

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
OFFICERS, BOARDS
and
COMMITTEES
of the
TOWN OF MERRIMAC
MASSACHUSETTS

For the Year Ending December 31, 2011



www.merrimac01860.info

IN MEMORY

of those
Who Have Held
Public Office
in the
Town of Merrimac



Frederick Sloban Jr
Fire Department

James Sevigney Sr.
Fire Department

Richard Noone
Reserve Police Officer

Margaret Casazza
COA Outreach

Richard Soucy
Highway and Water Departments

DIRECTORY OF ELECTED OFFICERS

Moderator – One Year

Robert Bender Term Expires 2012

Board of Selectmen – Three Years

Carol A. Traynor, Chairperson Term Expires 2012
Ricky J. Pinciario Term Expires 2014
W. Earl Baumgardner Term Expires 2013

Board of Assessors – Three Years

Louise Lingerman Term Expires 2013
Joyce E. Clohecy Term Expires 2014
Edward R. Davis, Chairman Term Expires 2012

Planning Board – Five Years

Dennis Brodie Term Expires 2016
John Thomas Term Expires 2012
Ronald Barnes Term Expires 2013
Sandy Venner, Chairperson Term Expires 2014
Robert Atwood Term Expires 2015
Patricia True, Secretary

Constables – Three Years

Arthur Evans Term Expires 2013
James Seymour Term Expires 2013

Town Clerk – Three Years

Patricia True Term Expires 2013

Board of Health – Three Years

Eileen Hurley, Chairperson Term Expires 2014
Carol A. Traynor Term Expires 2012
Mark Sofia Term Expires 2013

School Committee – Three Years

Brian Page Term Expires 2014
Todd Treado Term Expires 2012
Jane Broz Term Expires 2013

Library Trustees - Three Years

Susan M. Coburn	Term Expires 2012
Yvonne Cosgrove	Term Expires 2014
Ellen Evans	Term Expires 2013
Linda Getz	Term Expires 2014
Jennifer Brown	Term Expires 2012
Jeffrey W. Hoyt, Chairman	Term Expires 2013

Parks & Recreation Commissioners - Five Years

John Lusty	Term Expires 2012
Open	Term Expires 2016
Erick Kuchar	Term Expires 2014
Open	Term Expires 2015
Jay Soucy, Chairman	Term Expires 2013

Municipal Light Commissioners - Three Years

James Young	Term Expires 2012
Norman R. Denault	Term Expires 2014
Louis Bibeau	Term Expires 2013

Cemetery Trustees - Three Years

Patricia Casey	Term Expires 2012
Ricky A. Gould	Term Expires 2014
Carol Ranshaw	Term Expires 2013

Merrimac Housing Authority - Five Years

C. Shirley Jones	Term Expires 2016
Altha Ottman	Term Expires 2012
Stephen P. True, Vice Treasurer	Term Expires 2013
Anthony Pretti	Term Expires 2014
Open	Term Expires 2015

DIRECTORY OF APPOINTED OFFICERS

Finance Committee

Richard LeSavoy, Co-Chairman
Patricia Dillon, Secretary
Ann Crowell
Catherine Gabriel-Heusser, Co-Chairman

Eileen Deveau
Victor Quattrini
Justin Peltier

Board of Appeals

Arthur Amirault
Gordon Broz, Alternate
Ronald Dandurant
Maria Deleo
Kathleen Marshall, Secretary eff. 11/2011

Joseph Moran thru 8/2011
Joshua Jackson, Vice Chair
Kathleen Walker
Debra Weinhold, Secretary
thru 11/2011

Conservation Commission

Timothy Simmons
Jon Pearson
Robert Prokop, Chairman
Ellis Katz

Jay Smith, Agent
Janet Terry
Arthur Yarranton

Building Inspector

Robert Sinibaldi

Local Inspector

Denis Nadeau

Plumbing & Gas Inspector

Ronald Caruso

Wiring Inspector

William Nutter

Department of Public Works

Richard J. Spinale, Director thru 10/2011
John Riordan, Interim Director eff. 11/2011

Highway Department

Tom Barry, Foreman

Fire Department

Ralph Spencer, Chief

Greg Habgood, Deputy Chief

Larry Fisher, Deputy Chief

Board of Registrars

Natalie Christie

Giuseppina Hayes

Rebekah Reynolds

Town Counsel
Ashod N. Amirian

Town Accountant
Anne O. Jim

Finance Director & Treasurer
Carol A. McLeod

Tax Collector
Geraldine A. Gozycki

Selectmen's Secretary
Jennifer Penney

Rent Control Board
Ron Proposki Ricky J. Pinciario Sandy Venner (interim appointment)

Animal Care & Control Officer
Lisa Young-Carey

Cultural Council
Thelma Gibbs Mary Gage Cogswell
Ann Tucker Joyce Zarins
Nancy Perkins Eleanor Hope McCarthy
Judy Flynn

Veteran's Agent
Kevin Hunt

Historical Commission
J. Leonard Bachelder Jeffrey W. Hoyt, Chairman
Patricia Casey Jason Sargent, Treasurer
Timothy Cavanaugh Evelyn Calnan
Yvonne Cosgrove, Secretary

Council on Aging
Laura Dillingham-Mailman, Director Dorothy Lumsden
Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Chairperson James Murphy
Carol Ranshaw, Secretary David Vance
Nancy Bachelder Betty Elliot
David Dutton Lucy St. Pierre
Natalie Christie Muriel McNair, Alternate
Julie Buzzell, Alternate

Emergency Management Director
Ralph W. Spencer, Chief

Open Space Committee

Michelle Carley
Sandra Venner
Carrie Rennie

Donna Tierney
Tracy Kelly

Town Nurse

Charlotte Eileen Stepanian

Capital Planning Committee

Patricia Dillon, Finance Committee
Janet Bruno
Edward Madden thru 4/2011

Sandra Venner, Chairperson
Carol A. Traynor, Selectman

Affordable Housing Board of Trustees

Sandra Venner, Chairperson
Earl Baumgardner, Selectman
Joseph Moran
Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello

Ray Gingras, Vice-Chairperson
Laura Dillingham-Mailman
Phillip Parry

The Board of Selectmen would like to thank all those who have served the town this past year, especially the ones who have retired or moved on.

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MERRIMAC BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2011**

Dear Residents of Merrimac,

This year proved to be a very long and difficult one for the Board of Selectmen. It began with the closing of the Donaghue School by the Board of Health due to a lingering chemical odor caused by the removal of the asbestos floor tiles. The tiling work had been scheduled for the summer, but was begun immediately and completed quickly so that school could reopen.

The Board studied the effect of outsourcing the water department to a private firm since so few licensed operators are available, but this proposal was badly misinterpreted and met with much opposition. Therefore, at town meeting the Board immediately tabled the idea.

Rick Pinciario was elected to the Board in May for a second term.

Contracts were negotiated and completed with all the unions' i.e. Highway, Dispatchers, Police, Water and Sewer at increases reflective of the poor economy.

The Board elected to take part in the Green Repair projects at the two elementary schools. The cost of this work exceeded 1.5 million with the state paying 51.42 percent of the total. These repairs will increase the buildings energy efficiencies and are soon to be completed.

The Cobblers Brook Bridge was repaired at a snail's pace, due to the need to wait for a certain piece of pile-driving equipment. The finish paving is scheduled for early spring 2012.

Testing on the Battis Rd. landfill continued, so that a scope work in conjunction with DEP approval can be determined. Some fill has been brought in from the town of Wilmington to rebuild the cap, at a savings to Merrimac in excess of 70,000 dollars. The extent of this project is still unknown.

The BOS changed the Building Department's fee structure, so that revolving accounts were setup to pay for the inspector's time, rather than be paid an hourly rate by the taxpayers. This seems to be working well.

Code Red was introduced to Town and the Board feels that it is a great asset. It is a reverse 911 calling system which enables the Police, Fire or any other department to notify the residents of major safety or health issues.

Some of the biggest changes occurred in personnel. After over thirty years Chief James Flynn retired and Eric Shears was appointed as his replacement. The BOS hired an independent consultant to assist them in this process, with each candidate for chief going through a rigorous series of tests. We are very confident in our selection.

The Police Station underwent renovations as a result of concerns regarding water damage and air quality. With guidance from the Building Inspector, Bob Sinibaldi, considerable

improvements were made, and the town utilized its town employees, laborers from the Dept. of Corrections, and outside contractors to complete the project.

