

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Calendar year 2008 began with Douglas P. Gillespie, Michael H. Harrity and Steven L. Charlip serving as the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Charlip served as Chairman and Mr. Gillespie as Clerk until Annual Town Meeting on May 12. At Annual Town Election on May 10, Mr. Harrity was re-elected to a second three-year term. At the Board of Selectmen's meeting on May 27, Mr. Gillespie was elected Chairman, and Mr. Harrity was elected Clerk.



Agendas and minutes of meetings of the Board are available in the Selectmen's office and are posted on the Town's website (www.weston.org) under the "Inside Town Govt" tab. Highlights of actions taken and issues addressed by the Board of Selectmen in the calendar year 2008 include:

Fiscal Management

- The Town's bond issues in February and September received AAA bond ratings from Standard and Poor's, the highest rating issued by this agency. This high rating allows the Town to borrow at very favorable tax-exempt interest rates for its capital projects as evidenced by the net borrowing cost of 1.977% for a \$1,896,000 bond anticipation note issued in September.
- Weston adopted an operating budget for FY 2009 that did not require a Proposition 2 ½ override. New home construction and renovations increased the Town's property tax base and a modest increase in funding from the state allowed the Town to implement a fiscally responsible budget without calling for a Proposition 2 ½ override. Importantly, the budget included funding of numerous reserve accounts as recommended by the Finance Committee. The property tax rate increased modestly from \$10.67 per \$1,000 of valuation in FY 2008 to \$11.02 per \$1,000 of valuation in FY 2009.

Town Administration

The Town benefits from an experienced and effective management team led by Town Manager, Donna S. VanderClock, Assistant Town Manager, David R. Williams, and Director of Human Resources, Lisa J. Yanakakis. These professionals direct and support a team of skilled department managers who work with dedication and teamwork to provide services to our residents.

- The Town Manager and collective bargaining team completed negotiations for new contracts with the Fire and Library unions.
- Employee unions initiated a discussion about joining the Commonwealth's Group Insurance Commission (GIC) for health insurance. The Town Manager and collective bargaining team negotiated an agreement with all unions that will result in a higher premium contribution by the Town for employee and retiree health insurance, but an overall estimated savings of \$1.7 million in the FY10 health insurance budget.
- Continued cooperation between the School and Municipal departments with regard to facilities management and technology results in more efficient and effective provision of these services.
- At the December special town meeting, a proposal to make the Town Clerk appointed instead of elected was approved. This change requires approval by the legislature and a subsequent vote on the ballot at the Town election in May 2009.

Town Infrastructure

The Town continued to invest in the maintenance of its existing municipal facilities. Significant projects included:

- The Field Study Committee continued overseeing implementation of the 10-year master plan, approved by the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee, to meet playing field and outdoor recreation needs in Weston. The work included field improvements at the High School, new tennis courts at the Middle School and High School, and completion of the Burchard Baseball Complex at College Pond. Over \$2.5 million was raised from private donors to complete this second round of work under the plan.
- At Annual Town Meeting residents approved \$950,000 to complete design work and secure bids for a new Department of Public Works facility. The Board of Selectmen directed that the facility be designed to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards and representatives from the Weston Climate Group are participating in the design review process.
- A feasibility study regarding the Police Station was completed. This will be the next priority for major capital funding after the DPW facility and Field School projects.
- Funds were appropriated to make improvements to the Wellesley Street Water Pumping Station, including replacement of pumping equipment.
- Plans are underway to design improvements to the intersection at Wellesley Street and South Avenue, one of the most hazardous intersections in Weston.

Federal and/or state funding has been requested for the actual construction of these improvements.

- The Josiah Smith Tavern and Old Library Committee has continued the planning process for re-use of those historic buildings as a restaurant and historic archives/history center. Design funds in the amount of \$750,000 were appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund at the May town meeting for this purpose. In addition, a special act authorizing the issuance of a liquor license for the restaurant was approved by the state legislature, which is subject to further approval by voters on the ballot at the Town election in May 2009.

Energy Conservation Efforts

- The Town is taking steps to purchase its street lights from NStar and replace the fixtures and bulbs with more energy efficient versions.
- Electric lighting upgrades have taken place in several buildings for an estimated combined annual savings of over \$23,000.
- Boilers at the Police Station and South Avenue Fire Station have been upgraded saving fuel.
- Existing HVAC equipment in several buildings have been “commissioned” to improve performance and save operating costs.
- Energy audits have been performed at the High School and Middle School, resulting in grant funding from the MA Department of Energy of \$280,000 for various improvements.
- Weatherization of buildings is gradually being improved.

Land Use/Development Projects

- The Town has not yet completed the acquisition of the 62.5 acre Case Estate from Harvard University. Harvard’s environmental consultants conducted several rounds of soil testing to determine the extent of the contamination. Harvard and the Town agreed on the protocol and extent of the clean up and restoration of the property late in the year.
- Efforts by the Board of Selectmen and the abutters to reach a mediated settlement in the Regis College lawsuit proved fruitless. In June, the state’s Land Court, with Judge Sands presiding, heard the first round of Regis College’s lawsuit challenging Weston’s Zoning Board of Appeals’ denial of variances from requirements of the Town’s zoning bylaws, to construct “Regis East.” Regis East is the college’s plan for a continuing care community of 362 housing units in structures encompassing more than 766,000 square feet of space and up to 11 stories in height. Regis claims that the state’s so-called Dover Amendment (M.G.L. Ch 40-a) exempts this proposed development from local zoning because Regis is an educational institution. A preliminary ruling on filings for summary judgment filed by each side is expected early in 2009.
- Weston led a coalition of neighboring towns in filing objections to the traffic analysis in the Draft Environmental Impact Report submitted by the Related Companies for their proposed 1,300,000 square foot retail and office development project - the Commons at Prospect Hill - at the former Polaroid property on the Waltham Weston border at Route 117. The Related

Companies' plan includes massive changes to the Route 20 rotary including 6 new traffic lights. Secretary Bowles of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs agreed with the comments made by Weston and others, and effectively declared the DEIR inadequate. The developer was required to complete a supplemental DEIR filing which would expand the traffic studies and evaluate additional mitigation measures.

