

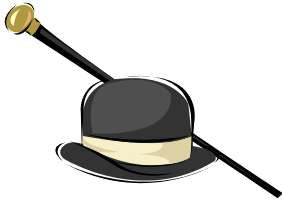
TOWN WHERE A U.S. FLAG WAS FIRST
RAISED OVER A PUBLIC SCHOOL, MAY, 1812

Town of Colrain 2017 Annual Report



The Town of Colrain is a community of 43.2 square miles located in north central Franklin County. Per the 2017 Street Listing, the population is 1,581, of which 1,210 are registered voters. To the north, Colrain borders two Vermont towns: Halifax and Guilford. Leyden is to the east, Greenfield to the southeast, Shelburne to the south, Charlemont to the southwest and Heath to the west. State Route 112 is the major highway through the town, running roughly north to south along the North River. There are 86.58 road miles in Colrain, the third highest amount in Franklin County. Approximately half of these roads are gravel. Colrain is primarily an agricultural and residential community. We have an open town meeting form of government, with a Board of Selectmen as the governing body

Dedication



TOWN OF COLRAIN A PROCLAMATION *Honoring and Celebrating Raigh M. Herzig Colrain's Oldest Resident*

- Whereas, Raigh M. Herzig born August 29, 1912, has been an active resident of Colrain for all of her life,*
- Whereas, Raigh M. Herzig turning 105, and will now become the recipient of the Boston Post Cane Award, an award that began in 1891 by Edwin Atkis Grozier, owner of The "Post";*
- Whereas, Raigh M. Herzig was born in Colrain, MA daughter of Henry and Florence Caron. She was the 7th of 14 children; 7 girls and 7 boys. She attended Griswoldville Elementary School until age 14. She then began working at the Griswoldville Manufacturing Company in the weaving department. She worked for the company for 36 years.*
- Whereas, Raigh and her husband Herman (April 13, 1930) have 4 children; 2 sons and 2 daughters; and 7 grandchildren, 14 Great-Grandchildren and 8 Great-Great Grandchildren,*
- Whereas, Raigh M. Herzig and Herman enjoyed hunting and fishing together. Her favorite pastime has always been quilting, and she made a special quilt for everyone in her family.*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Town of Colrain Select Board that the Town congratulates Raigh M. Herzig and is proud to have her represent Colrain as the holder of the Boston Post Cane.

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Colrain Transfer Station Information/Hours

Located at 7 Charlemont Road
Saturdays 8:00 am—4:00 pm
Summer hours 1st Tues in May—1st Tues in September
5:30 pm—7:30 pm

General Information

All trash bags must have stickers
13 gallon stickers-\$1.00/each
33 gallon stickers—\$2.00/each

Stickers are available at the Transfer Station

Bulky Waste open 3rd week in April until it is full in October

General Recycling

Paper and Plastics

Other Recyclables Collected

Scrap Metal	Free
White Goods and CFCs	\$10 each
Tires	\$2.00 each with no rims
Bulky Waste	\$5.00 to \$10.00
CRTs and TVs	\$0.25/lb
Construction/Demolition	\$40/cubic yard (\$20 minimum)
Donations	Salvation Army Box

Hazardous Materials Collected

Motor oil	\$0.50/gal
Oil Filters	\$0.75/each
Auto Batteries	Yes
Anti-Freeze	\$1.00/gallon
Paint	\$5.00 per gallon, \$1.50 per qt. No Latex
Flourescent	\$0.50/4 ft or shorter or compacts, \$1 per 8 ft.
House Batteries	Yes
Ballasts	\$5.00 each
Thermometer	Free
Thermostats	Free
Switches	Free
20 lb BBQ Tanks	\$5.00
1 lb LP Tanks	\$1.00
Larger LP Tanks	\$10.00

Items not accepted:Leaves/Yard waste, Christmas Trees, Brush Textiles

Town Officers, Boards, & Committees – Contact Information

	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>E-mail Address</u>
Agricultural Commission Chair, Kenneth P. Herzig	624-0215	
Board of Assessors, Assistant Alice Wozniak	624-3356	assessors@colrain-ma.gov
Board of Health Clerk, Michael Friedlander	624-8859	
Building Inspector, Shawn Kimberley	624-4728	shawnkimberley@hotmail.com
Conservation Commission Clerk, Alice Wozniak	624-3356	assessors@colrain-ma.gov
Council on Aging, Richard Herzig	624-8818 624-3417	
Dog Officer Danielle Grenier	413-548-0201; 413-625-2095	
Emergency Manager Director Kevin French	624-3454	
Energy Committee Peter Brooks - Chair	624-3454	
Finance Committee Chair, Doug MacLeay	624-3454	
Fire Chief, Nick Anzuoni	624-5528	
Griswold Memorial Library Betty Johnson, Librarian	624-3619	biblib3@aol.com
Highway Superintendent, Scott Sullivan	624-5500	colrainroadboss@gmail.com
Historical Commission Chair, Robert Ramirez	624-3090	
Last Mile Advisory Board Michael Shuipis	624-3454	
Personnel Committee Chair, Ellen Weeks	624-5137	eweeks@umext.umass.edu
Planning Board Chair, Thom Griffin		
Police Chief - Business Only Christopher Lannon	624-3038	police@colrain-ma.gov
Treasurer/Collector Paula Harrison	624-5549	taxcollector@colrain-ma.gov or treasurer@colrain-ma.gov
Town Accountant, David Fierro Jr.	Hill-Town Municipal Accounting	
Town Clerk Robin Hartnett	624-7100	townclerk@colrain-ma.gov
Town Coordinator, Kevin Fox	624-6306	bos@colrain-ma.gov
Transfer Station	625-9012	
Tree Warden Michael Friedlander	624-3643	
Zoning Board of Appeals Chair, Rockwell Lively	624-3356	

Elected Town Officers

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

(Three year term)

Eileen D. Sauvageau	2017 - 2020
Mark A. Thibodeau – Chair	2015 - 2018
Jack Cavolick	2016 - 2019

Term

TOWN CLERK (Three year term)

Robin Hartnett	2016 - 2019
Assistant Clerk – Colleen Worden	2019

BOARD OF ASSESSORS (Three year term)

Nicholas M. Anzuoni - Chair	2016 - 2019
James J. Slowinski	2015 - 2018
Dwight Harrison	2017 - 2020

MOHAWK TRAIL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

(Three year term)

Nina Martin-Anzuoni	2016 – 2019
Kate Barrows	2017 - 2020

GRISWOLD MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES (Three year term)

Michelle F. Hillman	2016 - 2019
Chelli Mennella	2017 - 2020
Jill Horton-Lyons	2017 - 2020
Michael Friedlander	2016 – 2019
Cynthia McLaughlin	2015- 2018
Nancy Rich Turkle	2015 – 2018

CONSTABLES (Three year term)

Michael Friedlander	2016 - 2019
Scott F. Sullivan	2017- 2020
Melinda A. Herzig	2015 - 2018

MODERATOR (Three year term)

Megan McDonough	2015 - 2018
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Board of Selectmen Appointments

Agricultural Commission	Term Expires
Kenneth P. Herzig	2020
Robert P. Ramirez	2018
Joseph S. Hillman	2018
Haynes Turkle	2019
Jill Horton-Lyons	2021
Lorena Loubsky	2018
Lori Shearer	2021
 Animal Control Officer	
Danielle Grenier	2018
 Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Program	
David W. Nims	2018
 Board of Health	
Michael Friedlander - Chair	2020
Timothy P. Slowinski	2020
Jason Ferenc	2018
Jack Cavolick	2018
 Board of Registrars	
Colleen Worden	2018
Eugenia M. Shearer	2020
Amy J. Herzig	2018
Paula Harrison	2020
 Building Inspector (Three year term)	
Shawn Kimberley	2019
 Carl H. Nilman Scholarship Representative	
Michelle F. Hillman	2018
 Colrain Arts Council	
Janice Jones	2019
Suzanne Conway-Lagreze	2020
Eugenia M. Shearer	2018
Donna Cusimano – Chair	2019
Paula J. Harrison	2018
Julie Moran	2019
 Conservation Commission	
Clarence E. Wheeler - Chair	2020
Matthew G. Slowinski	2020
David W. Nims	2020
Carl A. Herzig	2020
Paul C. Lagreze	2020
William H. Dornbusch	2018
Marshall L. Denison, Jr.	2018

Council on Aging

Joan C. McQuade	2020
Richard R. Herzig	2018
Amy J. Herzig	2018
Bing Waldsmith	2018
Carl Herzig	2019
Russell Barnes	2020
Janice Barnes	2020
Kathleen A. Phelps	2020
Valeda R. Peters	2020
Jane Johnson	2020

Emergency Management Director

Kevin French	2018
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Energy Committee

Peter Brooks	2018
Elizabeth Erickson	2018
Therese Fitzsimmons	2018
Al Ladd	2018
Rockwell Lively	2018
Bing Waldsmith	2018

Fire Chief

Nicholas M. Anzuoni	2018
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Franklin Regional Transit Authority Representative

Mark Thibodeau	2018
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Franklin Regional Council of Governments Representative

Eileen D. Sauvageau	2018
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Franklin Regional Planning Board Representative

Eileen D. Sauvageau	2018
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Highway Department Liaison

Mark Thibodeau	2018
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Highway Superintendent

Scott F. Sullivan	2018
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Historic Commission

Robert P. Ramirez - Chair	2020
Joan C. McQuade	2020
Edward S. Stamas	2018
David W. Nims	2020
Jack Cavolick	2020
Amy Herzig	2020