The BOS removed Rick Spinale as DPW director for it felt many tasks listed in the job description were not being done. John Riordan is performing these tasks on an interim basis.

Bob Sinibaldi was appointed Building Inspector following the retirement of Phil Hagopian. On a very sad note, Phil passed away on January 1st 2012.

With the assistance of Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, the square project is continuing and has reached the seventy-five percent completion level. It is scheduled to go out for bid in the spring of 2013. An energy audit has been begun in most of the town buildings, the results of which will be forthcoming. Also cleanup and various tests have been conducted on the Coastal Metal Building and talks have begun about re-developing the site. It seems that 2012 is going to be a very busy year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merrimac Board of Selectmen
Carol Traynor, Chairman
W. Earl Baumgardner
Ricky J. Pinciario

2011 REPORT OF THE BOARD OF FIRE ENGINEERS

To: The Honorable Board of Selectmen &
The Citizens of the Town of Merrimac

The Merrimac Fire Department has again had a very busy year responding to 802 calls for the year 2011.

Training has been very intense this past year not only with regular firefighting training but also with Homeland Security training courses.

This year we received another grant of \$10,000 from Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. Thanks to all who took the time to send an e-mail for this grant.

We also received a grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation in the amount of \$ 4000.00 for forestry equipment.

We continue to apply for all grants that apply to the Fire Department for new equipment at no cost to the town.

The S.A.F.E. (Students Awareness of Fire Education) program is still very well received In our schools. This weeklong event during Fire Prevention Week covers all grades from pre-school to 6th grade. Students learn how to escape from a smoke filled house and also how to build an escape plan to get out of the home. We would like to thank Ms. Shea, Mr. Harrison and Mrs. Webb to allow us to bring this program in to the schools.

We again have sent firefighters to the Fire Academy for Firefighter I & II training. This training allows them become certified firefighters. Congratulations to all that have attended.

We have received money from the ambulance revenues to man the ambulance from 8 am to 10 pm Monday thru Friday and 8am to 4 pm Saturday & Sundays. We also now have 4 Paramedics that are on the department.

To the Board of Selectmen, we wish to thank you for all your support this past year.

To our Firefighters and EMT's & Paramedics, this year has been many long hours and many sleepless nights for you all. We wish to thank you for all that you give to this community and to us as a Board. Your dedication to this department is always noticed.

To the Couplings, what more can we say but thank you for all you do to make our jobs much easier every year. Continued success.

To the Citizens of Merrimac, The Board of Fire Engineers and the Firefighter / EMT's wish to thank you for your support and kind words that mean so much to us and allow us to bring a strong service to the town.

Respectfully Submitted
The Board of Fire Engineers

Ralph W. Spencer
Larry Fisher
Greg Habgood

**MERRIMAC FIRE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENT TYPE REPORT
01/01/2011 - 12/31/2011**

<u>Incident Type:</u>	<u>Count:</u>	<u>Percent of Incidents:</u>
1 Fire		
100 Fire, other	4	0.49%
111 Building fire	10	1.24%
113 Cooking fire, confined to container	21	2.68%
114 Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney	1	0.12%
130 Mobile property (vehicle) fire, Other	1	0.12%
131 Passenger vehicle fire	8	0.99%
132 Road freight or transport vehicle fire	2	0.24%
141 Forest, woods or wildland fire	1	0.12%
142 Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	3	0.37%
143 Grass fire	1	0.12%
151 Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	5	0.62%
162 Outside equipment fire	<u>2</u>	<u>0.24%</u>
	59	7.35%
2 Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No fire)		
243 Fireworks explosion (no fire)	<u>1</u>	<u>0.12%</u>
	1	0.12%
3 Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident		
311 Medical assist, assist EMS crew	3	0.37%
321 EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	436	54.38%
322 Motor vehicle accident with injuries	30	3.74%
323 Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	1	0.12%
324 Motor vehicle accident with no injuries	27	3.36%
350 Extrication, rescue, Other	1	0.12%
362 Ice rescue	<u>1</u>	<u>0.12%</u>
	499	62.21%
4 Hazardous Condition (No Fire)		
410 Combustible/flammable gas/liquid condition,	1	0.12%
411 Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	1	0.12%
412 Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	17	2.16%
413 Oil or other combustible liquid spill	1	0.12%
424 Carbon monoxide incident	3	0.37%
440 Electrical wiring/equipment problem, Other	2	0.24%
441 Heat from short circuit (wiring),	1	0.12%
444 Power line down	3	0.37%
445 Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	1	0.12%
461 Building or structure weakened or collapsed	<u>1</u>	<u>0.12%</u>
	31	3.86%
5 Service Call		
500 Service Call, other	1	0.12%
510 Person in distress, Other	27	3.43%
511 Lock-out	8	0.99%

520	Water problem, Other	1	0.12%
531	Smoke or odor removal	4	0.49%
541	Animal problem	1	0.12%
550	Public service assistance, Other	2	0.24%
551	Assist police or other governmental agency	2	0.24%
553	Public service	3	0.37%
554	Assist invalid	4	0.49%
571	Cover assignment, standby, moveup	<u>19</u>	<u>2.36%</u>
		72	8.97%
6	Good Intent Call		
600	Good intent call, Other	8	0.99%
611	Dispatched & cancelled en route	30	3.76%
622	No Incident found on arrival at dispatch	13	1.62%
631	Authorized controlled burning	1	0.12%
652	Steam, vapor, fog or dust through to be smoke	1	0.12%
653	Smoke from barbecue, tar kettle	1	0.12%
671	HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	<u>1</u>	<u>0.12%</u>
		55	6.85%
7	False Alarm & False Call		
730	System malfunction, Other	5	0.65%
733	Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	32	3.99%
734	Heat detector activation due to malfunction	7	0.87%
735	Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	1	0.12%
736	CO detector activation due to malfunction	16	1.99%
743	Smoke detector activation, no fire -	1	0.12%
744	Detector activation, no fire -	3	0.37%
745	Alarm system activation, no fire -	4	0.49%
746	Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	<u>1</u>	<u>0.12%</u>
		70	8.72%
8	Severe Weather & Natural Disaster		
800	Severe weather or natural disaster, Other	12	1.56%
813	Wind storm, tornado/hurricane assessment	<u>1</u>	<u>0.12%</u>
		13	1.68%
9	Special Incident Type		
900	Special type of incident, Other	<u>2</u>	<u>0.24%</u>
		2	0.24%
Total Incident Count:	802	802	100.00%

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

To: The Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of the Town of Merrimac,
Massachusetts

I am honored to serve as your Police Chief and want to thank the Merrimac Board of Selectmen, the Police Chief Search Committee, and my entire staff in choosing me to lead the Merrimac Police Department. I am proud of my staff for their hard work and support during the transition. The members of the Merrimac Police Department are proud to serve our great community.

I must congratulate Chief James A. Flynn, Jr. and his family on his retirement from the Town of Merrimac. I also want to thank him for his 35 years of loyal service to our community. Chief Flynn was appointed as a patrolman in 1975 and became the Chief of Police in 1983. He served as our Police Chief for the last 27 years, retiring on June 30, 2011. During his tenure as a leader he cared for his staff and this community, he mentored many and was a true friend to all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Thank you for everything Chief Flynn.

In addition, I would like to congratulate Officer Brian Peavey, Sr. on his retirement. Officer Peavey started with the Merrimac Police Department in the early 1960's and served until 2011 when he retired with Chief Flynn. Thank you for your service and best wishes Officer Peavey.

New to our Police Department this year are Officer Michael Stewart, Officer Robert Coppola, Dispatcher Heather Lefebvre and Dispatcher Christopher Maguire. These people are a great addition to the police department. Moving on to other opportunities were Patrolman Charles Sciacca, Officer Drew Hosman and Officer Jonathan Morrill. We want to thank them for their service and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

Regretfully, Retired Reserve Officer Richard G. Noone passed away this year. Officer Noone started with the Merrimac Police Department in the mid 1950's and then he joined the United States Army. During his time in the Army, Officer Noone served with the Capital Police. One of the highlights of his career was escorting President Truman at President Kennedy's inauguration. After his time in the service, Officer Noone returned to Merrimac where he served as a reserve police officer until the early 1980's. Our sympathy and thanks to his family and friends.