- Boston Properties signed a lease with Biogen Idec for substantially all of the proposed space at the 359,000 square foot office building to be constructed at the Mass Broken Stone site on Route 20. A foundation permit was filed in December and work was started on the building which is expected to open on July 1, 2010.

Other Issues

- MetroWest Growth Management Committee completed an evaluation of Weston's affordable housing review processes and submitted recommendations on a legal structure, a strategic planning process and revised review procedures. The Board of Selectmen supported the MWGMC's report and began the implementation with the dissolution of the Housing Needs Committee and the appointment of members to a new Housing Partnership.
- A Dog Committee was appointed and charged with researching issues related to dogs and dog walkers using Weston land with the goal of proposing changes to the Town's bylaw.
- Negotiations for a renewal agreement with Comcast to provide cable television service were completed. In addition, a license to provide cable television service was issued to Verizon.

Personnel

The Town of Weston is fortunate to recruit and retain employees of the highest caliber. The Board wishes to recognize that during 2008, the following people joined the Town's management team:

- David B. Soar, Fire Chief
- Robert Morra, Building Inspector
- Michele Grzenda, Conservation Administrator

In addition, the following employees retired from Town service:

- Courtney W. Atkinson, Building Inspector
- Dorothea W. Thomas, Conservation Administrator
- Roland W. Anderson, Deputy Police Chief
- Charles E. MacLeod, Jr., Fire Department

Closing Comments

The Board of Selectmen serves all of the citizens of Weston. This puts the Board in the challenging position of maintaining town services at a level Weston citizens expect, while recognizing and attempting to address the hardship created on some citizens (oftentimes seniors and others with limited income) by the highest residential property tax bills in

Massachusetts. Responsible and prudent spending continues to be the major priority of the Board, and we believe that this goal was achieved in 2008.

The Town is fortunate to have so many citizens who generously volunteer their time on a host of elected and appointed boards and committees, or related non-profit organizations. Each time the Board has advertised for volunteers to serve the Town on various boards and commissions, we have been gratified by the response from well-qualified and generous residents. We are sometimes put in the awkward position of having to turn down volunteers and we hope they will maintain their interest in town government because new opportunities for volunteer service arise each year. Without these scores of volunteers and the Town's talented and dedicated employees, the Board of Selectmen could not accomplish its goals.

LICENSES ISSUED BY SELECTMEN IN 2008

Common Victuallers' Licenses

Leethe, LLC - <i>dba</i> Bruegger's Bagel Bakery	21 Center Street
P.M. Stasio - <i>dba</i> Theo's Pizzeria & Grill	456 Boston Post Road
Ye Olde Cottage Restaurant, Inc.	403 Boston Post Road
David Gray Associates Inc. - <i>dba</i> Cedar Hill Dairy Joy	331 North Avenue
Off Center Eateries Inc.	436 R Boston Post Road

**Licenses to Dispense Food and Beverages
(Chapter 140, Section 21E, M.G.L.)**

Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman Tennis Center	100 Brown Street
Pine Brook Country Club, Inc.	42 Newton Street
Weston Golf Club Inc.	275 Meadowbrook Road

License for the Sale of Wine at a Food Store

J&T Enterprises of MA, Inc. - <i>dba</i> Omni Foods	21 Center Street
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Parades, Bicycle Tours and Road Races, etc.

Little League of Weston	Opening Day	May 4, 2008
Brain Tumor Society	Bicycle Race	May 18, 2008
Little League of Weston	Closing Day	June 15, 2008
Marathon Sports 5-Miler to Benefit the Leukemia Society of MA	Road Race	July 17, 2008
Weston United Methodist Church and other Churches in Weston	Crop Walk	September 25, 2008
Rotary Club of Weston	Antique Car Show	September 27, 2008
Weston Community Children's Association	Halloween Parade	October 25, 2008

Public Entertainment on Sunday

Weston-Wayland Open Spring Horse Show Inc.	Horse Show	April 27, 2008
Weston-Wayland Open Spring Horse Show d/b/a Weston Fall Hunter Pace	Trail Ride	October 26, 2008

REPORT OF THE CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

During 2008 the Cable Advisory Committee met on multiple occasions to address the Town's cable license arrangements. The Committee negotiated a renewal of the Town's cable license with Comcast, that expired early in the year. The Committee also negotiated a cable license with Verizon which went into effect in the fall of 2008. In connection with the license renewal process for Comcast and the new license for Verizon mandated by federal law, the Committee sponsored open meetings of residents to focus on the cable needs of the Town.

As part of the Comcast renewal process, the Committee supervised the establishment of the Town's first cable access corporation, Weston Media Center, Inc., as a non-profit corporation. The Weston Media Center, under the stewardship of a paid Executive Director, is now poised to create and enhance programming on the Town's local cable access channel.

During 2009, the Cable Advisory Committee intends to monitor cable programming provided to the Town by Comcast and Verizon. It also intends to coordinate with the Weston Media Center in order to maximize opportunities for Town residents to both create and receive local programming.

The members of the Cable Advisory Committee consist of Roland Boucher, Mabel Jong, Gene Ritvo and Edwin E. Smith (chairman). Lee McCanne, Director of Technology and Libraries, and Town Manager Donna VanderClock serve as *ex officio* members. Roland Boucher, Gloria Cole, Mabel Jong, Lee McCanne, Gene Ritvo and Edwin E. Smith serve as directors of the Weston Media Center, Inc.

REPORT OF THE DOG COMMITTEE

In the spring of 2008 the Board of Selectmen appointed representatives of various town committees, all of which have some affiliation to dogs, to the Dog Committee. Members of the committee come from the Agricultural Commission, Conservation Commission, Friends of the Reservoir, Recreation Commission and Weston Forest & Trail Association. There are also representatives of Town government, Police Department, Board of Health, a Veterinarian, a Weston resident Dog Walker, and a town resident.

The committee is charged with reviewing the state and local laws, by-laws, rules and regulations of all things dog related and making recommendations to the Board of Selectmen at the end of January, 2009 with respect to a comprehensive and integrated set of by-laws, rules and regulations. The Selectmen will review the recommendations and may propose changes.

