

# REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

## *Mission Statement*

The mission of the Town of Weston's Department of Public Works is:

- To construct and maintain the physical infrastructure that provides for the public's health and safety.
- To protect the environment.
- To enhance the quality of life, and to ensure that Weston continues to be a desirable place in which to live and conduct business.

The mission of the DPW will be accomplished through an equitable and cost effective delivery of the following services and products:

Activities to ensure community health and protect the environment:

- The provision of water.
- The drainage of surface water.
- The disposal of waste refuse.
- The recycling of waste.
- The composting of leaves and yard waste.
- The maintaining of parks, cemeteries and recreation areas.

Activities to provide for the safety of pedestrians and motorists:

- The construction and maintenance of roads and sidewalks.
- The provision of street signs, traffic signals, and pavement markings.
- The sanding/deicing, plowing, and removal of snow.

## *Report of the Highway Division*

The Highway Division is responsible for the maintenance and care of the roads and sidewalks in Town as well as all street signage, guardrails and pavement markings. The seven individuals that make up this division accomplished the following special projects this past year:

- Road preparation and supervise Installation of Stone seal Surface Treatment on:

Beaver Road	Nobscot Road
Black Oak Road	Radcliff Road
Deer Path Lane	Sylvan Lane
Middle Way	
- Road preparation and supervision for overlay of Scotch Pine Road.
- Road preparation and supervision for the cold planing and overlay of a section of Wellesley Street and Cliff Road.
- Prepared and supervised the full depth reclamation and paving of the parking lots at the Middle School and a small section of the roadway at the Middle School.
- Prepared and supervised the full depth reclamation and paving of a section of School Street.
- Prepared and supervised the remaining site work at the DPW Yard Salt Shed including the underground electrical conduit and a water main extension (320') with a hydrant.

In addition, vegetation was cut back on the sides of many roads, as well as the removal of tree limbs hanging over roads and sidewalks to promote safe vehicular and pedestrian travel in Town.

The Highway Division responds to snow and ice emergencies as well as downed trees and roadway hazards (potholes).

### ***Report of the Stormwater Division***

The Stormwater Division is responsible for the maintenance of the Town's storm drains and waterways. This division is made up of three individuals whose focus is promoting Stormwater Management as prescribed by the EPA. Areas of attention include street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, repairs to catch basins and drainage systems and the clearing of brush and debris from brooks, streams and waterways.

Operation highlights of the past year include:

- Rebuilding of 21 drainage structures in various locations around town. Built 12 new drainage structures and replaced 150 LF of Drain Pipes.
- The jetting of 13 drainage systems.
- Removed approximately 220 tons of debris from 151 catch basins.
- Cleared streams, brooks and waterways of brush and debris along Boston Post Road By Pass, Warren Avenue, Cliff Road, Golden Ball Road, Deer Path Lane.
- Swept 87 miles of roadway twice, removing 2360 tons of debris.
- Worked with the Town Engineer, Board of Health and The Conservation Commission to eliminate Stormwater, Wetland and Pollution problems.
- Assisted the other DPW divisions in emergencies and their day to day operations.
- Worked with the Highway Division completing the DPW Yard Salt Shed site work including the underground electric conduit and a water main extension (320') with a hydrant.

The Stormwater Division also responds to snow and ice emergencies as well as all reports of flooding in the Town.

### ***Report of the Park & Cemetery Division***

The primary responsibility of the Park & Cemetery staff is the care, maintenance, and operation of the Town's Cemeteries. This includes planning funeral arrangements with residents, carrying out interment and committal services, and tending to perpetual care of the landscape. This same crew also cares for several scenic parks and the grounds at an assortment of Town buildings including Town Hall.

Activities of the past year revolved around landscape improvements and beautification projects in the Town Center. These efforts would not have been possible without the invaluable help and dedication of volunteer organizations including the Public Spaces Committee, Weston Garden Club, Country Garden Club, and the Community League Garden Club. The members of these groups provide Weston with a vast resource of knowledge, talent, and an unwavering desire to improve our surroundings. Couple this with the backing of a dedicated group of Town employees, and the results can be amazing.

A Copper Beech Tree was planted at Lamson Park in memory of Joan B. Vernon, who passed away February 13, 2005. Joan was chairman of the Board of Selectmen at the time, and had been involved in Town politics and community affairs for 35 years. A plaque commemorating her

contribution to the Town was installed and dedicated on June 15. The ceremony was led by Ann Leibowitz, who agreed to finish out the remainder of Joan's term on the Board.