2011 was a year of change for the Merrimac Police Department. Much has been accomplished with the police station renovations and clean-up. We are grateful to the community for supporting this need. I look forward to further enhancing the community service provided by our police department and to working towards state certification and accreditation in the coming year.

The men and women of the Merrimac Police Department are always ready to serve you. Please feel free to call to schedule an appointment or drop by the police station to visit; we are here for our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric M. Shears
Chief of Police

2011 POLICE ACTIVITIES BY DISPATCH REASON

Assault & Battery	3
B & E (Attempted)	3
B&E Building	26
B&E Motor Vehicle	1
Larceny / Personal Property	32
Larceny by Check	4
Larceny of Motor Vehicle	0
Assault (Threats / No Battery)	1
Forgery & Counterfeiting	0
Stalking	0
Vandalism Complaint	23
Weapons Violation	0
Drug Law Violations	0
Gaming Law Violation	0
Offenses Against Family/Child	0
Intoxicated Driver Complaint	6
Disorderly Conduct	3
209A Violation	3
209A Order Received	19
Officer Investigation	58
Larceny of Bicycle	4
General Offenses	7
Trespass Complaint	5
Civil Complaint	1
Juvenile Offense	15
Town Bylaw Violation	2
Missing Person	33
Lost / Found Property	50
Disturbance (General)	24
Domestic Disturbance	39
Disturbance (Group)	70
Disturbance (School)	1
Hazard / Youths in Street	17
Disturbance (Noise)	61
Annoying Harassing Phone Calls	11
Suspicious Activity	242
ATV / Dirt bike Complaint	8
General Services	648
Welfare Check	51
Officer Wanted	747
Prisoner Transport	1
Assist Citizen	244
Building Check	628
Message Delivery	58
Animal Incident (ACO)	218

Assist Municipal Agencies	472
Utility Alarm / Emergency	40
Medical Emergency	388
Mental Health Emergency	18
Intoxicated Person	5
FIRE ALARM - Street Box	35
FIRE ALARM - Brush Fire	3
FIRE ALARM - Car Fire	15
FIRE ALARM - Structure Fire	4
FIRE ALARM - Investigation	137
FIRE ALARM - Mutual Aid	64
Burglar Alarm	122
Assist Other Police Department	138
Motor Vehicle Stop	964
Motor Vehicle Listing	171
Parking Violation	64
RADAR Assignment	285
Motor Vehicle Complaint (Speed)	51
Motor Vehicle Accidents	122
Traffic Control	4
Abandoned MV Complaint	4
Disabled MV Complaint	91
Inter - Department Services	12
Court (On Duty)	14
911 Calls	78
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TOTAL	7001

2010 ADULT ARRESTS

Male Arrests	42
Female Arrests	14

2010 JUVENILE ARRESTS

Male Juvenile Arrests	2
Female Juvenile Arrests	1

2010 PROTECTIVE CUSTODY

Male PC	3
Female PC	0

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT APPLICATIONS 2010

Various Criminal Offenses	42
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Eric M. Shears
Chief of Police

Vacant
Sergeant

Patrolmen

David J. Vance

Stephen M. Ringuette

Daniel A. Ross

Richard P. Holcroft

Stephen A. Ringuette

Reserve Police Officers

Stephen E. Beaulieu
Edward A. Cardone, Jr.
Michael A. D'Angelo
Paul M. Hogg
James T. Mikson
James M. Seymour
Michael Stewart
Adam E. White

Jeffrey D. Boisvert
Robert Coppola
Benjamin A. Douglas
Michael R. McGrath
David W. Riley
Lori D. Steinel
Edward Syvinski

Fire/Police Signal Operators/Dispatchers

Bonnie J. Bishop

Mark E. Sayers

Kathy A. Spencer

Shara T. Judson

Part Time Fire/Police Signal Operators/Dispatchers

Brian W. Peavey, Jr.
Michael O. McLeieer
Heather Lefebvre

Jennifer D. Marden
Lori D. Steinel
Christopher Maguire

Matrons

Bonnie J. Bishop

Kathy A. Spencer

Shara T. Judson

Jennifer D. Marden

Lori D. Buttry

In Memoriam

Richard G. Noone

MERRIMAC DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

Kevin Hunt, Director

Telephone: 978 465-4418

TOWN OF MERRIMAC
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MERRIMAC, MA 01860

What follows is the annual report from The Department of Veterans' Services.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER 115 BENEFITS:

This department was able to assist veterans or family members this past year under Chapter 115. This is emergency financial assistance provided to selected veterans. Any money expended by the town under Chapter 115 is returned to the Town by the State at the rate of \$.75 to the dollar expended.

VETERANS DAY:

Thanks to the efforts of Commander Roger Clark, of Post 134 of the American Legion, Veterans Day was commemorated on November 11, 2011

MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS

Again, thanks to the efforts of Commander Clark and Post 134 of the American Legion, veterans' graves and memorials were appropriately decorated before Memorial Day in 2011.

VA COMPENSATION

This department continues to assist and secure various VA benefits -- service connected and non-service connected -- disability compensations and pensions. Last year, the Federal Department of Veterans' Affairs distributed nearly \$630,000 to Merrimac veterans and/or their surviving spouses as compensation or pension. The Veterans' Office assists veterans in applying for these benefits. The Town of Merrimac does not have to pay anything to receive these funds, much of which is spent within the Town.

VA HEALTH CARE

This department assisted and secured various VA medical benefits for service and non-service connected veterans. These medical benefits included short and long-term medical treatments at the VA Clinic satellite clinic in Haverhill and VA Hospitals in the VISN (Veterans Integrated Service Network) area.

SOCIAL SECURITY

This department continues to assist and refer veterans seeking benefits from Social Security.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Hunt
Director of Veterans' Services

**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
22 MAIN STREET
WEST NEWBURY, MA 01985
TELEPHONE (978) 363-2280
FAX (978) 363-1165**

Dr. Paul A. Livingston
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. William I. Hart
Assistant Superintendent

The West Newbury Annual Report of the School Department activities for FY11 has been developed by the Principals of the Dr. John C. Page School, Pentucket Regional Middle School and Pentucket Regional High School on behalf of the Superintendent of Schools and the Pentucket Regional School Committee.

Richard Perrotti, Chairman
Jill Eichhorst, Vice Chairman
Jayne Broz, Secretary
John Willett
Sandra Capo
Todd Treado
Christine Reading
Joseph D'Amore
Maureen Moran

**DR. FREDERICK N. SWEETSIR SCHOOL
HELEN R. DONAGHUE SCHOOL**

It is a pleasure to submit our annual report for the Dr. Fredrick N. Sweetsir School and the Helen R. Donaghue School for the 2010 - 2011 school year.

Our school year began with the tenth annual, "Merrimac Goes Back to School Day" to celebrate the opening of school. Families had an opportunity to visit classrooms, meet teachers and obtain information about the school, community, and PTO. Since its inception, this evening has provided a positive beginning to each school year.

The October 1, 2010 enrollment was 244 students in grades Preschool through grade 2 at the Dr. Sweetsir School and 401 in grades 3 through 6 at the Helen R. Donaghue School.

The School Councils for the Dr. Sweetsir and Helen R. Donaghue Schools developed the following School Improvement Plan goals to focus on during the 2010 - 2013 school years:

Area: Student Learning and Achievement.

Goal #1: Habits of Learning – Students will evidence development of five Habits of Learning

Goal #2: Language Literacy – All students in all subgroups will make AYP as defined by the Massachusetts DESE school accountability criteria.

Goal #3: Mathematics Literacy - All students in all subgroups will make AYP as defined by the Massachusetts DESE school accountability criteria.

Area: School Culture and Climate

Goal #1: Create and maintain a school climate of respect, tolerance, and positive interpersonal behavior.

Area: Parent Involvement

Goal #1: All parents engage with school in educating children.

The school and district continued to focus on refining teachers' skills organizing reading instruction around a balanced literacy model that included using reader's workshop as a teaching model. To do so, teachers worked, again, with a consultant in grade-level teams and as individuals. At the Sweetsir School, the consultants and coaches also worked with teachers to develop their use of a workshop model in teaching writing, similar to the one now used in teaching reading. Both schools will continue this relationship with these consultants and coaches in the 2011-2012 school year. In a related move, the Donaghue School hired additional reading teacher support for the year. This brought the total reading support to a full-time equivalent. This teacher provided direct tutorials for students and also worked with teachers to refine their instructional practice.