After reviewing the regulations of other towns the committee has identified opportunities to change the town's approach to regulating dogs. Our focus has been on the responsibilities of individual dog owners as well as professional dog walkers. A public town meeting was held in December for input from residents.

The committee has discussed at length the issues surrounding the use of Town lands by professional dog walkers and has compiled a list of recommendations that include the following five areas:

- Permits for professional dog walkers
- Conditions for use of permits.
- Community education to promote and maintain healthy trails so that all citizens may share and enjoy our public lands.

- Leash and/or voice control of dogs
- Cleaning up after the dogs and removal of their waste.

The last three points apply to residents of Weston as well as professional dog walkers. Enforcement of the rules will be the job of the new Animal Control Officer.

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE COMMITTEE

The newly formed Environmental Baseline Committee (EBC) was appointed by the Board of Selectmen to assess activities in Weston that produce measurable environmental impacts, including green house gas emissions, water usage, and waste production. Town departments have been working diligently at improving energy efficiency for several years. For example, this year, Weston schools implemented "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" practices with excellent results. To expand on departmental efforts, the Weston Environmental Baseline Committee will analyze public records, census data, and other data sources to create estimates of the entire town's baseline environmental impact for 2003 and 2008. The goal is to establish a baseline of Weston's environmental footprint, and to create useful methodologies for future evaluations. These evaluations should enable Weston to establish goals for responsible environmental practices; to evaluate the financial feasibility of alternatives for achieving those goals; and, to record its progress in government, residential, and commercial activities.

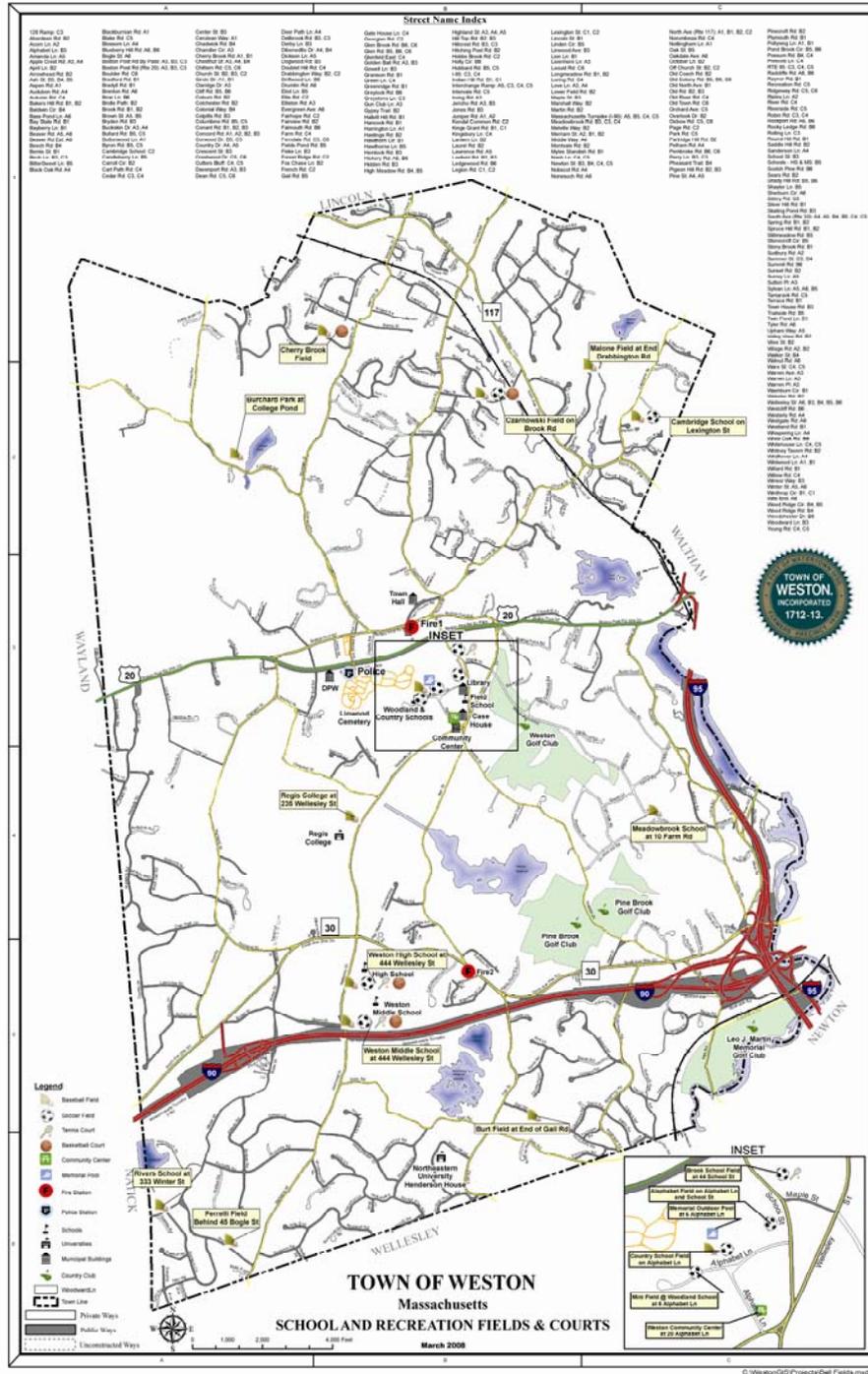
REPORT OF THE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE

The GIS Coordinator/Engineering Assistant reports to the Town Engineer and is responsible for overseeing and maintaining the integrity of the Town's GIS system. This includes programming, training, administration and ongoing evaluation of program needs, monitoring GIS and associated network performance and providing the Town Engineer with recommendations for necessary system software and hardware updates.

The GIS Committee is comprised of interested individuals from a variety of Town departments, including Police and Fire Chiefs, Assessors, Town Planner, Town Manager, Information Technology Manager, Recreation Director, Health Director, Council on Aging Director, School Department, Town Engineer and GIS Coordinator. The Committee meets regularly to discuss important issues relating to scheduling and budgetary items.