Inspector of Animals	
Danielle Grenier	2018
Last Mile Advisory Committee	
Lynn DiTullio	2018
Paula Harrison	2018
Fran Ryan	2018
Eileen Sauvageau	2018
Michael Shuipis – Chair	2018
Mark Thibodeau	2018
Moth Superintendent	
Scott Sullivan	2018
Office Clerk	
Colleen Worden	2018
Personnel Committee	
Kathleen A. Phelps	2020
Valeda R. Peters	2020
Christine L. Beausoleil	2018
Ellen A. Weeks - Chair	2018
Leslie Fraser	2019
Plumbing & Gas Inspector	
Timothy J. Hartnett	2018
Alternate - Herb Hohengasser	2018
Police Chief	
Christopher Lannon	2018
Police Officers	
Roger P. Williams, Jr. - Sargent	
Gary Downer	
Jenna Hayes	
James Hunkler	
Steven Curtiss	
Rylan Baronas	
Solid Waste Management District Representative	
Jonathan Lagreze	2018
Alternate - Kevin Fox	2018
Tax Collector/Treasurer	
Paula Harrison	2019
Tree Warden	
Michael Friedlander	2020

Town Coordinator	
Kevin Fox	2018
Wiring Inspector	
James Slowinski	2018
Alternate - Clinton Dodge	2018
Zoning Board of Appeals	
Marshall L. Denison, Jr.	2020
Howard R. Phelps	2020
Rockwell J. Lively, Chair	2018
Mark A. Thibodeau	2020
John Peters	2020
Kevin French	2018

Moderators Appointment

Finance Committee	(a seven member committee)
Charles D. Lappen,	2019
Douglas Macleay - Chair	2019
Lori Regienus	2020
Lynn DiTullio	2018
Rachel Glick	2018
Franklin County Technical School District Co0mmittee Member	
Nicole Slowinski	2018
Planning Board	(a seven member board)
Betsy Corner	2020
Sara Wik	2020
Tom Griffin - Chair	2019
Robert Slowinski	2018
Jack Cavolick	2018
Jonathan Lagreze	2018

Town Office

Board of Selectmen

The Colrain Board of Selectmen is pleased to submit its 2017 Annual Report. We continue to make improving the Town's infrastructure a top priority. The Town recently created and adopted a Fixed Asset and Capital Improvement Plan which prioritizes and plans for capital needs for now and in the future. In addition to identifying capital needs and a scheduled replacement plan, the plan identifies a capital funding plan as well. The Town has been successful in utilizing Free Cash, grants and targeted stabilization funds toward this end. The "Capital Plan" is available on the Town website for interested residents to view.

The Town recently completed the renovation/reconstruction of its Highway Facility which had reached the end of its useful life. A new, state of the art facility was officially occupied by the Town on March 14th of 2018 and includes a wash bay to better preserve the Town's expensive vehicle fleet as well as the Town's first ADA compliant meeting room. Committees, Boards and other groups are encouraged to utilize this facility.

Bringing Fiber-optic broadband to the entire Town continues to be a top priority. The Town has contracted with Westfield Gas and Electric to engineer/design and ultimately over-see the construction of a Town owned network. Funding for this project is being provided by State broadband grants of 1.3 million with the balance from debt proceeds authorized by the town several years ago. This project is moving along slowly, steadily and deliberately with on-going input being provided to the Selectmen by the Town's "last-Mile" Committee. It is anticipated this project will be completed in the next 2-3 years. Roads and bridges continue to be a priority as the Town is vulnerable in this area due to an aging infrastructure and natural events. The Commonwealth is in the final phase of completing the reconstruction of the Jacksonville Rd. Bridge and reconstruction of the Heath Rd. Bridge is expected to begin this summer. Additionally, through grant funding provided by the Massworks Program (\$1 million), the Small Bridge Grant Program (\$500,000) and the DOER Culvert Replacement Program (\$90,000) Design/Engineering and Permitting work has begun toward the goal of replacing the Tisdale Brook Bridge on Adamsville Rd., The Fox Brook Bridge on Call Rd., and a culvert on Adamsville Rd. The Town has also commissioned a Culvert and Bridge inventory and Maintenance Plan which is currently being prepared by The BSC Group. Funding for this plan (\$25,000) was provided by the States Community Compact Best Practices Program.

The Selectmen continue to strive to make Colrain a great place to live and always welcome your input and attendance at our meetings.

Mark Thibodeau, Chairman

Eileen Sauvageau

Jack Cavolick

Accountants Report

Please See Attachements

Board of Assessors

The New Year started out with the Assessors conducting inspections of building permits, demolitions and properties on the town's cyclical inspection list. The Department of Revenue (DOR) requires the Assessors of Massachusetts to visit every property in each town once every nine years. About 7 years ago, the Assessors started a rotation of visiting the properties themselves rather than hiring an outside contractor at a substantial fee to the town. Since many of the contractors are from outside the area, the board felt that keeping the work "in house" would give them a better handle on errors for the future.

In the spring election, Dwight Harrison won a seat on the Board of Assessors. We would like to thank Jonathan Lagreze for his time served on the board from May 2014-2017. The Assessors' office is the only elected board that is required within two years of taking office to successfully complete a 30 hour course and pass an examination. Failure to do so jeopardizes the DOR approval of the town's tax rate.

In Fiscal Year 2017, the office granted 5 abatements in the amount of \$239,100 of value which translates into \$4,710.27 of tax dollars. There were no appeals filed at the Massachusetts Appellate Tax Board (ATB) for Fiscal Year 2017. Many of the properties in town have been inspected over the last few years, which have greatly reduced our number of abatements. This does not mean that the property record cards are flawless-some can go undetected for years. We encourage all residents to check the information on their property record cards periodically, especially after any building permit or demolition work has been completed.

In early spring, the office was readying to set the Fiscal Year 2018 tax rate. This year was an interim year which entailed much more work than usual. By late September, the Town of Colrain was the 24th town in the Commonwealth to set their tax rate and the Colrain Fire District was approximately the 4th district in the Commonwealth to set their rate.

The Colrain tax rate for fiscal year 2018 was \$20.24/per \$1,000.00 of valuation.

The Colrain Fire District tax rate for Fiscal Year 2018 was \$4.00/per \$1,000.00 of valuation. This was a significant reduction in their rate due to changes in operations.

The Town of Colrain's parcel count, total assessed values for each major class of properties and their percentage of the Levy Limit is as follows:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Valuation</u>	<u>%</u>
• Residential [1,173 parcels]	\$142,122,460	83.3197
• Commercial [328 parcels]	\$ 5,011,500	2.9380
• Industrial [14 parcels]	\$ 3,370,800	1.9761
• Personal Property [38 accounts]	\$ 20,070,080	11.7662
 Total amount of 2018 Property Tax Levy	 \$170,574,840	 100.00%

Our property record cards are available online on the town's website under Town Office, the Assessors page at www.colrain-ma.gov. Please check them out, this is another way to verify the accuracy of your assessments.

There are several property tax exemptions for the elderly varying in amounts from \$175 to \$500. Each exemption is based on income guidelines and as economic times become more difficult, we encourage the elderly to contact the office to see whether you may qualify. Any information that is provided to qualify for these exemptions is strictly confidential and is not available to the general public. Also available are exemptions for the blind and veterans.

We want the general public to know that assessing is a very complicated field and the DOR sets forth very strict guidelines with which our office must comply. With that said, our office is open to the public for any questions Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-4:00 p.m. and our board typically meets on the 1st and/or 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Assessor's office. If you would like to set up an appointment to meet with the Board, please call the office at 624-3356 since meeting times sometimes change due to scheduling conflicts.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Assessors

Nicholas Anzuoni, Chairman

James Slowinski

Dwight Harrison

Alice Wozniak, MAA & Assistant Assessor

Tax Collector's Report

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

REAL ESTATE

2017	Real Estate	\$ 2,972,106.72
	Payments to Treasurer	\$(2,834,421.38)
	Abatements/Exemptions	\$ (19,535.27)
	Refunds	\$ 10,733.19
	Transfer to Tax Title	\$ (31,373.31)
	Balance as of June 30, 2016	<u>\$ 97,509.95</u>
2016	Real Estate forwarded from June 30, 2016	\$ 60,304.52
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (54,965.47)
	Refunds	\$ 0.00
	Transfer to Tax Title	\$ (235.37)
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 5,103.68</u>
2015	Real Estate forwarded from June 30, 2016	\$ 107.89
	Transfer to Tax Title	\$ (231.55)
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ (123.66)</u>

PERSONAL PROPERTY

2017	Personal Property	\$ 402,889.66
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (402,423.76)
	Abatements	\$ 0.00
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 465.90</u>
2016	Personal Property forwarded from June 30, 2016	\$ 679.58
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (679.58)
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
2015	Personal Property forwarded from June 30, 2016	\$ (0.00)
2014	Personal Property forwarded from June 30, 2016	\$ 67.44
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (0.00)
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 67.44</u>
2013	Personal Property forwarded from June 30, 2016	\$ 130.72
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ 0.00
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 130.72</u>
2012	Personal Property forwarded from June 30, 2016	\$ 136.38
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ 0.00
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 136.38</u>

2011	Personal Property forwarded from June 30, 2016	\$ 380.84
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ 0.00
	Abatements	\$ (1,604.55)
	Refunds	\$ (1,604.55)
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 380.84</u>
2010	Personal Property forwarded from June 30, 2016	\$ 382.12
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ 0.00
	Abatements	\$ (1,574.67)
	Refunds	\$ (1,574.67)
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 380.84</u>
2009	Personal Property forwarded from June 30, 2016	\$ 487.29
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ 0.00
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 487.29</u>
2008	Personal Property forwarded from June 30, 2016	\$ 523.48
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ 0.00
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 523.48</u>
2007	Personal Property forwarded from June 30, 2016	\$ 607.05
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ 0.00
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 607.05</u>
2006	Personal Property forwarded from June 30, 2016	\$ 712.70
	Payments	\$ 0.00
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 712.70</u>