Previously, the district worked to identify the habits or competencies successful learners possess and use, so that the schools can help students develop these and better prepare them for their futures beyond school. In 2010-2011, teachers designed and taught lessons that focused on developing and elevating these "Habits of Learning" in students. Students in grades 4 and 6 demonstrated how they developed these habits by presenting portfolios of examples of learning

in these areas to audiences of students and parents. Teachers will continue to focus on helping students master the curriculum content as outlined in the state curriculum frameworks while also helping students develop the Habits of Learning, transferrable skills important for student's learning in all areas.

Once again, students in Grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 were tested as part of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). Students in all of these grades took tests in English Language Arts/Reading and Mathematics. Students in Grade 5 also took tests in Science, Engineering, and Technology. The percentage of students scoring at the proficient or advanced level increased from the previous year in Grade 6 and Grade 5 English Language Arts, in Grade 3 Mathematics, and in Grade 5 Science, Engineering and Technology. The number of students in Grade 4 scoring in the top two levels decreased in both English Language Arts and Mathematics. The percentage of Grade 5 students scoring in the top two categories Mathematics exams declined over the two years. These test results, along with other assessments of students' learning, were used by the teachers to set improvement goals in their Professional Learning Teams. At grade 3, this included beginning use of structured challenging daily calendar math activities at the opening of each day.

As part of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) education reform initiative, all schools are expected to help their students to become proficient in reading, writing and mathematics by 2014. In Massachusetts, the MCAS results are used to measure each school's progress toward this goal. The state measures how well the entire student population is progressing toward the goal of 100% proficiency, as well as how well individual subgroups, such as socio-economic groups and students receiving special education services, are progressing toward the performance goal.

The Helen R. Donaghue School did not meet the state's expectations for Annual Yearly Progress in English Language Arts or for Mathematics for the entire student population. Students with identified special needs did not meet the performance goal in English Language Arts, but did meet it in Mathematics. The staff at both schools has refocused its efforts to provide individual students with the additional instruction they might need as indicated by both MCAS results and classroom assessments. Additional reading support, Title I mathematics support, mathematics instructional coaching, scheduled intervention periods, and frequent monitoring of students' progress will all be used to help us reach this goal. We will also provide tutoring in English Language Arts for students who performed very low on the spring MCAS, and to all students who performed at a level less than proficient in Mathematics. Staff will also continue to modify units of study and individual lessons to meet students' learning needs.

The Donaghue School faced a significant challenge during the school year when mold was found to be present in the carpets. After extensive discussions and deliberations, the town of Merrimac and the Pentucket Regional Schools in December decided to remove all of the carpeting in the school and made plans to replace it with tile. The carpet removal resulted in a need to remove the tile beneath the carpet when that tile failed to stay adhered to the concrete floor. As a result, the school remained closed one week after the holiday break. Due to further issues with air quality after students returned, the public health officials decided in January to close the school until new tile could be installed. The Pentucket District came together and helped the Donaghue students continue their learning by making space available in the other

schools. Students and teachers in Grades 4 through 6 relocated to the Pentucket Regional High School, and students in grade 3 relocated to the Sweetsir School. Through the combined efforts of the Town of Merrimac and the Pentucket Regional Schools, classrooms and hallways were all tiled and students returned to the Donaghue School in mid-February.

Going into the 2011-2012 school year, the Town of Merrimac will be participating in the Massachusetts School Building Authority Green Repair program. Through this, the flat roof and insulation systems at the Donaghue School will be replaced and minor structural repair will be done. More extensive work will be done at the Sweetsir School. This includes replacing the flat roof and insulation systems, replacing all rooftop heating units, replacing heating duct work in the 1968 wing, and replacing exterior doors and windows. We appreciate the commitment the town made to participate in this program.

Once again, the PTO purchased a variety of educational resources for the schools. These included: recess supplies, a *Brain Pop* classroom subscription, books for classroom libraries, musical instruments, technology equipment, and Sixth Grade and Field Day T-shirts. The PTO also organized After School Exploration programs at both schools, presented a graduating Pentucket senior with a PTO Scholarship, coordinated teacher appreciation events, produced a student yearbook, and supported our classroom programs by volunteering in our schools every day. In addition, the PTO sponsored many cultural arts programs for students and helped defray the costs of sixth grade student attendance at Nature's Classroom in Ocean Park, Maine.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTO for their continued outstanding commitment to the children of Merrimac. With their help, we continue to encourage and foster a strong home-school-community partnership, parent volunteer program, curriculum information nights, sponsor-a-classroom program, and the Holiday Helper Program.

Our Before and After School Program continues to provide tuition-based services to over 90 children daily at the two schools. On early release Wednesdays, they also offer care for additional students immediately after the early dismissal.

In closing, the staffs of the Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir School and the Helen R. Donaghue School wish to extend its appreciation to members of the Merrimac community for their support throughout the year. We value public education and believe it is the cornerstone of our community, a major resource for enhancing the quality of life for our current and future citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Harrison and Mary Beth Shea
Principal Helen R. Donaghue School and
Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir School

**PENTUCKET REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011**

Demographic Information

The Pentucket Regional Middle School is located in the town of West Newbury, Massachusetts, and serves the students in grades 7 and 8 from West Newbury, Merrimac, and Groveland. The Middle School is the first experience students have outside their home community and combining with others within the Pentucket Regional School District. The enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year was 540 students, 12 of whom were school choice.

School Highlights

- Student/Teacher ratio, 22:1
- State of the art school website
- Curriculum integration of technology (Computer lab with 28 updated computers, LCD projectors and SMART boards)
- Secure, on-line posting of homework and grades
- Performing arts opportunities
- 3 foreign languages (Spanish, German, and Latin)
- Team approach
- Differentiated lessons
- Inclusionary model
- Growing choral and band programs
- Musical productions each year
- Health, wellness, and physical education programs
- Extensive extracurricular offerings: intramural sports, math team, creative writing, yearbook, peer leaders, student council
- Dedicated and generous PTO

Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment:

- Teachers continued their curriculum work during PLC days to collaborate around student work and lesson plans with a focus on Habits of Learning
- Teachers took part in a Critical Skills course offered through Antioch College in order to promote engaging and powerful learning for students
- Teachers took part in Summer Academy and focused on strengthening their understanding and application of the Habits of Learning
- Teachers used in-house generated rubrics to assess students' Habits of Learning both formatively and summatively
- The Instructional Support Team used student data to increase success among at-risk students
- The Spring 2010 MCAS results indicated that 79% of 7th graders scored Proficient or Higher in English Language Arts
- The Spring 2010 MCAS results indicated that 90% of 8th graders scored Proficient or Higher in English Language Arts
- The Spring 2010 MCAS results indicated that 55% of 7th graders scored Proficient or Higher in Mathematics

- The Spring 2010 MCAS results indicated that 67% of 8th graders scored Proficient or Higher in Mathematics

Professional Development:

- One ELA teacher worked with the CCE (Center for Collaborative Education) along with educators from schools across Massachusetts to develop authentic and performance based assessments for use school wide and statewide
- Mathematics teachers were involved in training through Carol Hynes – a facilitator of inquiry-based learning and differentiating instruction
- ELA and Mathematics teachers worked in curriculum workshops to strengthen the scope and sequence, essential questions and use of ATLAS

Community:

- Habits of Learning Portfolio Presentations were conducted by all 8th grade students before a panel consisting of family members, a peer, a teacher, and a community member
- Student Council members presented an anti-bullying overview for 6th grade students in each of the Pentucket elementary schoolsThe Community Service Program offered a variety of opportunities for students to engage in stewardship, including Pentucket Care packages for overseas soldiers, Emmaus House dinners, and a Coat Drive, to name a few.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Debra Lay, Principal

**PENTUCKET REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011**

The 2010-2011 school year was productive at Pentucket Regional High School. Student enrollment was 799 and comprised of 169 from West Newbury, 272 from Groveland, 318 from Merrimac, and 37 students through the school choice program.

Below is a summary of activities that took place in the areas of curriculum, instruction, assessment, professional development and the community.

Curriculum:

Department Chairs received training for the use of the new curriculum software ATLAS, this will support our ongoing work of capturing and refining curriculum in every area.

Grade 9 and 10 ELA and Social Studies teachers worked during team meetings and Summer Academy time to align their curriculum to support each other's work.

Health, Physical Education and Guidance worked together to develop a new Wellness curriculum that will be implemented for grade 9 students this year.