In April of 2008 Weston had a new flyover of the town completed. We worked in cooperation with 30 other communities in the commonwealth and coordinated with MassGIS and the USGS on the project giving us 6 inch pixel resolution as well as color infrared imagery throughout the town. The Town's GIS system has incorporated a document management component into the program, allowing us the ability to link documents spatially to the GIS for public and staff retrieval and storage. Currently we have linked over 12,000 documents into the system. Weston public schools have also begun to incorporate Spatial Sciences in their extracurricular activities through the use of GPS devices. A new trails layer has been added to the MapsOnline Sites. There continues to be updates and new tools added to the online GIS application for the public and staff. The online mapping interface can be found at: www.mapsonline.net/westonma. The online mapping application allows the public and Town staff to obtain information via the World Wide Web by using a browser such as Microsoft® Internet Explorer or Firefox. Updates for 2009 include planimetric mapping obtained from the April flyover. The use of the color

infrared orthophoto to update the wetland and stream network, as well as additional layers added to our online mapping program and continued work with volunteers and students to enhance the program.



REPORT OF THE HURRICANE KATRINA COMMITTEE

Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005. Since the fall of 2005, the Weston Hurricane Katrina Committee has been working in concert with the Building Goodness Foundation in Charlottesville, VA to build a new community center in Pearlington, Mississippi, a small town of 2000 + residents on the Pearl River on the Mississippi/Louisiana border. Thanks to the generosity of so many Weston residents, we were able to contribute approximately \$105,000 to the building effort. In addition, many of us went to Pearlington to volunteer our time to work on the community center. The dedication of the community center is scheduled on March 21, 2009.



The residents of the town continue to struggle with housing, employment and health issues. We hope that the community center will provide a much needed place to congregate for meetings and health clinics, conduct projects for seniors and after school programs for kids, and will serve as a central point for information distribution at times of crisis. I hope that many residents will take the time to sit on the back porch and watch the sun go down over the Pearl River.

Mission accomplished. Good luck to our Pearlington friends.

REPORT OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

During 2008, The Weston Metropolitan Area Network continued to expand to accommodate additional site connectivity requirements. These projects were focused on Police and Fire communications, but also enable future flexibility as the needs and demands change over time.

Expansion of the Fiber-Optic loop:

The Fiber Optic network has expanded to include Regis College, Champion Center, and Rivers School sites for Police and Fire Department communications. These sites now tie directly into Town Hall and our current infrastructure, allowing for Police and Fire Headquarters to be connected, as well as any other site on the loop that may be required in the future.

Consolidation of Resources:

This year also brought the Information Technology departments from the Weston Public Schools and the Town together with the introduction of Dr. Lee McCanne as the Director of Technology. This enables a wider vision for the future design and deployment of services for both employees and residents of Weston. Dr. McCanne's expertise comes at a time when

collaboration and consolidation are not only favorable; they are required to efficiently maximize return on investment in today's ever changing technology.

Applications and Services:

In 2008 the Town of Weston also launched two server upgrades to meet the needs of Town Departments. These include a larger more robust file server and a Dispatch system for the Police Department. The older file server was quite outdated and no longer able to meet our capacity requirements, and with falling prices for data storage, was ready for upgrade. The Police Dispatch system prior to upgrade was 14 years old, no longer supported by the company, and ran on UNIX. The new system is fully automated and can be easily updated, making it much more resilient. Supporting the old system was costly and difficult to facilitate. In addition to these server updates, the Town of Weston IT Department also updated its disaster recovery procedure to include new software that reduces the use of tape backup cartridges and enables a quicker, more reliable recovery option. Also in 2008 the Information Technology Department significantly increased its support role at the Weston Public Library. This move was to address the increasing role of libraries as resources for technology and internet access.

REPORT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSIT AUTHORITY ADVISORY BOARD

As one of the 175 cities and towns represented on the MBTA Advisory Board, Weston participates in the approval process for the MBTA operating budget including supplemental requests, and annual capital investment program. In May and November 2008 following several meetings of the Finance Committee which included Weston's representative the full Board met to approve the MBTA's transfer requests and budget including supplemental funds for FY09.

In addition the Board heard presentations on the MBTA's long range capital spending plan and service plans. Advisory Board staff have sent letters to every state legislator whose constituency is inside an MBTA service area. Weston's representatives continue to work with the MBTA and its contractor MBCR to improve service reliability and on-time performance on the Worcester and Fitchburg commuter rail lines. In addition the COA has requested and received information on Weston residents usage of the paratransit service (The Ride).

The members of the Advisory Board and its committees work with the MBTA to monitor expenditures and try to identify opportunities for improved productivity and cost effectiveness. However, the Advisory Board continues to be concerned about the MBTA's growing fiscal problems and has called for the last several years for a legislative solution to the structural deficit resulting from the transfer of debt from the Commonwealth to the MBTA as part of its restructuring.

Further information is available on the Advisory Board website at www.mbtaadvisoryboard.org

REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL DAY COMMITTEE

Memorial Day observances will just not be the same without the tireless energy and patriotic enthusiasm of veteran and historian George Frazee Amadon. For countless years, Weston has been blessed as "Mr. Veteran" himself served as a long time organizer of our Memorial Day celebrations. He lent dignity, passion and dedicated purpose to the planning and presentation for our annual event. We mourn the loss of this integral member of our Memorial Day Committee, as George Amadon died this past November 2008, at age 92. We so appreciate his many efforts with speaker nominations and invitations as well as instructions on proper parade protocol and ceremony details. He served the town of Weston as the graves officer and reached out to local veterans of all ages to include them in our Memorial Day parade and ceremony.



A resident of Weston for over 63 years, George was a dedicated citizen who took seriously his role in helping our youth and townspeople respect the important past and present sacrifices and valuable contributions of our service men and women. George also spent many volunteer hours speaking in the local schools about his own war experiences during World War II and his life. He was also a member of the Boston Authors Club, the Weston Historical Society and the Crescent Street Historical District Commission

The annual ringing of the 1801 Paul Revere Bell at First Parish Church by Weston Girl Scouts announced the assembly of all to gather to the Horace Scudder Sears Auditorium in the Weston Town Hall for our Memorial Day celebration on Monday, May 26, 2008. The weather cooperated and community patriotic spirits were strong for our service and parade.

We thank the Honor Guard participation by officers of the Weston Police Department, under Chief Steven Shaw and the Weston Fire Department, under Chief David Soar for the Presenting of Colors at the start of the service. Their precise procession under the command of Officer David Tingloff was followed by Boy Scout and Girl Scout color guards.