MOTOR VEHICLE AND TRAILER EXCISE

2017	Balance as of June 30, 2016	\$ 197,113.69
	Payments to Treasurer	\$(138,809.52)
	Refunds	\$ 559.66
	Abatements	\$ (3,382.07)
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 55,481.76</u>
2016	Balance as of June 30, 2016	\$ 34,811.28
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (29,646.91)
	Refunds	\$ 979.30
	Abatements	\$ (939.72)
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 5,203.95</u>
2015	Balance as of June 30, 2016	\$ 3,516.63
	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (1,752.33)
	Refunds	\$ 77.21
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 1,841.51</u>
2014	Balance as of June 30, 2016	\$ 3,032.50

	Payments to Treasurer	\$ (1,051.98)
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 1,980.52</u>
2013	Balance as of June 30, 2016	\$ 1,965.10
	Payments to Treasurer	<u>\$ (261.56)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 1,703.54</u>
2012	Balance forwarded from June 30, 2016	\$ 1,465.83
	Payments to Treasurer	<u>\$ (13.54)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 1,452.29</u>
2011	Balance forwarded from June 30, 2016	\$ 996.99
	Payments to Treasurer	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 996.99</u>
2010	Balance forwarded from June 30, 2016	\$ 953.44
	Payments to Treasurer	<u>\$ (40.00)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 913.44</u>
2009	Balance forwarded from June 30, 2016	\$ 1,214.59
	Payments to Treasurer	<u>\$ (0.00)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 1,214.59</u>
2008	Balance forwarded from June 30, 2016	\$ 841.25
	Payments to Treasurer	<u>\$ (0.00)</u>
	Balance as of June 30, 2017	<u>\$ 841.25</u>

Town Clerk's Report

This year the Town honored Raigh Herzig as the Recipient of the Boston Post Cane. We presented her with a Plaque and Certificate. (Inside cover of report Certificate that was presented)

In efforts to continue preservation of our historical documents, we had 2 books professionally bound. At this time all our vital records have been preserved and we are working on Official Town Records (Selectmen and Town Annual Minutes). It was a relatively quiet year in the Town Clerk office being an off year for Presidential and State Elections. Thank you everyone for coming in and licensing your dogs and sending in your Census paperwork.

3 voter registration sessions held in 2017

2 Special Town Meeting; 1 Annual town Election

6 Businesses renewed or opened a new business in town this year

There were 11 Births, 12 Deaths and 6 Marriages in 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robin Hartnett

Treasurer's Report

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Location of Funds:

People's Bank	General	\$	1,351.40
People's Bank	SSRP	\$	30,609.08
People's Bank	CSMP	\$	38,556.78
People's Bank	Covered Bridge	\$	22,411.04
People's Bank	Katywil	\$	0.00
People's Bank	Deputy Collector	\$	6.09
Berkshire Bank	General	\$	0.00
MMDT	General	\$	2092.71
MMDT	Arts' Council	\$	7,070.41
Unibank	General	\$	1,408,382.65
Unibank	Bond	\$	1,435.17
Unibank	Payables	\$	14,361.94
Unibank	Payroll 2015	\$	4,871.15
Unibank	AP 2015	\$	(18,274.19)
Unibank	Clerk Online	\$	0.00
Unibank	Collector Online	\$	0.61
Unibank	CDBG	\$	12.64
Greenfield Co-operative Bank	General	\$	169,727.13
Balance as of June 30, 2017		\$	1,682,614.61

TRUST FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Location of Funds:

People's United Bank		
Martha Babbitt Fund	\$	762.32
MMDT		
Stabilization Fund	\$	482,281.56
Bartholomew		
Meetinghouse Cemetery Fund	\$	205.75
Annie Browning Trust Fund	\$	205.75
Miller-Denison Lots	\$	205.75
Grace A Teney Fund	\$	105.19
East Colrain Cemetery Fund	\$	1,030.92
Davenport Relief Fund	\$	6,177.84
Stabilization Audit Fund	\$	14,222.01
Stabilization Fire Fund	\$	40,501.62
Stabilization Highway Fund	\$	60,991.69
Stabilization Assessors Fund	\$	11,397.31

Stabilization Transfer Station	\$ 11,675.11
Stabilization Technology	\$ 6,027.37
Stabilization Police Vehicle/Equipment	\$ 30,137.98
Total Trust Funds June 30, 2017	\$ 665,928.17

OPED FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Location of Funds:

Bartholomew	
OPEB Fund	\$ 100,159.10

TAX TITLE REVOLVING FUNDS ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Tax Title Revolving Fund	
Beginning Balance as of 7-1-16	\$ 0.00
Revenue	\$ 13,671.66
Expenditures	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Balance as of 6-30-17	\$ 13,671.66

Annual Reports

Board of Health

2017 was again a relatively quiet year for our board. There were no large events or problems which require special comment.

As is customary, the Board of Health largely draws its officers and agents from among its own members. Currently these positions are:

Health Officer: Jason Ferenc
Housing Inspector: Jack Cavolick
Sanitarian: Michael Friedlander
Food Inspector: Tim Slowinski

Colrain's Board of Health has an opening for another member. If you are interested, come to a meeting or call the Board of Health at 624-8859.

The Board issued 25 permits and did 10 inspections.

Disposal system permits:	9	Food service permits:	5
Wastewater haulers permits:	2	System installers permits:	8
Well permits:	1	Food inspections:	2
Septic inspections:	8	Percolation tests:	5

The Board of Health continues to pursue its enforcement program for environmental crime. We will investigate any case of illegal dumping in town, and issue citations or file criminal charges. Any person with information relating to illegal dumping of trash or other materials should report the incident to the Town Hall at 624-3454.

The Board of Health has continued sponsoring blood pressure screenings at the Senior Meal on the Second Wednesday of the Month. Screenings are 11am till 12pm.

The Board of Health meets by appointment. Check the town bulletin board for meeting time and dates. To be placed on the agenda for a meeting call 624-8859.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Friedlander, Chair

Building Inspector

During the period of January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017, there were 93 building permits issued in the Town of Colrain.

New Homes	6	Demolition	5
Additions	2	Roof	6
Renovations	17	Insulation	7
Accessory Buildings	6	Change of use	1
Wood Stoves/pellet -		PhotoVoltaic Inst	21
Stoves/chimneys	14	Pool	1
Windows/doors	7		

The Town collected \$9,341 in permit fees on construction valued at **\$ 2,973,170.**

A building permit is required by the State Building Code to construct, reconstruct, alter, repair, remove, or demolish a building or structure, or to change the use or occupancy of a building or structure. If you are not sure whether your project will require a building permit, please call before you begin construction.

This year's value of construction was the highest in my 20 years as inspector and this year's value doubled from last year's. The increase is being fueled by the photovoltaic installations and a couple of large renovations along with a slight increase in new homes.

As of January 1, 2018, we are now in the ninth edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code for both residential and commercial construction. The State of Massachusetts uses the International Building Code and International Residential Code with the corresponding Massachusetts amendments. There will be a vote at this year's Town meeting determining if the Town of Colrain will adopt the "Stretch" energy code or remain in the State base code. Please inform yourselves as to the pros and cons of each choice before Town Meeting.

My office hours are every Wednesday night between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Town office. My office telephone # is 624-4728, I can also be reached at home, weeknights before 9 p.m. at 624-9621.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Kimberley
Colrain Building Inspector

Colrain Central School

Colrain Central School continues to thrive serving 109 students and their families in grades preK-6. We have 7 classrooms, plus preschool, and an outstanding support staff of interventionists, therapists, and special education staff to help meet the needs of all of our students.

Much time has been spent this year planning for the adoption of a new focus at Colrain Central: Service Learning. A core group of our teachers have been meeting regularly to learn more about this approach and plan for its implementation. Service learning is loosely defined as project-based learning with a focus on community service. The major difference between service learning and community service is the emphasis on academic content. Because of this, the service learning projects become the curriculum in that every project is tied to the Massachusetts state standards in various content areas. This approach allows students to be exposed to, grasp, and master academic content in a way that is both meaningful to them and provides a service to the community. That community could be the classroom community, the school community, our local community, or a global community. Service learning seeks to teach by exposing students to real world problem-solving in a way that is beneficial to others. We are enthusiastic to begin implementing this approach next year.

Some of the facility maintenance and improvement projects that have happened in 2017 include the refinishing of the gymnasium floor, replacement of the well pump, annual servicing of the boiler, fire and smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, boiler inspections, water testing, and kitchen hood cleaning. We replaced a water fountain and various plumbing fixtures. We applied for an energy efficient lighting upgrade, which we project to be installed in summer of 2018. We also added bark mulch to our playground.

We are also working on updating and upgrading our playground. As we believe that play is a critical element of learning for young students, we wanted to include more equipment that will provide the opportunity to have some vestibular, balance, and motor planning activity available to students, as well as items that will help foster more creative play. We are also working on making our playground accessible to all and will be adding some equipment that is wheelchair accessible. This is an ongoing project that we are very excited about.

We purchased several chromebooks this past year which is enabling our students to become more comfortable with using technology in their education. Students are becoming better equipped by developing research, production, and other technology skills that will be critical for them as they head to middle and high school, and beyond.

As always, I invite you all to come and see the wonderful things happening in our school. Our students are becoming creative problem solvers and will indeed be equipped to face the challenges of the world that awaits them. Our school community is one of caring, engaged students and staff members who are working together to discover the excitement of learning. I remain honored to serve this town as the principal of Colrain Central School.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy K Looman

Colrain Firefighters' Association, Inc.

2017 was another busy and productive year for the Colrain Firefighters Association. We accomplished numerous feats and goals in our everlasting commitment to provide the Colrain fire department and it's members unprecedented abilities to purchase gear and equipment that will enhance the department's capabilities and to assist the fire department's members with unforeseen tragedies and events.