The use of Naviance as a tool in guidance programs and planning improved the vertical articulation of the process to help students grow and prepare for life after high school.

A new special education program for students 18-22 years of age was created as an extension of the education experience for students not earning traditional diplomas. The Visions program provides school and community based learning experiences for students.

Instruction:

Pentucket continued its membership in the Virtual High School (VHS) program. Two high school teachers taught four, semester length, courses in the Virtual High School course catalogue which allowed PRHS students a chance to take online courses that are not a part of the traditional PRHS course catalogue.

Assessment:

Each staff member actively participated in the integration of the 5 Habits of Learning into their curriculum. Students in grades 9, 10 and 11 kept a portfolio of their work as examples of their growth and progress in these 5 areas. Students in grade 11 made a formal presentation of their growth in the 5 Habits of Learning reflecting on the work they had completed throughout the school year.

99% of the class of 2013 passed the ELA MCAS assessment and 94% scored Advanced or Proficient.

100% of the class of 2013 passed the Math MCAS and 92% scored Advanced or Proficient on their Grade 10 Math MCAS assessment, including 70% of the class scoring Advanced.

97% of the class of 2013 passed the Biology MCAS and 87% scored Advanced or Proficient.

Grade 10 Social Studies classes participated in a symposium final exam process.

Professional Development:

5 ELA teachers in grade 9 and 10 continued their work with consultants from DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) and CCE (Center for Collaborative Education) along with educators from schools across Massachusetts to develop authentic and performance based assessments for use school wide and statewide. This work is ongoing.

Staff collaborated to create solutions targeting challenges associated with students at risk for failing and dropping out. The result of this work was the creation of an in school program designed to identify struggles students are facing and to set goals and interventions targeted at these areas. Furthermore, students would receive direct support during the school day. The program is called Excel.

Staff, students and parents from the high school participated in the creation of Strategic Planning documents in 4 different areas, Fine Arts and Elective, Rigorous Academics for All Students, Recruitment and Retention and Real World Learning Experiences.

Each academic department held 4 department meetings that included grades 7-12. These meetings focused on professional development and an improved understanding of the vertical alignment of curriculum, instruction and assessment.

The Foreign Language Department developed and hosted a professional teaching symposium for area Foreign Language teachers. Pentucket teachers both provided seminar instruction and learned from other teachers.

Community:

School support organizations, The Pentucket Fine and Performing Arts Foundation, the Pentucket Athletic Association and the Pentucket Education Foundation provided great benefits to the high school throughout the school year, sponsoring teacher curriculum grants, improving athletic equipment and facilities and providing improved academic equipment.

High school teachers taught a two week session of MCAS preparation for entering grade 9 students called Academic Adventure Camp.

Grade 9 team planned and led a first day of school for grade 9 students, which continues to be a successful transition for new students welcoming and orienting freshman to the high school.

The marching band represented the school and the state at the New York City St. Patrick's Day parade.

The high school provided a host facility for 3 weeks in January while the Donaghue School underwent renovations to improve the air quality.

Other:

Numerous students received awards for their talent and hard work through musical and artistic competitions.

11 Interscholastic Athletic teams received coveted Team Sportsmanship Awards from their Cape Ann League peers.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan P. Seymour

MERRIMAC GRADUATES:

Jonathan Ackerman
Rebecca Ammon
Yuri Areseault
Mimi Auger-Niven
Anddrew Augstonovich
Patrick Baga
Jake Benjamin
Aaron Bishop
Christina Boisselle
Hailey Bongo
Mallory Branconnier
Carolyn Broz
Zachary Bruk
Jesse Buzzell
Vanessa Cahill
Daniel Cashman
Victoria Castiglione
Erik Castine
Tyler Cousins
Jason Cox
Rebecca Crossley
Lara Curtin
Robert D'Ambrosia
Angela Davis
Michael Doud
Joshua Fontaine
Alaina Fronton
Timothy Gallant
Jacob Gariepy
Jacob Getz
Daniel Greene
Olivia Hasham
Claire Heintzelman
Sydney Hilts
Julia Holewinski
Elise Homan
Tyler Imperioso
Sarah Kaugman
Caroline Kern
Alexis Kitsakos
Jeremy Krugh
Laura Kuchar
Matthew L'Abbe
Madison Laclair
Lila Lamar

Marc Lathrop
Shannon Macleod
Eric Macqueen
Rebecca Martel
Cynthia Meserve
Joshua Milewski
Caleb Miller
Brianna Milley
Christian Moscone
Alyssa Nogueira
Kylah Notargiacomo
Abigail Paley
Kathryn Pearson
Juliana Pinciaro
Jocelyn Plummer
Zachary Prescott
Katrine Rae
Tori Roche
Karina Rohrdanz
Jesse Russell
Brooke Savage
Jonathan Savey
Kevin Sawyer
Rebecca Schmidt
Catherine Scott
Robert Shaffer
William Shaffer
Benton Smith
Casey Snook
Autum St. Hilaire
Brenda Sullivan
Daniel Swansen
Paul Treado
Matthew Webster
Hannah Wilkins

WHITTIER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL ANNUAL OPERATIONAL REPORT

TO: The Honorable Board of Selectmen

FROM: Paul Tucker, Whittier Representative
William P. DeRosa, Superintendent

Whittier offers 20 vocational technical career areas designed to provide the necessary training and skills for further education or work force success.

Whittier's academic program is designed to offer students the fundamental skills through its core curriculum in English, Math, Science and Technology, Social Studies, World Languages, Physical Education/Health, and Elective subjects. Courses are aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks in order to achieve success on the MCAS.

Courses are offered in a sequential format and are integrated with the vocational-technical areas, wherever practicable and mutually beneficial. All academic courses offer advanced sections for students who desire to further their education. We offer honors courses in English, science, and math to lead toward advanced placement courses. Moreover, a Tech Prep program is offered to eleventh and twelfth grade students which parallels the College Prep program and provides students with the opportunity to earn college credit and/or advanced college placement.

Since all programs are open to both females and males, we encourage our students to explore and to specialize in non-stereotyped, non-traditional vocational-technical areas and to strive for the maximum realization of their goals and potential.

Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School is entering its thirty-eighth year. To date we have graduated 9,460 students from the day school.

The enrollment for the Evening School from Merrimac: 17

The October 1, 2010 Day School Enrollment:

	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Grade 9	6	1
Grade 10	9	6
Grade 11	9	12
Grade 12	5	3
Total -		51

2011 Graduates - 8

The cost to Merrimac for the school year 2010-2011 was \$570,749.00.

Respectfully yours,
Paul Tucker, Merrimac Representative
William P. DeRosa, Superintendent

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF
MERRIMAC PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2011**

The year 2011 has been one of challenge, change, and continued growth for Merrimac Public Library. We wish to acknowledge at the outset of this report our appreciation to the town for funding the salaries this year to keep the library open its regular hours and thereby further serve our ever growing number of patrons.

The most daunting challenges of the year fell into three broad categories: those caused by severe weather, unusual and costly building and grounds projects, and the constant effort to maintain “state of the art” technology applications.

The frequent and heavy snowstorms of January and February resulted in the necessity of hiring workers to shovel off large sections of the roof where the drifting was most severe. Some shoveled sections of the roof were then plagued with ice dams that caused ceiling leaks behind and adjacent to the circulation desk. Repairs had to wait until the areas dried fully in the late spring.

With a careful eye towards properly maintaining our “new and commodious” library building (now seven years old), the trustees obtained estimates for a plan to paint the entire building in phases spread over a couple of years. Fortunately, the best bid price was low enough to enable us to paint a majority of the building this year. Unfortunately, the painters discovered that in many places the original finish boards had started to rot because they had not been primed on the backside thus causing the paint on the front to hold the moisture. All of the rotted wood was replaced with a manufactured product that is guaranteed not to rot and is very good at holding paint. The taxpayers of Merrimac will be pleased to learn that all of the expense of this project (\$10,050 for the painting and \$2,300 for the rotted wood repair) has been paid from the Thomas H. Hoyt Library Trust Funds. We must also caution that this money will not be a reliable revenue source for capital projects like this in the near future because of the appalling current interest rates at the banks.

Two other unexpected and expensive projects during the year involved the removal of a large dead tree leaning dangerously towards the rear of the building and a malfunction in the HVAC system that controls the Special Collections room.

