the new Police Station project and the replacement of the deteriorated east and west doorways and the addition of automatic door openers at the east entrance. Funding for the new doorways and automatic door openers came from the Mohegan Sun initial Host Community Agreement payment.
- The Town entered into a Power Purchase Agreement with Blue Wave Solar to purchase the Solar

Energy Credits from a project they are building on Baptist Hill. This should result in at a 20% to 30% savings in our municipal electricity cost once the project starts producing energy in FY15.

- In September the Town launched a new website that is much more user-friendly which has made it much easier for the many departments, boards and committees to keep their webpages fresh and informative.
- In response to the mold problem encountered early in the year at Old Mill Pond School the Town Council transferred \$20,000 from Free Cash to hire an Architect to prepare documents and select new materials to replace the carpet that contributed to the problem. Although a debt exclusion vote to fund the project was defeated in June we will try to find a way to move forward on this in FY15.
- New Collective Bargaining Agreements were negotiated with Police Local 071 and the DPW/Administrative Offices/Park and Cemetery Departments/WWTP and COA Van Drivers Local 1459, and ratified by the Union members and the Town Council. The Collective Bargaining Agreement with Dispatcher Local 1459 was negotiated and was awaiting final ratification by the Dispatcher Union at year end.
- The Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan was updated by a Committee appointed for that purpose this year and endorsed by the Town Council. It was sent to the State for final approval. A current Open Space and Recreation Plan is a prerequisite for many State grant programs.
- The Town's new Police Headquarters was completed ahead of schedule and within budget. A Dedication Ceremony and Open House were held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the transfer of full Police operations to the new facility was on June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- In June the Town Council authorized the establishment of a committee to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Town in 1716. Volunteers are needed to help plan, organize and staff monthly events during 2016, our celebration year.
- This year the Town faced significant penalties in the form of reduced Chapter 70 payments caused by our failure to meet Net School Spending requirements, largely due to the fact that Palmer was one of 127 school districts that was not allowed to count retired school employees' health insurance premium contributions toward Net School Spending while another 250 districts are allowed to count this cost. Senator Stephen Brewer has been working diligently to resolve this problem, not only for Palmer, but for the other communities impacted by this inequity. Working with the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Senator Brewer was able to gain passage of a provision in the State's FY15 Budget that will allow the phase-in of retired school employees' health insurance premium cost over a four year period starting in FY16. Representative Todd Smola provided support on the House side for Senator Brewer's important resolution of this problem.

This is only one example of the outstanding service and support that Senator Brewer has provided over the years to the Town of Palmer and to his District. We extend our best wishes to him for a well-deserved retirement – he will be sorely missed.

These accomplishments are the result of the combined efforts of our department managers, staff and in many cases the volunteered hours of several Boards and Committees, and I would like to thank them for this important work.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the members of the Town Council for their support and clarity in defining the goals and policies for our town government, and to Andrew Golas for the help he provides on a daily basis as Executive Assistant to the Town Manager and the Town Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Blanchard  
Town Manager

## TOWN COUNCIL

I hereby submit the report of the Town Council of the Town of Palmer for Fiscal Year 2014.

In FY2014, the Town Council faced a number of opportunities and challenges which had far reaching effects on the community as a whole. In September of 2013, the Town Council approved and ratified the Host Community Agreement with Mohegan Sun Massachusetts, LLC. By ratifying the Host Community Agreement, an election was held by the town to accept the agreement which failed by a narrow margin.

As part of the ratification of the Host Community Agreement, the town received an unrestricted grant of \$200,000. These funds have been earmarked for improvements to our community and so far a portion has been used for the replacement of the east and west doors of town hall as well as the replacement of the Four Corner's Cemetery fence. We hope to use the remaining funds to help improve the character of our community.

The Town Council also moved forward in many different investments in the community. The Town Council signed a 10 year Tax Incentive Financing Agreement with Detector Technology to help invest in their business as well as offer more jobs to Palmer residents. The investment in job creation will be the key to our community moving forward. We hope that many more companies like Detector Technology make the decision to lay their roots down in Palmer.

Thanks to the hard work of Community Development Director Alice Davey, the Town of Palmer was awarded a Community Development Block Grant for the redevelopment of Endleson Playground in Bondsville and a Common Backyards Grant for the renovation of Eager Playground in Palmer. Additionally, the Town Council contributed an additional \$17,050 in funds toward these projects. We hope that these projects will become a catalyst toward the future growth of our community.

This year, the Town of Palmer celebrated the opening of the new \$7.4 Million Palmer Police Station. Through the hard work and dedication of Chief Frydryk and the support of this community, the Palmer Police have a beautiful new facility to call home. We are confident that the addition of this new facility will re-invigorate our police force and give the residents of the Town of Palmer something to be proud of.

As we move forward as a community, we can look toward a number of ongoing projects which will help secure our infrastructure for years to come. Most notable is the Sewer Replacement Project which will fully rehabilitate the sewer system and local roads in four of Palmer's residential neighborhoods. We thank all those involved in moving this significant investment forward without over burdening the tax payers.

Finally, we would like to thank Town Manager Charlie Blanchard and all department heads and staff for their continuing efforts to serve the Council and the people of Palmer. We look forward to working together to serve this community through 2015 and beyond.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phil Hebert  
Town Council President

## TOWN CLERK

### MARRIAGES 2013-2014

#### July

13	Paul A. Gasparrini	Westfield	Krysten Mae Czech	Westfield
13	Earl F. Loranger	Palmer	Andrea L. Zoschak	Palmer
14	Eric G. Laub	Palmer	Jessica M. Hutchins	Palmer
20	Thomas W. Rackliffe	Palmer	Stacey A. Mimoso	Palmer
20	Todd I. Sweryda	Palmer	Amy L. Smith	Palmer
26	Mark M. Morin	Palmer	Katie A. Cadieux	Palmer

#### August

1	Todd C. Haley	Palmer	Toby A. Miller	Ware
3	Eric T. Blomstrom	Palmer	Sandra G. Mainville	Palmer
10	Jaime Del Valle, Jr.	Palmer	Shannon Franco	Palmer
10	Jordan S. Marshall	N.C.	Brooke E. Hutton	Holland
10	Donald R. Wood	Palmer	Shala M. Rock	Palmer
17	Myrella B. Leclair II	Palmer	Barbara A. Martzall	Palmer
19	Daniel R. Taylor	Palmer	Ashley P. Chartier	Palmer
20	Michael J. Dansereau	Palmer	Kaleigh A. Haniffy	Palmer
24	Michael A. Gouvin	Palmer	Diane M. Patrick	Palmer
31	Jose P. Maltez	Palmer	Rita M. Pereira	Palmer
31	Michael K. Tenney	Palmer	Cathy A. Rollins	Palmer
31	Kyle S. Vallone	Palmer	Amber-Rose A. Dane	Palmer

#### September

14	Gary J. Novak	Cheshire	Carol R. Siegel	Palmer
14	Travis J. Richer	Palmer	Ellen O. Andersen	Palmer
27	Valentino R. Ricci, Jr.	Palmer	Tiffany A. Barr	Palmer
28	Thomas P. Mazzarino	Palmer	Hannah L. Clements	Palmer

#### October

5	Steven J. Obarowski	Palmer	Karen L. Jeannotte	Palmer
6	Paul W. Yaeger	Palmer	Heather M. Lavalley	Palmer
11	Matthew A. Baker	Palmer	Jill M. Patrick	Palmer
11	Joseph J. Larose	Palmer	Liza M. King	Palmer
12	Tyler W. Dane	Palmer	Sydnee B. Pages	Springfield
12	Jason A. Lazarz	Palmer	Sara L. Suprenant	Palmer
14	Jose S. Saravia	Palmer	Sharla L. Pule	Palmer
19	Anthony R. Ditrocchio	Palmer	Jacqueline Jason	Palmer
26	Donald J. Germain	Palmer	Laurie A. Barton	Palmer
26	Justin A. Singer	Palmer	Melissa C. Nelson	Palmer
27	Jamy T. Lazarick	Palmer	Teresa R. Donato	Palmer

#### November

1	Timothy D. Garrett	Palmer	Kenneth Dolan-DelVecchio	Palmer
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2	Jason A. Rogers	Palmer	Laura C. Courchesne	Palmer
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December

7	Zachary J. Cooper	Palmer	Amanda C. Gittens	Palmer
7	Evan T. Lang	Palmer	Lauren Y. Oliveira	Ludlow
10	Joel B. Sefchik	Palmer	Michelle J. Yagmin	Palmer
21	Thomas P. Biron	Palmer	Michelle L. Graveline	Palmer
30	Alec Mian	Palmer	Julie A. Callahan	Palmer
30	Brian R. Sanders	New York	Montinee J. Pongsiri	New York
30	Robert W. Bruscoe	Palmer	Pamela A. Labrecque	Palmer

January

16	Shane S. Iott	Brookfield	Christine M. Goodard	Brookfield
28	Bryan A. Corbiere	Palmer	Alexandra M. Salzmann	Palmer
29	Sean T. Brinkley	Palmer	Danielle C. Decoigne	Palmer

February

10	John S. Lasalle	Palmer	Bette A. Knox	Palmer
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March

10	Daniel P. Goddu	Ware	Samantha R. Elwell	Palmer
29	Nathan C. Matthews	Palmer	Monique D. Gosselin	Palmer

April

12	Nathan R. Goodrow	Palmer	Kathryn H. Tylawsky	Palmer
13	James E. MacDonald	Palmer	Margeaux A. Roberts	Palmer

May

12	Dale W. Glennie, Jr.	Palmer	Sandra D. Hannah	Palmer
25	Stanley T. Kareta	MO.	Julie Ann Hurley	Palmer
25	Michael J. McCord	Palmer	Jessica L. Cunningham	Palmer
31	Timothy H. Hulse	Palmer	Kimberly A. Garvey	Palmer

June

1	Jeffrey K. Schaff	Palmer	Gillian J. Mosier	Palmer
14	William J. Labossiere, Jr.	Palmer	Meagan B. Gatto	Palmer
21	Matthew J. Parsons	Palmer	Chelsea Wahlers	Palmer
27	Steven R. Sadusky	Palmer	Tyla E. Phillips	Palmer

## DEATHS 2013-2014

Date	Name	Age
July		
6	Harry D. Wurster	78
11	Andre C. Forest	72
14	Lillian E. Midura	85
14	Estelle R. Wawrzonek	85
15	Josephine A. Les	88
17	Joseph W. Burns	68
19	Josephine M. Slozak	90
21	Lucy M. Desmarais	94
21	Christine S. Stockmal	94
24	Robert Starsiak	47
25	Genevieve A. Czapienski	85
27	Margaret M. Galipeau	83
August		
2	Richard F. Sabonis	70
3	Thomas M. Disley	60
5	Anabelle Price	94
5	Robert G. Bruns	92
5	Edward W. Alexandersen	91
9	Harriet J. Goodrich	96
18	Patricia Frappier	54
18	James C. Hamill	83
22	Albert E. Bilton, Jr.	74
22	Lottie J. Wojnilowicz	86
26	Robert W. Riedel	92
28	Nancy C. Parker	53
28	Joyce Horne	82
September		
1	Clyde A. Waite	87
6	Carleton M. Smith	63
7	John C. Musante	68
8	John W. Beck	69
8	Terry L. Baird	60
8	Richard L. Brown	77
10	William F. Dubuque	83
11	Daniel F. Reim	62
12	Beverly Goldberg	86
12	Jadviga Joanna Jacobs	97
13	Ramond C. Germain	79
13	Kevin B. Moriarty	60
19	Madeline R. Bowler	87
20	Frances C. Koziol	89
22	Todd A. Houle	47
22	Raymond J. Doherty, Jr.	88
24	George A. Scott	87

26	Patricia Minucci	67
26	Peggy A. Melcher	61
28	William F. Oldread	55
29	Irene Christiansen	90
29	Mabel I. Desmarais	87
29	Yvon P. Meloche	81

#### October

3	David W. Halsall	66
6	Mark D. Shea	59
5	Stanley W. Balicki	88
10	Richard A. Charwick	56
11	Walter Boronski	89
12	Walter M. Gwara	65
14	Cecile E. Leduc	85
16	Sandra A. Meacham	60
20	Roger D. Mundell	77
23	William E. Vennert, Jr.	66
27	Dennis R. Gaudreau	58
29	Michele M. Mongeau	88
30	Donald W. Ellithorpe	80

#### November

2	Genevieve I. Peck	85
2	Dorothy E. Waite	84
2	Esther R. Norton	82
3	Patricia Feazell	56
4	Josephine M. Marchelewicz	99
12	George A. Backus	89
21	Jeannette L. Santos	82
26	Beverly A. Los	67
28	Una A. Samsel	90
30	Albert A. Michaluk	84

#### December

2	Bertha A. Huse	92
3	Jeannette A. Zacharkow	94
4	David E. Prouty	73
12	Carol A. Lavigne	63
13	Frances F. Slattery	84
14	Edward A. Gomes	80
13	Alfred C. Carter	66
15	Stephanie B. Opielowski	95
16	Bertha A. Campbell	94
17	Dwenlyn C. Robinson	99
19	Leo Corrow	90
24	Paul Pobieglo	52
27	Joanne Allard	67
29	Stacia Sieczkowski	95

## January

3	John Arcotta, Jr.	72
5	Mary L. Wyngowski	85
6	Daniel A. Hevey	58
6	Elizabeth T. Lejman	90
14	Joseph Gagne	82
14	Aimee E. LaMarche	93
16	Domingos G. Goncalves	51
19	Christine G. Buchman	84
20	Anna S. Tyburski	87
24	Roger E. Manning	57
27	Doris L. Lynn	76
27	Mabel M. Labelle	97
28	Dennis P. Nahabedian	59
30	Sandra J. Bucior	62

## February

1	Raymond F. Moran Jr.	68
2	Kenneth F. Clark	78
2	Josephine M. Chmura	93
3	Brian A. Smith	27
6	Mary Elizabeth Hott	83
6	Margaret I. Szado	90
8	Pierrette H. Holmes	89
12	Cynthia Woodman	55
13	Thomas J. Skura	52
13	Victor L. Rivard, Sr.	79
13	Linda M. Perry	62
14	William B. Donovan	66
18	Robert L. Bean	76
18	Martin E. Sullivan	66
20	Lucy H. Petelle	91
23	Diane E. Jurczyk	59
24	Catherine E. Stamm	80
26	Mary P. Bolow	96
27	Esther E. Mednick	93

## March

1	Pamela M. Quatrone	50
2	Alice E. Coyer	87
3	Christine A. Morton	44
4	Conrad B. Albrecht	83
5	Irene Bizon	90
8	Alice A. Piechota	87
10	Gerald Ranner	72
11	Earl D. Noble	68
11	Evelyn S. Blackburn	88
11	Susan Vertefeuille	61
14	Marjorie L. Marciniac	91
15	Valerie J. Koziol	87
15	Edward F. Mazur	55
18	Janet B. Charette	83
20	Janine F. Roy	92

20	Duane J. Cray	53
23	John J. Dubovik	81
23	Marcella Thibeault	70
22	Peter E. Carroll	68
27	Ernest E. Friberg	72
29	Frederyk S. Wnek	86
29	Roger E. Brach	67
31	Kenneth T. O'Brien	48

#### April

5	Genevieve T. Lopata	94
6	Sophie J. Sheppard	103
9	Artis Myers	70
10	Richard Henry, Sr.	75
14	Joan Gaudreau	84
14	Mary Zapsalis	94
16	Thomas Wong	82
22	Annette M. Caron	63
22	Lucinene L. Gibouveau	95
23	Jeanette M. Strycharz	86
24	Mary K. Marlow	85
24	Dan E. LaMountain	73
24	Agnes M. Bromage	90
26	Georgette Benoit	84
28	Barbara J. Koprek	71
29	Alice Noreau	80

#### May

2	Edwin A. Chmura	89
2	Marion A. Maloney	99
2	Brian W. Moran	55
3	Lawrence A. Erbentraut	86
3	Barbara E. Lynn	79
4	Mitchell L. Dobek	89
4	Genevieve Stokowski	88
4	Joshua T. Kology	26
6	Margaret D. Santaw	71
10	John E. Rhodes, Sr	81
10	Stephanie V. Mega	97
10	Kenneth J. Chisholm	72
13	William J. Pegoraro	81
13	Alfred J. Santucci	82
15	Jennie M. Tobiasz	87
15	Dorothy A. Kibbe	82
16	Abel R. Santos	21
18	Linda Henrichon	51
21	Ellen M. Ellithorpe	78
30	Wayne E. Dalton	75
31	Janice Midura	68

#### June

2	Elaine E. Robbins	86
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6	Todd A. Kenyon	55
9	Edward W. Hurley	61
10	Marjorie Hinerman	90
11	Judith E. Boynton	71
14	Stanley R. Lazarick	76
13	Nuno DeJesus Faria	39
17	Andrew A. Johnson	78
17	Donald R. Spink, Sr.	80
19	Corinne E. Raymond	81
24	Wanda J. Knight	88
25	Arthur H. Aldrich	92
27	Shirley M. Erickson	88

July

1	Guy Samson	81
2	Mary A. Matrow	62
5	Chad Bryall	41
6	Florence L. McCarthy	83
11	Eileen C. Ashe	92
13	Germaine O. Drake	92
13	Pauline C. Niemczura	89
14	Roger O. LeDuc	84
14	Wanda M. Ziembra	96
16	Claire T. Ziarno	79
22	Christopher J. Shea	57
23	Mary C. Reagan	93
31	Peter E. Fortin	71

## **CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

### **Conservation Commission Introduction**

The Palmer Conservation Commission (The Commission) administers the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) (M.G.L. Chapter 131 Section 40) and associated regulations (310 CMR 10.00). The Commission also reviews all Forest Cutting Plans within the town, all septic system plans within the jurisdiction of the WPA and any project within areas of protected rare/endorsed species and/or priority habitat governed by the National Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP), a division of the Massachusetts Fisheries & Wildlife.