To start off, the association last year; in continuing to keep the Colrain Fire Department on the forefront of technology in an ever changing field of work decided to look into a new piece of firefighting equipment that will give our firefighters an incredible ability. That piece of firefighting equipment was the new SCOTT Sight SCBA mask. With an integrated hands free thermal imaging camera on the side of the mask and a heads up display inside that displays the view from the camera in addition to the temperature of the point that the camera is aimed at. The association, after much debate decided to purchase four of these masks, which would be placed on our first out engine (E2). These masks will also provide our rapid intervention team (RIT) the ability to find downed firefighters much faster and efficiently because now every person in the four man RIT team will have a thermal camera instead of just the leader of the team, leading to greater firefighter safety and survival.

The Colrain Firefighters' Association continued with our fundraising events throughout 2017 with our semi-annual boot drives and pancake breakfasts. All of which were a great success. We also had a few other fundraisers. In the spring, we started a gun raffle through the Gun Rack in Turners Falls. We had three firearms that we raffled and it turned out to be a great success. The other fundraiser we started in 2017 was a Colrain community cookbook. This cookbook is to be comprised of donated recipes from the residents of Colrain and neighboring communities. It has been a long and bumpy process, but we now believe that we have enough recipes that are well formatted into the cookbook that we can provide a professional looking and made cookbook that people will be proud to own. We greatly appreciate everyone's patience and generosity regarding this cookbook, we too have wished that it was a quicker process, but good things take time.

The association has also purchased and stocked all of the Colrain Fire Departments' engines with hand warmers and granola bars. This small purchase has had a big effect on the well being of our firefighters during calls as now they have some supplemental nutrition while out on long calls such as brush fires and they need not worry as much about getting cold hands anymore.

To end, the Colrain Firefighters' Association has for years, realized the need to purchase a washing machine for the firefighter's turnout gear. The turnout gear the firefighters wear is their main source of protection on calls, whether it be from a fire or from the elements. Most departments in the area, such as ours do not have the ability to wash their own gear without going to a department such as Greenfield, which is a long and inconvenient process. Gear that is not properly cleaned continues to obtain carcinogens and unburnt fuels from previous fires that not only deplete the life expectancy of the gear, but also put the firefighters at risk of long term diseases and cancers due to continued exposure. We're continuing to work with our fire chief Nick Anzuoni to figure out a suitable solution for this, and to continue to raise the funds required to make this dream a reality.

In conclusion, the Colrain Firefighters Association would like to thank everyone whom has supported us throughout the years, from the members, to the citizens of Colrain and elsewhere. Without your support and thoughtfulness our fire department would not be the progressive, strong, and capable asset as it is now, nor the role model that it is for other fire departments. For all whom have donated to us in the past or have lent their talents and services in support of us, we're extremely grateful and appreciative.

Thank You

Council on Aging

The Council on Aging's program has become well established and is flourishing with each passing year. Our principal event occurring each month receives many compliments from seniors attending, is a meal prepared by our own master chef, Sharon Call. There are approximately 125 meals served to those attending, with multiple takeout meals prepared for those unable to leave their homes. During the meal there is printed information available for seniors at each table and several programs with speakers are presented throughout the year that are of interest to seniors in attendance. Our thanks to all who help do the work at each of these meals as it makes them a great success.

The foot clinic by Oni, which occurs normally twice a month is doing very well. Her clients are most appreciative with her help in the care for the feet.

Apple Day held at Pine Hill Orchards in the fall, during "apple picking season", an event attended by many since we have teamed up with the West County Seniors. This event is enjoyed by all as it gives the seniors a nice day out and a wonderful bag of apples to enjoy.

We had a trip this year, for an enjoyable day at the "Big E".

We were able to host another wonderful evening of music with the Shelburne Falls Military Band performing in Colrain for the 4th year. This we hope will continue to be an annual event for everyone to share.

Thank you to the Colrain Community Church for allowing us to rent their facilities for our activities. Also a thank you to Pine Hill Orchards for allowing the COA to hold the "Apple Day" event, and donation of cider and donuts for the monthly social hour before the meal.

We would like to thank the people of Colrain for their continued support for the Council on Aging which makes everything possible.

Respectfully submitted,
COA Chairperson
Janice L Barnes

Cultural Council

The Colrain Cultural Council is part of the grass roots network of 329 local councils that serve every town and city in our Commonwealth. The State Legislature provides and allocates funding to each local cultural council. Although there has been an unprecedented strain on local economies, our State Legislators, Governor Charlie Baker and Lisa Simmons from the Massachusetts Cultural Council Programs Manager Office in Boston, have displayed tenacious strength and resolve to continue funding arts councils in our local communities. This group of individuals are quite a force and are the reason we, the Town of Colrain, were the recipients of the level of funding we received.

During our annual voting meeting in December 2017, the council members reviewed and discussed the grant applications.

Our council is charged by the Town of Colrain to make the best decisions possible. First and foremost, we care about meeting the needs of the people of Colrain, who deserve the finest arts and cultural inspiration. The following grants are highlights of the seventeen we accepted for the 2018 grant cycle:

LOOK FOR THESE EVENTS COMING SOON

Libraries Rock Craft Series

Pioneer Valley Symphony

Earth Rhymes : Songs for the Environment

Hummingbirds of America

Mohawk Trail Concerts

A Night at the Theater with FCTS Players

Hilltown Draw Around

Jonathan Mirin's Colrain Stories

Emergency Management Director

I would like to start by thanking Jack Cavolick for his years of service as the Emergency Management Director for Town of Colrain during the final years of operation of Vermont Yankee into it's decommissioning. Jack successfully directed the town's resources during State and Federal practical exercises.

2017 was another year without any declared emergencies, with only one storm with significant damage to town roads.

We have been working on a new Reverse 911 system to alert the community of potentially weather or public health emergencies. Blackboard Connect is a powerful tool that allows public officials to notify people in the effected areas without having to put the whole town on alert. I encourage all residents who wish to be notified while at work running errands away from home, to add your cell phone and email address by visiting the town's website and clicking on "Colrain Alert" and fill in the information that will keep you informed.

We are working on two revised Federal programs. The new Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan will streamline our response during an emergency. The FEMA Grants Portal will serve to aid the town in recovering payments for expenses incurred during a "declared disaster".

In closing, I would like to thank all those who volunteer in town, not just the fire and ambulance personnel that I work with, but anyone who helps move our town forward. I encourage you all to join a committee, board, or one of the social functions in town.

Respectfully submitted

Kevin French
EMD, Colrain MA

Finance Committee

For the past several years now the Finance Committee and the Select board with the invaluable assistance of the Town Coordinator, have updated the towns vehicle fleet and planned to better maintain town buildings and facilities. This approach has resulted in the replacement of most of the Highway Department trucks, both police cruisers and one fire truck. The highway garage has been rebuilt and enlarged, the town office has had its phones and computer systems updated along with improvements in furniture, windows and doors. The town now has a detailed Capital Plan to help schedule the financial needs of the town. The Highway, Police and Fire Departments have Stabilization accounts which are funded each year at annual town meeting to gradually save funds for needed capital items, thus avoiding emergency purchases and spreading costs out over several years.

The benefits going forward have been improvements in the reliability of town vehicles with a sharp reduction in repair costs and projected reductions in energy costs for buildings.

The challenges going forward are.

1. Building a broadband network
2. Connecting the town center to the treatment plant in Griswoldville.
3. Renovations to the Fire Station
4. Making repairs to the library to preserve its windows and increase its energy efficiency and maintain it as a town treasure.
5. Having a discussion regarding the future of the Pitt House.

The Mohawk and Technical School budgets continue to be more than 60% of our annual expenditures. While our School Committees have worked hard to reign in costs and evaluate alternatives, to the extent of considering school closures, It appears the only significant change would be for the state to change the way it funds rural school districts.

The Finance Committee continues to work to provide the funding to run and maintain and modernize the town with minimal effect on the tax rate.

Respectfully submitted
Douglas MacLeay, Chair
Lynn DiTullio
Lori Shearer
Charles Lappen
Rachel Glick

Fire Department

The Colrain Fire Department experienced a very active 2017. Shelburne Control dispatched 238 calls for the fire department from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. These incidents are sorted as follows:

2	Structure Fires	26	Vehicle Accidents
1	Vehicle Fires	5	Brush Fires
16	Power lines down	122	Medical Assist
1	Hazardous Materials	25	Mutual Aid Given
1	Chimney Fires	2	Search and Rescue
37	Miscellaneous Calls		

In late 2016, Richard Walsh took over handling inspections for the Fire Dept. Rich brings a significant amount of knowledge with him, as he was formerly a State Fire Marshall in Connecticut. His inspections are sorted as follows:

19 Above Ground Propane Tank inspections	1 Fire Extinguisher inspection
2 Underground Propane Tank inspections	5 Oil Burner/Furnace inspections
1 Underground fuel oil inspection	2 Above Ground fuel oil tank inspections
20 Smoke Detection/Carbon Monoxide Inspections	

The online burning permit system is currently running and available at www.fcburnpermits.com. The open burn season runs from January 15 to May 1, 2018. You can also call Shelburne Control at 625-8200 to obtain a permit. Please caution when burning and keep the fire at least 75' from any structure, maintain a clean fire break around the burn area and keep at least 5 gallons of water on the site. State law requires all fires to be out by 4:00 pm and only woody vegetation can be burned.

As a reminder, as of March 1, 2006, it became mandatory for all residential homes that heat with combustible fuels, such as wood, oil or gas to have carbon monoxide detectors on all inhabited floors. As with smoke detectors, real estate transactions now require a carbon monoxide and smoke detector inspection prior to closing. This "silent killer" has resulted in numerous fatalities and close calls throughout Massachusetts, and Colrain has been no exception. If you heat with combustible fuels please heed this warning. Detectors are inexpensive, and easy to install. Please contact our department for more information or assistance.