The technology changes and improvements made during the year have ranged from state-wide modifications emanating from the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium network to software applications and new features added to our own library website for the access of all Merrimac residents. A more detailed description is included in the library director’s report this year.

Library programs and activities during the year have again been many, diverse, creative, and extremely well attended. The children’s programs, in particular, deserve special praise. Again, a more detailed description will be found within the director’s report this year.

Finally, we must thank and acknowledge several individuals and groups. Library director Martina Follansbee achieved the professional milestone this year of completing all the course work required by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to receive a Certificate of Special Training in Basic Library Techniques. Ann Tucker has once again done an excellent job this year as Exhibits Coordinator (a position which is still funded entirely by a grant from the Merrimac Cultural Council and donations by area businesses). Our wonderful group of loyal and dedicated volunteers continues to do a stupendous job, which we appreciate very much. Likewise, we cannot say enough about the Friends of the Library and all they contribute each year.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Coburn, Co-Chair
Ellen Evans, Co-Chair
Jennifer Brown
Yvonne Cosgrove
Linda Getz
Jeffrey Hoyt

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

"Strong libraries are essential to education and lifelong learning, to economic development, to strong communities and to a strong democracy."

The Merrimac Public Library is a positive force in the community. In person or online, circulation continues to be strong with more and more patrons downloading e-books and audio books. People are enthusiastic about books, music and DVDs they can order from home and pick up at the library at their convenience.

We've found that patrons are increasingly accessing online catalogs, databases and website services from home and from the library. In 2011 we added software to our website, merrimaclibrary.org, for Merrimac residents, to access and download free music called Freegal; a language learning program, Rocket Languages; and Safari Books Online, an on-demand digital library providing access to downloadable technology and creative business books. People simply need their Merrimac library card number and password.

Usage of the Overdrive site (also found on our website) has exploded within the past two years with sales of Nooks and Kindles. Overdrive provides free books for e-reader and audio devices and Merrimac residents checked out over 600 e-books in 2011. The MVLC Consortium spent many thousands of dollars this year adding e-books and audios and still can't keep up with demand. Patrons are often on waiting lists for popular books and member libraries are committed to increasing collections of available copies.

The theme of the 2011 summer reading program was “One World Many Stories.” Reading became a way for participants to improve the lives of families in other cultures through the Heifer program, sponsored by the Friends. The kids read books and voted for an animal to donate. The more books they read, the more points they got toward the animals. The children learn about other cultures, read more and work toward Heifer's mission to help end world hunger and poverty. They earned enough points to donate a goat, honey bees, chicks and a share of a sheep!

Children’s programs which were particularly successful this year were Creature Teachers, a magic show, a children’s music program and Hands on History. Wally the Green Monster seemed to please all ages. For adults, Andre Dubus read from his memoir, Townie, and talked with audience members. It was an animated evening. He was warm and friendly and the audience seemed to enjoy the give and take. People still mention it and ask us when we can do it again! We are happy to be of service to the community and delighted that the residents of Merrimac appreciate and support their Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Martina Follansbee
Library Director

**TOWN OF MERRIMAC
INSPECTIONAL SERVICE**

2 School Street, Merrimac, MA 01860
Ph (978) 345-0525 Fax (978) 346-0522

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED	CALENDAR YEAR			
	2011	2010	+/-	
New 1+2 Family Dwellings (R4)	7	13	-6	
Residential: Addition/Remodel (R4)	203	184	19	
Accessory Building / Barn / Detached Garage	1	3	-2	
Fireplace & Wood/Coal/Pellet Stove (independent)	8	7	1	
Swimming Pools: In-ground + Above-ground	8	14	-6	
New/Replacement Manufactured Housing (M.H.)	2	1	1	
Permit for Temporary Housing Unit	0	0	0	
Trench Permits	19	15	4	
Sheet Metal Permits	15	0	15	
Commercial: New / Addition / Remodel	13	7	6	
Multi-family Dwelling: R3, R2, R1 (Building, not dwelling units)	0	0	0	
Municipal Project	6	2	4	
Demolition Permit	2	3	-1	% Change
NUMBER OF BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED	284	249	35	14%

Amount collected from building permits issued	\$70,372.30	\$42,092.00		
Addendum to open building permit, fees collected	\$1,623.50	\$20.00		
Trench permits, fees collected	\$570.00	\$450.00		
Plan review / building permit transfer, fees collected	\$200.00	\$200.00		
Request for Zoning Bylaw opinion, fees collected	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Copy and miscellaneous, fees collected	\$111.00	\$15.00		
Occupancy and Use certificate	\$800.00	\$425.00		
Inspections: 780CMR, §106 and MGL c.138, § 11E	\$280.00	\$360.00		
Total Building Permit Fees	\$73,276.80	\$43,562.00	\$29,714.80	68%
Total Wiring Permit Fees	\$21,505.00	\$11,309.00	\$10,196.00	90%
Total Plumbing Permit Fees	\$8,170.00	\$5,608.00	\$2,562.00	46%
Total Gas Permit Fees	\$6,910.00	\$4,650.00	\$2,260.00	49%
Total Enforcement Action Fees	\$680.00	\$130.00	\$550.00	423%
	0			
TOTAL DEPARTMENT FEES	\$110,541.80	\$65,259.00	\$45,282.80	69%
	0			
Fees Waived by Selectmen	\$1,305.00	\$361.00		
	0			
TOTAL COLLECTED REVENUE	\$109,236.80	\$64,898.00	\$44,338.80	68%

Submitted By: Robert S. Sinibaldi, Building Commissioner / Zoning Enforcement Officer (D.W.)

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MERRIMAC WATER DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2011**

NEW CONNECTIONS: During FY2011 there were 9 new homes connected to the town's water system, bringing the total number of connections to 1,806.

PRIVILEGE FEE: \$8,000.00 was collected during FY2011 from individuals and developers for new service connections and deposited to Water Department Privilege Fee account. MWD utilizes this funding for various improvements to our distribution system.

SURPLUS FUNDS: MWD ended FY11 with a surplus of \$ 122,689.10. Those funds will be added to our Water Capital account which is used for capital improvements.

WELL CLEANING: Wells at both East Main and Bear Hill well fields were cleaned. The well cleaning, completed by F.G. Sullivan Co. is performed to improve pumping capacity and water quality.

ANNUAL PUMPING STATISTICS:

Gallons pumped from Bear Hill and East Main FY10	128,954,300	a decrease of 980,900 from
Gallons sold to customers FY10	115,823,996	an increase of 1,402,396 from
Gallons plant backwash	2,241,800	
Gallons unaccounted for	10,888,504	- 9% of all water pumped could not be accounted for. Causes: Fire protection, flushing, inaccurate meters, water theft and minor leaks not detectable.

IN THE FUTURE: The town has completed the engineering design for improvements to the Sargent Pit Wellfield and the work has begun on restoring the reliability of pumping and treatment facilities for this critical source of potable water for the community. The town is also working in other areas of the town's water infrastructure to implement improvements. These improvements include the rehabilitation of the Bear Hill Water Storage Tank and the West Main Street Water Storage Tank. Additionally, some parts of the system experience low water pressures under various flow conditions that can create undesirable water quality. The addition of several water booster pump stations in several key location of town should help remedy these low water pressure issues.

The governing rules of the EPA and DEP are always changing and to keep up we have to implement new rules and procedures to comply. Without the support of the employees of the Water Department this would not be possible. My sincere thanks to all employees for their efforts and commitment to water quality throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted

**MERRIMAC WATER DEPARTMENT
INCOME STATEMENT
JULY 1, 2010 - JUNE 30, 2011**

REVENUE

Residential, Commercial, Municipal Rates	\$	815,216.47
Water Sprinklers	\$	4,655.00
Water Miscellaneous	\$	11,175.48
Fiscal Year Liens	\$	26,110.35
Interest	\$	1,391.53
TOTAL REVENUE COLLECTED	\$	858,548.83
Misc. Revenue-Lawsuit	\$	1,126.30

EXPENSES

DPW Director's Salary	\$	30,597.54
Office Salary	\$	29,014.89
Water Dept. Wages	\$	156,878.92
Overtime	\$	40,087.58
Longevity Pay	\$	650.00
Clothing/Boot Allowance	\$	2,025.00
Benefit Reimbursement	\$	86,509.28
In Lieu of Taxes(Direct Overhead)	\$	12,360.00
Stock	\$	27,675.21
Real Estate Taxes (NH)	\$	3,052.00
Engineering	\$	27,131.29
Vehicle Expense	\$	10,068.64
Fuel Heat	\$	12,096.91
Purchased Power(Electric)	\$	41,251.33
Office Supplies	\$	26,965.88
Chemicals	\$	55,901.55
Water Testing	\$	6,135.20
Testing Supplies	\$	2,592.14
Well Cleaning	\$	27,420.49
Cross Connection	\$	720.00
Water Conservation	\$	2,172.15
Building Maintenance	\$	2,537.52
Roadway & Excavation	\$	15,457.13
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES	\$	619,300.65
TOTAL WATER BOND EXPENSE	\$	116,559.08
TOTAL DIRECT AND BOND EXPENSE	\$	735,859.73

GROSS PROFIT

\$ 122,689.10

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SEWER DEPARTMENT

In 2011 we continued the search for I/I (inflow / infiltration) throughout town. Ongoing maintenance was performed on all the lift stations. Two pumps were replaced at the stations.