Accordingly, any proposed activity that may remove, fill, dredge or alter a wetland resource area is subject to The Commission approval. Wetlands that are subject to protection under the act include any area within 100 feet of a swamp, marsh, forested wetland, vernal pool, pond, intermittent stream, and the 100-year flood zone. The Commission also has jurisdiction within 200 feet of any stream that flows year round, unless the stream is designated as a densely developed area. In this case, the jurisdiction is from the mean annual high water mark 25 feet out. It should be noted that wetlands may not be wet all year round and low areas that flood in the spring may be considered wetlands as well.

### **The Role of the Conservation Commission**

The Conservation Commission regulates permit activities that may alter wetlands or their buffer zones in protected areas. Regulated activities include, but are not limited to, dumping leaves, brush, grass, debris, cutting trees or shrubs, reconstructing lawns, building or constructing any type of structures or a septic system, grading, excavating, or filling, changing storm water discharge, polluting wetlands or streams, creating any impervious surface (paving a driveway). Activities within protected area may require a permit, for more information on any given project please consult our Wetlands Protection Brochure available in the Conservation Commission Office.

### **Members of the Conservation Commission**

The Commission is made up of Palmer residents that share a passion for protecting the wetland resources of the town. Commissioners are appointed by the Town Manager for a three-year term. The commissioners and staff are continuously educating themselves through training programs, seminars and conferences sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) in order to stay current with constantly evolving rules and regulations, updated scientific data and best management practices.

The following Conservation Commission Member served in Fiscal Year 2014: Mr. Robert Ring (Chair), Mr. Donald Duffy (Vice-Chair), Mr. Peter Izyk, Mr. Dennis Cote, Mr. Sean O'Donnell and Mr. Tharyn Nein-Large. There is currently one open vacancy on the Commission and all interested resident should send a letter of request to the Town Manager.

Additionally, Ms. Angela Panaccione has been serving as the town's Conservation Agent since 2013. As Conservation Agent Ms. Panaccione serves as an informational resource to the Commission by performing routine and complex professional, administrative and technical duties; including keeping the Commissioners informed on changes in Federal and State environmental protection regulations, as appropriate. Ms. Panaccione also reviews all filings and analyzes submitted data and plans for compliance with the requirements of Wetlands Protection Act, the Rivers Protection Act, the Town of Palmer's Wetlands Protection Ordinance and associated federal, state, and local regulations; manages the processing of all wetlands filings for proper and timely action associated with Commission business to ensure compliance with legally mandated deadlines. She also advises applicants on wetlands applications for various projects by providing consolation services as needed; maintaining office appointments; communicating with all applicants, engineers, attorneys, consultants, etc. and scheduling and conducting through site visits and preliminary project review, to ensure that proposed projects do not threaten environmental and conservation values and interests. Additionally, Ms. Panaccione investigates complaints of wetland violations, coordinates & monitors potential violations and recommends appropriate action needed for site remediation.

**Table 1: Total fillings per category/ per year**

PERMITS	YEARLY TOTAL FY 2014	YEARLY TOTAL FY 2013	YEARLY TOTAL FY 2012
Request for Determining Applicability/ Determination of Applicability	7	10	9
Notice of Intent/ Order of Conditions/Amended NOI & OOC	6	4	3
Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation/ Order of Resource Area Delineation	0	1	0
Requests for Extensions of Orders of Conditions	1	0	0
Enforcement Orders/Cease & Desist Letters (violations)	2	3	2
Emergency Certifications	1	3	1
Certifications of Compliance	2	1	3
Site Visits	112	83	70

**Important Issues and Accomplishments of 2014**

Over the 2014 Fiscal year the Commission has been extremely busy dealing with many important conservation issues and the permitting of various large scale developments, such as:

- **Up to Date and Accurate Website:** The Commission has updated its website with current information on the commission and Wetlands Protection in Palmer. Agendas and Minutes are posted regularly and can be accessed any time. Also, a meeting schedule with submission deadlines for the year are incorporated incorporated to assist applicants with the filing process.
- **Palmer Motorsports Facility (DEP #256-0256):** Since 2006, the Commission has actively been working with Palmer Motorsports Inc. to permit a facility in off West Warren Road. Site work has begun and the Commission and its Agent have been actively monitoring the construction for permit compliance. The Commission is also in the process of negotiating a 100 acres Conservation Restriction on site, which will connect with the US Fish & Wildlife land to the east and provide a trail connection via Quarry Road, to Colonel Mountain trail system.
- **Town-wide Trails, Conservation and Recreation Lands General Maintenance Permit:** The Commission has worked with the Trails Association and the Recreation Department to develop a town wide wetlands permit for generic trail maintenance and land management activities on town owned land (DEP # 256-0304). The Commission believes town entities should be allowed to practice certain maintenance and/or minor activities without having to file individual permit applications for each activity. Our goal was to issue a permit that provides specific standards for trail work and land management activities; that expedites the process when a town entity wishes to conduct a project in jurisdictional areas. By developing a consistent set of standards and procedures for conducting work near wetlands, the Commission strives to encourage trail work that improves the functions and values of the wetland and sets an example for other landowners wishing to maintain trails and conduct similar land management practices.
- **Conservation Area Inventory:** The enabling legislation that created Conservation Commissions in 1957 authorizes Conservation Commissions to inventory the municipality's natural resources and to prepare relevant maps and plans. The goal of the conservation lands inventory is to

identify and map all protected and unprotected land of interest for open space or recreation use. This inventory has been developed by reviewing the files of lands held by the Town and lands with special tax exempt or tax reduced status (Chapter 61, 61A and 61B, APR and CR lands). The inventory categorizes the conservation, recreation and significant vacant lands in Town and identifies the Assessors Map-Lot reference, the location, lot area, owner, status for public access. UMASS student and Conservation Intern Sarah Brodeur has been assisting the Commission through this process, along with conducting additional wildlife habitat assessment of the various town owned Conservation Lands.

### Goals/Activities for 2014

- **Forest Legacy Program:** The Commission has actively been participating in the MassConn Sustainable Forestry Partnership for the past several years and is proud to announce our area has been granted the status of a Forest Legacy Area. This opens the door to a vast variety of funding for research, open space protection and land acquisition. In the coming year the Commission will be working with local land owners and the MassConn Partnership on a FY15 Forest Legacy Program (FLP) Grant; which is a Federal program designed to provide funding to support State efforts to protect environmentally sensitive forest lands and to encourage the protection of privately owned forest lands by helping landowners develop and carry out sustainable forest conservation plans.

The Commission is always looking to expand its base through associated members, interns or volunteers (for water quality monitoring, river clean-up and trail maintenance this summer). Anyone interested should contact the Commission at [conservation@townofpalmer.com](mailto:conservation@townofpalmer.com).

The Commission would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Intern and aspiring Commissioner Sarah Brodeur for all her hard work and effort this year! Additionally, the Commission would also like to thank all the residents of Palmer for their support over the past years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela C Panaccione  
Conservation Agent  
Palmer Conservation Commission

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

The Palmer Planning Board, consisting of five elected members, met regularly during the twelve-month period of July 1, 2013 thru June 30, 2014. It is the Board's policy to meet as often as necessary to conduct business deemed appropriate under Massachusetts General Laws and the Charter of the Town of Palmer, generally the first and third Mondays of each month if meeting space is available.

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

#### Elected Board Members

Chairman  
Vice Chairman  
Clerk

Michael Marciniac  
Norman Czech  
Andrew Golas  
Thomas Skowyra  
Kathy Burns

#### Staff

Town Planner/Economic Development Director  
Full-Time Administrative Assistant

Linda Leduc  
Nicole Parker

In January 2014 the part-time Principal Clerk position was expanded to full-time and re-titled as Administrative Assistant. Ms. Parker has taken on this additional workload assisting the Town Planner/Economic Development Director, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Palmer Redevelopment Authority with great enthusiasm and professionalism. The Board welcomes the much needed staff support.

During the past 12-months, the Planning Board held seventeen regular and three 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 public meetings, the Board held hearings and acted on three Special Permits, six Site Plan Approvals, six storm water permits, and signed ten Subdivision Approval Not Required (SANR) plans that met current zoning requirements and therefore are deemed exempt from subdivision regulations.

In response to the one-year moratorium on Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, the Planning Board met numerous times over the year to draft an Ordinance which will address all uses related to Medical Marijuana Facilities. A final draft was complete in June and it is expected that this Ordinance will be considered for adoption by Town Council in early FY 14.

The Permit Extension Act, from the Acts of 2010, continued to be in affect this year, and extended all of the annual gravel removal special permits for another year so that renewal of them was unnecessary. The Board, however, continues to inspect all of the locations three times during the operating season and maintains current bonds, liability insurance, operating and inspection fees.

The interest in developing large-scale, ground mounted, photovoltaic systems within Town remains high. During FY14 three projects were completed and began generating solar power. The 2.4MW system on Norbell Street went online in December of 2013 and the 3.0MW system on State Street was connected to the grid in April 2014. Phase 1 of the solar generation system located on Baptist Hill Road was complete in June of 2103. This 2.0MW portion of a 4.6 MW system is expected to be connected to the grid this fall. It is expected that Phase 2, totaling 2.6 MW, will be under construction this fall. A 3.6MW project off of Peterson Road is currently in the permitting phase. The culmination of these projects (including the 2012 1.25 MW system on Boston Road) totals 14.85MW of solar power generation (enough electricity to serve 2600 homes) and will result in the Town of Palmer being a leading community in the state for commercial solar power generation. Due to these site improvements the Town is expected to realize annual tax revenues in excess of \$178,000.00. The Town has also agreed to purchase the net metering credits from the Baptist Hill project which will reduce our own municipal energy costs.

The Board, through Energy Committee representation, supported a second Green Communities grant application to fund Phase 2 of the Town Hall HVAC project. On June 25, 2013, the Town was awarded \$224,190.00 for installation of a new energy management system, replacement of the existing ventilator units, thermostats and piping system, as well as installation of vending machine misers. The construction phase of this project began in early June 2014 and it is expected that the installation will be complete prior to the 2014 heating season. With the ever-changing technology in the area of power generation and conservation and in consideration of the federal and state incentives that are currently being offered, we continue to pursue promising programs that will benefit the residents by stabilizing our energy costs and replacing aging infrastructure.

Economic Development is of course a priority for many Palmer residents and is also a concern for the Planning Board and staff. The Economic Development Director, a FY 14 funded position officially expanding the duties of the Town Planner, has primarily focused on maintaining current businesses in town and attracting development to the five Priority Development Sites as well as to various undeveloped, underutilized parcels. In June, the Town participated in a regional Economic Development Conference where many of these parcels were featured. Additionally, the Town was successful in signing a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Agreement with Detector Technology, Inc. who is expanding their business

within the Urban Renewal Industrial Park. Further, the Department met numerous times with representatives of Palmer Motor Sports for the racetrack now under construction on West Ware Road. Construction is anticipated to be complete in the late fall of 2014 with an anticipated opening in the spring of 2015. And, while the vote for a casino last November failed, the department continues to meet with potential developers regarding the future commercial development at the Shearer/Thorndike Street intersection.

Since the Board adopted the Seasonal Cottage Resort Ordinance in 2008 activity has remained stagnant. However, we have recently had a developer come forward who is proposing a project that will include 200+ units of seasonal housing. This will be an economic boost to Palmer as there will be very little impact on town services. The Board continues to work on improving its site design standards and is currently updating the existing parking requirements and adding more sustainable design standards to the process. These will be implemented through amendment of our current Site Plan Review criteria. The Board also is considering a new commercial business district to accommodate denser more vertical building development centered-around pedestrian-oriented plazas. This zoning would be applicable to the Thorndike Street corridor as development interest continues to be oriented proximal to the Mass Pike exchange.

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. Marciniac  
Chairman

## **BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

Between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014 permit applications, specifications and plans were reviewed, permits were issued and construction monitored for the following:

### **PERMITS ISSUED IN FY-14**

<b>TYPE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PERMITS</b>	<b>FEE TOTALS</b>	<b>ESTIMATED COST TOTALS</b>
<b>New</b>			
Single Family Homes	0		
Multi-Family Homes	0		
Cabins - Summer Camps	1	\$958.20	\$180,000.00
Commercial	2	\$4,061.20	\$930,000.00
<b>Solar</b>			
Residential	8	\$1,472.97	\$244,955.00
Commercial	4	\$55,911.92	\$11,215,855.00
<b>Additions</b>			
Residential	13	\$4,471.38	\$588,500.00
Commercial	1	\$6,000.00	\$615,800.00
<b>Mobile Home Replacement</b>	2	\$500.00	\$50,000.00
<b>Renovations</b>			
Residential	60	\$7,097.00	\$1,318,471.58
Commercial	19	\$6,092.50	\$720,737.00
<b>Garage /Barn/ Storage</b>			
Residential	8	\$3,490.40	\$258,800.00
Commercial	1	\$1,152.00	\$120,000.00
<b>Decks / Porches /Stairs</b>			
Residential	27	\$1,745.06	\$168,061.00



## **BOARD OF HEALTH**

The Board of Health is required by state statutes and regulations to perform many important and crucial duties relative to the protection of public health, food safety, reporting and control of disease, promotion of sanitary living conditions, and protection of the environment from damage and pollution. If the enforcement of regulations may cause manifest injustice, the Board of Health would not conflict with the minimum standards of any applicable statute, code or regulation. We continue to prevent, promote and protect public health in the community.

Joshua Mathieu, Public Health Agent and Susan Hintze, Administrative Clerk, see to the day to day activities of the Board of Health. The office is located in the Town Hall and hours are Mondays from 8:30am to 7pm and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30 to 5:00. The Board of Health consists of a three member board: Jayne Heede, Public Health Nurse, John Lukaskiewicz, Secretary, and Paul Benard, Chairman. The Board meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:00pm in the Town Hall.

We applied for and obtained a \$500.00 grant to purchase SHARPS containers for the disposal of used needles. The 100 SHARPS containers were dispensed free of charge to be returned to the Health Department and sent to a disposal facility.

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission received a Community Innovation Challenge Grant to fund a Community Health Assessment for 9 Hampden County communities including Palmer. The Board of Health is working with partnerships to collect data. The community health assessment will aid in identifying unmet health needs that can be addressed by local public health boards and other health initiatives occurring within the region.

In October and April we organized and held Drug Take Back days and took in any unused and outdated pill medications. The 3 boxes of medications from October and the 5 boxes from the April collection were then transported by the Palmer Police Department to a local facility to be destroyed.

Three influenza immunization clinics were held and visits were made to homebound residents. The clinics were held at Divine Mercy Parish, Converse Middle School and the Palmer Fire Department. The state supplied 140 doses of vaccine to be used for uninsured or underinsured adults. The Board would like to thank Wing Memorial Hospital, Jayne Heede, Rose Tyburski, Lee Nadolski, Gail LeClair and Regina Janosz, and the volunteers who so generously gave their time and for the facilities that have for many years donated space.

The Board issues licenses and inspects all food establishments under 105 CMR 590.000: State Sanitary Code Chapter X – Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments. The 91 licensed food establishments are inspected twice a year for facility cleanliness, food safety, food security, consumer protection and up-to-date certifications. All foodborne illness reports are immediately investigated.

The Massachusetts Sanitary Code, Chapter 11 Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation provides detailed standards for safe and sanitary housing. All persons should be afforded a suitable housing environment. Inspections are done upon request for compliance or when a complaint is received. Housing inspections were done for more than 90 residences and correction orders were issued as necessary. The Board of Health also investigates all nuisances, unsanitary conditions, sources of filth, housing violations and causes of sickness within the town.

Sanitary sewage disposal is closely regulated to ensure the health and wellbeing of the community. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulates the surface disposal of sanitary sewage known as Title 5 of the State Environmental Code. Title 5 establishes minimum statewide standards for the design, use, siting and construction of septic systems. The Board of Health's role is to enforce the Title 5 regulations by reviewing preliminary plans for siting and design, witness percolation tests, act upon applications for permits to install, modify and repair septic systems, inspect septic installations, repairs and upgrades and order corrective measures when violations are found. To ensure proper septic system construction and handling of pumped sewage the Board of Health requires annual permits for septage disposal installers and sewage haulers. This year 13 percolation tests were witnessed, 16 septic system installations and 5 repairs inspected, 9 installers and 13 haulers licensed.