In closing, we thank the Selectmen, Town Office staff, the Personnel Committee, Colrain Ambulance Association, the Police Department and the Highway Department for their continued support throughout the year. And last, but certainly not least, our gratitude goes out to the residents of Colrain, for your continued support of the Fire Department. We wish you and yours a safe 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Anzuoni

Fire Chief

Franklin County Regional Council of Government

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments provides a variety of services, programming, and advocacy to the municipalities of Franklin County and to the greater Franklin County region. Our Planning Department assists with local planning issues, such as zoning and local hazard mitigation planning, and also works on larger regional projects. Our municipal service programs — Collective Purchasing, Cooperative Public Health, Cooperative Inspection, and Town Accounting — are available to any municipality that needs them. Partnership for Youth continues to provide substance use and chronic disease prevention. And our Regional Preparedness and Homeland Security Programs provide a variety of aid and assistance to our first responders and health emergency officials. The *FRCOG's 2017 Annual Report*, available in April of 2018 and on www.frcog.org shortly thereafter, will highlight our work over the past year. Specific services to the Town of Colrain in 2017 are listed below.

Collective Bidding & Purchasing Program

- Colrain contracted with the FRCOG to receive cooperative bid pricing for up to 24 different Highway Products and Services. Total estimated highway needs for FY18 is \$479,656.
- Colrain participated in the #2 Fuel and Diesel Fuel bids.
- Colrain participates in the Dog Tags and Licenses collective bid program.

Cooperative Public Health Service

Colrain is not a member of the health district, but does benefit from the regional services it provides.

- Staff coordinated vaccine availability and supplies for a flu clinic held at the Shelburne Senior Center that served 96 area residents, and a Flu Clinic/Emergency Dispensing Site Drill for Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain and Shelburne held at the Mohawk Trail Regional School that served 76 area residents.

Partnership for Youth

- Staff conducted a Teen Health Survey to assess teen attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to Mohawk Trail Regional School administrators on results from 156 Mohawk students, representing 72% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant-writing and program planning.

Planning and Development Department

- Staff provided technical assistance on the Massachusetts Complete Streets funding program and drafted a scope of work to apply for funding to prepare a Complete Streets Prioritization Plan.
- Staff successfully applied for a Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) grant for Colrain in the amount of \$12,500 to conduct ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers) Level II energy audits of Town-owned buildings.
- Staff worked with the Agricultural Commission to develop Tri-Town Food Assessment infographic posters and a directory.
- Staff conducted a traffic count on Greenfield Road as part of the regional Traffic Counting Program.
- Staff participated in a Road Safety Audit of the intersection of Main Road, Jacksonville Road and Greenfield Road and made recommendations for safety improvements.

- Staff continued to work with Town staff on advancing the Village Center Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) reconstruction project.
- Staff pursued State Legislation to create a Special Designation for the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership region covering 11 West County towns, including Colrain, to bring additional financial and technical resources to support Natural Resource Based Economic Development, Forest Conservation & Municipal Financial Sustainability.

Special Projects

- Staff organized and facilitated educational information meetings for members of Town energy committees, including presenting information on various topics and conducting follow-up communication.

Workshops & Training

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops and training sessions that Colrain public officials, staff, and residents attended, and the number in attendance.

Municipal Official Continuing Education Series

Climate Change Adaptation — 4

Short Term Rentals from A to Z: Building Code, Health Code, and Zoning — 2

Partnership for Youth

Social Justice: Health Equity & Race — 1 from Mohawk Trail Regional School District

Planning, Conservation, and Development

Roles and Responsibilities of Planning & Zoning Boards — 1

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Handheld GPS Unit Use — 2

Behavioral Analysis & Targeted Violence — 1

Cooperative Public Health Service

Food Safety Certification — 1

Franklin Regional Retirement System

To the reader:

The Franklin Regional Retirement System is a government agency that serves the 530 retirees, 51 beneficiaries, 987 active employees, and 557 inactive members of the towns and agencies in Franklin County. We are organized under Chapter 34b, and subject to the provisions of Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws. We receive oversight on the state level from the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC). We contract with an independent auditor to do a full audit of our system each year. We also contract with an actuary to perform a complete actuarial valuation every two years. PERAC audits our operations and financial records every three years.

The retirement benefit we provide replaces participation in the Social Security system and is described as a “defined benefit”, which means that we pay monthly retirement benefits based on the age, salary, and number of years worked at the time a member of our system retires. To be a member, an employee in one of our government units must be working in a permanent position scheduled at 20 hours or more per week and earning \$5,000 or greater annually. Funding of these benefits begins with deductions from the member, and, combined with matching funds from the employing unit, are invested in a mix of stocks, bonds, and indexed funds. Investment earnings are a large part of the funding of retirement benefits, and the allocation of those funds are spread to a variety of sectors to take advantage of positive activity as it occurs in each sector. Please make note of our investment performance percentages in the chart on the next page.

Up until 1988, we were a “pay-as-you-go” system. In 1988 it was legislated that we begin saving to become “fully funded” over the ensuing 40 years. Fully funded means we have enough in reserves to pay for all the current and future potential benefits of our present membership. At the end of 2016, we are 75% funded at 28 years (70%) into the 40 year mandate.

Our fiscal year is the calendar year, therefore our annual report is not filed until May of the subsequent year, and as a consequence the information provided herein will be a year old by the time you read this. Current reports and information can be found on our website: www.FRRSMA.com.

What follows is a synopsis of our annual report, as filed with our State oversight commission, PERAC. The full PERAC report can be read on the “Finances” page of our website.

	CY 2016	CY 2015	CY 2014
<u>Balances</u>			
Cash	927,926	1,027,504	1,370,581
Investments	124,166,637	115,356,788	118,166,255
Receivables	333,708	448,896	523,687
Payables	1,622,175	1,376,958	81,595
Annuity Savings (members)	28,830,926	28,029,622	26,866,304
Retirement Reserves	98,219,520	90,180,524	93,275,814
<u>Revenues</u>			
Member's contributions	3,671,628	3,513,770	3,270,926
Towns, Schools, Agencies	5,875,582	5,645,116	5,418,158
Retirement Cost Sharing	460,054	472,213	466,031
Miscellaneous Revenue	9,928	20,122	19,414
Investment Income (net)	10,744,197	1,259,131	9,063,675
<u>Expenses</u>			
Retirement Benefits	9,113,301	8,432,951	7,980,270
Operating Expenses	498,301	469,365	403,803
Investment Expenses	703,498	687,629	720,626
Retirement Cost Sharing	1,289,229	2,884,282	3,028,026
Refunds to Members	316,759	368,098	372,232
<u>Investment Performance</u>			
Target	7.75%	7.75%	7.75%
Since 1984	8.36%	8.34%	8.59%
10 years	6.17%	6.57%	7.25%
5 years	10.20%	8.49%	11.39%
Current Year	9.16%	1.11%	8.42%
<u>Demographics</u>			
	01/01/2016	01/01/2014	01/01/2012
Members' Average Age	48.30	48.30	49.00
Members' Average Service	10.50	10.50	10.90
Members' Average Salary	35,966.00	33,249.00	32,333.00
Retirees' Average Age	72.30	72.10	72.10
Retirees' Average Pension	15,274.00	14,164.00	12,931.00
Disabled Members' Average Age	58.00	56.40	n/a
Disabled Members' Average Pension	26,353.00	26,052.00	n/a

Dale Kowacki
Executive Director
Franklin Regional Retirement System

Franklin County Technical School District

We submit this annual report for 2017 on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students.

Enrollment for member towns as of October 1, 2017 was 446 students with town breakouts as follows:

Bernardston	27	Erving	29	Montague	76	Sunderland	10
Buckland	7	Gill	10	New Salem	3	Warwick	10
Colrain	17	Greenfield	97	Northfield	30	Wendell	9
Conway	9	Heath	13	Orange	63	Whately	9
Deerfield	14	Leyden	7	Shelburne	6		

Franklin County Technical School awarded 112 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2017. Massachusetts students are required to pass the MCAS in order to receive a high school diploma and once again our students were very successful in meeting this high academic standard. FCTS has maintained Level 2 Accountability status for the last four years. Our overall Progress and Performance Index (PPI) moved from 17% in 2012 (Level III) to 31% in 2014 (Level II) and have maintained Level II status ever since, with nearly 30% growth each year. Additionally, the district met the goals set by the Department of Education for passing rates of students of high risk with disabilities. Franklin County Technical School has distributed high school diplomas to more than 97% of its students with nearly 70% joining the regional workforce and 30% moving on to post-secondary education or armed services. The FCTS dropout rate is significantly below the state average. On June 23, 2015 Franklin County Technical School District was fortunate to have received approval from all nineteen member towns to participate in a bond authorization which allowed FCTS to fund the MSBA 73.89% reimbursed Window and Door Replacement Project, as well as afford FCTS the opportunity to repair its twenty year-old roof and ensure paving upgrades of its forty year old driveway, track, parking lot and associated areas, which were original to the school in 1976. Payment for the bond will begin to impact member towns in FY19. FCTS now has state-of-the-art exterior energy efficient doors and windows, new parking lot paving and lights, track, basketball courts and a new silicone roof coating. In addition, FCTS has added new interior doors and handles to bring us into ADA compliance. FCTS administration and teachers were instrumental in utilizing vocational students to support electrical, plumbing, and landscaping associated with the projects. Students were digging trenches to lay conduit for lighting, running heavy equipment to support installation of parking lot lights, providing landscaping for courtyards, removing shrubs, trees, and replanting vegetation, which have saved the district an estimated \$100,000.

Franklin County Technical School's technical programs have been busy with community-based projects that are used as learning opportunities. Every year the shop programs, with instructors and students, embrace the authentic work that is done in the communities. These activities engage students in a way that builds skills and pride on work sites. Project work is treated as an immersive activity, with guidance and professional direction by instructors. Due to the instructional nature of the work, duration of a project may increase, but costs associated with a project to our cities and towns are significantly decreased. Students from Electrical, Plumbing, Carpentry, Landscaping/Horticulture, Auto Technology, Welding and Collision Repair are involved in repair and upgrading activities on campus that save FCTS money as compared to associated costs with hiring contractors. What follows are some examples of the ways in which we serve our communities: Annually, FCTS faculty, staff and students donate to food drives for needy families and organizations throughout Franklin County. This year, responding to the immense needs as a result of the hurricane that damaged Puerto Rico, students and staff participated in money drives and supplies for the island residents. Our Culinary Arts program again participated in the "Senior Safety Expo" at the Sheutzen Verien in Gill. This event, run by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, focused on safety for our senior citizens. Seniors throughout Franklin County, and beyond, attend the event. Culinary also prepares soups for the Hope & Olive "Soup and Games" night that benefits various local organizations. Our Pre-Employment or (PEP) program provides specialized instruction and training for students with disabilities, donates to the Dakin Animal Shelter and Ronald McDonald House.