The Reverend Peter C. Boullata, Associate Minister at First Parish Church in Weston, delivered both the Invocation and Benediction, providing special prayers to mark this important occasion. Greetings were presented by Beverly Dillaway as Chairman of the Memorial Day Committee. Welcoming remarks and the introductions were made by George Frazee Amadon, retired officer of 20th Air Force. Mr. Amadon enlisted in the Army Air Corps shortly after Pearl Harbor. A technical sergeant, he became a command gunner on an 11-man B-29 bomber. He received a Distinguished Flying Cross, four Air Force medals AM, three Battle Stars and the Purple Heart for 30 missions flown over Japan from their base in Saipan. We were also honored to have as our guest speaker that morning Weston Veterans' Service Officer, Donald F. Bumpus. Mr. Bumpus is also a U.S. Air Force Veteran in the Second Maintenance Squadron from 1959-1963.

Patriotic songs were passionately sung by retired Weston Police Sergeant Thomas M. Healey - "Let There Be Peace On Earth", and "America, The Beautiful". A moving musical salute followed with "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" played by the Weston High School Marching Band. This impressive sounding group of close to 100 students surrounded the auditorium perimeter under the direction of Christopher Memoli, Director of Music for Weston Public Schools and Drum Majors, Katherine Fitzgerald and Jacob Klapholz.

In the Sears Hall lobby, townspeople enjoyed viewing a collaborative poster display of

“What It Means To Be An American” created by Weston Girl Scout Grade 3 Brownie troop #3080 and senior members of Weston’s Council on Aging.

After the Benediction, everyone joined outdoors for the annual wreath laying at the Town Hall War Memorial by Weston Veterans led by Mr. Amadon and Mr. Bumpus with Boy Scout and Girl Scout representatives. The traditional military gun salute was presented by the Honor Guard. Our National Anthem “The Star-Spangled Banner” was played by the Weston High School Marching Band. Taps were solemnly played by Mike Helfer and Jacob Klapholz during this wreath laying ceremony as well as at the Fiske Memorial, Old Farmer's Central Cemetery and at Linwood Cemetery.

The Memorial Day parade was led by the Weston Police & Fire Department Honor Guard with Weston Veterans, WHS Marching Band, followed enthusiastically by banners and flags held by troop representatives from and floats driven by Weston Girl Scouts (Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes and Seniors) and Weston Cub and Boy Scouts. We are also so appreciative of Weston Veteran transportation provided during the parade courtesy of father-son team of Richard A. DeVito, Sr. and Jr.

All returned to the Weston Town Green for photos and the annual family picnic with band music provided by the WCCA-Weston Community Children's Association. Many thanks to Lisbeth C. Zeytoonjian, Assistant to the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen, for all of her program assistance and planning help last spring and to Dave Mosman for his terrific custodial preparations and cleanup.

REPORT OF THE METROWEST REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Introduction

Toni Wolf as of September 2008, attended MWRTA monthly meetings as representative for Weston. In addition to receiving an orientation from Mr. Carr, Director of the MWRTA, over the fall, discussions also occurred with Weston Town Planner and the Director of the Council of Aging.

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Eight individual transportation Projects were submitted to be considered based on the studies of the RTA routes. It is the understanding that one project may be funded in Fiscal 2010. Proposed projects are listed in this report to assist Weston in its strategic transportation planning.

- Sudbury - Proposes to provide a commuter shuttle service between the Nobscot area in Framingham and Boston Post Road in Sudbury.
- Sherborn - Proposes to provide shuttle service from Sherborn center to the Natick Train Station, Monday thru Friday
- Natick - Proposes to provide a commuter bus service in North Natick
- Marlborough - Proposes to provide a commuter service between Southborough Train Station and East Main Street in Marlborough in conjunction with the on demand response service.
- Framingham - Proposes to provide a fixed route service on Sundays on Route #3
- Framingham - Proposes to provide a fixed route service between Framingham and Marlborough Solomon Pond Mall on Saturdays.

- Hopkinton – Proposes to provide a commuter service between Southborough Train Station and South Street in Hopkinton.
- Wayland – Proposes to provide a commuter service between Wayland Center (Rtes 20 & 27), and the Natick Train Station.

Technology

MWRTA has been leading the path in the use of technology. Mobile data terminals are on the RTA vehicles as an important tool for the RTA as its demand response/shared ride service expands. In addition, as of January 2009, the MWRTA is in the process of creating a statewide framework of Web-based transit trip planning tools for individuals with disabilities to use to access employment.

Educating Weston about the MWRTA

Toni Wolf participated with Ed Carr on a local cable program to educate Weston about the MWRTA and its Weston representative. In addition, Toni Wolf attended a luncheon at the Council on Aging to discuss the role of the MWRTA representative and to hear from those utilizing the services of the Council on Aging as to what transportation needs should be met as the town continues to plan strategically.

The following are transportation needs and concerns generated by this focus group:

- Shuttle to Riverside at the same price structure as the cost of parking rates
- Transportation on Route 20 to access both east and west destinations
- Airport Service similar to that of the Logan Express but connecting this service to Riverside vs Framingham
- On Demand Service:
 - Newton Wellesley Hospital
 - Southborough Medical Center
 - Evenings and Weekends
 - Holiday Shuttle Service to access shops along Rt 20

Action Steps

1. Talk to Weston High School to get some information on High School internships and transportation needs.
2. Meet with Selectmen and Town Planner to identify transportation priorities to advocate on the MWRTA Advisory Board.

REPORT OF THE WESTON PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Permanent Building Committee (PBC) was formed in October 2007 under a new Town Bylaw. The PBC responsibilities are:

- Oversee & supervise the design & construction of projects.
- Coordinate with other Town boards & committees.
- Review & report the financial requirements of projects.

- Conduct periodic review & audit the physical condition of all municipal & school buildings.
- Develop a rolling 10 year capital property management plan, currently 22 buildings.
- Annually prepare a recommendation of major construction and/or maintenance projects.