*Noah and Aidan Vernon water in Petunias at the tree dedication ceremony in honor of their grandmother Joan B. Vernon.  
Photo courtesy of the Weston Town Crier*

#### Other projects included

Revitalization of the front planting beds at the entrance to Town Hall, directed by the Public Spaces Committee. The old yews were removed and an army of volunteers hand-dug hundreds of Daffodil bulbs and replanted them on the Town Green. The Committee collaborated with Weston Nurseries of Hopkinton, which agreed to donate the design and installation of a planting scheme; consisting of more than 40 flowering shrubs and trees which should provide a scenic gateway to Town Hall for years to come as no funds were available for landscaping. In turn, we installed a plaque recognizing their generosity. A pair of large stone planters were also added, flanking the front stairs of the historic building, in which Country Garden Club member Meg Steiner installed a creative mixture of plants with multi-seasonal interest

- o Masking the above-ground mechanical components of the Town Hall septic system on the Town Green. The Landscape Design Committee of the Weston Garden Club, led by Marilyn Doyle, presented a plan to mask and incorporate these components into the landscape. Using a design that reflected the Frederick Law Olmstead style of architecture in which the Town Green was created. More than 20 native shrubs and trees were installed. At the same time, several Kousa Dogwoods were planted along the tree line east and west of the central path in order to replace older varieties that had succumbed to disease. Funds set aside for the preservation and maintenance of the Green were used to finance this endeavor.

During the summer, many volunteers took turns carrying heavy hoses and buckets down to the Green to water the new plantings and ensuring a healthy start to their survival. Such effort and dedication is vital in order to sustain a new landscape. Without the willingness of residents to participate in a manner reflecting pride of community spirit projects such as these would not be possible.

- o Revitalization of the landscaping at the main Fire Station following the completion of repairs to the building. With the help of Public Spaces Committee members Dorothea Santos and Tinka Zeitvogel, a variety of flowering plants and perennials were installed to replace the overgrown yews.

- o Maintenance of seasonal plantings at the Knox Memorial (the triangle at the entrance to Town House Road) consisting of Tulips in the spring, Petunias and Celosia for summer, and ending with Mums and Kale for the fall.

Beyond the center of town, the following projects were undertaken:

- \* At the traffic island at the intersection of Route 30 and Newton Street, and again, with the help of several members of the Public Spaces Committee, old plants were removed, the soil was amended, and many new varieties of flowering perennials and ornamental grasses were installed.
- \* Several hundred Daffodil bulbs for planting in Linwood Cemetery this fall were donated. by Ruth Leiby, owner of Leiby’s Garden and Flower Shop.
- \* George and Nancy Bates made a very generous contribution to Linwood Cemetery by the donation of two granite benches and a memorial tablet for the establishment of a cremation garden.
- \* Town resident Betsy Spencer, adopted the care and maintenance of the planting bed installed at the Police Station last year, tending it all season long. She transplanted hundreds of Vinca plants from her garden to the station, weeded, primped and watered. She is a shining example of the kind of community effort necessary in order for these projects to remain beautiful and healthy for all to enjoy.

It is with a heavy heart that we acknowledge the passing of our friend and Public Spaces Committee member Helen Freidberg. She was instrumental in completing one of the first planted traffic islands in town as well as playing an integral role in many projects. Her knowledge and sense of civic responsibility will be deeply missed.

The Rotary Club of Weston has presented a plan to renovate the existing pathway and steps that traverse the Town Green as part of their Centennial Community Project. The project has received approval from the Board of Selectmen and is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2006.

Throughout the year assistance was given to and received from other Town departments including Highway, Water, Recreation, and Schools.

For information regarding Weston’s cemeteries please contact William O’Neil at 781-893-1263 Ext. 16.

The department’s fiscal year 2005 statistics are as follows:

<b><u>Interments</u></b> -	60		<b><u>Memorials</u></b>	
Casket -	36		Monuments -	17
Cremation -	24		Markers -	14
Interment Fees Collected -	\$31,600.00		Fees Collected -	\$5,760.00
<b><u>Lot Sale Fees Collected</u></b>				
	Perpetual Care Trust Fund -			\$20,580.00
	Sale of Lots Fund -			28,470.00
	Town Clerk Recording Fees -			80.00
	<b><u>Total Cemetery Revenue</u></b> -			\$86,490.00

*Report of the Solid Waste and Recycling Division*

Our monthly recycling rates ranged from 32% to 47% with an average of 37.5% during fiscal year 2005. In fiscal year 2005, the average cost to process recycled product was \$22.41 per ton, a decrease of \$0.24 per ton from fiscal year 2004. The average cost to process our solid waste was \$122.39 per ton, an increase of \$3.73 per ton from fiscal year 2004. One thousand five hundred and twenty three (1,523) tons of material was removed from the waste stream by recycling. During fiscal year 2005 recycling generated \$10,924 in revenue and saved a total of \$126,765 in avoided disposal costs. Recycling is a tremendous cost avoidance for the Town with the added potential of some revenue.