The Board of Health issued the following permits:

1-Day Food	13
Bakery	5
Body Art Establishment	1
Body Art Practitioner	1
Convenience Store	28
Deli	4
Food Establishment / Restaurant	57
Frozen Desert	14
Funeral Director	2
Milk	58
Mobile Food	2
Mobile Home Park	1
Motel / Cabins	2
Perc Test	13
Recreational Camp	2
Seasonal Food / Restaurant	12
Septic Final Inspections	16
Septic Hauler	13
Septic Installer	9
Septic Plan Review	21
Septic Component Replacement	5
Swimming Pool / Hot Tub (Public)	3
Tanning	2
Tobacco	22

The Massachusetts Bureau of Communicable Disease Control requires the Board of Health to conduct a disease surveillance follow-up investigation for all notifications of a confirmed or unconfirmed communicable disease event in the Town. Palmer is in the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network – MAVEN. MAVEN is a web based disease surveillance and case management system that enables the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to capture and transfer appropriate public health, laboratory and clinical data efficiently and securely over the internet in real-time. The following are the cases we responded to this year.

Babesiosis	5
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Campylobacteriosis	1
Group A streptococcus	2
Group B streptococcus	3
Hepatitis A	1
Hepatitis B (cronic)	1
Hepatitis C (acute)	3
Hepatitis C (chronic)	23
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	3
Influenza	29
Legionellosis	2
Lyme Disease	22
Measles	2
Mumps	1
Salmonellosis	2
Streptococcus pneumonia	1
Toxoplasmosis	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>

Wendy LaSage, Animal Inspector, investigates animal bites, possible exposure to rabies, issues quarantines as needed and conducts annual barn inspections. This year we had 19 animal bites. The Animal Inspector continues to monitor the feral cat population and follows-up on animal complaints.

We continue to develop and up-date our ALL-Hazards Emergency Dispensing and Shelter Plans. In the event of a natural disaster or a public health emergency we need to rely on our preparedness, plans, database of resources, equipment and personnel.

We are now a member if the Massachusetts Influenza Information System (MIIS). The MIIS allows us access to information in accordance to the complex immunization requirements to control vaccines for preventable diseases and to promote a healthier population.

We are members of the Hampden County Health Coalition. The Coalition coordinates and collaborates with public health entities to improve and safeguard the quality of life for our residents and plan for natural and man-made disasters. The Coalition has implemented a Shared Public Health Nurse Assistance program with the Ludlow Public Health Nurse to address long-term unmet needs and service local public health gaps.

We are members of the Quaboag Regional Emergency Planning Committee. The REPC is committed to preserving the community and its resources by maintaining a Regional Hazardous Materials Plan to minimize the risk to public safety, health and property damage.

We are working to create regulations for private wells, poultry, and update the current tobacco regulations. The purpose of private well regulation is to provide for the protection of the public health, safety welfare and the environment by, among other things, requiring the proper siting, construction and testing of private wells. The purpose of poultry regulations is to regulate the keeping of hens for the purpose of pets, home egg production, gardening or similar purposes. This regulation details the obligations of the hen keeper so as to prevent a nuisance to the surrounding lots or any public health concerns, as well as a permit issuing process. With new trends in tobacco use and products it is necessary to revise and update the current tobacco

regulations.

The Board and staff acknowledge and appreciate the assistance and cooperation of all Town Boards, Departments, Commissions and Community Organizations.

Respectfully Submitted

Palmer Board of Health

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

The Palmer Community Development Department is located in the Town Administration Building at 4417 Main Street Palmer. The office is open Monday 8:30am to 7:30pm and Tuesday – Thursday 8:30am 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.

During FY2014 the following grants were awarded:

\$430,899	FY13 CDBG CDFI
\$520,000	FY12 EDF
\$200,000	Our Common Back Yards
\$ 40,000	Promoting Community Development and Tourism in Central and Western Massachusetts
\$1,190,899	Total grants awarded

During FY14 the Community Development Department expended the following funds:

\$452,657.20 of CDBG funds to install a booster pump to increase the water pressure for residents living on Griffin Street, Stewart Street, Stewart Court, Crest Street and Hill Street in Bondsville. In total

\$454,741.24 was expended on this project, the remaining \$20,284.04 being funded by the Bondsville Water District;

\$312,141.24 was to rehabilitate 13 substandard units, providing safe, decent and affordable housing for 28 residents;

\$217,494.61 to replace 1,100 feet of sanitary sewer main in South High Street, in the Village of Bondsville;

\$44,779.56 for Domestic Violence Services, benefiting 166 survivors;

\$74,096.38 for grant administration;

\$66,557.85 for loans to For Profit Businesses within the region through the Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation

\$12,557.86 for loans and business planning to Microenterprise Businesses within the region through the Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation

\$1,180,284.70 Total grant expenditures

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.

Senior Center staff is obliged 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**

Genevieve Bates, Chairperson

Ernie Charland, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair

Linda Lamay, Secretary

Mary Hubert, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair

Peggy Corriveau

Betty Koss

Gloria Brouillette

Ruth Manning

Debbie Nathanson

Cathy Plouffe

The Council on Aging provided a broad range of services to Palmer's 60+ population during the year July 1, 2013 thru June 30, 2014. The 2010 Census shows an increase of 133 citizens over the age of 60 living in Palmer. Of the 2,496 Senior Citizen's of Palmer, approximately 1,100 unduplicated elders received a direct service from the Council on Aging. Twelve issues of the Senior Center Newsletter were printed and 700 per month were distributed.

To care for the physical needs of our 60+ population, cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure screenings are available weekly with Ruth Amador, RN, Wing Hospital, audiology screenings, eye care, foot care, massage therapy, reflexology, exercise programs, line dancing & balance classes, UMass nursing students program on community health, Healthy Eating Program, etc. were provided at the Palmer Senior Center. To meet the social needs we have card playing, bingo, chess, dominoes, Wii games, cribbage, night time pitch, Red Sox night, Games Night, day time pitch league, painting class, crafts class, pool playing, once monthly breakfast, Depot Group, etc. We held a celebration for every holiday and our Annual 90+ Birthday Party and Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Cookout at Pulaski Park and Christmas Party at Amvets.

Outreach continues to be much needed and utilized service to the elders of Palmer. There were 488 unduplicated seniors who were served through outreach. A total of 1,031 duplicated services including but not limited to home & office consultation, phone consultation, fuel assistance, knox boxes, housing, family support, insurance, nutrition, cell phone, medical, homecare, nursing home, elder abuse, utilities, support services, etc.

We also provide a free S.H.I.N.E. Counselor and Lawyer once monthly. AARP sponsored Income Tax Preparation from February thru April 15<sup>th</sup>. There are various monthly programs available on issues facing seniors. Medical equipment was available to be loaned at no charge as needed and eighty eight individuals took advantage of this program. Wing Memorial Hospital provided the senior center with a nurse for 6 hours a week and she provided 551 services. The Arthritis Foundation certified instructor held Arthritis & Tai Chi exercise class two days a week. Scantic Valley YMCA provided instructors Mon., & Wed. & Fri. for strength training classes. Lifecare of Wilbraham provided two instructors for Tai Chi class once a week. 149 seniors took advantage of the exercise programs. We started an RUOK program with seniors who are homebound being contacted once a week to check on them and see if they need anything.

A congregate meal program was held at the Palmer Senior Center, sponsored through Greater Springfield Senior Services, Inc. and the Council on Aging providing 3,053 Congregate Meals. The Council on Aging continues to provide supportive services to homebound elders. In Home Meals provided 77 frail elders with a hot meal five days a week, totaling 10,327 meals. In and Out of Town Van Transportation: 188 unduplicated passengers, including 22 passengers under 60 utilized this service. We provided a total of 4,481 rides. We have 2 lift-equipped vans in operation Monday thru Friday from 8:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. We have six volunteers who provide rides for medical appointments when our vans are fully booked. We provided 112 rides this year.

1,764 Brown Bags were distributed to 147 seniors as part of the Western MA Food Bank Program for Seniors. Twenty five seniors received fresh vegetables from the Farmshare Program, part of the Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture at no cost. They received \$10.00 per week worth of fresh vegetables for 10 weeks provided by Sully's Farm of Belchertown.

Tax Assistance, transportation, information and referrals, home delivered and congregate meals were also available to those under age 60 who are disabled. We allow those under 60 years to

attend our social programs and exercise classes. We had 44 non senior participants.

There were 99 deaths of persons over the age of 60.

We had 39 volunteers with a total of 2,406 volunteer hours donated to the Senior Center. Value \$36,500.00 worth of service. THANK YOU!!

A total of \$98,046.48 was received in grant monies during the FY14 year for various uses. 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 our elders in Palmer.

I would also like to thank The Friends of the Palmer Senior Center for their hard work and dedication to the seniors of Palmer. They give very generously to the Palmer Senior Center to fund programs and purchase items needed for the center and also to help those in need of fuel assistance. You are a wonderful group of people!! They gave a total of \$9,667.79 to the Council on Aging in FY14. THANK YOU!!

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Pincince  
Executive Director

### **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICE**

Under Chapter 115 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Commonwealth provides a needs-based means tested program of financial aid and medical assistance for low – income veterans and their dependents, through the Department of Veterans' Services administered by veteran's service agents throughout the state. The Veterans' Services Office works closely with the Senior Center, Shine Officer and other state agencies to ensure that elderly and disable Veterans are aware of all benefits that are available to them not just Veteran Benefits to included lower electric bill rate, government SNAP program, government cell phones, government health insurance, etc.

Retired veterans, widows or widowers, and veterans on Social Security Disability Income account for 82.5% of the Chapter 115 caseload for the town of Palmer and this number will continue to increase as the cost of medical care keeps going up and Veterans are living longer; this group of Chapter 115 Veterans increased by 7.5% last year. These Veterans are permanent Chapter 115 recipients and can only be removed from the program by moving to another town, an increase in income or death.

Veterans waiting a decision on their Social Security Disability (SSDI) Claims make up 7.5% of the towns Chapter 115 recipients. These Veterans receive full Chapter 115 benefits until their Disability Claims are approved. They are responsible for reimbursing the Town for their services with the retroactive check they receive from SSDI. Depending on the size of the award letter for SSDI the Veteran is either removed from Chapter 115 or the Veterans benefits are greatly reduced.

Unemployed veterans make up the last 10% of this office Chapter 115 benefit case files. These veterans have already used up their unemployment benefits and would be homeless if they weren't on Chapter 115. The Veteran's Service Office works with the veteran and the Labor and

Workforce Development Department of Career Services to help secure employment. Increased emphasis was placed on helping unemployed Veterans find employment by implementing a strong unemployment plan. This resulted in a decrease of unemployed Veterans by 15% from last year. Able bodied Veterans rejoining the work force helped decrease the monthly cost of Chapter 115 benefits and decrease the projected cost for Chapter 115 benefits for FY 15.

While the main mission of the Veteran's Service Officers is to administer Chapter 115 benefits, and make the veterans aware of other state veterans' benefits such as bonuses for wartime service and the state annuity for 100% disable veterans. This office also helps Veterans with their Federal Veterans benefits to include enrolled in the Federal Veterans Administration Health System, apply for VA pensions and disability compensation, how to use their GI Bill Benefits, etc. Helping newly discharged Veterans to make the transition back to civilian life and ensuring these Veterans know about and understand all the benefits available to them both by the State of Massachusetts and the Federal government has become important part of Veterans Services' Office.

DEBORAH A.SHILAIKIS  
Veterans' Agent  
Town of Palmer

### **PALMER HOUSING AUTHORITY**

The Palmer Housing Authority office and adjacent development known as Laurel Manor, is located at 13 Fletcher Street. The complex was first occupied in January of 1971. Laurel Manor consists of 48 one bedroom units. The Palmer Housing Authority operates under the State Chapter 667 Elderly/Handicapped Program. All rules and regulations are promulgated by the Department of Housing and Community Development, adopted by the Palmer Housing Authority Board of Commissioners and carried out by the housing authority staff. The staff consists of one part time Executive Director and one part time maintenance person.

Applications can be obtained at the office on 13 Fletcher Street or upon request. Currently applicants need to be 60 years of age or be an eligible handicapped/disabled person. A preference is given to local residents and local veterans 60 years of age. The current net income for eligibility is \$45,500 for one person and \$52,000 for two persons. As units become available they are filled from the waiting list of eligible applicants.

The Board of Commissioners consists of 4 members that are appointed by the Town Manager and one state appointed member. The Commissioners meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 4:00 P.M., in the community room at 13 Fletcher Street, 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,

Ronald W. Lemanski, Chairperson  
Mildred Jasak, Vice Chairperson  
Margaret Higgins, Treasurer  
Russell Webb, Assistant Treasurer  
Victoria Miner, State Appointee

## **RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

I hereby submit my report for Fiscal Year 2014. In my limited time in the position of recreation director, the department has taken on a number of tasks. These include:

- Summer Camp Planning and Registration
- Coordinated with Janice Lovell and assisted in the repainting of the Depot Park Train which still has been maintained. The train sparked the initiative to further the improvement of Depot Village Park including the repainting of the pavilion (assisted by the Interact Club of PHS), all benches being redone with new wood for seating.
- The collaboration with the Yellow House on having a concert in the park began in May Starting with a request from Barbara Barry and meeting with Bonnie Rathbone.
- Logo and Slogan Contest for the department Started in June and cumulating in July.
- Purchase of legitimate sporting and recreational equipment for camp and programming.
- Assistance to PYBSA in field clean up and contribution of field fill from the department for their season

I would like to thank all of those who have made these programs possible and I look forward to an event-filled year in Fiscal Year 2015.

Jim Ostrout  
Recreation Director

## **LICENSE COMMISSION**

The following is a summary of the licenses and fees collected for the 2013-2014 year.

Type	#	Fee	Total
All Alcoholic Beverage License			
Inn Holder	1	\$800.00	\$800.00
Club	5	\$800.00	\$4,000.00
Retail Package Store	4	\$665.00	\$2,660.00
Seasonal	1	\$400.00	\$400.00
Restaurant	12	\$800.00	\$9,600.00
Wine and Malt Beverage License			
Retail Package Store	5	\$520.00	\$2,600.00
Restaurant	3	\$520.00	\$1,560.00

Farmer's Market Wine	1	\$50.00	\$50.00
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Respectfully Submitted,

Richard L. Fitzgerald, Chairman  
 Robert P. Frydryk  
 Jason Polonsky  
 Theodore Simard  
 Michael Magiera

**ASSESSORS**

**LOCAL EXPENDITURES**

Appropriations	\$33,871,135.35
Offsets	\$29,651.00
Tax Title	\$60,000.00
Snow & Ice Deficits	\$37,371.06
State & County Charges	\$463,998.00
Overlay	\$213,977.14
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE RAISED</b>	<b>\$34,676,132.55</b>

**ESTIMATED RECEIPTS AND OTHER REVENUE SOURCES**

Cherry Sheet Estimated Receipts	\$12,770,815.00
Local Estimated Receipts	\$4,549,750.00
Other Available Funds	\$561,482.35
Free Cash	\$899,970.00
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$18,782,017.35</b>
<b>NET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED</b>	<b>\$15,894,115.20</b>

**NET AMOUNT TO BE RAISED / TOTAL VALUATION = TAX RATE FY2014**

**\$15,894,115.20 / \$880,072,824.00 = \$18.06**

**CLASSIFIED PERCENTAGES**

	<b>LEVY PERCENTAGE</b>	<b>LEVY BY CLASS</b>
RESIDENTIAL	83.0645%	\$13,202,367.32
OPEN SPACE	0	

COMMERCIAL	7.3295%	\$1,164,959.17
INDUSTRIAL	4.5727%	\$726,790.21
PERSONAL PROPERTY	5.0333%	\$799,998.50
	100.00%	<b>\$15,894,115.20</b>

**VALUATION BY CLASS**

RESIDENTIAL	\$731,028,515
OPEN SPACE	0
COMMERCIAL	\$64,504,668
INDUSTRIAL	\$40,243,300
PERSONAL PROPERTY	\$44,296,341
<b>TOTAL VALUATION</b>	<b>\$880,072,824</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda LeBlanc, Assessor

**TAX COLLECTOR / TREASURER**

**Schedule of Outstanding  
Receivables as of June 30, 2014**

**Real Estate Taxes**

Levy of 2014	426,745.59
Levy of 2013	93,548.94
Levy of 2012	4,686.28
Levy of 2011	1,776.06
Prior Years	33,753.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 560,510.50</b>

**Personal Property Taxes**

Levy of 2014	7,856.76
Levy of 2013	5,469.03
Levy of 2012	4,352.98
Levy of 2011	4,971.56
Prior Years	28,795.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 51,445.34</b>