Under the Bylaw a Proposing Body initiates a request that the PBC oversees. The Proposing Body determines the program, feasibility, requirements, transition and budget. The intent of the Bylaw is that the PBC provide technical and managerial expertise during project design, implementation and construction.

Current active PBC projects include: Department of Public Works Facility, Josiah Smith Tavern/Old Library Re-Use, Fiske Law Office Renovation, Melone Homestead Renovation and Field School Renovation or Replacement as well as ongoing existing building maintenance

Over the past year the PBC has been working almost exclusively on the DPW Facility. The Committee successfully contracted with a Project Manager, Architect and Engineering firms to perform the schematic design portion leading up to Town Meeting in May 2008. Due to the close proximity of the Police Station the PBC recommended to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) that a Feasibility Study of the Police Station be conducted. That study showed some synergy but no major impacts on the DPW.

The requested design funds for \$950,000 were approved and design work has been ongoing. One of the first things the PBC did before detailed design was started was to invite town residents to a design charette. This allowed any town resident an opportunity to work within a small group to see if alternate designs could yield a better project. The most important outcome of the charette was to add sustainable components to the project.

Design funds for the Josiah Smith Tavern/Old Library Re-use project were also approved at May Town Meeting. With the current commitment to the DPW project, the PBC in conjunction with the existing JST/OL committee formed a JST/OL sub-committee to work on the construction portion of the JST project.

Progress on both projects is moving at a rapid pace. The DPW project is expected to be out to bid in time to make a request for construction funds at the May 2009 Town Meeting, and the JST/OL project will be requesting construction funds at a fall 2009 Town Meeting.

The PBC has also enlisted the help of the Weston Climate Group. In an informal arrangement the PBC has invited two members of the WCG to participate in the PBC meetings and projects. The WCG looks specifically at the projects for compliance with a Board of Selectmen request that all Weston projects meet the standards for a minimal LEED certification.

The Fiske Law Office project design work was completed and the construction work has been started. It will be completed in 2009.

The Melone Homestead design work was completed, the project has been put out to bid, and completion is expected in 2009.

The PBC is in the process of reviewing the feasibility study for the Police Station. The costs to maintain that building might indicate that it may be less expensive to provide a long term solution as opposed to repairing. That review is ongoing.

The PBC in conjunction with the Town's Facilities Director, Jerry McCarty, is completing a building inventory, condition report and long term maintenance plan for all Town owned properties.

The PBC would like to thank Sarah Benjamin for her service on the committee. Her expertise in building construction was invaluable. Her two year term ended in the fall, and she was replaced by James Polando who has just begun serving a three year term.

PUBLIC SPACES COMMITTEE

The Public Spaces Committee continues to be a thriving partnership between the Town's three garden clubs and Weston's Parks and Cemeteries Division. Since its inception the end of 2003, guided by Carol Hinckley as chair, the committee has been instrumental in overseeing projects that have helped to enhance the appearance of Weston's public spaces.

In April, the Board of Selectmen and the Public Spaces Committee, regretfully accepted Carol G. Hinckley's resignation as member and chair. The committee members wish to thank Carol who tirelessly led the way during five years of dedicated and exemplary leadership.

During 2008, the new exterior lighting installation around Town Hall was completed under Carol's direction and the committee then focused on improving the existing Town Hall landscaping. Plans were completed and approved by the Board of Selectmen in the fall of 2008. We anticipate work will start as soon as spring 2009 weather permits.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

On December 31, 2008 there were 7,485 Active registered voters in the Town of Weston, while 349 voters were listed as Inactive.

Many newcomers used the Registry of Motor Vehicles to register to vote electronically. This system automatically certifies each voter's data in the Statewide Voter Registration database. This system has been in effect since 1995 following the state's adoption of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

Any citizen age 18 or over may register to vote in the Town Clerk's office during regular office hours (M-F: 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.). In addition, the Clerk's office is open until 8 p.m. for a special registration session three weeks before each election and town meeting. Mail-in registration forms are also available in a variety of public places around the town and the state. Only registered voters may vote in state and town elections and at Town Meeting.

Every year a census of all residents is taken by the town. If the Town does not receive census information for a voter, that individual's name is placed on an Inactive voters' list. If the individual does not vote in two consecutive biennial state elections, he/she is then notified by mail that his or her name will be removed from the Inactive voters' list.

Following is a summary of all voters by Party and by Precinct:

PARTY	PRECINCT				
	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	TOTAL
Democrats	596	453	404	426	1,879
Republican	402	361	391	361	1,515

Unenrolled	1,097	977	939	1061	4,074
American Independent Party		1	1	0	2
Green Rainbow	2	2	2	1	7
Inter. 3 rd Party	0	0	0	1	1
Libertarian	2	2	1	1	6
Working Families	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL ACTIVE VOTERS	2,099	1,797	1,738	1,851	7,485
Inactive Voters	76	80	132	161	349

REPORT OF THE TREE ADVISORY GROUP

Weston's Tree Advisory Group ("TAG") was appointed by the Selectmen five years ago to oversee the planting of new public street trees in partial mitigation for the 29 acres of forest that was removed to build the MWRA water tank.

Awareness about the importance of trees is steadily increasing among residents, as we work with Bob Hoffman, the Town's Tree Warden, individual homeowners, teachers and town boards to fulfill our goals. We continue to meet the standards of the National Arbor Day Foundation to receive the Tree City USA designation for the Town of Weston.

The 2008 Arbor Day tree: A majestic native American Larch was planted in memory of Elmer Jones on the grounds of the Weston Public Library. A local author and scientist, Elmer had actively served on the committee up until his death, and was dedicated to teaching and inspiring others about Weston's natural heritage. He was particularly fond of the golden fall color of larches.



Other trees planted in 2008 were:

- 4 Lindens on Town Green, Boston Post Road, to replace older ones that had died.
- 1 White Spruce at 40-Acre Field, near where toxic soil was remediated.
- 2 Sugar Maples, Case Park
- 2 Red Maples, Case Park

Spring Insect damage: Winter Moth is a new pest that has arrived in Weston from Asia. Chewed leaves can be seen on many ornamental deciduous trees around town in May and June.