The annual household hazardous waste collection day will now be held in the spring instead of the fall. The next collection day will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2006 at the Department of Public Works, 190 Boston Post Road By-Pass (Route 20), from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This event is open to Weston residents only. Commercial and industrial wastes will not be accepted. For information please call the Department of Public Works at 781-893-1263.

Yard waste is now being collected at the Transfer Station as an added convenience to residents. All residents are welcome to recycle at no charge. An annual fee covers the disposal of Solid Waste. The Transfer Station off of Church Street accommodates all residential trash disposal needs. You may recycle the following: glass containers, newspaper, mixed paper, cardboard, all metals, tin cans, deposit containers, plastic, brush, logs, leaves, grass and other yard trimmings. We also provide a collection area for televisions, computer monitors, and components per DEP mandate. Donated clothing and household goods for Pine Street Inn and Goodwill Industries are accepted at the Transfer Station as well. Removing these items from the waste stream will result in a continued reduction of expenditures on Solid Waste and Recycling Operations as well as aiding us in our goal for a cleaner and healthier environment.

Thank you to all individuals and families that continue to recycle. Our recycling program is a success because of your enthusiastic effort!

School and youth groups received tours of the Transfer Station and Recycling Facility. Interested organizations or individuals should call the DPW office at 781-893-1263.

The Division's statistics for fiscal year 2005 are as follows:

<i>Solid Waste and Recycling Revenues</i>		<i>Processed at the Transfer Station</i>	
Resident Permit Sales	\$301,870.00	Total Solid Waste	2,551 Tons
Recycling Proceeds	10,924.00	Total Recycled	1,523 Tons
<b>Total Solid Waste &amp; Recycling</b>	<b>\$ 312,794.00</b>	<b>Total Materials</b>	<b>4,074 Tons</b>

### *Report of the Town Engineer*

The Town Engineer is responsible for the implementation of the capital improvements program for the DPW, including water, roadway and drainage system improvements, and management of special projects arising.

Projects accomplished with Town Engineer involvement in 2005 included:

Newton Street and North Avenue Water System Improvements design, bidding and construction management

Geographic Information System (GIS) delivery of planimetric, topographic and parcel datasets and program development including staff training, creation of standardized map layers, paper map products, and field collection of water and drainage system infrastructure utilizing Global Positioning Systems (GPS). See report of GIS Committee for more information.

Environmental Management System created for Department of Public Works and Police Department which includes but not limited to: Oil Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure plans for DPW.

Other projects included the Cook's Pond dam repair and pump installation, and the Landfill gas mitigation, which includes monthly monitoring of gas levels at perimeter wells.

Drainage improvement projects at Crescent Street, Driftwood Lane, & Cliff Road. Stormwater Phase II permit annual report filed with DEP, and the construction of a sidewalk at the Field School.

Routine work includes review of private development plans for conformance with Weston Stormwater Regulations, participation on Traffic Committee, Emergency Management Committee, and assistance to other departments and the public on matters regarding the location and use of the public way.

### *Report of the Water Division*

The Water Division is responsible for supplying water to 3,585 customers in the Town of Weston. The three individuals that make up this division maintain 106 miles of water main, 940 hydrants, a pump facility and four water storage tanks that store 2,721,000 gallons of water purchased from the MWRA.

Operational highlights of the year include:

- Emergency repair of seven water main breaks.
- The replacement of 10 old and deficient hydrants in various locations.
- A comprehensive leak detection survey of two-thirds (2/3) of the town's underground piping systems resulting in the discovery of 1 main leak. This leak was repaired.
- Assisted homeowners in locating and repairing 13 service leaks.
- Installed new water main on North Avenue.
- All hydrants were located with the Global Positioning System.
- The town receives all treated water from the MWRA Treatment Plant.

The Water Division responds to all water system emergencies including system leaks, loss of service, poor water quality and low water pressure. The rank and file members serve the community during snow and ice emergencies.

Below is a brief statistical report of the Water Division:

<b>WATER STATISTICS</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Miles, water mains, Beginning	105.17	105.37
Miles, added & eliminated (net)	0.20	0.08
Miles of mains, Ending	105.37	105.45
House services, Beginning	3,567	3574
House services, Added	7	11
House services, Ending	3,574	3585
Public hydrants, Beginning	934	937
Public hydrants, Added	4	5
Public hydrants, Abandoned	1	2
Public hydrants, Ending	937	940
Water purchased, MWRA (gals)	577,366,800	620,443,900
Water purchased, (other)	2,562,630	3,449,020
Total gallons purchased	579,929,430	623,892,920
Daily average	1,584,507	1,709,295
Weekly average	11,152,489	11,997,940
Monthly average	48,327,452	51,991,076
Greatest pumped in one day	June 23, 2004	September 12, 2005
	4,059,800	4,316,000
Greatest pumped in one week	June 22 - 28	September 8 - 14
	21,591,200	27,045,100
Greatest pumped in one month	July	August
	85,261,000	98,699,700