**Motor Vehicle Excise**

Levy of 2014	150,816.64
Levy of 2013	55,860.96
Levy of 2012	18,210.19



**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**  
**FY14 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2013	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2015	Ending Balance
111	Town Council	Stipend	-	9,900.00	50.00	9,950.00	9,950.00	-	-	-
		Expenditures	-	1,625.00	(50.00)	1,575.00	854.18	720.82	-	720.82
			-	11,525.00	-	11,525.00	10,804.18	720.82	-	720.82
123	Town Manager	Salaries	-	167,103.00	68.94	167,171.94	166,920.78	251.16	-	251.16
		Expenditures	-	58,999.00	(10,470.15)	48,528.85	37,985.59	10,543.26	10,476.00	67.26
			-	226,102.00	(10,401.21)	215,700.79	204,906.37	10,794.42	10,476.00	318.42
130	Audit	Expenditures	-	20,500.00	500.00	21,000.00	21,000.00	-	-	-
132	Reserve	Transfers	-	25,000.00	(12,868.95)	12,131.05	992.00	11,139.05	-	11,139.05
135	Accountant	Salaries	-	87,411.00	-	87,411.00	84,396.12	3,014.88	-	3,014.88
		Expenses	3,500.00	1,230.00	-	4,730.00	3,940.00	790.00	-	790.00
			3,500.00	88,641.00	-	92,141.00	88,336.12	3,804.88	-	3,804.88
137	Central Purch.	Expenses	-	292,600.00	(4,556.45)	288,043.55	268,324.12	19,719.43	9.08	19,710.35
141	Assessors	Salaries	-	82,294.00	264.98	82,558.98	82,360.45	198.53	-	198.53
		Expenses	-	10,435.00	(264.98)	10,170.02	9,224.88	945.14	-	945.14
		Revaluation	43,103.50	30,000.00	-	73,103.50	32,375.00	40,728.50	-	40,728.50
			43,103.50	122,729.00	-	165,832.50	123,960.33	41,872.17	-	41,872.17
146	Treas/Collector	Salaries	-	139,994.00	(2,230.00)	137,764.00	133,806.40	3,957.60	-	3,957.60
		Expenses	-	16,535.00	2,230.00	18,765.00	16,621.37	2,143.63	-	2,143.63
	Tax Title	Expenses	57,280.96	10,000.00	-	67,280.96	3,920.72	63,360.24	593.20	62,767.04
			57,280.96	166,529.00	-	223,809.96	154,348.49	69,461.47	593.20	68,868.27
151	Laws & Claims					-	-	-	-	-
		Salaries	-	39,600.00	(16,942.90)	22,657.10	22,657.10	-	-	-
	Contract	-	10,400.00	44,942.90	55,342.90	54,206.94	1,135.96	-	1,135.96	

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**  
**FY14 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2013	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2015	Ending Balance
			-	50,000.00	28,000.00	78,000.00	76,864.04	1,135.96	-	1,135.96
155	Computer Maint.	Expenses	-	57,237.00	7,671.21	64,908.21	55,142.26	9,765.95	7,608.00	2,157.95
161	Town Clerk	Salaries	-	80,050.00	-	80,050.00	76,693.63	3,356.37	-	3,356.37
		Expenses	-	1,350.00	-	1,350.00	191.00	1,159.00	-	1,159.00
			-	81,400.00	-	81,400.00	76,884.63	4,515.37	-	4,515.37
162	Elections & Reg	Salaries	-	11,650.00	-	11,650.00	4,689.87	6,960.13	-	6,960.13
		Expenses	1,434.36	10,350.00	-	11,784.36	9,965.96	1,818.40	-	1,818.40
			1,434.36	22,000.00	-	23,434.36	14,655.83	8,778.53	-	8,778.53
171	Conservation	Salaries	-	10,649.00	6,910.00	17,559.00	17,329.19	229.81	-	229.81
		Expenses	-	1,100.00	-	1,100.00	985.28	114.72	-	114.72
			-	11,749.00	6,910.00	18,659.00	18,314.47	344.53	-	344.53
175	Planning Board	Salaries	-	87,467.00	-	87,467.00	86,220.93	1,246.07	-	1,246.07
		Expenses	-	4,700.00	-	4,700.00	2,628.20	2,071.80	-	2,071.80
			-	92,167.00	-	92,167.00	88,849.13	3,317.87	-	3,317.87
192	Building	Custodian	-	9,690.00	-	9,690.00	9,583.55	106.45	-	106.45
		Expenses	-	49,500.00	5,500.00	55,000.00	52,213.26	2,786.74	2,292.12	494.62
			-	59,190.00	5,500.00	64,690.00	61,796.81	2,893.19	2,292.12	601.07
193	Memorial Hall	Custodian	-	10,190.00	-	10,190.00	9,988.56	201.44	-	201.44
		Expenses	-	15,410.00	(2,119.68)	13,290.32	12,014.75	1,275.57	-	1,275.57
		Bldg. Maint.	-	2,300.00	12,675.79	14,975.79	14,975.79	-	-	-
			-	27,900.00	10,556.11	38,456.11	36,979.10	1,477.01	-	1,477.01
195	Town Reports	Expenditures	-	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	1,945.00	1,055.00	-	1,055.00

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**  
**FY14 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2013	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2015	Ending Balance
210	Police	Salaries	-	1,876,576.00	(27,246.25)	1,849,329.75	1,834,975.87	14,353.88	-	14,353.88
		Expenses	-	50,750.00	15,840.78	66,590.78	66,013.40	577.38	407.38	170.00
		Contract Serv.	-	53,900.00	11,611.43	65,511.43	65,511.43	-	-	-
		Utilities	-	300.00	-	300.00	240.16	59.84	-	59.84
		Cruisers	13,321.28	79,500.00	(205.96)	92,615.32	87,758.52	4,856.80	-	4,856.80
			13,321.28	2,061,026.00	0.00	2,074,347.28	2,054,499.38	19,847.90	407.38	19,440.52
215	Police Station	Expenditures	-	21,600.00	-	21,600.00	3,724.15	17,875.85	-	17,875.85
220	Forest Warden	Salaries	-	2,500.00	-	2,500.00	2,499.96	0.04	-	0.04
		Expenses	-	100.00	-	100.00	-	100.00	-	100.00
			-	2,600.00	-	2,600.00	2,499.96	100.04	-	100.04
241	Building Inspec.	Salaries	-	54,280.00	-	54,280.00	54,027.06	252.94	-	252.94
		Expenses	-	250.00	-	250.00	220.58	29.42	-	29.42
			-	54,530.00	-	54,530.00	54,247.64	282.36	-	282.36
244	Sealer	Salaries	-	2,750.00	0.04	2,750.04	2,750.04	-	-	-
		Expenses	-	250.00	(0.04)	249.96	74.29	175.67	-	175.67
			-	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	2,824.33	175.67	-	175.67
291	Civil Defense	Salaries	-	4,000.00	-	4,000.00	3,999.96	0.04	-	0.04
		Expenditures	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	569.38	430.62	-	430.62
			-	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	4,569.34	430.66	-	430.66
292	Dog Officer	Salaries	-	25,000.00	-	25,000.00	24,999.96	0.04	-	0.04
		Expenses	-	7,450.00	-	7,450.00	5,316.66	2,133.34	-	2,133.34
			-	32,450.00	-	32,450.00	30,316.62	2,133.38	-	2,133.38

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**  
**FY14 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2013	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2015	Ending Balance
293	Animal Insp.	Salaries	-	1,500.00	-	1,500.00	1,500.00	-	-	-
294	Forestry	Expenses	6,879.86	25,000.00	-	31,879.86	28,345.74	3,534.12	-	3,534.12
310	Schools	Salaries	1,541,582.90	10,778,114.00	61,521.15	12,381,218.05	10,600,131.03	1,781,087.02	1,781,087.02	-
		Expenses	10,094.92	3,986,426.00	238,478.85	4,234,999.77	4,084,999.77	150,000.00	150,000.00	(0.00)
			1,551,677.82	14,764,540.00	300,000.00	16,616,217.82	14,685,130.80	1,931,087.02	1,931,087.02	(0.00)
320	Pathfinder	Assessment	-	1,817,648.00	-	1,817,648.00	1,817,648.00	-	-	-
423	Snow & Ice	Overtime	-	32,000.00	51,763.97	83,763.97	83,763.97	-	-	-
		Supplies	-	178,000.00	124,758.22	302,758.22	302,758.22	-	-	-
			-	210,000.00	176,522.19	386,522.19	386,522.19	-	-	-
424	Street Lights	Expenses	-	115,000.00	2,639.36	117,639.36	117,639.36	-	-	-
425	Railroad Crossing Expenses		-	500.00	-	500.00	-	500.00	-	500.00
433	Waste Removal	Expenses	-	20,600.00	(1,500.00)	19,100.00	18,675.52	424.48	-	424.48
435	Ground Water	Expenses	15,500.00	16,000.00	1,200.00	32,700.00	16,360.00	16,340.00	16,340.00	-
490	Public Works	Salaries	-	715,924.00	6,400.00	722,324.00	677,201.10	45,122.90	1,123.57	43,999.33
		Admin. Exp.	43.37	61,650.00	(4,226.70)	57,466.67	48,817.10	8,649.57	3,766.24	4,883.33
		Maint. Exp.	3,818.41	141,900.00	(6,400.00)	139,318.41	133,321.17	5,997.24	31.00	5,966.24
		Utilities	37.70	16,000.00	1,565.15	17,602.85	17,384.75	218.10	-	218.10
		Capital	-	6,000.00	1,500.00	7,500.00	6,000.00	1,500.00	-	1,500.00
			3,899.48	941,474.00	(1,161.55)	944,211.93	882,724.12	61,487.81	4,920.81	56,567.00
491	Other Capital	Capital	-	43,000.00	-	43,000.00	42,841.39	158.61	-	158.61

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**  
**FY14 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2013	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2015	Ending Balance
510	BOH	Salaries	-	56,343.00	171.24	56,514.24	56,514.24	-	-	-
		Expenses	59.58	1,000.00	(114.79)	944.79	892.84	51.95	-	51.95
			59.58	57,343.00	56.45	57,459.03	57,407.08	51.95	-	51.95
523	Human Services	Expenses	-	1,500.00	500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	-	-	-
541	COA	Salaries	-	118,566.00	25.00	118,591.00	118,319.61	271.39	-	271.39
		Expenses	-	2,460.00	790.89	3,250.89	2,675.45	575.44	-	575.44
			-	121,026.00	815.89	121,841.89	120,995.06	846.83	-	846.83
543	Veterans	Salaries	-	27,771.00	1.02	27,772.02	27,772.02	-	-	-
		Expenses	-	1,500.00	(623.45)	876.55	342.23	534.32	-	534.32
		Misc. & Ben.	-	360,000.00	1,496.95	361,496.95	361,496.95	-	-	-
			-	389,271.00	874.52	390,145.52	389,611.20	534.32	-	534.32
610	Library	Salaries	-	457,159.00	(62,710.58)	394,448.42	394,447.39	1.03	-	1.03
		Expenses	-	246,163.00	62,710.58	308,873.58	308,873.58	-	-	-
			-	703,322.00	-	703,322.00	703,320.97	1.03	-	1.03
630	Recreation	Salaries	-	22,440.00	-	22,440.00	15,775.06	6,664.94	-	6,664.94
		Expenses	-	8,000.00	-	8,000.00	5,116.84	2,883.16	-	2,883.16
			-	30,440.00	-	30,440.00	20,891.90	9,548.10	-	9,548.10
692	Memorial Day	Expenses	-	2,500.00	622.43	3,122.43	3,063.68	58.75	-	58.75
710	Debt Principal		-	533,928.00	-	533,928.00	533,873.96	54.04	-	54.04
751	Debt Interest		10,356.18	196,232.00	-	206,588.18	169,673.84	36,914.34	-	36,914.34
910	County Retirem.	Assessment	-	1,243,802.00	-	1,243,802.00	1,243,802.00	-	-	-

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**  
**FY14 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2013	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2015	Ending Balance
913	Unemployment		1,616.00	30,000.00	-	31,616.00	31,506.51	109.49	-	109.49
914	Group Health Ins		-	4,248,168.00	(142,000.00)	4,106,168.00	3,972,471.01	133,696.99	-	133,696.99
915	Group Life Ins.		-	12,966.00	-	12,966.00	10,848.60	2,117.40	-	2,117.40
919	Medicare		-	232,944.00	-	232,944.00	205,472.32	27,471.68	-	27,471.68
945	Gen. Ins.	Misc.	-	395,298.00	-	395,298.00	372,529.43	22,768.57	-	22,768.57
950	Stabilization Fund Misc.		-	-	150,000.00	150,000.00	150,000.00	-	-	-
Total General			1,708,629.02	29,692,477.00	519,880.00	31,920,986.02	29,441,638.98	2,479,347.04	1,973,733.61	505,613.43
Chery Sheet Assessments			-	-	463,998.00	463,998.00	438,197.00	25,801.00	-	-
Intergovernmental - MWPAT Adj			-	-	-	-	188,397.55	(188,397.55)	-	-
Ecumbrance Adj			-	-	1,708,629.02	-	-	-	-	-
Adjusted W/S			29,692,477.00	2,692,507.02	2,692,507.02	32,384,984.02	30,068,233.53	2,316,750.49	-	-
Total			29,692,477.00	29,692,477.00	2,692,507.02	32,384,984.02	30,068,233.53	2,316,750.49	-	-
Munis Report Difference			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
443	WWTP	Salaries	-	564,573.00	13,000.00	577,573.00	563,310.73	14,262.27	-	14,262.27
		Expenses	-	843,700.00	7,700.00	851,400.00	821,140.95	30,259.05	1,424.50	28,834.55
		Sewer Maint	-	168,929.00	(21,700.00)	147,229.00	122,043.77	25,185.23	-	25,185.23
		Capital	-	288,000.00	94,350.00	382,350.00	150,433.87	231,916.13	60,000.00	171,916.13
		Admin Alloc	-	-	-	-	90,809.00	(90,809.00)	-	(90,809.00)
			-	1,865,202.00	93,350.00	1,958,552.00	1,747,738.32	210,813.68	61,424.50	149,389.18

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT**  
**FY14 APPROPRIATION REPORT**

Dept. No.	Dept. Name	Function	Encumbered From 2013	Original Appropriation	Transfers/ Amendments	Revised Budget	Expended	Balance	Encumbered To 2015	Ending Balance
710	Debt Principal		-	323,500.00	541,000.00	864,500.00	861,873.95	2,626.05	-	2,626.05
751	Debt Interest		-	103,266.00	12,916.56	116,182.56	114,985.01	1,197.55	-	1,197.55
910	County Retirem.	Assessment	-	93,810.00	-	93,810.00	93,810.00	-	-	-
913	Unemployment		-	1,050.00	-	1,050.00	-	1,050.00	-	1,050.00
914	Group Health Ins		-	139,692.00	(7,109.13)	132,582.87	115,734.23	16,848.64	-	16,848.64
915	Group Life Ins.		-	318.00	-	318.00	252.00	66.00	-	66.00
919	Medicare		-	8,049.00	-	8,049.00	7,589.26	459.74	-	459.74
945	Gen. Ins.	Misc.	-	-	32,319.00	-	32,319.00	-	32,319.00	-

# **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, the Palmer Police Department answered approximately 18,099 calls for service. From these calls 2,045 criminal offenses were recorded and investigated. Additionally, 895 individuals were arrested and/or summoned to court. More than 2,171 traffic citations were issued and 349 traffic crashes were investigated. These crashes, involved 559 operators and resulted in injuries to 131 individuals. There were no fatal traffic crashes during this reporting period. A complete statistical report of the year's activity follows this report.

The department is currently comprised of 21 full-time and 5 part-time police officers, in addition to 7 full-time and 4 part-time civilian members.

On February 1, 2014, Detective Sergeant Scott E. Haley retired from the police department. Detective Sergeant Haley had a remarkable career, which spanned more than 37 years. His career path included the following events:

- Auxiliary Police Officer – 1977
- Permanent Intermittent Police Officer – July 1, 1979
- Permanent Full-Time Police Officer – January 14, 1980
- Police Sergeant – September 8, 1987
- Lead Officer, Eastern Hampden County Narcotics Task Force - 1993
- Detective Sergeant – September 15, 2000
- Retirement – February 1, 2014

Everyone here at the police department wishes Detective Sergeant Haley a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

Two new full-time police officers, Randall E. Hawley and Kenneth M. Baer, began their employment on February 3, 2014. The new officers attended a 22 week Basic Recruit Police Training Academy conducted by the state's Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) and are currently assigned to uniformed patrol.

Here are some noteworthy events that occurred during Fiscal Year 2014:

On Saturday, May 5, 2014, a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House were held for our new police station. About 250 residents attended the ceremony, along with members of the Town Council, the Police Station Building Committee, Town Manager Charlie Blanchard, Senator Stephen Brewer, Representative Todd Smola, members of the police department, and other dignitaries. We estimated that more than 700 residents toured the new building during the open house. We are thankful to Chmura's Bakery, Too, and to Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School for the refreshments they donated for the event.