Summer Watering: Following our recommendation, the Tree Warden hired a part time assistant to drive our newly-purchased tank around town to water and weed all recent plantings from June through Labor Day. This is the first time the Town of Weston has hired out for this essential task, and we hope it continues annually. The soil was also pulled back from the trunks of the Horse Chestnut trees along the Town Green, as construction of the new sidewalk had left these older trees buried too deep.

Deer damage: To our shock, it was found that several of our new trees on Town Green had been scraped by deer rubbing in November. The stag



antlers have left damage because they rip the soft bark off in their quest to show off to females. The Tree Warden quickly protected the trees from future rubbing by putting a split black pipe around each trunk.

Special Help: In November, landscape designer Crickett Vlass from the Town of Wellesley DPW offered to consult with us on several areas where new plantings are needed, and where damage had occurred. She made on-site recommendations as to how trees can be protected from construction of sidewalks, and which species might best survive drought and salt damage. Ms. Vlass will continue to advise us as we formulate plans for the 2009 plantings to be sited further back from the road edge, as is put forth in the formal tree policy of the Town of Wellesley.

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

Births, marriages and deaths recorded in the Town Clerk's Office of the Town of Weston for the year 2008:

Number of births in 2008:	62
Number of marriages in 2008:	40
Number of deaths in 2008:	91
Weston Residents:	73
Non-Residents:	18

Population of the Town of Weston (2008 census): 11,134

The following detailed report of births, marriages and deaths recorded during 2008 is printed for the purpose of bringing to the attention of interested persons the facts which appear on the official records of the Town Clerk. Please check the names and other data for errors, and notify the Town Clerk's Office.

MARRIAGES RECORDED IN WESTON IN 2008

January

- 8 Ilisa Orloff and Glen Goddard both of Weston
- 12 Laura Lee Essembler and Robert James French Jr. both of Waltham

February

- 16 Roy Alexander Van Cleef and Karen Radcliffe Stocker both of Weston

March

No marriages were recorded

April

- 23 Melisa Kjellander and Mads Michael Otto Abrahamsen both of Weston

May

- 17 Jill Eileen Connelly and Robert Scott Sieber both of Waltham
- 24 Julie Anne Bachand and Robert Seth Hollis both of Newton
- 24 Robert Gerard Swaine and Yussely Raquel Tiburcio both of Framingham
- 25 Samuel C. Wagner and Kavitha Chockkalingam both of Baltimore, MD
- 31 Kate Clifford Ferguson and Spencer Myles Lasky both of Atlanta, GA
- 31 Elliott Ora May of Weston and Elizabeth Tice of Wellesley

June

- 1 Garth Ginter Lippman and Stephanie Jean Peters both of Framingham
- 7 Martha Mary Nolan and Cornelius Peter Mackrell both of Oxford
- 8 James Christopher Blattenberger and Stephanie Lynn Leavitt both of Boston
- 12 Alicia Williamson Barmon and Travis Wolfgram Wanner both of Weston
- 14 Carrie E. Hessel and Timothy D. Smith, Jr. both of South Boston
- 21 Renee Kimberly Scott and Brian Jay Miller both of Florida

July

- 6 Isaac John Kieffer and Christina Maria Mitsakos both of Virginia
- 12 Joshua Gardner Hinds and Amanda Elizabeth Britton both of Weston
- 25 Steven In and Kyoung Sun Lee both of Weston
- 26 Meghan Anne Cleary of Weston and Peter Garrett Hamilton of Brookline

August

- 8 Wei Jin and Qi Yu both of Waltham
- 16 Marianna Redd Wood and Chad Justin Armitstead both of Salt Lake City Utah
- 23 Petro C. Belezos and Claudinea Gentil Bento both of Weston

September

- 21 Marcie Akrivlellis and Roy Langford both of Sudbury
- 22 Nathaniel Paul Honnold and Gina Marie DiBacco both of Weston
- 27 Amy Lai Leung of Brighton and John Kiu Wong of Wayland

October

- 4 Arielle Rekant Nelson of Cambridge and David John Sechovicz of Weston
- 11 Anjali Ganda of New York and Akshat Tewary of New Jersey
- 11 Alicia Marie Dowdelland James John Hayes both of Weston
- 18 Enoch Peter Shih of Natick and Elizabeth Ellen Yuen of Weston
- 18 Jeffrey Wong of Hyde Park and Lisa L. Huang of Boston

November

- 20 Natasha Elizabeth Traisci of Belmont and Lawrence Charles Shumila of Waltham
- 29 Andrew James Curry of Newton and Anne Brady Flynn of Weston

December

- 26 Tarun Khanna and Prarthana Sethi both of Weston
- 27 Paula Ellen Vaughn and James B. Mackenzie both of Weston
- 27 Ingrid Grove and Andrew Casey both of Seattle, Washington
- 27 Craig Donald McKeown and Kimberly Marie Haydon both of Needham

DEATHS RECORDED IN WESTON IN 2008

January			
Date	Name	Place of Birth	Age
1	Sheehan, James T.	Massachusetts	78
6	Higley, Ruth	Massachusetts	92
8	Johannsen, Oscar B.	New York	96
13	Turcotte, Robert Michael	Rhode Island	44

14	George, Francis M.	Massachusetts	81
16	Carlson, Barbara A	Massachusetts	87
24	Pilla Sr., William	Massachusetts	85
30	Christopher, Gertrude J.	Vermont	86
February			
1	Muello, Joseph J.	Massachusetts	100
6	Burch, Lois Geddes	Iowa	93
8	Jones Jr., Frank Williams	New York	86
8	McCarthy Jr, William J.	Massachusetts	82
12	Smith, Blanche F.	Canada	98
20	Redden, Elizabeth M.	Canada	96
25	Church, Rose A.	Peru	95
March			
5	Abbott, Walter M.	Massachusetts	84
13	Donnelly, Bernice A.	Maine	95
15	Brooks, Francis Harrington	Massachusetts	93
20	Weiss, David E.	New York	94
27	Cort, Arthur H.	Massachusetts	88
29	Cashion, Kathleen	Massachusetts	91
30	Freed, Martha	Massachusetts	90
April			
1	Hug, Barbara Anne	Ohio	87
4	Lewis, Stanley Martin	Massachusetts	93
8	Wiseman, William F.	Illinois	68
14	Venier, Mary E.	Massachusetts	88
19	Hoyt, Marion	Massachusetts	88
29	Rheinlander, Harold F.	Maine	88
May			
17	Creighton, Alice B.	Massachusetts	88
17	Myshrall, Barbara H.	Massachusetts	77
17	Morrison, Paul A.	Massachusetts	82
20	Hug, Hans A.	Switzerland	86
27	McDonnell, Martin P.	Massachusetts	76
29	Woodside, Frederick A.	Massachusetts	88
31	Stevenson, Chester Alan	Massachusetts	80
June			
5	Fontana, Elayne M.	Massachusetts	60
8	Toumpouras, George	Massachusetts	87
8	Ronty, Natalie D.	Massachusetts	79
9	Scheft, William	Massachusetts	89
9	Israelite, Norman M.	Connecticut	90
10	Lawton Jr., Albert Edward	Massachusetts	76
15	Francis, Frances E.	Canada	85
17	Canter, Jeanette	Massachusetts	79
20	Hill, Mildred E.	Massachusetts	86
21	Murphy, Henry James	Massachusetts	82
22	Clayson, Davis Barr	Massachusetts	72