In Greenfield, Carpentry students continue to build cabins at Camp Keewanee. They also built the new athletic storage building for Greenfield High School. The Electrical program continues to annually provide electrical and

other setup activities for the Relay for Life, and they are assisting Habitat for Humanity with the electrical wiring for the house being built on Smith Street. The Landscaping/Horticulture program has worked on the Greenfield Veterans' Memorial Field, provided irrigation consultation for Lunt's Field, and the students and instructors have been going to Adult Day Health Services to work on floral design with the clients. Health Technology is very active in Greenfield, with students conducting clinical and community service work at GVNA Adult Day Health, Arbors Assisted Living Facility, NELCWIT/GVNA, Recovery Project, and Buckley Nursing Facility.

In Turners Falls & Millers Falls, the Landscaping/Horticulture program has worked on the Newt Guilbault fields to rework infields, conducted streetscape planting refurbishing and is now growing naturalized plants for the airport. Students also participate in the Source to Sea cleanup. The tree nursery is doing well, with the trees developing until their eventual planting in Turners/Montague and Greenfield.

In Shelburne, Landscaping/Horticulture does an annual clean-up of Hill Cemetery. Plumbing/Heating students installed AC units into St. Josephs; and in a joint project, the Landscaping program, Collision & Repair Program and Welding program are all working on the removal, repair, refurbishing and reinstallation of the Bridge of Flowers ornate collection boxes.

In Erving, Landscaping/Horticulture has an ongoing hardscaping project for the Riverfront Park. The FCTS house building project is taking place on Central Street in Erving. This project is building skills for carpentry, electrical, plumbing and landscaping students, and is adding a nice home to the community.

An assortment of activities in other communities took place that included the rebuilding of a sign for the Pine Notch Cemetery in Deerfield, building winsets for the Sunderland Town Energy Committee, greenhouse help for Charlemont-Hawlemont School, installing drip edge for the Charlemont town halls cleanup and pruning for the North Cemetery in Leyden, along with replacing their wishing well.

Our partnerships with our communities are important for our programs, and we thank those who allow our students the opportunity to practice their trades out in the field.

Respectfully,



Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz
School Committee Chairman



Mr. Richard J. Martin
Superintendent-Director

Franklin County Technical School District Committee 2017

Bernardston-Lloyd J. Szulborski; Buckland-Laura J. Earl; Colrain-Nicole Slowinski;
Conway-Brian Kuzmeskus; Deerfield-Vacancy; Erving-Robert F. Bitzer; Gill-Sandy Brown;
Greenfield-Paul R. Doran, Christopher L. Joseph, Mark Leonard, Mark M. Maloney;
Heath-Arthur A. Schwenger; Leyden-Gerald N. Levine; Montague-Richard J. Kuklewicz, Chairperson;
Dennis L. Grader; New Salem-Angela Fournier; Northfield-Scott Milton; Orange-Clifford J. Fournier,
Secretary; Linda R. Chapman; Shelburne-Angus Dun, Vice-Chairperson; Sunderland-James Bernotas;
Warwick-A. George Day, Jr.; Wendell-Jeffrey D. Budine; Whately-Donald C. Sluter

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

To the Residents of the Solid Waste District:

The Solid Waste District was formed in 1989 to help Franklin County towns manage all aspects of their solid waste – recyclables, organics, hazardous waste, wastewater treatment sludge, and trash. We continue to provide assistance to twenty-two member towns through administrative support, professional consultation, trainings, and outreach to residents and businesses.

A review of recycling tonnage for 2017 shows an increase in the amount of recycling tonnage compared to 2016. District residents recycled almost 1,800 tons of paper and 1,200 tons of mixed containers, which were processed at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility.

In 2017, the District sponsored spring and fall “Clean Sweep” collections for bulky items, electronics, tires, appliances, and anything too big to fit into a trash bag. Over 56 tons of material were recycled or disposed of from the two collections. A total of 576 households participated in these collection events.

We held our annual household hazardous waste collection in September 2017. This event allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, automotive products, pesticides, and other toxic products. A total of 360 households participated in this event. 52% of participants were using the collection for the first time.

We applied for and received grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection worth \$84,400 for District towns. Some grant funding is a result of a town’s successful waste management infrastructure. Other grants include equipment to make town transfer stations more efficient.

We continued to bale wood pellet bags and agricultural plastic in our second year of this recycling program. We manage the recycling and composting program at the Franklin County Fair and assist other events with waste reduction efforts. We work in each school system helping with waste management bids and with fostering sustainable waste reduction programs.

If you have questions about District programs, call us at 413-772-2438 (MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 TTY/TDD), visit our website at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org or visit us at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen - *Executive Director*

Chris Boutwell, Montague - *Vice-Chair*

Jonathan Lagreze, Colrain - *Chair*

MA Swedlund, Deerfield - *Treasurer*

Griswold Memorial Library

The library upgraded our computers to take advantage of the high speed internet. Patrons can use a desktop computer or one of the two laptops to do work, check email or Facebook, or watch a video. Unless there has been a recent electrical outage, Wi-Fi is available every day, even from the parking lot.

The trustees held their annual candidates night in April allowing patrons and candidates to meet and informally discuss town issues.

The adult book discussion group continues to meet through the year. New members are always welcome. Book choices are made by members and books are provided in any available format through interlibrary loan. Delicious snacks are shared.

“Build a Better World!” was the theme of this year’s summer reading program. The summer kicked off with a Lego night with children enjoying the buckets of Legos provided by the Library Lego Lady. The Colrain Cultural Council and the Friends of the Library funded a six week craft series attended by an Art room filled with energetic children and caregivers. A Maker Space workshop with 3D printing, robotics, and balloon sculptures was enthusiastically attended by 10 children and their grown-ups. Each child was able to design and print a small 3D project. Our summer reading program finale this year was funded by the Friends, co-hosted by the Colrain PTO and included a yummy ice cream party.

An adult crafts program met 3 times during the summer. Hypertufa planters and succulent plantings were made.

The Trustees sponsored 2 successful events this year. Repair Colrain and a Community Bonfire provided much needed community time for residents of Colrain.

Pre-school story hour with stories, snack, and craft continues from late September through May. Total attendance was 49 children and 37 adults.

Circulation for FY17 was 16002 books, magazines, audio books on CD and cassette, videos, DVDs, and music CDs. Approximately 5630 patrons visited the library. The Massachusetts Library System (MLS) delivers interlibrary loan (ILL) materials to Colrain three times a week. Colrain provided 2095 items to other libraries through ILL. If a specific title is not in our library, interlibrary loan usually can locate items for use. Colrain patrons borrowed 3430 items from other libraries through ILL. Patrons can use their library card to log in at <http://bark.cwmars.org> to request materials, renew items, and search databases. EBook, eAudio, and eVideo loans are available through the library network. Log in and download materials for your Tablet, Kindle or Nook! All you need is your library card.

Library hours are Monday and Friday 3-8 pm, Wednesday 10 am-8 pm, and Saturday 10 am-1 pm. Visit our Facebook page-Griswold Memorial Library-to keep up with events.

Highway Superintendent

This years winter was a very bad one. We are getting more rain during the winter months, causing icy roads. We use about three times the amount of sand when it rains than when we treat roads when it snows.

We spent a lot of time this year with the construction of the new Highway Department construction. While construction happened we were working out of the Denison's garage. I would like to thank the Denison's for their hospitality during this construction.

In years past Mass DOT would inspect all town owned bridges that are over twenty feet wide. Starting this year, they are now inspecting all bridges that are over ten feet wide. One of the first bridges they inspected was one on Call Rd.. It failed their inspection and ordered the Town of Colrain to put barriers on both sides of the bridge. Bridges have a life span of eighty to one hundred years and most of our bridges were wiped out in the flood of 1938. With that being said, we have a lot of bridges that are near the end of their life span. We are applying for a grant to get this bridge fixed and plan to apply for more grants in the future to get bridges fixed before they get closed.

This year we had a new fence installed at the Transfer Station. The highway crew extended the roof that covers the trash compactor so we could have a roof over the new paper compactor we got this year.

Respectfully Submitted

Scott Sullivan

Mary Lyon Foundation, Inc.

Innovative Support of Local Education

The Mary Lyon Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides innovative support for local education in the nine West County towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Hawley, Heath, Plainfield, Rowe and Shelburne. Named in honor of Buckland-born educator Mary Lyon, who founded Mt. Holyoke College in 1837, the organization provides services and programs to enhance the quality of local education. We are generously supported by many individuals and businesses. Major support this year was provided by the United Way of Franklin County, the Myrtle Atkinson Foundation, People's United Community Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. Our donors, grants and events help support the Harper Gerry Student Assistance Fund, scholarships, mini-grants, Gift Catalog for classroom supplies, annual Community Spelling Bee and a wide variety of pro-active programs.

We were privileged this year to host nationally acclaimed author Luis Urrea for the culmination of our Big Read program which featured his book *Into the Beautiful North*. Presentations were held at Greenfield Community College, Holyoke Community College and the Care Center. This program was funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Creative educational projects designed by teachers pre-K through grade 12 were awarded more than \$8,000 this year through the popular Mini-Grant program. Representatives from each school meet to select innovative, replicable, educational classroom projects. The Mini-Grant program is supported by the United Way and annual Community Spelling Bee which was held this year on November 16. Grand Champions were the Spelling Beans - Curtis Rich, Kathy Lytle and David Henry - sponsored by Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters. Winner of the Best Dressed award was the Mohawk Team LED comprised of Lynn Dole, Emily Willis and Drue Johnson.