On Thursday, June 5, 2014, we officially moved into, and began operating from, our new headquarters. The move required the coordinated efforts of many agencies, including our IT and radio vendors, State 9-1-1, the state's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) and several others. At about 8:00 a.m. we ceased operation in the old facility and began our move. During the move, our 9-1-1 calls were rerouted to the town of Monson. At about 4:00 p.m. everything

was up and running in the new building and we began receiving 9-1-1 calls.

We are very proud of our new facility and are grateful to everyone who made this possible, especially to our taxpayers who voted overwhelmingly in favor of the Debt Exclusion Override of Proposition 2 ½ that funded the project.

I would like to acknowledge some of the people who worked tirelessly over the past two years to make our construction project a success:

- **Town Manager Charlie Blanchard**
- **Executive Assistant Andrew Golas**
- **The Police Station Building Committee:**
  - Roger Duguay, Jr.
  - Charlann Griswold
  - Councillor Donald Blais, Jr.
  - Catherine Bousquette
  - Brenda M. Cole
  - Larry Corcoran
  - William D. Lizotte
- **Lieutenant John J. Janulewicz**
- **Dispatcher Tyler Allen**
- **The Police Department Building Committee:**
  - Sergeant Christopher Burns
  - Sergeant Rodney North
  - Officer John Melnick
  - Officer Brian McNally
  - Sr. Dispatcher Tammy Piechota
  - Dispatcher Catherine Costa

It was also a pleasure to work on the construction project with our Architect and Engineers, Reinhardt Associates of Agawam, and our General Contractor, Marois Construction of South Hadley. I thank them for their professionalism, cooperation, and ability.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of our community for their continued support and encouragement, and the members of the Police Department for their service and dedication to our community. A special thank you to Town Council President Phillip Hebert and all of the council members for their ongoing support and dedication.

I am also grateful to the town's fire departments and fire chiefs, Acting DPW Director Rudy Pisarczyk and his staff, and all the other town officials and staff members for their support and cooperation throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert P. Frydryk  
Chief of Police

### OFFENSES (IBR) BY MONTH

OFFENSE (IBR)	FY 2014												TOTALS
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED	1	4	7	1	2	1	1	3	3		1	2	26
ASSAULT - SIMPLE	16	11	18	24	19	9	18	18	18	16	11	11	189
BAD CHECKS				2	3								5
BURGLARY / BREAKING AND ENTERING	14	6	19	19	28	7	9	10	5	2	6	11	136
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY		1				1	23				2	1	28
CREDIT CARD / AUTOMATIC TELLER FRAUD										2		1	3
DESTRUCTION / DAMAGE / VANDALISM	3	5	9	5	9	4	6	9	3	7	8	7	75
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	11	13	10	5	7	7	10	19	10	6	23	13	134
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	5	12	9	3	9	4	6	3	8	7	4	2	72
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	6	5	9	10	10	4	43	4	7	11	7	4	120
DRUNKENNESS	14	10	17	15	5	6	14	6	9	7	13	1	117
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE	2	4		2	2				3			4	17
FORCIBLE FONDLING							1	1		1			3
FORCIBLE RAPE	1	4		1	1				2				9
FORCIBLE SODOMY										1			1
IMPERSONATION	1		1		1		1		2		1	2	9
INTIMIDATION	10	6	8	9	4	2	1	5	6	2	3	1	57
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	1	1		1	1	1		1		2	2		10
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT		1		2		1		4	1	1			10
OPERATING / PROMOTING / ASSIST GAMBLING									1				1
ROBBERY			1	1					1			1	4
SHOPLIFTING	1	2	3	3	8	1	4	1	1	2	2	1	29
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	1			1	2	2	1	1				1	9
THEFT FROM BUILDING	1		1	1	1	2				2		1	9
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	3	2		1								1	7
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS/ACCESSORIES					2			1	1				4
TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES	47	57	68	47	40	45	42	50	61	67	51	43	618
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY	4	1	1	2	1	4	2	2	2	3	6	7	35
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS	1	2		1	1	1	2	2	2	4		1	17
ALL OTHER LARCENY	5	7	7	11	8	7	5	4		3	6	7	70
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	26	10	18	16	22	19	13	13	19	20	24	21	221
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>2,045</b>

**PRIMARY ARRESTING OFFENSE (IBR) BY MONTH**

ARRESTING OFFENSE (IBR)	FY 2014												TOTAL
	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED	1	1	2		1		1	1	1		1	1	10
ASSAULT - SIMPLE	12	5	11	18	11	8	7	12	13	10	9	9	125
BAD CHECKS					1								1
BURGLARY / BREAKING AND ENTERING	1		2	3	1		1					2	10
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY								1					1
CREDIT CARD / AUTOMATIC TELLER FRAUD										1	1		2
DESTRUCTION / DAMAGE / VANDALISM	1				2	1		3	3	2	1	1	14
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	5	4	3	1	1	2	3	7	6		13	7	52
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	3	11	5	3	7	3	5	2	6	5	4	2	56
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS	2	1	4	2	5	1	6	5	2	2	3	2	35
DRUNKENNESS	14	11	17	16	5	6	14	6	9	7	13	1	119
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE	2	1		3	1						2		9
FORCIBLE FONDLING									1	1			2
INTIMIDATION	2	1	4	2			1	1	1	1	1		14
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	1												1
OPERATING / PROMOTING / ASSIST GAMBLING									1				1
SHOPLIFTING	1	1	3	1	4		4	1	4	2	2	1	24
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	1				1		1						3
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE		1											1
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS/ACCESSORIES					1			1					2
TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES	20	18	29	15	13	18	8	14	19	20	19	17	210
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY		1		2	1	3		2	1	1	4	5	20
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS	1	1						1	1				4
ALL OTHER LARCENY	1	1	1	3	2	2	1	1		1	4	1	18
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	16	8	9	15	17	14	13	8	15	15	20	11	161
<b>MONTHLY TOTALS</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>895</b>

## OFFENSES (IN ARRESTS) BY AGE GROUP

OFFENSE	FY2014						TOTALS
	OFFENDER AGE RANGE						
	00-10	11-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	> 55	
ASSAULT - AGGRAVATED		1	1	3	5		10
ASSAULT - SIMPLE		10	29	29	44	13	125
BAD CHECKS				1			1
BURGLARY / BREAKING AND ENTERI			5	3	2		10
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY					1		1
CREDIT CARD / AUTOMATIC TELLER		1	1				2
DESTRUCTION / DAMAGE / VANDALI		1	6	4	3		14
DISORDERLY CONDUCT		7	9	9	18	9	52
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE			16	12	20	8	56
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATIONS			14	14	7		35
DRUNKENNESS		2	15	24	60	16	117
FALSE PRETENSES / SWINDLE / CO			2	2	2	3	9
FORCIBLE FONDLING		1			1		2
INTIMIDATION		6	2	1	4	1	14
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS						1	1
OPERATING / PROMOTING / ASSIST						1	1
ROBBERY							0
SHOPLIFTING			6	10	7	1	24
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES			1	1	1		3
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE			1				1
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS O				1	1		2
TRAFFIC, TOWN BY-LAW OFFENSES		6	62	67	63	12	210
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY			8	3	4	5	20
WEAPON LAW VIOLATIONS			1	1	1	1	4
ALL OTHER LARCENY		3	5	5	5		18
ALL OTHER OFFENSES		8	46	44	53	12	163
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>895</b>

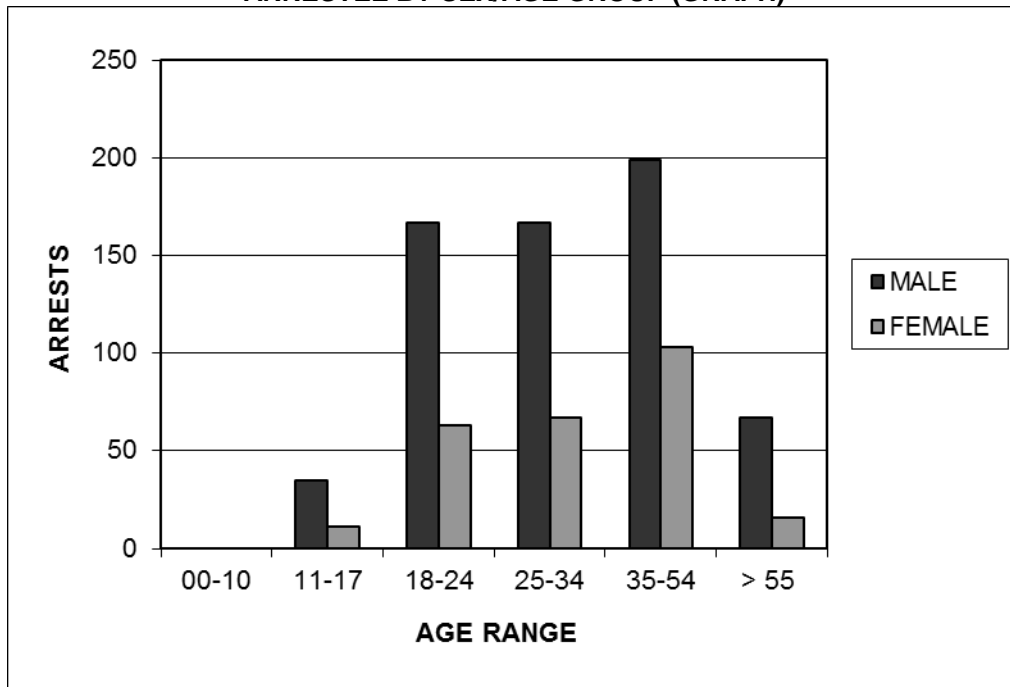
## WEAPONS INVOLVED IN OFFENSES

Weapon Type	Occurrences	Percentage
None	1802	88.03%
Personal Weapons (Hands/Feet/Etc)	189	9.23%
Other	17	0.83%
Blunt Object	13	0.64%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	10	0.49%
Motor Vehicle	7	0.34%
Handgun	5	0.24%
Unknown	2	0.10%
Firearm (Unspecified)	1	0.05%
Fire/Incendiary Device	1	0.05%
<b>Total Occurrences</b>	<b>2,047</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### ARRESTEE RACE AND SEX BY AGE

		FY2014							
		AGE GROUP							
RACE/SEX		00-10	11-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	> 55	TOTALS	Hispanic
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>									
Female		0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Male		0	0	0	0	2	1	3	0
Unknown		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Black</b>									
Female		0	0	2	6	5	0	13	0
Male		0	0	11	9	15	2	37	4
Unknown		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>American Indian/Alaskan Native</b>									
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
<b>Unknown</b>									
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
<b>White</b>									
Female		0	11	61	61	97	16	246	8
Male		0	35	156	158	182	64	595	28
Unknown		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>40</b>

#### ARRESTEE BY SEX/AGE GROUP (GRAPH)

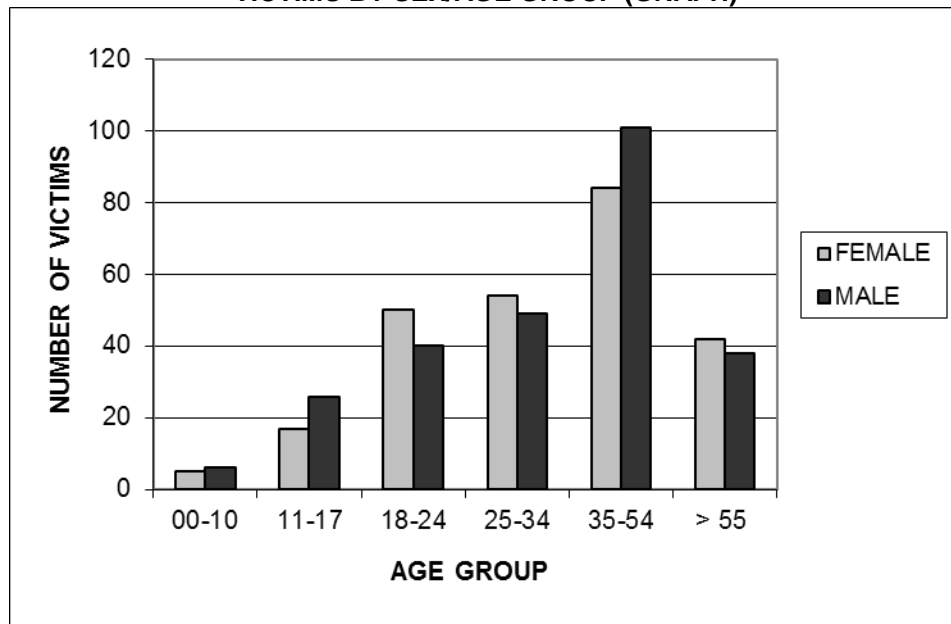


### VICTIMS BY AGE / SEX / RACE

FY2014

RACE/SEX	AGE GROUP						TOTALS	Hispanic
	00-10	11-17	18-24	25-34	35-54	> 55		
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>								
Female	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0
Male	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Black</b>								
Female	0	2	3	1	0	0	6	2
Male	1	0	3	2	2	0	8	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>American Indian/Alaskan Native</b>								
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
<b>Unknown</b>								
Female	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>White</b>								
Female	4	15	47	53	83	41	243	4
Male	5	26	37	47	98	38	251	6
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>12</b>

VICTIMS BY SEX/AGE GROUP (GRAPH)



## **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 as participants of the newly created Quaboag Valley Regional Emergency Planning Committee. It is our goal to not only focus on hazardous materials, but to utilize an "all hazards" principle to better serve the region. Our objective is to become a more efficient system by sharing information, ideas, and resources within surrounding communities.

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. All Firefighters, Fire Officers, and hospital personnel have completed training on this unit. 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**

This past year was an extremely busy year for the Palmer DPW.

In the summer months the DPW cut brush along the roads improving the safety of drivers and pedestrians. 68.4 miles of the double centerlines were repainted on various streets. Tighe & Bond continued their tedious tasks of separating surface water from sewage throughout the Town. Gerald Skowronek, Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent helped Engineers solve problems or pointed them in the proper direction.

In October Palmer Paving milled existing pavement on Pleasant and Church St Thorndike from the intersection of Elizabeth Street to Pine Street, approximately 3,000 linear feet. The milling was done to allow the town to restore the roadway crown and improve drainage. This project was benefited through Chapter 90 funding.

In November Northern Tree was hired to eradicate the infestation of the Japanese knot wood plant that had overtaken the town roadsides over the past ten years. We were advised by herbicide applicators that this work might best be done in the fall of the year. Applications were applied on Three Rivers Road (full length to Wilbraham town line) Mason Street, lower portion, Nipmuck Road in conjunction with Mason Street both ends, Flynt Street, more sporadic work in same area as Nipmuck, Mt. Dumplin Road, primarily the eastern section and Old Warren Road, mostly northeast of St. John. Eighteen dead decaying trees were taken down and a number of old stumps were removed.

In December the DPW put forth a request for Capital Improvement Funds extending over the next several years. In particular, while we have been successful in maintaining the cabs and chassis on our full size dump trucks no matter how old they are for both general and winter service, we need to replace the dump bodies on several of them. In order for them to remain viable looking forward, we are hoping we can begin to replace this fleet via the CIP. We added a new element to the 2015 request – a clamshell/orange peel catch basin cleaner in order to reduce the load on the vactor which isn't really designed for this duty, but rather the cleaning of service lines.

The first substantial snow fall of the season was on December 6 and December 7, 2013. Snow continued to fall until late February 2014 with many additional hours spent sanding icy roads until the beginning of April 2014. A total of 1,786 tons of salt and 3,592 yards of sand was placed down.

In April we were notified by MassDOT District 2 advising the town would benefit from the eligibility of the Winter Rapid Recovery Road Program (WRRRP), Emergency Pothole Repair Program and we received notification on our actual funding amounting to \$73,197.00. This money was allocated to patch potholes on Emery St. Palmer. The town will be reimbursed by November 30, 2014 for this expenditure.

There are a number of projects and just maintenance issues, which need to be addressed in the near future to insure that the infrastructure of the town remains intact and maintainable.

At this time I would like to thank all town departments and personnel that have assisted the DPW throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Rudy Pisarczyk  
Acting DPW Director

## **WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY**

Capital improvements at our facilities and collection system continue on a yearly basis. Fiscal Year 2014 led to the procurement of seven new insulated garage doors for replacing the seven original overhead garage doors at the treatment plant.

Our new National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit enacted in January of 2011 has more stringent limitations, and monitoring requirements. One requirement is for the study and reduction of nitrogen from our discharge water. This is a complex nutrient that our treatment plant was not built to remove. The last nitrogen study that was completed in 2008 concluded that a plant upgrade would be necessary to remove the nitrogen at a cost upwards of \$25 million. Since October of 2013, we have been working with The Water Planet Company from New London Ct. that specializes in the reduction of nitrogen without the large investment for expansion of the treatment plant. As of July 2014 the result have been very positive.

We are in the middle of the \$6.09 million sewer replacement for problematic areas of the sewer system. These areas include Sunset Acres in Three Rivers, Brainerd Street and Riverview Parkway areas in Palmer, High Street in Thorndike from where the CSO Phase 4 project ended to the Junction intersection and part of South High Street in Bondsville. The construction began in April of 2014. Completion is slated for October of 2015.