26	Akram, Esmaeili	Iran	87
29	Utiger, Robert D.	Connecticut	76
July			
1	Kirkpatrick, Lorna	New Hampshire	65
4	Mullen, John Joseph	Rhode Island	77
5	Gershanoff, Harold	New York	72
10	Crowley, Elise C.	Massachusetts	90
10	Quinlan, Leo Francis	Massachusetts	92
17	Riley, Alice R.	New York	98
19	Netterstrom, Klara V.	Sweden	95
21	Paradiso, Angelo R.	Italy	87
29	Leeder, Earle	Massachusetts	74
30	DeVries, Sally L.	Michigan	70
August			
1	Sturgis, Robert Shaw	Massachusetts	86
2	Chui, Edwin Wing	China	53
13	Margolies, Gertrude	New York	103
17	Maselan, Benjamin P.	New Jersey	92
18	Muldoon, Mary Eileen	Illinois	85
26	Danforth, Wellington Sato Thomas	Massachusetts	25
28	Thompson, Mary	Massachusetts	69
29	Sullivan, Francis Patrick	Massachusetts	77
September			
10	Sachs, Abbey G.	New York	101
14	Patrick, Champa	India	96
17	Herzog, Annette	New York	98
October			
6	Manning, Robert E.	Massachusetts	71
10	Saad, Afeefi	Massachusetts	85
10	Potter, Lloyd G.	Maryland	83
19	Hills, Russell M.	Massachusetts	91
21	Keefe Jr, Thomas Joseph	Massachusetts	86
22	Daniel, Marjorie B.	Massachusetts	85
29	Leonard, Ruth Shaw	Massachusetts	102
November			
2	Amadon, George Frazee	Massachusetts	92
3	Katan, Nadya	Russia	99
7	Sneider, Elizabeth B.	Minnesota	86
9	Berard, Aram J.	Rhode Island	75
18	Ray, John	California	90
19	Eames, Marie M.	New Jersey	91
23	Ferrara, Helen Magdaline	Michigan	90
25	Miller, Francis Xavier	Massachusetts	81
December			
5	Oshry, Miriam	Massachusetts	93
17	Jayne, Bettie	Hawaii	85
22	Marku, Ded	Albania	73
25	Nychis, Peter v.	Greece	94

LICENSE REPORT - DOGS

800 Spayed Females/Neutered Males	@	7.00	\$5,600.00
99 Male/Female	@	11.00	\$1,089.00
			<u>\$6,689.00</u>

LICENSE REPORT - FISH AND GAME

31	Resident Fishing	@	\$ 28.50	\$883.50
1	Resident Fishing - Minor	@	12.50	\$12.50
3	Resident Fishing - 65-69	@	11.25	\$33.75
12	Resident Fishing - 70 & over		FREE	--
	Resident 3 day Fishing	@	7.50	--
	Non Res. 3 day Fishing	@	18.50	--
11	Resident Citizen Hunting	@	28.50	\$313.50
1	Minor Hunting	@	11.50	\$11.50
3	Resident Hunting, Paraplegic	@	FREE	--
6	Resident Sporting	@	46.00	\$276.00
	Resident Sporting - 65-69	@	25.00	--
11	Resident Sporting over 70		FREE	--
3	Archery Stamps	@	5.10	\$15.30
12	MA Waterfowl Stamps	@	5.00	\$60.00
3	Primitive Firearms Stamps	@	5.10	\$15.30
53	Resident Conservation Stamps	@	5.00	\$265.00
	Non Resident " "	@	5.00	--
				\$1,886.35
	Less: Fees Deducted			
	Licenses	@		\$(26.50)
53			0.50	
3	Archery Stamp Fees	@	0.10	(\$0.30)
12	Duck Stamp Fees	@		\$(3.00)
			0.25	
3	Primitive Firearms Stamp	@		(\$0.30)
			0.10	
				\$ (30.10)
	Paid to the Division of Fisheries & Game			<u>\$1,856.25</u>

REPORT OF THE VETERANS' AGENT

The Veterans' Services program is mandated according to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 115 and is administered under State guidelines to provide information, advice and assistance regarding benefits to veterans and their families. Every city and town in the



Commonwealth is required to have a benefits program for its resident veterans and their dependents, as well as a Veterans' Services Officer. The Veterans' Services Officer must be a war-era veteran and be available to provide assistance. The Town is reimbursed by the State for 75% of benefits paid under this mandated program.

Many diverse requests include burial markers, lost documents, replacement medals and information regarding what benefits veterans may be entitled to. Currently, there are four ongoing cases in which veterans are awarded benefits. The assistance of federal benefits is also ongoing.

I regret to say that we lost "Mr. Veteran" George Amadon this past year. Memorial Day observance won't be quite the same without his physical presence. Weston's Memorial Day Observance honors all that sacrificed their lives to protect our country and all veterans who served in the military honorably..

Weston's Veterans' Agent Donald Bumpus is available for walk-ins or by appointment on Thursdays from 10:30-11:30 at the Council on Aging. By telephone, he can be reached at (781) 893-0154 or by email at bumpus.d@westonmass.org.