A new UV System was purchased to replace the old one and will be installed sometime in January 2012. Ten houses were connected to the sanitary sewer system in 2011.

REVENUE FISCAL YEAR 2011

INVOICED USER FEES	\$1,126,204.99	*(\$96,237.44)
Collected:		
User Fees	1,084,252.62	
Liens	44,283.23	
Betterments	84,395.34	
Misc. Revenue	2,972.60	
Inflow & Infiltration Fees	50,000.00	
Interest	2,521.02	
Balance from FY10	220,033.59	
TOTAL COLLECTED		\$1,488,458.40
Expenditures:		
O & M	\$775,184.36	
Debt Service	323,633.43	
TOTAL SPENT		1,098,817.79
GAIN		\$389,640.61
SEWER CAPITAL FUND		
Balance end of Fiscal Year 2010	\$92,328.22	
Collected Fiscal Year 2011	25,096.23	
Total		117,424.45
Expended		0
Balance End of Fiscal Year 2011		\$117,424.45

*Uncollected user fees

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Theriault

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MERRIMAC MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2011

The Board of Light Commissioners and Manager are pleased to submit the Annual Report of the Merrimac Municipal Light Department for the year 2011.

NEW SERVICES: During 2011 there were a total of 16 new electrical services added to the town's electric distribution system. The total number of electric meters in service at year's end was 2,801.

SYSTEM OUTAGES: We experienced two significant weather events this year that exemplified one of the major benefits of having a Municipal Light Department. On August 28th Hurricane Irene passed through Massachusetts. We had employees standing by and bracing for the worst. While the damage was not extensive, we experienced many downed limbs and some fallen trees. All damage was repaired that first day, and the next few days were spent cleaning up the residual debris. Another more significant event occurred on October 31st when we experienced a snowstorm. What made this event notable from our perspective was the fact that the leaves were still on the deciduous trees. This heavy wet snow caused even more damage than Hurricane Irene. The crews worked throughout the night and the next 2 days fixing damage from falling tree's and limbs. Outages were sporadic and quickly remedied. ...

POWER SUPPLY: In February of 2010 MMLD was approached by our power supply consulting firm Energy New England about purchasing a portion of the output from a wind farm in Maine. MMLD and the Board of Commissioners considered the project because it is clean, emission-free renewable electricity. It is important to the Board and MMLD to have some renewable energy in our energy portfolio.

The Spruce Mountain Wind Project consists of 10 Gamesa G90, 2-megawatt (MW) turbines. The project, with a total capacity of 20 MW (20 million watts), will produce more than 60 million kilowatt-hours of clean, emission-free, renewable energy per year - enough to power approximately 9,600 homes. The project took about 6 months to build the turbines and provided jobs for about 150 workers. Nineteen Maine companies were directly involved in the development and construction of the project. Each of the 10 turbines will produce enough energy to power about 1,000 homes every year. Turbine towers are 256 feet tall and the blades reach 404 feet at the highest point. Each blade is over 140 feet long.

MMLD will get 1.4% of the project output when the turbines are producing electricity which is enough electricity to power roughly 135 homes in Merrimac every year. We hope to invest in more renewable energy projects in the future as long as the price is competitive with market rates, the contract terms are acceptable to MMLD and the project is in the best interest of our customers.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TOWN:

Cash Payment:	\$ 6,882.26
Unbilled Streetlight Usage:	<u>\$20,368.84</u>
Total PILOT Payment	\$27,251.10

COMMUNITY: The Merrimac Light Department is a Public Utility, that means it is owned by its rate payers and not by a board of directors like the investor owned utilities. That means that when you call or come into the office you get to talk to a person, someone who will help you with questions that you may have about your bill or your electric service. We at the Merrimac Light and Water Department are here to serve the community.

The people who make this utility work for you, the employees and Commissioners, are the people who made this year work for all of us. They deserve our praise and my gratitude.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Folding, Manager, Board of Light Commissioners

Jim Young	Term Expires 2012
Louis Bibeau	Term Expires 2013
Norman Denault	Term Expires 2014

**MERRIMAC ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT
STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE YEAR 2011**

	Current Year	Increase or (Decrease) from Preceding Year
OPERATING INCOME		
400 Operating Revenue	4,583,427.25	(48,600.04)
OPERATING EXPENSES		
401 Operation Expense	4,029,335.62	29,813.44
402 Maintenance Expense	151,989.07	(127,515.59)
403 Depreciation Expense	256,429.40	4,019.09
Total Operating Expenses	4,437,754.09	(93,683.06)
Operating Income	145,673.16	45,083.02
OTHER INCOME		
415 Income from Merchandising, Jobbing and Contract Work		
419 Interest Income.	78,914.74	(36,747.20)
421 Miscellaneous Non-operating Income.		
Total Income.	224,587.90	8,335.82
INTEREST CHARGES		
427 Interest on Bonds and Notes.	48,450.00	(2,250.00)
431 Other Interest Expense.		
Total Interest Charges	<u>48,450.00</u>	<u>(2,250.00)</u>
NET INCOME	<u>176,137.90</u>	<u>10,585.82</u>
	Debits	Credits
208 Unappropriated Earned Surplus (at beginning of period).		3,833,116.57
433 Balance Transferred from Income		176,137.90
434 Miscellaneous Credits to Surplus		
435 Miscellaneous Debits to Surplus	135,707.25	
436 Appropriations of Surplus	6,882.26	
437 Surplus Applied to Depreciation		
208 Unappropriated Earned Surplus (at end of period)	<u>3,866,664.96</u>	-
	<u>4,009,254.47</u>	<u>4,009,254.47</u>

**MERRIMAC ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET 2011**

	Balance Beginning of Year	Balance End of Year	Increase or (Decrease)
<u>ASSETS</u>			
UTILITY PLANT			
101 Utility Plant - Electric .	4,569,280.85	4,787,461.17	218,180.32
FUND ACCOUNTS			
125 Sinking Funds	719.17	719.17	-
126 Depreciation Fund	1,775,818.68	2,001,670.86	225,852.18
126 Rate Stabilization Fund	369,069.96	270,825.99	(98,243.97)
126 Bond Fund....	271,381.98	31,081.98	(240,300.00)
CURRENT AND ACCRUED ASSETS			
131 Cash...	(136,350.05)	(112,367.76)	23,982.29
132 Special Deposits...	57,249.28	67,199.28	9,950.00
132 Working Funds.	200.00	200.00	-
142 Customer Accounts Receivable	233,059.24	212,215.49	(20,843.75)
143 Other Accounts Receivable	(88.56)	-	88.56
146 Receivables from Municipality			
151 Materials and Supplies	15,001.94	15,001.94	-
165 Prepayments	21,614.00	21,614.00	-
165 Prepayments ENE	400,707.48	400,739.35	31.87
DEFERRED DEBITS			
183 Other Deferred Debits	<u>71.48</u>	<u>232.14</u>	<u>160.66</u>
Total Assets and Other Debits	<u>\$ 7,577,735.45</u>	<u>\$7,696,593.61</u>	<u>\$118,858.16</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>			
SURPLUS			
206 Loans Repayments.....	1,366,707.96	1,441,707.96	75,000.00
207 Appropriations for Construction Repayments	8,889.05	8,889.05	-
208 Unappropriated Earned Surplus	3,833,116.57	3,866,664.96	33,548.39
LONG TERM DEBT			
221 Bonds..	1,275,000.00	1,200,000.00	(75,000.00)
231 Notes Payable	-	-	-
CURRENT AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES			
232 Accounts Payable	204,372.28	252,632.81	48,260.53
235 Customer' Deposits.	57,249.28	67,199.28	9,950.00
242 Miscellaneous Current and Accrued Liabilities	71.48	232.14	160.66