I would like to thank my staff at the wastewater treatment plant and the sewer division for their dedication, cooperation, and professionalism that they demonstrate daily.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Skowronek  
Superintendent  
Palmer Water Pollution Control Facilities

## **PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Committed to its role as a community center, the Palmer Public Library provides a gathering space and a variety of materials to meet the personal, educational, and cultural needs of its patrons in a safe and comfortable setting. In partnership with other local organizations, the library encourages and supports a love of reading and life-long learning with attention to the changing needs of the community.

The library's services and programs remain vital to our citizens during these times of economic uncertainty. As of June 2014, 9,020 Palmer residents are registered borrowers of our Town library, which continues to face fiscal challenges. Nevertheless, the Palmer Public Library maintains a positive approach as it strives to provide excellence in library service to the community.

Our Library Director, Dorene Miller, resigned in February 2014, due to personal reasons. Mary Bernat, Assistant Director, was then appointed Acting Director. Mary had served as an enthusiastic Library Assistant and Reference Librarian since 1994, and then as Assistant Director from 2012 until her retirement in June 2014. The past year also saw the retirement, in October 2013, of Gloria Byrnes, our Cataloger and former Bookmobile Librarian, who had been with the library since 1980. Her 34 years of dedicated service will be fondly remembered and appreciated by both staff and patrons. We also said farewell to Krista Navin, YA Librarian, who moved on to a position at UMass. To fill these gaps, Library Assistant Amy Golenski was promoted to the Cataloger Librarian position, and we also welcomed new staff members Ashley Erickson and Matthew DeCara.

At the Palmer Public Library Association Annual Meeting in October, the Mary McManus Award was presented to Linda Perry, a beloved Converse Middle School teacher, in recognition of her many years of service to children through her teaching and participation in numerous community organizations. The Association also honored Gladys Duffy Sullivan with the Robert M. Sullivan Award, which is presented annually to acknowledge an individual or organization that has demonstrated a commitment to supporting the Palmer Public Library. Gladys was involved with the library as a former trustee, spearheading the creation of the first Children's Room and supporting additional relocations, renovations, and expansions, ultimately bringing us to the building we are in today. An additional tribute was made to Patricia Donovan, Board Director Emeritus, for her many contributions over the years.

We have seen another amazing, busy, and totally fun summer with the 2013 theme, "Dig Into Reading!" More than 600 children, teens, adults and childcare providers signed up for our read-at-home program, logging in more than 11,622 days of reading, and packed our community room with record attendance numbers at our performances! Children, parents, and care-givers enjoyed our Summer Family Performance Series which included visits from dinosaur expert The Dinoman, award-winning storyteller Diane Edgecomb, and puppeteer Sparky Davis. Farmer Minor charmed the crowd with his pet pig Daisy and his two lovable dogs! In addition, Circus Minimus put on their "One Man Circus in a Suitcase" show! Our final performance for the summer was everyone's favorite musical group, the Toe Jam Puppet Band. They once again totally rocked the Palmer Public Library and had everyone up and dancing, hopping, and singing

along. Their performance and farmer Minor's visit were generously sponsored by Bertera Chevy in Palmer.

Believe it or not, that's not all we had going on this summer! Young Adults participated in a Yoga/Henna Workshop and a Pottery Workshop. Teens also enjoyed a weekly art project where they made their own glow jars, had a competition to see who was the best cupcake decorator, and even created their own lava lamps. Adults didn't miss out on any of the fun either, with workshops, local historians, and book signings drawing visitors from all over Western Massachusetts.

The Palmer Public Library's *Dig into Reading!* program was funded by the library, the Friends of the Library, the Palmer Cultural Council, the Boston Bruins, the Massachusetts Library System, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and the ongoing support of the Palmer business community. In addition, the library's annual summer reading program would not be possible without the dedication of our hard-working adult and teen volunteers! The Youth Services Department offered up an amazing slate of programming throughout the school year. Special events included magician Scott Jameson, local storyteller and artist Rona Leventhal, and puppeteer Marcia the Moose. From January through April, 70 toddlers, pre-schoolers, and their families enjoyed bi-weekly story times filled with books, crafts, singing, dancing, and snacks on Wednesday and Thursday mornings! Our Teen Advisory Board's Gingerbread House Workshop brought together more than 100 children and adults in this delicious building project!

Events and programs for adults included the Wicked Wednesday Mystery Book Club, *Birds of Prey*, a *Tour of Historic Route 20*, *Welcome to the Graveyard*, a Clutter Control Workshop, two American Red Cross blood drives, *Sublime Sunflowers* pastel workshop by Greg Maichek, a book signing by Erin Thorne, and our annual Poetry Pageant in April, coordinated by Paul Wisnewski and Denise Fontaine-Pincince.

Since 2005, the Palmer Public Library has been graced each month with the paintings, drawings, photographs, and creations of our many talented local artists, whose beautiful works are displayed in the Community Room Art Gallery. Denise Fontaine-Pincince continues as our dedicated volunteer gallery coordinator.

In addition to programming and the free lending of books, audiobooks, magazines, DVDs, and music CDs, the library maintains a website ([www.palmer.lib.ma.us](http://www.palmer.lib.ma.us)) that provides access to a number of online resources from home, school, or work.

With the click of a mouse and a valid Palmer library card, a wealth of databases is available to our citizens at no charge, including the award-winning Mango Languages and Zinio Digital Magazines. The library also offers:

Academic OneFile\*  
 Alt-Press Watch  
 American Ancestors  
 Ancestry.com (only available within the library building)  
 Auto Repair Reference Center  
 Biography in Context\*  
 Books & Authors\*  
 Business Index ASAP\*  
 Business Insights: Essentials\*  
 Contemporary Literary Criticism—Select\*  
 Criminal Justice Collection\*  
 Culinary Arts Collection\*  
 Culturegrams  
 Educator's Reference Complete\*  
 Environmental Studies and Policy Collection\*  
 Expanded Academic ASAP\*  
 Gale Virtual Reference Library\*  
 Gardening, Landscape and Horticulture Collection\*  
 General Business File ASAP\*  
 General OneFile\*  
 General Reference Center Gold\*  
 Global Issues in Context\*  
 Health and Wellness Resource Center\*  
 Health Reference Center Academic\*  
 Heritage Quest Online  
 History Reference Center  
 Home Improvement Reference Center  
 Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Collection\*

Junior Edition (periodicals for middle school students)\*  
 Junior Edition K12\*  
 Kids InfoBits (for kindergarten through Grade 5)\*  
 Literature Resource Center\*  
 Massachusetts History Online\*  
 The New York Times\*  
 NewsBank  
 NoveList  
 NoveList Plus and K-8 Plus  
 Nursing and Allied Health Collection\*  
 Nursing Resource Center\*  
 Opposing Viewpoints in Context\*  
 Oxford Art Online\*\*  
 Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine Collection\*  
 Points of View  
 Science in Context\*  
 Science Online\*\*  
 SIRS Government Reporter  
 Small Engine Repair Reference Center  
 Student Edition (periodicals for high school students)\*  
 Teen Health & Wellness  
 Testing and Education Reference Center\*  
 U.S. History in Context\*  
 Vocations and Careers Collection\*  
 World History in Context\*

\*From the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners and the Mass. Library System with state funds and federal IMLS funds.

\*\*From the Central Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing.

During these difficult economic times, fundraising and volunteerism continue to be essential to the services of the Palmer Public Library. The library is fortunate to have a group of 29 dedicated volunteers, adults and teens, who logged over 1,100 hours by helping with the summer reading program, assisting with youth events, maintaining the order and organization of the collection, processing and cleaning library materials and organizing books for sale at the Library Loft used book store. The Friends of the Palmer Public Library, a non-profit volunteer organization, has been operating the Library Loft used book store for the past 15 years with the mission of fundraising to support library projects. In addition to sale shelves within the Library, Library Loft volunteers keep the used book store at the 1085 Park St., Palmer location open 30 hours each week. During FY14, the Friends group sponsored summer reading t-shirts, our *Seasons* newsletter, the Gingerbread House Workshops, youth and adult programming, youth room signage in memory of Linda Perry, and landscaping expenses. Proceeds from book sales and other fundraisers also supported our wildlife camera, which brings osprey, penguins, puppies, fish, and other animals to our Youth Services Department through a dedicated computer and flat-screen television. This educational endeavor is the first of its kind among public libraries in the United States! It continues to be a big success following the second generation of osprey hatchlings.

In support of adult literacy, the library offers space and resources to Top Floor Learning, a privately-funded, fully-accredited 501(c)(3) nonprofit. This vital organization is located on the

third floor of the library and provides basic adult education services, including GED preparation and testing, an ESL program, citizenship preparation, and basic computer literacy instruction. The library is also home to the office of River East School-to-Career, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit business and education partnership. The schools in the River East School-to-Career partnership placed nearly 300 students in work-based learning experiences at approximately 100 companies this year.

As a community center, the library offers meeting spaces—the Palmer Community Room, the Three Rivers Room, and the Thorndike Room—to local organizations and individuals. The Bondsville Room, which is located on the third floor, is utilized by Top Floor Learning for one-to-one tutoring sessions and board meetings. In FY2014, the library’s meeting room reservations numbered 801.

The Railroad Research Center houses a collection of books, maps, and videos for train enthusiasts. The complete collection of *The Journal Register* on microfilm is also housed in this room. The Historical and Genealogy Research Room, which is located on the third floor, contains non-circulating local materials which may be accessed for research purposes through a sign-in procedure.

Circulation of library materials is accomplished through the library’s membership in the C/W MARS network (Central Western Mass. Automated Resource Sharing). All library-lending materials can be accessed through Evergreen, our online catalog. By accessing their private accounts, patrons can see their checkouts, holds, and items to be picked up. Patrons can also download ebooks, audiobooks, and movies; request books to be delivered to the library of their choice; and access the catalogs of more than 160 libraries.

**FY 2014 Library Statistics**

**Collection**

Books	53,205
Volumes of print magazines & newspapers	2,867
Audio (CDs, Playaways etc.)	7,482
Video (DVDs, VHS)	5,787
Ebooks	24,442
Downloadable audio (books, music, etc.)	7,220
Downloadable video	696
Materials in electronic format (CD-ROMs)	237
Microfilm	1
Miscellaneous (kits, puppets, etc.)	163
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>102,100</b>

**Circulation**

Books	73,078
Print magazines & newspapers	2,889
Audio (CDs, Playaways etc.)	12,359

Video (DVDs, VHS)	35,061
Ebooks	2,265
Downloadable audio (books, music, etc.)	478
Downloadable video	13
Materials in electronic format (CD-ROMs)	844
Miscellaneous (kits, puppets, etc.)	<u>273</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>127,260</b>

**Interlibrary Loans**

Received from other libraries	14,503
Provided to other libraries	21,867

**Library Programs and Services**

Total hours open	2,146
Total Saturdays open	38
Total Saturday hours	135
Total hours open after 5:00pm	438
Total attendance at library	79,473
Number of reference transactions	17,381
Number of children's programs	53
• Attendance at children's programs	1,706
Number of young adult programs	75
• Attendance at young adult programs	706
Number of adult programs	27
• Attendance at adult programs	573
Number of volunteers	29
Number of volunteer hours	1,140
Number of registered borrowers	10,425

**Internet and Electronic Services**

Number of users of public wireless access	7,291
Computer terminals for public use	40

Although faced with ever-increasing demands for services and programs, the Palmer Public Library had to maintain its reduced hours of operation, which had been cut from 50 hours per week to 44 hours per week in July 2010, due to ongoing budget constraints. In January 2014, we extended Saturday hours to 2:00 pm, increasing the weekly total to 45 open hours per week. Our library personnel continue to rise to the challenge of providing the best in library service to our community while assuming the additional duties and responsibilities of four staff positions which remain vacant.

The library's ability to function as a vibrant community center, dedicated to providing our citizens with free access to a multitude of information resources, is accomplished through the hard work and commitment of our staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, Railroad Advisory Board, and the Palmer Department of Public Works, as well as the continued support of Town officials and the Palmer community.

Helene O'Connor  
Director

## **PALMER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Enrollment in the three schools continues to decline. The rate of decline is at a rate that was projected by the New England School Development Council (NESDEC). Currently, Old Mill Pond School has an enrollment of 628 students in grades PreK – 4. Converse Middle School's enrollment is 375 for grades 5 – 7. As of June 30, 2013, Palmer High School serves 519 students between grades 8 – 12.

### Palmer High School

On February 1, 2013, a Special Progress Report was submitted to the New England Association of Schools & Colleges, Inc. (NEASC). This report provided the progress requested on the six recommendations noted in the two year progress report. This Special Progress Report describes action taken to address the six recommendations. At the January 22-23, 2012 meeting NEASC voted to accept the Two-Year Progress Report from the Palmer High School.

The school submitted a Special Progress Report, January 29th, 2013 addressing the following recommendations:

- Submit the document which identifies which departments have taken responsibility for specific school-wide academic learning expectations.
- Confirm that the curriculum template includes the school's learning expectations and assessment practices.
- Ensure the library media center is available to teachers and students before, during, and after school.
- Develop a comprehensive plan to ensure effective curricular coordination and articulation between and among all academic areas within the school as well as with sending schools in the district.
- Develop a process for assessing the school's achievement of its civic and social expectations.
- Report on the implementation of a formal program for teachers to meet collaboratively to discuss and share student work.

The class of 2013 received their diplomas on June 2nd in the high school auditorium. Eighty-seven seniors matriculated with 96% attending either a 4-year or a 2-year college. The top twenty seniors in the class were honored and recognized by the Palmer Rotary Club at the annual Student Achievement Luncheon. The Rotary presented two scholarships at the luncheon. Seniors were rewarded for their years of hard work, effort, and academic success at the annual Awards and Scholarship Night where over \$51,000 was awarded in scholarships. Fifty-one different local families, organizations, and businesses presented 120 individual scholarships to 38 of our seniors. This year, Bob's Furniture awarded scholarships to five seniors. This was as a result of the successful Blood Banks hosted at Palmer High School and organized and run by retired high school principal, Alphonse Murray. Academic and athletic awards were presented to seniors and underclassmen during the Annual Class Day Ceremony, held on

May 31st. We sincerely appreciate the generosity extended to our seniors by the numerous individuals, families, and organizations of Palmer.

Palmer High School students continue to perform well on both the English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics portions of the spring 2013 MCAS test. One hundred percent (100%) of the graduating class received a competency determination requirement established by the Massachusetts State Board of Education to receive a diploma. While 90.4% of the 8th grade and 100% of the 10th grade passed the ELA portion of the MCAS, 64.8% and 85.2% of the students respectfully were in the proficient or the advanced categories. In Math 68 % of 8th graders and 97% of the 10th graders passed the MCAS, with 40.8% and 87% receiving advanced or proficient scores respectfully. On the Science and Technology MCAS 79.8% of the 8th grade passed the Science MCAS with 24.8 % receiving advanced or proficient scores. In the 9th grade, 91.9% of the students passed the Introduction to Physics MCAS with 71.7% of the students receiving advanced or proficient scores. The percentage of graduating seniors attending post-secondary institutions remains high at 96%.

The Advanced Placement Program continues to grow and flourish at Palmer High School, thanks to the partnership forged with the Mass. Math and Science Initiative (MMSI). Our AP Math, Science, and English classes received additional support and record number of students enrolling in AP courses. Palmer High School had 128 students out of 145 take the corresponding AP Exam (85%). Of these, 55% obtained a college credit grade on the exam. This is a significant increase over past years and look forward to its continuing growth. The Palmer High School was named as one of “America’s Most Challenging High Schools” by the Washington Post, based on the rigor and AP results. The grant offered teacher training by the College Board familiarizing our teachers with AP curriculum, advanced instructional practices, and current technologies. An AP breakfast was sponsored by MMSI to support our students in the AP program to congratulate them for their hard work and dedication along with wishing them well on the upcoming AP exams.

Participation in the Gateway to College program at Holyoke Community College provided eight students, who were at risk for dropping out, with the opportunity to complete their High School Diploma as well as acquire college credits. Three of our Gateway to College students graduated, accumulating 99 college credits amongst them. This was the second year of its implementation and we look forward to our continuing partnership. Through our School-to-Career Program in partnership with the River East School-to-Career Program, we provided the opportunity for work based experiences for 26 upperclassmen. It is our goal that, prior to graduation, every junior and senior will have the opportunity to experience an externship in their chosen field. Our students were able to gain hands-on experiences in the field of teaching, medical, broadcasting, legal, business, transportation, photography and veterinary services. We continue to expand and appreciate our partnerships with local businesses. They are an integral part of our success.