The student assistance program generated more than \$10,000 for needy children and their families for such basic necessities as eyeglasses, food vouchers, warm clothes and prescriptions. We received backpacks and school supplies from Blackmer Insurance Agency and the United Way and distributed bags of groceries through the United Way's *Supper for Six* program. This fall the Mary Lyon Foundation received slots for 50 children to participate in Warm the Children. An anonymous donor once again delivered two truckloads of Christmas trees that were decorated by the Mohawk Vocational Program and given to needy families, and the Betty Allen DAR chapter in Northampton contributed warm hats, mittens and scarves.

The Mary Lyon Foundation office is located at Mohawk Trail Regional School. Members of the Board of Directors are Marion Taylor (Past President), Sylvia Orcutt (President), Katherine McKay (Recording Secretary), Karen Fairbrother (Treasurer), Susan Schuman, Peter Stevens, Nancy Eisenstein, Brenda Parrella, Emily Willis and Mohawk Trail Regional School student representatives Violet Rawlings and London Summers. Longtime board members Sharon Hudson and Hugh Knox were recognized for their contributions to local education and given Honorary Lifetime Board of Directors status. Regular volunteers Sandy Gilbert and Rita Jaros are greatly appreciated! Gina Sieber is our Business Manager, and Co-Executive Directors are Sheila Damkoehler and Susan Samoriski.

Annual Report of the Co-Principals

Mohawk Trail Regional High School

Over the course of this year, Mohawk faculty, students, and members of the Local Education Council (LEC), which is composed of parents, faculty, students, and community members, have been engaged in developing a graphic representation of our shared vision for a Mohawk graduate. Our evolving vision document features habits of mind such as perseverance, creativity, curiosity and self-reflection, as well as habits of the heart such as openness, integrity, kindness, and empathy, in addition to skills for college and career readiness, such as reasoning, problem-solving, research and evaluation of information, and effective written and oral communication. Through a series of conversations and professional collaboration, our school community has been examining how the curriculum and instruction can prepare students for the future and provide opportunities for all students to hone these skills.

Mohawk's middle school is located in its own wing of the school, providing a supportive environment for students making the transition from elementary school. Middle school students spend most of their day in classes taught by a team of educators who have a common planning time and who work together to support and challenge students. Each middle school team is composed of teachers of core courses as well as a Learning Specialist with expertise in Special Education and instructional strategies. Adjustments to the middle school schedule this year provided for a daily homeroom/advisory period, as well as a body break for physical activity and social interaction. Middle school students also explore a variety of enrichment topics through the Related Arts programming that introduces them to subjects they can study in more depth in high school, including Spanish, French, woodshop, art, band, and chorus.

In the high school students have a variety of choices as they fulfill graduation requirements, including ten Advanced Placement (AP) offerings: Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Environmental Science, Physics, U.S. History, and World History. Many students take numerous Advanced Placement courses over their time at Mohawk, and the Class of 2017 had nine students who earned the designation of AP Scholar with Distinction, awarded to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 (out of 5) on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. Educators innovate by developing new courses and increasingly work together to support the needs of diverse learners.

As part of Mohawk's ongoing commitment to strong STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education, this year the school is partnering with Greenfield Community College to offer a Robotics course at Mohawk that students can take for college credit. The STEM curriculum in 8th grade emphasizes engineering design and cross-disciplinary applications through project-based learning. All middle school students take a Digital Literacy course, assuring that they have a foundation of computer skills and critical literacy. High school students can take the Exploring Computer Science course which uses a national curriculum developed through university and industry collaboration with the National Science Foundation. Mohawk educators across disciplines frequently use Google Classrooms applications and Chromebooks in their instruction. Over the past few years we have shifted to a math curriculum that emphasizes inquiry and problem-solving, and we work closely with faculty from Westfield State University and neighboring school districts to support our teachers in the use of inquiry-based learning approaches.

Expanding our arts offerings, Mohawk introduced an Arts Integration position in the middle school this year. In addition to teaching a studio art course as part of the middle school Related Arts rotation, our Arts Integration teacher partners with classroom educators in the 7th and 8th grade on projects that integrate the arts with core curriculum, such as the 8th grade math lessons associated with the work of

Sol LeWitt, the artist whose colorful mural graces Mohawk's front foyer. The Mohawk Arts and Education Council, composed of faculty and staff who are passionate about the arts, continues to provide leadership for our drama programming and other interdisciplinary artistic endeavors at our school, including the all-school musical "Shrek" that featured performances by students from elementary through high school.

This year we introduced two new programs that will become annual traditions. In March Mohawk hosted its first Interactive Open House, featuring presentations and student work from students throughout our district, from elementary to high school. This event brought students, parents and community members into our school to experience the curriculum and participate in learning activities. Another innovation this year was the expansion of the annual Step Up Day activities in early June. Traditionally Step Up Day has focused on providing 6th grade students with an opportunity to visit the middle school in preparation for their experience as incoming 7th graders. This year we used the day as a Step Up Day for all grades. Current 7th grade students visited the 8th grade team of educators, 8th grade students visited high school classes, 9th and 10th graders all went on college visits (choosing among Westfield State University, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Williams College, and MCLA [Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts]) and the juniors began their planning for the Senior Capstone project they complete as a graduation requirement. On another day in June a team of educators led a field trip to visit a number of colleges in Boston, introducing students to more post-secondary options. Activities like the Interactive Open House and the expanded Step Up Day strengthen connections between our school and the community.

Mohawk's diverse athletic programming offers many opportunities for students in grades 7-12 to participate. In the 2016-2017 school year, 60% of Mohawk students (259) participated in at least one afterschool sport. This is a summary of the varsity sports offered over the course of the year:

	Varsity Sports	# of Varsity Sports	Teams (HS-JV-MS)
Winter 2016-2017	girls basketball , boys basketball, girls alpine skiing, boys alpine skiing, boys nordic skiing, girls nordic skiing, boys indoor track, girls indoor track, wrestling	9	13
Spring 2016-2017	boys track, girls track, softball, baseball, girls tennis, boy tennis, girls lacrosse coop	7	11
Fall 2017-2018	golf, boys cross country, girls cross country, boys soccer, girls soccer, volleyball, field hockey, football	8	13

At the mid-point of the 2017-2018 school year, enrollment in grades 7-12 is 398. The seventh grade has 55 students and the eighth grade has 82 students. There are 64 students in grade 9, 57 in 10th grade, 67 juniors, and 66 seniors. Seven students are enrolled in our post-graduate program.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn R. Dole and Marisa Mendonsa
Co-Principals

Special Education and Pupil Services Report

The Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont Regional Special Education Department serves students in the Sanderson, Colrain, Hawlemont, Buckland-Shelburne, and Mohawk Middle and High Schools. The primary function is to ensure that students with an IEP (Individual Education Plan) or a 504 are being serviced at a level required to make effective progress with supports outlined in their IEP or 504. According to state data, The Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont district have about 21% and 24% respectively of their student population receiving special education services. Those services are in several areas; speech and language, occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT), counseling and academics. With the closing of Heath Elementary for the school year 2017-18, the support services were shifted to the Hawlemont Elementary School. Every school has at least one special education teacher. The OT and PT spend about one day in each school, Mohawk has a full time Speech Language Assistant and a part time Speech Language Pathologist, BSE has a full time Speech Language Pathologist and Assistant, Colrain and Hawlemont share a full time Speech Language Pathologist and each have a full time Speech Assistant, and Sanderson has a four day a week Speech Pathologist. Sanderson has three days of a School Adjustment Counselor and is sharing a School Psychologist from the Middle School/High School one day a week, BSE and Colrain share an Adjustment Counselor and each have a School Psychologist two and one days a week respectively, Hawlemont has a four day a week School Psychologist, and the Middle and High School have a full time Adjustment Counselor and School Psychologist four days a week. The level of services in each building is based on population and level of services legally required by an IEP. Changes made from last year were due to the shifting of Heath students to Hawlemont and the increased population of Pre-School students at BSE, Sanderson and Hawlemont.

The district is legally obligated to support a SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Committee). Over the past year the parents that had worked hard to initiate this group, have been unable to continue. We thank them for their support and for the best SEPAC the district has supported in many years. We continue to advocate for a SEPAC and offer parent workshops throughout the year.

The district continues to support a substantially separate program for students requiring the support of BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst). The program is located at BSE and currently serves six students. When the program began, students spent more than 50% of their time within the program. Currently those students are in their mainstream classes more than 60% of the time.

The district initiated a Language Based Program at Colrain Elementary School this year. The LBP (Language Based Program), supports students with a primary disability in reading. They require a high level of support both in their general education classroom and direct reading instruction from a Special Education Teacher also certified as a Reading Specialist. The program is supported by Colrain's Special Education Teacher and a part time reading specialist.

To support students district-wide with a specific learning disability in reading; three teachers (Sanderson, Hawlemont, and BSE) took a summer intensive course and were certified in Orton Gillingham. Orton Gillingham is an instructional approach intended primarily for use with individuals who have difficulty with reading, spelling, and writing of the sort associated with dyslexia. It is most properly understood and practiced as an approach, not a method, program, system, or technique. In the hands of a well-trained and experienced instructor, it is a powerful tool of exceptional breadth, depth, and flexibility.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leann Loomis

Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Superintendent's Report
2017 Annual Report of the Superintendent
Mohawk Trail Regional School District
Hawlemont Regional School District

During 2017, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MA DESE) launched a celebration campaign to share the performance of MA public schools relative to the rest of the nation and the world. The big picture message put forth by MA DESE was that our public school students are performing at a very high level, which includes the Mohawk Trail Regional School District and the Hawlemont Regional School District.