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 “Cooking Can Be Murder” talent show. In honor of College and Career Awareness Month in October, we sponsored a College Fair in conjunction with a myriad of activities that focused on college, military, trade schools and career readiness. Over 90 schools shared information about their Colleges and Universities with the juniors and seniors. We offered a second semester Open House in February. For the fifth year, a team of Palmer High School students competed in “As Schools Match Wits”. 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. We sent six representatives, three each, to the Massachusetts Boys and Girls State for 2012 hosted by Stone Hill College. The Palmer High School

hosted the Step Up Day for our incoming 8th graders. In strengthening our bond with the senior community, PHS hosted a Grandparents/Grand Friend Thanksgiving luncheon and was entertained with a concert in the auditorium.

Several of the athletic teams achieved milestones for the 2012-2013 school year. The cross country, basketball, swimming, softball, baseball, tennis, golf and soccer teams qualified for post season play! The Golf Team won Western Mass. title under the direction of Mr. Greg Koss.

The Palmer United Booster Club and the Music Boosters were very active during the year. There were several fundraisers conducted, as well as recognition banquets for the student athletes and music students. Special thanks are extended to the members of both clubs for their time, hard work, and creative ideas for the benefit of the student body!

The 2012-2013 Palmer High School Council worked collaboratively with administration to incorporate the Superintendent's District Wide Goals as part of the three-year school improvement plan that serves to compel the school in the decision-making process. This plan starts and ends with the Palmer High School goals for student learning. All school initiatives and priorities continue to focus on preparing our students "for living, learning, and working in the 21st Century". The composition of the Council consisted of: Mary Lou Callahan, Principal; Olga Lopez, Jennifer Martin, Jody Peters, Staff Members; Officer Whalers, and Erin Pincince, Community Representatives; Andrea Mastalerz, Adam Brewer, Jacqui Mastriani, and Catherine Reed, Parent Representatives; Alexis Swist, Student Representative, and Ex-Officio member, Joseph Bianca, Assistant Principal.

We appreciate and applaud the contributions of our staff members, parents, and community members in promoting lifelong learning skills and making a difference in the lives of our students.

#### Converse Middle School

The 2012-2013 school year was a year of continued commitment to the learning and success of every student in grades five, six, and seven including their success on the MCAS. Students in grade five were tested in ELA Reading Comprehension, Math, and Science & Technology/Engineering. Students in grade six were tested in ELA Reading Comprehension and Math, and grade seven students were tested in ELA Reading Comprehension, ELA Long Composition, and Math. The staff at Converse worked hard to have the students well prepared and the students put forth a serious effort. Converse maintained a favorable 'Level 2' status as assigned by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Extensive MCAS data analysis and work was done by the faculty and also reviewed by the CMS Academic Advisory Council and the CMS School Council was used to update the Student Handbook and to develop appropriate SMART goals for the Converse Middle School Improvement Plan. In addition, the math and ELA teachers have continued their efforts through professional development to align the curriculum with the Massachusetts Standards.

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, 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 ELA goals. Funding is a critical issue for this program – 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 activities have provided significant financial support of student's educational-based 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 eighth grade at Palmer High School. The PTO also supports the Converse Spring Fling each year as well as supporting our 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!

#### Old Mill Pond Elementary School

At Old Mill Pond School, students in grades 3 participated in the MCAS assessment in the areas of Mathematics and Reading for the first time. Students in Grade 4 participated in the MCAS assessment in the areas of Mathematics, Reading, and Long Composition Writing.

Ninety-four percent of 3rd graders passed the spring 2013 MCAS Reading test, with 85% of students in the advanced and proficient categories. Eighty-five percent of 4th graders passed the ELA test, and 46% achieved in the advanced or proficient categories. On the MCAS Mathematics test, 90% of 3rd graders and 86% of 4th graders passed the test with 68% of 3rd graders and 47% of 4th graders in the advanced or proficient categories. OMP was designated as a Level 3 school by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for based on the 2012/2013 performance in the aggregate and in subgroups both in ELA and in MA. Student attendance continues to hover around 95%.

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 plan's practicality reflects an active document which serves as a guide for the future. The school council has addressed, amended and enhanced the document's goals which are aligned with Palmer Public School's District Plan.

The following is a list of some of the activities which have occurred within the Old Mill Pond School during the 2012-2013 school years.

- Communication through parent newsletters, Connect-Ed, PTO meetings and the school website.
- Enhanced behavioral / emotional services for students
- Continued Growth of the Family Literacy Program including Inviting Guest Readers in for special Occasions
- Literacy Night for families
- Pre-school Evening Art Show
- Kindergarten Scavenger Hunt and Bus Orientation
- Curriculum Mapping incorporating the 2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts and Literacy PK - 4
- Curriculum Mapping incorporating the 2011 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics PK – 4
- Collaboration with the Pioneer Valley District and School Assistance Center to address areas in need of improvement as identified in the Conditions of School Improvement and the Level 3 Status
- Training and implementation of Keys to Literacy the Comprehension Routine, Keys to Literacy the Vocabulary Routine, Handwriting Without Tears, Responsive Classroom, Applied Behavioral Analysis, and Restraint Training.

- 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.
- Instituted the Walk to Read Framework in Grade 1 and 2

We would like to thank the following members of our School Council for their commitment and dedication:

Jacqueline Haley, Co-Chair, Principal  
 Bonny Rathbone, Co-Chair, Community Representative  
 Catherine Simonoko, Teacher  
 Kathleen Mackiewicz, Secretary, Teacher  
 Lorraine DiNuovo, Community Representative  
 Amy Denault, Parent  
 Alissa Purda, Parent  
 Lori Poindexter, 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 Common Core state standards as outlined in the current Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. We have solicited the talents and expertise of The Pioneer Valley District Curriculum and Assessment Center to work with the professionals at Old Mill Pond School.

Through the District Professional Development funds and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Grants, faculty have been engaged in a number of professional development activities aimed at improved student learning. A large number of teachers participated in professional development on the Keys to Literacy and Comprehension Routines during the school year and over the summer. Also in the summer, a group participated in the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary training on Professional Learning Communities. During the school year, we have been fortunate to work extensively with Susan Kazeroid, Literacy Specialist, from the District and School Assistance Center (DSAC) creating Literacy Curriculum Maps in Grades PK through Grade 4 that align to the Common Core Curriculum Standards. In addition, Math specialists Cate Calise and Kathy Fouser worked with teachers creating Curriculum Maps for Mathematics for grades PK through Grade 4. First and Second Grade teachers implemented the Walk to Read framework for reading instruction and we are thrilled with the students' results. We will be implementing this again next year in Grades 1, 2, and 3. Mrs. Nicole Costello and Mrs. Cindy Miller taught the Second Step curriculum to students in Grades K – 4. The Second Step curriculum addresses all students' social, emotional and academic learning to create a strong and safe community within the classroom and larger school environment. Implementation of The Second Step Curriculum was made possible through the generosity of the Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force.

The Family Literacy Program at OMP continues to grow thanks in large part to OMP's PTO/PAWS and the continued dedication of Mrs. Lynn Logsdon and Mrs. Mary Beaulieu. The Family Literacy group celebrated National Literacy Month in November and Read Across America in March. Guest Readers were welcomed into the school to celebrate the joy and importance of reading. In the spring of 2012, OMP was extremely fortunate to have children's author, Jonathon Hall visit our library and read to our students. Tornado the Cat accompanied him on his visit.

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 to recognition the importance of the teaching profession. We here at Old Mill Pond School recognized Mrs. Jacqueline Flamand as this year's recipient. 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.

### Special Education

The Department of Special Services includes all special education programs, Title I programs, English as a Second Language Programs, home and hospital tutoring, and Chapter 622 (discrimination). The department is responsible for the screening and evaluation of children between the ages of 3 and 21 for possible special needs.

The Palmer Public Schools are an Early Childhood 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 beginning with an integrated preschool and continuing services through graduation providing transition planning services for students who do not graduate with a diploma. The department provides an extensive array of supplemental support services including speech/language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, behavioral support services and school adjustment counseling. Services for low incidence children are contracted annually as prescribed by the student's Individual Educational Plans.

Our Special Education enrollment is currently 293 students. The school system continues its effort, on the part of each of the schools, to meet children's needs within the classroom. When this is not possible, each school provides a variety of options to meet the needs of students while allowing them to remain in their own community. Programs at each level are available for students with language based learning needs, intellectual delays, physical handicaps and emotional disabilities. Each school now offers life skills curriculums and support for social-emotional development. Alternative education programs in each building address the needs of students at risk for failure or at risk of dropping out. Special education students have equal access to these programs through the building principals.

State and federal grants written and supervised by the department continue to assist in defraying some of the costs of special education. The Federal Special Education Grant, #240 (94-142), funds the cost of a number of paraprofessional instructional assistant positions at all three schools. The State Early Childhood Grant, #262, 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 reading and math services to eligible youngsters in grades 3-7. The entire grant is committed to staff salaries. This program provides services to approximately 200 youngsters in the elementary and middle schools. Grant 632/625 provided funding for the high school to run an afterschool MCAS prep program and a summer school program for students struggling to pass the ELA, Math and Science High School MCAS.

For the Department of Special Services, the 2012-13 school year was one of continued program improvement and development. The district began the year in full compliance in the areas of Civil Rights and Special Education having completed a corrective action plan based on the findings of the State Coordinated Program Review completed in 2009. In April, the district underwent a mid-cycle review by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This audit reviewed our policies and procedures in the areas of Special Education and English Learner Education. The findings of this audit will be received at the start of the 2013 school year.

### 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.

Palmer High School and Old Mill Pond School received new high efficiency boilers and water heaters. Converse Middle School received a new oil-fired burner. Thanks to an MSBA (Mass. School Building Authority) Green Grant, the cost of the project was reimbursed by 68%.

Extensive training with personnel regarding emergency and safety procedures relating to building infrastructure continues to be one of our major focal points.

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. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

The district is functioning as a Level 3 School District due to past performance regarding the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). As a Level 3 district, additional grant funding was provided to this district to be used for increased professional development to improved teaching skills and assessment scores. This professional development was intensive during the 2012-2013 school year and will continue throughout the coming school year. Additional information and detailed test scores can be found on the Palmer Public Schools' website by clicking on the Office of the Superintendent link.

The School Department budget continues to be below the required minimum. This does not allow the schools to provide much needed support services for students who are at risk and struggling. Grants continue to provide approximately \$1 million in additional funding, however, due to federal and state cutbacks, grant funds have been reduced as well. Adequate funding is greatly needed to meet the requirements of services to students at risk and to maximize the potential of all achieving students.

The School Committee, administration, faculty, and staff remain committed to the children of the Palmer Public Schools. Every effort has been made to provide our students with a safe, clean and engaging school environment. We encourage parents, the community and businesses to join us as we serve our community of learners in the coming years.

Respectfully,

Palmer School Committee

Maureen Gallagher, Chair  
James St. Amand, Vice Chair  
David M. Lynch, Member  
Robert Janasiewicz, Member  
Gary Blanchette, Member

## **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. Currently the Committee consists of 11 members: two members each from Belchertown and Palmer and one each from the remaining towns. In June, the New Braintree Board of Selectmen appointed Stacie Pride to serve until the next state election as a result of the town's not having a candidate in 2012. Michael Cavanaugh and David Droz, both of Palmer, will continue as chairman and vice-chairman, respectively. Lorraine Alves will serve as secretary.

### **CURRICULUM**

Pathfinder students have continued to demonstrate improvement in their performance and achievement on the MCAS tests. The percentage of Pathfinder students scoring in the Advanced and Proficient categories in all 3 areas—English, Mathematics, and Science-- has shown steady progress over the past four years. The percentage of students scoring in the Advanced and Proficient range in English has risen from 81% in 2012 to 83% in 2013. 69% of students scored Proficient or higher in Mathematics, and Science scores increased from 62% to 71% in 2013. Although progress was made in all of these areas, scores in certain subgroups—particularly students with special needs—did not meet expectations of the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education. Consequently the Department has classified Pathfinder as a “Level 3” school. Anticipating this designation, the administration has enlisted the assistance of Department personnel to recommend strategies for improvement and to provide the relevant training. These initiatives will continue throughout the 2013-14 school year and beyond.

Pathfinder continued to make progress in its effort to increase the rigor of the academic offerings for students and to make advancements in the vocational offerings as well. The school has fully implemented the Common Core State Standards in all academic areas beginning with the class of 2017. This alignment included adding World History for all incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders and rescheduling the school day to include 6 periods. The program of studies now includes new offerings in physical education to include wellness education and personal fitness. Finally, Hospitality Management has been added to our technical program of studies as a 15<sup>th</sup> program and was approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in late August 2013.

### **MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS:**

#### **Collision Repair Technology:**

Three Rivers Water and Sewer Dept.: Students completed two utility body doors with blue metallic/clear coat to match their existing paint scheme on one of their department trucks.

Belchertown Fire Dept.: Students repaired and refinished a 2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer. This included changing the color from white to red with a black roof to match the rest of their fleet.

Palmer Police Dept.: Students repaired and refinished a Military Humvee to traditional black and white police colors. This involved refinishing the metal body and the fabric doors. A second Humvee vehicle is currently in progress and will be similarly painted.

#### Machine Technology:

Students machined several cribbage boards as donations to fundraisers for non-profit organizations. Recipients included:

Palmer Public Library  
Top Floor Learning, Palmer  
Machine Technology Poker Run, Pathfinder  
Pathfinder Car Show (Skills USA)  
Monson Free Library - Holiday Raffle

#### Cosmetology:

Cosmetology students continued their annual visits to area Senior Centers during which they provide “Spa Days” for seniors. The services they offer include manicures, pedicures, facials, and hair styles. Currently the cosmetology students provide these services in Palmer, Ware, Monson and Belchertown.

#### Carpentry:

Students completed the construction of a new Sally Port at the Granby Police Station.

Students began work on a reception/entrance area for the new Granby Library.

#### Automotive Reconditioning:

Auto Reconditioning students continued to provide services for police, highway, fire and water districts.

#### Electrical:

Electrical students completed the lighting, power and security wiring for a new Sally Port at the Granby Police Station

Electrical students completed numerous jobs at Pathfinder including new gym lighting, emergency panel for IT services, installation of several machines in the Machine Shop, Cosmetology electrical upgrades, Auto body Shop upgrades, Culinary Shop upgrades and many other projects.

## **COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Thirty-three students participated in the school's Cooperative Education Program which provides opportunities for paid, career-related jobs *in lieu of* attending their vocational classes. In this real work environment, the students enhanced their technical skills, developed interpersonal skills, and experienced valuable lessons in maintaining a balance with their personal lives, school academics, and their jobs. Co-op continues to be an excellent pathway to full-time employment.

Student placement has seen an improvement as the economy slowly recovers. The school is committed to providing students with this invaluable opportunity and intends to work closely with area businesses to expand the program.

## **STUDENT BODY**

Pathfinder's enrollment as of October 1, 2013 totaled 612 students, including the following numbers from member towns: Belchertown 96; Granby 21; Hardwick 24; Monson 83; New Braintree 12; Oakham 10; Palmer 167; Ware 100; and Warren 42. The remaining students were residents of out-of-district communities, the largest number of students coming from Ludlow (29). The 612 figure on October 1st represents a decrease of 47 students overall from the number reported on October 1, 2012. Concern over this decline has led to renewed efforts to design strategies for increasing enrollment and retention.

In order to better meet students' needs and to more effectively accommodate parents, the Special Education and Guidance Department have been combined under a Pupil Personnel Director.

The Pupil Services Office—which also serves as the Admissions Office—once again received far more applications for the 180 ninth grade openings than the school could accommodate. Transfer opportunities into the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grades were also very limited. Consequently, the school experienced another year of waiting lists for each grade.

Parents of students seeking to learn more about Pathfinder or to visit the school had a variety of options available to them throughout the year. In early October guidance counselors were invited to attend a breakfast meeting designed specifically to update them about the admissions policies and procedures. In October and November, Pathfinder's guidance counselors visited the 8th graders in member towns to provide an in-depth presentation about Pathfinder's offerings and the application process. In late November, an evening Open House event was held for 5th-8th graders and their parents. The event featured a free dinner and a tour of the facility, including a visit to technical areas of interest.

In addition to the fall events, each winter 8th graders who are interested are invited to participate in a field trip with their school counselor 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. This year a larger number of students participated in these tours than the previous year. Many attendees acknowledged that they had participated in the summer Youth Enrichment Program, an attractive opportunity for large

numbers of enthusiastic prospective students. For students and parents with Internet access, a copy of the application can be downloaded and printed.

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.

At the twenty-seventh Annual "Outstanding Vocational-Technical Student" awards dinner sponsored by the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA) and the Massachusetts Vocational Association (MVA), Matthew Stafford, of Hardwick, represented Pathfinder. Matthew, a student in the Machine Technology Program, was ranked at the top of the graduating class with a cumulative GPA of 4.42. He received a myriad of academic and technical awards for excellence and outstanding achievement throughout his high school career. He was a two-year member of the National Technical Honor Society and particularly excelled in mathematics and science, earning a 95 in Calculus and a 96 in Chemistry for the first grading term of his senior year. As a junior, he became employed by Lee Tool Company in Ludlow through Pathfinder's Co-Operative Work Program. Outside of the classroom, Matthew was a devoted athlete; he played left field for Pathfinder's varsity baseball team and in the fall of 2012 he was the quarterback that led the varsity football team to their first-ever undefeated season and Super Bowl Championship. Matthew has been accepted to Montana Tech in Butte, Montana and is majoring in petroleum engineering.

In June 2013, the graduating class of 153 students received diplomas and technical certificates at commencement exercises. Graduates received 66 awards totaling \$16,988 during the ceremony. An additional \$58,400 in scholarships from schools and colleges was announced during the program. 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.

## **PUPIL SERVICES**

Nicole Heroux serves as the Director of Pupil Services. Pupil Services is comprised of both the Special Education and Guidance Departments. The school committee approved this position on a trial bases and agreed to continue to support the change.

Mrs. Heroux and her staff are currently in the process of evaluating all current programs and services in preparation for a Coordinated Review that will occur during the 2014-2015 school year. In this visit, state officials will review both Special Education and Civil Rights. The goal

of Pupil Services is to demonstrate its responsibility to provide a continuum of services for all students in accordance with the provisions of state and federal regulations. The Department continues to be committed to finding opportunities to offer different pathways to learning so that the diverse ability levels of the students might be accommodated. Our guidance staff is working on revising our College and Career readiness for our students best interests when it comes to their emotional and educational well-being.

The Special Education Department strives to address the needs of *all* learners in grades 9-12. Through continued 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. All students admitted to Pathfinder are expected to fulfill the same requirements to receive a high school diploma as in local town high schools, and all students must have access to all academic and vocational programs. The staff at Pathfinder continues to work to develop an appropriate education for the students who were previously in the MVIP program to insure their success at the school.

Team chairpersons conducted Team evaluations, annual reviews and re-evaluations for over one hundred eighty (180) special needs students. The Pupil Services Department continued to be responsible for approximately fifty (50) students who have 504 Accommodation Plans. Section 504 is a federal civil rights law which requires the provision of reasonable accommodations to students and staff who qualify as disabled under the law.

The Department includes fifteen (15) academic or vocational professionally licensed instructors, 3 guidance counselors, eight (8) paraprofessionals, and three full-time secretaries. Licensed specialists include a Speech and Language Pathologist, a School Adjustment Counselor, an Occupational Therapist, and a full-time School Psychologist.

Work continued on the collaboration between special and general educators.

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

Students returned to school on January third after their holiday break. A winter semi-formal was scheduled for January 11<sup>th</sup> and students anxiously looked forward to the get together. Seniors were excited about measuring to order their caps and gowns.

Working together with the Red Cross the school conducted a successful blood drive on January 28<sup>th</sup>,-- our second of three. Students are always ready to give blood in order to add to the Red Cross blood bank.

Many fundraisers occurred during the winter months. The Gay/Straight Alliance had a bracelet fundraiser sale, a Valentine's Dance was held in February, and a 50/50 raffle was held in order to raise funds for a first ever senior English trip to New York City to see *The Phantom of the Opera*. The Drama club staged a production of *Bonnie and Clyde*, live, in our cafetorium. Class advisors continued to be busy planning for the junior prom and the senior banquet. A fundraiser was conducted to benefit those with Rett Syndrome, where one could buy a paper flower for

\$1.00. Called the *Garden of Hope*, paper flowers filled the walls in the math wing, in particular, and brought a breath of spring to the beginning of March.



### Senior NYC Field Trip

Plans for the New York trip started as early as November last year for a trip that Pathfinder had never sponsored in the past. Students worked together to plan the trip themselves by finding out school rules pertaining to field trips, obtaining estimates for things like buses and theater tickets, and also making a plan for this enormous undertaking of a day trip. Students successfully raised the \$4,000 cost for the trip themselves by having dances as well as doing a 50/50 raffle and participating in a staff support for a senior initiative. The trip took place on April 24<sup>th</sup> and, along with the Broadway show, included sightseeing, shopping, and lunch in this great city.

The Pathfinder State Champion Robotics Team moved on to a very successful week at the FIRST World Championship in St. Louis. The trip began with the pilot of the plane announcing on the intercom that the Massachusetts FIRST State Robotics Champions from Pathfinder were on the plane. The entire plane gave a nice round of applause and acknowledged all of our students.

In teams from around the world, the Pathfinder students ultimately won six of their eight matches and were ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in their division. At times they were paired with teams around the globe, including Russia and China. Given the number of teams that began, **they were ranked in the top 0.7% worldwide!**

Seniors had their Senior Banquet at Ludlow Country Club on May 24<sup>th</sup>. One hundred forty-two guests attended and danced to the music of DJ Tony Valley. Seniors then celebrated their upcoming graduation with a senior picnic on senior class day. The picnic included a cookout, a mechanical bull and even a bounce house. Seniors had fun at one of their last school get-togethers. A class of one hundred fifty-seven seniors graduated on a very hot June 2, 2013. This year two students—Breann Grenier and Raiche Yaeger—were awarded scholarships of \$1,000 each by Bob’s Furniture as a result of the three successful Red Cross blood drives.

Students began school on August 29, 2013. Classes were set and new freshmen entered the school, eager to explore the vocational areas. New class advisors were chosen and the

fundraising for class expenses had begun. Just before the holiday break, seniors held the second annual “kiss the fish” fundraiser where a teacher was chosen to kiss the fish

**ATHLETICS**

Interest and participation in athletics by Pathfinder students remained consistent with approximately 175 students taking part. Co-op programs in wrestling and swimming with Ware and Palmer High Schools continued. Freshman participation this past fall showed a slight increase in our girls’ programs while remaining level among boys.

In 2013, the girls’ varsity basketball team qualified for the Western Mass. Tournament. The varsity girls’ softball team won the Tri-County League title and qualified for both the State Vocational and Western Mass. Tournaments. The varsity baseball team was State Vocational co-champions and qualified for the Western Mass. Tournament.

In softball, Jenna Maska, Stephanie Hastie, and Marissa Riley were selected to the *Republican* first team all-scholastic team. In football, Mike Krzynowek and Ryan Hazzard were named as *Republican* first team all-scholastic players.

Brad Lord and Sarah Sikorski were the outstanding male and female athletes for 2102 – 2013.

**GRANTS, DONATIONS AND CONTRACTS**

Program Name	Amount	Application
Title 1	\$116,143	Retain HQ ELA and Math Title 1 Instructor.
Title 1 Carry-Over	\$22,638	Bought Art Supplies for innovative Art Based ELA program, 4 Smart Boards,
Title 2	\$24,709	Collins Writing Trainings; Partial SPED teacher salary.
SPED	\$231,139	Hire 4 aides, Inclusion Model Instructor; Supplies, E-SPED; half salary for on -site School Psychologist.
Perkins	\$97,724	School Wide Skills USA materials and participation costs; Smart Board for HVAC, 3 Auto Simulator trainers; Combination Stove Unit; Welding Table for Auto Body
Amp it UP	\$10,000	2 Machining Training sessions for Palmer and Ware 8 <sup>th</sup> graders. Brought Pathfinder national

		attention on the <i>Today Show</i> .
Academic Support	\$19,400	Supported 4 week (48 Contact Hours) Project Based MCAS Math Prep program
WIA Program	\$47,856	Supported 5 weeks @25 hrs. per week summer work for 28 participants 2 Year round part-time jobs.
WIA Bonus Program	\$5,200	Provided quarterly bonuses of \$75-100 for WIA participants meeting Pathfinder criteria (grades, attendance)
WIA Support Services	\$250	Paid for students' Cosmetology licensure.
TOTAL	\$579,912	

### **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

The Summer Youth Enrichment Program included over 110 participants between the ages of 9 and 13. The program ran for three one-week sessions between July 8<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup>. Participants had the opportunity to select from the following options: Automotive Technology, Machine Technology, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Environmental Explorers, Photography & Web Design, Young Einstein's Science, Vex Robotics, Bake Shop, and Culinary Arts. The daily schedule placed participants in their specialty areas in the morning with sports, games, or crafts in the afternoon.

Parent and student satisfaction with the Youth Enrichment Programs 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 introduced an online summer school program 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 for four weeks, but was extended to six weeks due to enable students to complete assignments on time. The vocational related courses ran in August, Monday through Friday with two morning sessions, each two hours long. A total of 40 hours in attendance was required for completing the program. Students enrolled in 116 academic courses, 10 in vocational course work. Additionally, 9 students took honors Algebra II. The combined summer school course enrollment was 135 from 11 school districts.

One of the most notable recognitions ever to come to Pathfinder occurred when the Machine Technology Program was featured on the April 28<sup>th</sup> broadcast of the *Today Show*. Cast from the show spent an entire day filming and interviewing students and staff as part of the Patrick-Murray administration's efforts to showcase job opportunities in manufacturing in Western Massachusetts. The brief segment gave Pathfinder nation-wide exposure and enormous pride!

## **FACULTY AND STAFF**

Currently the Pathfinder staff consists of 45 vocational teachers, 30.5 academic teachers, 1 part-time Athletic Trainer, 10 special education teachers, 3 counselors, a psychologist, a library-media specialist, and 8 paraprofessionals. The school is managed by a group of 8 professional administrators as well as a full-time grants coordinator.

In June, the school said farewell to retirees Steven Alger, Cheryl Sawicki, Roberta Brumer, Gary Lapointe and, in September, Stanley Kapinos.

New Hires included Nicholas Jorge, Technology Director; Catherine Glennon and Kyle Pare (Social Studies); Ryan Rege (Culinary Arts); Edward O'Connor, (Hospitality Management); Mariusz Zielinski (HVAC); Daniela Labbare (Psychologist) and Francis Legassey (Electronics). Former Electronics Instructor Eric Duda was appointed Vocational Director, succeeding Stan Kapinos.

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 two Region I Directors for that organization's National Council of Local Administrators

## **BUDGET AND FINANCE**

The school committee adopted a FY14 budget of \$13,196,923, representing a 2.97% increase over FY13. For the two previous fiscal years of FY12 and FY13, Pathfinder had a budget increase of 1.85% and 2.61% respectively. All nine District member communities subsequently approved their assessments in the spring of 2013. Consequently, the FY14 budget was approved pursuant to the regional school budget statute.

While the Regional School Transportation Reimbursement Rate is still unpredictable, receipts have consistently been in the range of 50% - 60% over the last 2-3 years. A comparable rate of reimbursement is expected to continue for the current year and into FY15.

Additionally, changes in Medicaid reimbursement procedures, the elimination of the MVIP Intensive Needs Program and decreasing enrollment have greatly reduced FY14 Medicaid reimbursement rates. Over the last four years, Pathfinder's reimbursement has decreased precipitously. In 2010, Pathfinder received in excess of \$75,000.00 to subsidize the annual budget; by FY14 the amount had declined to approximately \$14,000.00.

Finally, Chapter 70 Aid from the Commonwealth continues to be a concern for the upcoming FY15 school year. As Pathfinder's enrollment has decreased by nearly 45 students in FY14, Chapter 70 School Aid is expected to be level funded at best for FY15. In addition to the challenges presented by the aforementioned level funded Chapter 70 Aid, capital needs for various vocational shops and the currently proposed roof project may cause reductions in other budgetary areas within the General Fund.

Although budgetary constraints present a number of challenges for FY15, Pathfinder has made strides in cost containment and reduction.

Changes in areas such as Health Insurance Plan Design and employee/employer contribution rates should save nearly \$250,000.00 in FY14. Additionally, a new Solar Net Metering Contract is estimated to save approximately \$35,000.00 per year in electricity charges for the next 20 years. Pathfinder is committed to continuously researching new technologies and innovations to minimize overhead costs and maximize student achievement.

The following chart illustrates the FY14 assessments (voted in spring of FY13) to each member community:

<b>ASSESSMENT CALCULATION FY2014:</b>						
	<b>MINIMUM</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL</b>	<b>SHARE OF</b>	<b>2nd YR OF</b>	<b>TRANS-</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>TOWNS</b>	<b>CONT.</b>	<b>CONT.</b>	<b>REGULAR CAP.</b>	<b>5 YR CAP PLAN</b>	<b>PORTATION</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT</b>
Belchertown	\$ 749,587	\$ 313,883	\$ 3,815	\$ 31,077	\$ 68,733	\$ 1,167,095
Granby	\$ 153,297	\$ 54,714	\$ 665	\$ 12,879	\$ 11,981	\$ 233,536
Hardwick	\$ 178,957	\$ 92,149	\$ 1,120	\$ 4,529	\$ 20,178	\$ 296,934
Monson	\$ 672,075	\$ 279,327	\$ 3,395	\$ 16,127	\$ 61,166	\$ 1,032,090
New Braintree	\$ 91,243	\$ 31,676	\$ 385	\$ 1,864	\$ 6,936	\$ 132,105
Oakham	\$ 74,405	\$ 28,797	\$ 350	\$ 3,386	\$ 6,306	\$ 113,243
Palmer	\$ 1,147,687	\$ 526,978	\$ 6,405	\$ 21,183	\$ 115,395	\$ 1,817,648
Ware	\$ 553,341	\$ 270,688	\$ 3,290	\$ 18,346	\$ 59,274	\$ 904,940
Warren	\$ 256,347	\$ 158,381	\$ 1,925	\$ 9,471	\$ 34,682	\$ 460,806
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$ 3,876,939</b>	<b>\$ 1,756,594</b>	<b>\$ 21,350</b>	<b>\$ 118,863</b>	<b>\$ 384,650</b>	<b>\$ 6,158,396</b>

## **CONCLUDING STATEMENT**

As Pathfinder enters its forty-first year offering quality vocational education to our member communities, the school committee wishes to reaffirm its pride in the staff and students. They have made substantial contributions 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.

Finally, the committee wishes to thank our legislators, town officials and the several town meetings for their support over these years

The committee is mindful of the prediction that FY15 fiscal picture will undoubtedly present another challenge. However—as always-- the goal will be to preserve the quality of education that the students deserve.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Cavanaugh (Palmer), Chairman  
Francesco Dell'Olio (Belchertown)  
Lorraine F. Alves (Belchertown)  
William E. Johnson (Granby)  
Julie Quink (Hardwick)  
Andrew I. Jaffee (Monson)  
Stacie Pride (New Braintree)  
Jeffrey Nelson (Oakham)  
David Droz (Palmer)  
M. Barbara Ray (Ware)  
Thomas Rugani (Warren)  
Autumn Lopez (Student Representative)

Gerald L. Paist, Superintendent-Director

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY  
 AMBULANCE, FIRE AND POLICE EMERGENCY - 911

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

Appeals (zoning issues)	<b>Appeals, Board of</b>	283-2605
Assessments, Abatements	<b>Assessors, Board of</b>	283-2607
Building Permits, Electric Permits, Plumbing, gas & wiring Permits, Zoning Enforcement	<b>Building Inspector</b>	283-2638
Burial Records, Cemetery Plots	<b>Cemetery</b>	283-2665
Emergency Preparedness, Catastrophe	<b>Civil Defense</b>	283-8792
Future planning for Palmer	<b>Community Development Dept. Palmer Redevelopment Authority</b>	283-2614 283-4100
Wetlands Management	<b>Conservation Commission</b>	283-2611
Senior activities, Information & Transportation	<b>Council on Aging</b>	283-2670
Animal Control	<b>Dog Officer</b>	283-7770
Health, Sanitation, Septic Permits/Title V, Food & Beverage License & Tobacco License	<b>Health, Board Of</b>	283-2606
Road Maintenance, snow & ice removal	<b>Department of Public Works</b>	283-2615
Alcohol Beverage Information	<b>License Commission</b>	283-2603
Federally funded elderly housing	<b>Palmer Housing Authority</b>	283-9311
All library services	<b>Palmer Public Library</b>	283-3330
Park & Field Maintenance	<b>Department of Public Works</b>	283-2615
Planning, Land Use, Zoning	<b>Planning Board</b>	283-2605
Public Schools	<b>Schools:</b>	
	<b>Converse Middle School</b>	283-2641
	<b>Old Mill Pond Elementary</b>	283-2630
	<b>Palmer High School</b>	283-2621
	<b>Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School</b>	283-9701
	<b>Superintendent of Schools</b>	283-2650
Scale, weight Certification	<b>Sealer of Weights &amp; Measures (Residence)</b>	283-4070
Committee Appointments, Class I, II & III Licenses, Amusement/Entertainment Licenses, Street Entrance, Street Excavation	<b>Town Manager</b>	283-2603
Parking Tickets, Property & Excise Tax Bills	<b>Tax Collector</b>	283-2601
General Accounting	<b>Town Accountant</b>	283-2602
Births, Deaths, Marriages, Dog Licenses, Business Certificates, Elections & Voter Registration	<b>Town Clerk</b>	283-2608
Bill Payment, Payroll, Insurance Benefits	<b>Town Treasurer</b>	283-2600
Veteran's Information/Referrals Benefits	<b>Veteran's Agent</b>	283-2610
<b>EMERGENCY NUMBERS - 911</b>	<b>Fire – Bondsville</b>	283-9036
	<b>Palmer</b>	283-3861
	<b>Three Rivers</b>	283-7161