- MA public schools and students are #1 in the U.S. in reading and math according to the 2015 NAEP exam (National Assessment of Educational Progress), which is a national assessment of student knowledge in various subject areas. MA public schools are also #1 in the nation for the 4th straight year in the Education Week Research Center's annual *Quality Counts 2018* report.
- MA public schools and students are #1 in the world in reading according to the 2016 PISA exam (Program for International Student Assessment), which is an international assessment that measures 15-year-old students' reading, mathematics, and science literacy every three years.
- MA public schools and students are #1 in Advanced Placement (AP) success in the country (2017), which is measured by the percentage of students who scored 3 or higher on college level AP exams. Approximately 44.1% of the students in the Massachusetts' class of 2016 took at least one AP exam while they were in high school, and 31% of these students scored 3 or higher out of a possible 5. Many colleges and universities grant credit for scores of 3, 4 or 5 on AP exams.

The results of the 2017 MA Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) indicate that Mohawk students continued to meet the high bar reflected in Massachusetts' several #1 academic performance rankings being touted by MA DESE. In order to graduate from high school, Mohawk students must demonstrate proficiency on the MCAS in three subject areas: (1) English Language Arts, (2) Mathematics and (3) Science, Technology and Engineering. In 2017, Mohawk high school students scored within 2 points, plus or minus, of the state average in all three subject areas.

In terms of college readiness, 70 Mohawk students took a total of 107 AP exams last year. These tests ranged from English to Math to Science to Social Studies. Of the 107 AP exams taken, 67.3% achieved a grade of 3 or higher, which was also within 2 percentage points of the state average. With regard to the SAT college entrance exam, Mohawk has outperformed the state in reading, writing and math over the past 5 years. Each year, approximately 80% of Mohawk graduates attend either a 4-year or 2-year college. Examples of colleges attended by Mohawk students in 2017 include George Washington University, Mount Holyoke College, Clarke University, Franklin Pierce University and UMASS Amherst (Commonwealth Honors College).

2017 also marked the closing of Heath Elementary School, which was a recommendation that resulted from the 2016 strategic planning process entitled Building Educational Sustainability and Trust (BEST) led by the Mohawk School Committee. Ultimately, the voters of Heath decided that enrollment in their

local school was too low and that their children would receive a higher quality education in nearby Hawlemont Regional Elementary School. In the fall of 2017, over 30 Heath students attended Hawlemont through a tuition agreement reached by the Mohawk and Hawlemont School Committees. This school building restructuring saved the Mohawk District approximately \$400,000 in expenses while simultaneously benefitting Hawlemont approximately \$350,000 in tuition revenues. Most importantly, the Heath elementary students are now attending a vibrant school and are receiving a high quality education.

Hawlemont Regional Elementary School is in the midst of a renaissance that has been driven largely by the school's transition to a hands-on, agriculturally-based curriculum, which is informally referred to as the HAY Program (Hawlemont, Agriculture and You). Since the introduction of the HAY Program just 2 years ago, enrollment at Hawlemont has increased dramatically from 102 students to 164 students! Approximately half of this growth is from families outside of the district choosing Hawlemont through School Choice, and the other half is from the tuitioning of Heath students to Hawlemont after the closure of Heath Elementary. All of this enrollment growth, however, is connected to the overwhelmingly positive community response to the HAY Program. Additionally, the influx of tuition revenues has strengthened both educational programming and the financial sustainability of Hawlemont.

Other highlights from 2017 include (1) the Mohawk District revised its vision, mission and core values; (2) preschool enrollment increases at Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School and Sanderson Academy are driving long-term growth in both schools; (3) Colrain Central School is exploring the creation of a service learning educational program; (4) Mohawk and Greenfield Community College collaborated to create a new high school Robotics course to be offered in the spring of 2018; (5) Mohawk began exploring the potential move of 6th grade to Mohawk in the fall of 2019; (6) the Mohawk and Hawlemont school communities expressed interest in exploring an alternative structured learning program more informally referred to as a Blizzard Bag program; (7) the Mohawk School Committee and the Mohawk District Education Association reached agreement on a new 3-year contract; (8) half of the BSE asbestos removal project was completed; and (9) the Mohawk and Hawlemont districts supported the MA Rural Schools Coalition efforts to advocate on behalf of rural public schools across the Commonwealth.

While every school year is chock-full of activity, I do wish to take a moment to express our collective sincere gratitude to our townspeople for making all of this important work possible. On behalf of our students, I thank the entire Mohawk and Hawlemont school communities for your dedicated support of our children's education. THANK YOU!!

Respectfully submitted,
Michael A. Buoniconti
Superintendent of Schools
Mohawk Trail Regional School District
Hawlemont Regional School District

Police Department

The Colrain Police Department is comprised of eight dedicated men and women who provide safety and security to the Colrain Community with the highest degree of professionalism, honesty, integrity, and character. In 2017, Colrain Police received 886 calls for service, of these calls, 36 percent were handled by State Police in Shelburne as no officer was available.

I am proud to announce that Roger Williams has been promoted to Sergeant, Sgt. Williams has been a police officer since 2003. Starting with Buckland Police and Joining Colrain in 2009, Sgt. Williams is a resident of Colrain. His selection was based on job knowledge and his respect for the community and the communities respect for him.

This year the department has focused on the ongoing issue with speeding and has deployed the newly purchased speed monitoring trailer. With the addition to the speed board, the department can download information stored in the computer and monitor traffic counts, traffic speeds and speed compliance. With this data, it helps on what time of day to deploy officers to an area where speeds are not in compliance. This year the speed trailer had been deployed in six areas of town that have had the most problems. Please contact the Chief if you would like the trailer deployed in your area.

The 2013 and 2015 cruisers are maintained by the highway Department on a strict maintenance schedule to ensure being kept in great condition. A big thank you to Nate Gilbert for making sure we make it safely to calls for service. With the services conducted on the cruisers, the department has had another year without any major repairs. For 2018 the department will be looking at replacing the aging 2013 sedan with a new cruiser identical to the current SUV.

The department continues to work closely with Colrain Elementary school and the other Mohawk Schools training for emergency situations. Massachusetts State Police, Franklin County Sheriffs, Shelburne Police and Buckland officers have conducted lockdown drills throughout the school year with great success. This year along with Colrain Fire and Colrain Ambulance, the department held a public safety day at the school with presentations by all three departments letting the students see our fleet of emergency vehicles.

With last year's challenging issues on the Green River, this department responded to less complaints of illegal dumping, parking, unattended fires and accidents. With extra patrol shifts dedicated to only the river, the response was very positive as incidents declined.

For 2018 the department will continue to improve its service to the town, including items such as additional patrols, training, and community services will be continuously monitored for improvement. Additionally the department is always seeking the feedback from the community in keeping its residents safe.

In closing, I would like to remind citizens in town that "If you see something, say something". Many times the department does not get information until it's too late, which makes investigations more difficult. Please note the Department does not have someone on duty all the time, please call 413-625-8200, Shelburne Control to report a NON Emergency or if you need to speak with the Chief. Office Hours are Monday evening between 6 pm and 8pm, and Chiefs hours are Mondays 8am to 4pm. The members of the Colrain Police Department wish you all a safe 2018.

Respectfully,

Chief Christopher Lannon

Volunteer Ambulance Association

As calendar year 2017 falls behind us we are reminded of the many things that happen in a year, and how we respond to the “unpredictable incidents of life”.

With that phrase in mind Colrain Ambulance has continued to prepare and train to respond as the proactive and compassionate organization we have become.

With an all-volunteer staff made up of 9 Paramedics and 13 EMT's the following extremely conservative estimates help to understand the contribution these amazing individuals and their families make to provide care to the communities we serve:

Hours the Ambulance was covered with 2 EMS staff:	8,760
Hours specifically covered with Paramedics:	4,500
Hours of mandatory training:	1,200
Hours of optional training:	2,200
Hours in required meetings:	600
Estimated Total Time Contributed:	17,260 HOURS

If we were to equally divide this amount of time each member contributed some estimated 785 hours last year alone, or 19.6 40 hour weeks of dedicated labor per volunteer.

The actual call volume continues to climb as we experience increased requests in our member towns and utilization as an ALS intercept resource for other agencies. The following is a recap of those numbers:

432 - EMS Requests for Service (A 39% increase and a new record)

226 - Transports (a 37% increase from last year)

129 - Paramedic Intercept Requests (A 54% increase from last year)

80 - transports as a result of an intercept (Included in transports above, a 57% increase from last year)

5 - responses by the LUCAS Team (a 62% decrease, LUCAS device purchased by two neighboring towns this year, fewer total cardiac arrests locally)

The most notable optional training during 2017 included significant training in Tactical Emergency Critical Care to better respond to the potential for a mass casualty event in the Region as a whole and to support proactive Stop the Bleed training. As one of the first on the scene we fully expect and accept that we will be utilized in ways not seen in the past.

The association continues to develop this much overlooked area of emergency care that until the past few years was frequently put on the back burner as a “it can't happen here” type of event. With recent events it continues to become more apparent that it can happen here, and our mindset is not if, but when it will happen and whether we will be ready.

In addition, the Association has outfitted the ambulance with tactical vests and related equipment to better serve our patients and to protect our volunteers in unsafe situations they may find themselves in.

Keep an eye out soon for the beginning of our 2019 Ambulance Replacement Fundraising Drive. With our ambulance turning 10 years old this year, we will be purchasing a new ambulance in the 2nd quarter of 2019. We expect to perform rehabilitation on our current ambulance and to maintain it as a back-up ambulance.

In closing, we must thank all of our partners including the Towns of Colrain and Heath, Community911 Training and most importantly the Colrain Fire Department led by Chief Nick Anzuoni, for all they do as our home hosts to help us to remain as your EMS provider.

Gary W. Ponce NRP
CEO/Director
Colrain Volunteer Ambulance Association, Inc.