DEFERRED CREDITS			
252 Customer Advances for Construction	1,220.67	1,220.67	-
RESERVES			
260 Reserves for Uncollectable Accounts....	13,586.20	13,586.20	-
CONTRIBUTIONS IN AID OF CONSTRUCTION			
271 Contributions in Aid of Construction.	<u>817,521.96</u>	<u>844,460.54</u>	<u>26,938.58</u>
Total Liabilities and Other Credits	<u>\$7,577,735.45</u>	<u>\$ 7,696,593.61</u>	<u>118,858.16</u>

2011 MERRIMAC PLANNING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

In calendar year 2011, the Planning Board saw development activity increase and continued to focus on other aspects of its role of overseeing land use and development. The Board drafted preliminary language for a zoning by-law related to development of renewal energy facilities with much of the research work conducted by member, Robert Atwood. Next, professional assistance will be obtained to refine the language in preparation for a public hearing and a warrant article for Town Meeting. Mr. Atwood also assisted with the redesign of some of the Board's forms. The Board also issued an RFP to enter into a new three-year contract for engineering services for the Board. The contract was awarded to Horsley Whitten Group of Newburyport. As part of its review of properties for application of the Stormwater Management and Land Disturbance By-law, the Board worked with the owners of Carriage Town Mobile Home Park regarding tree removal.

There are three subdivisions in Merrimac that continue to be under construction and monitored by the Board: Madison Way, Quail Ridge, and Lakewoods Drive. Monitoring of the Madison Way development has focused on concerns of sediment clogging the catch basins and other erosion matters. Residents of Lakewoods Drive approached the Board with numerous complaints that the Board worked with the developer to address. There has been no activity at Quail Ridge for several years. Seven new Approval Not Required (ANRs) were granted by the Board. The Board completed a Site Plan Review for 22-24 School St. and is near completion of a SPR for 17 Broad St. Conceptual and Preliminary Plans for a proposed development on Middle Road were reviewed; and a Definite Plan has been filed for a one lot sub-division on Church St. The Board collected \$13,050 in filing fees and \$318 in sale of Zoning By-law booklets and copies.

The Board reorganized in May and voted John Thomas as MVPC Commissioner, Robert Atwood as the alternative MVPC Commissioner, Ronald Barnes as Vice Chair, and Sandra Venner as Chair. Sandra Venner also continues to serve as chair of the Affordable Housing Board of Trustees.

As always, the Board is gratefully for the professionalism and dedication of its secretary, Patricia True, who not only serves the Board well but the entire community.

Respectfully submitted:

Sandra Venner, Chairperson
Merrimac Planning Board

John Thomas	Term expires 2012
Ronald Barnes	Term expires 2013
Sandra Venner	Term expires 2014
Robert Atwood	Term expires 2015
Dennis Brodie	Term expires 2016

**TOWN OF MERRIMAC
FINANCE DIRECTOR**

4 School Street
Merrimac, MA 01860
Phone (978) 346-0524
Fax (978) 346-8863

E-Mail: cmcleod@townofmerrimac.com

**Honorable Board of Selectmen
Town of Merrimac
Massachusetts, 01860**

Honorable Selectmen,

In accordance with the requirements of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Annual Financial Report of the Town Accountant for the Town of Merrimac, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011 is herewith submitted.

The data represents a fair and accurate presentation in all material aspects of the Town's financial position and the results of its operations. Disclosures necessary to enable the reader to gain an understanding of the Town's financial affairs have been presented. Included are schedules on debt issue and servicing, a detailed listing of revenues and expenditures, a balance sheet for all fund types and account groups, and a combined statement of cash flows.

The reports are based on information recorded using the Uniform Municipal Accounting System (UMAS) of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. The same information is used to prepare the Schedule A.

An audit of the Town's financial records by Bill Fraher, C.P.A., has been completed and the results of this audit are available in my office for public inspection. The books of the Town are also open for public inspection during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. McLeod
Finance Director

**TOWN OF MERRIMAC
GENERAL LONG TERM DEBT ACTIVITY
FISCAL YEAR 2011**

Issue	Issue Date	Interest Rate	Original Amount	Balance 7/1/10	Additions	Retired	Balance 6/30/11	Interest Paid 7/1/10-6/30/11
Title V	4/29/1999	0%	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 77,702.76	\$ -	\$ 11,100.36	\$ 66,602.40	\$ -
River Road MWPAT	10/6/1999		\$ 149,856.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 1,454.57
Multi-Purpose Loan	6/28/2001	5.5%-5.75%	\$ 310,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,150.00
Multi-Purpose Loan	4/5/2002	3.79%	\$ 356,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 1,137.00
Refunded	10/15/2002	2.5%-4.6%	\$ 4,820,000.00	\$ 1,420,000.00	\$ -	\$ 510,000.00	\$ 910,000.00	\$ 46,600.00
Town Hall	10/15/2002	2.5%-4.6%	\$ 2,850,000.00	\$ 1,835,000.00	\$ -	\$ 145,000.00	\$ 1,690,000.00	\$ 75,120.00
Sewer	10/15/2002	2.5%-4.6%	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 2,665.00
Multi-Purpose Loan	11/15/2003	2%-4.5%	\$ 4,231,000.00	\$ 2,880,000.00	\$ -	\$ 210,000.00	\$ 2,670,000.00	\$ 118,252.50
Multi-Purpose Loan	4/15/2007	4.95%	\$ 378,000.00	\$ 165,000.00	\$ -	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 8,167.50
Sewer	6/20/2007	4.90%	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ -	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 4,410.00
Multi-Purpose Loan	2/15/2008	3.56%	\$ 2,380,000.00	\$ 2,220,000.00	\$ -	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 2,045,000.00	\$ 79,450.00
Sewer Port Lift Station	6/3/2009	4.90%	\$ 183,000.00	\$ 146,400.00	\$ -	\$ 36,600.00	\$ 109,800.00	\$ 7,173.60
Sewer - Ridgefield Rd.	8/23/2010	3.97%	\$ 132,080.00	\$ -	\$ 132,080.00	\$ -	\$ 132,080.00	\$ 2,517.65
Total All				\$ 9,039,102.76	\$ 132,080.00	\$ 1,237,700.36	\$ 7,933,482.40	\$ 348,097.82
Less: Electric	2/15/2008	3.60%	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,350,000.00		\$ 75,000.00	\$ 1,275,000.00	\$ 49,575.00
Total Excluding Electric				\$ 7,689,102.76	\$ 132,080.00	\$ 1,162,700.36	\$ 6,658,482.40	\$ 298,522.82

**TOWN OF MERRIMAC
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
BUDGETARY BASIS - GENERAL FUND
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2011**

	Original Budget	Final	Actual (Budgetary Basis)	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues:				
Property taxes	\$ 9,633,328	\$ 9,633,328	\$ 9,632,319	\$ (1,009)
Excise taxes	613,610	613,610	671,028	57,418
Payments in lieu of tax	1,300	1,300	2,550	1,250
Departmental charges for services	342,000	342,000	436,945	94,945
Licenses and permits	80,000	80,000	85,426	5,426
Intergovernmental	1,183,536	1,183,536	1,210,903	27,367
Fines	55,000	55,000	53,305	(1,695)
Investment income	9,000	9,000	10,813	1,813
Other			43,247	43,247
Transfers from other funds	26,282	90,720	107,295	16,575
Total Revenue	11,944,056	12,008,494	12,253,831	245,337
Expenditures:				
General government	602,346	618,201	592,598	25,603
Public safety	1,360,669	1,489,374	1,471,834	17,540
Education	6,836,190	7,040,555	7,040,556	(1)
Public works	759,436	875,462	854,008	21,454
Human services	285,480	300,680	291,979	8,701
Culture and recreation	231,550	231,550	228,664	2,886
Debt service	1,018,726	1,018,726	1,018,726	0
Intergovernmental	158,682	158,682	158,922	(240)
Employee benefits	544,087	544,087	508,714	35,373
Insurance	130,000	119,040	110,263	8,777
Transfers to other funds	20,000	20,000	20,000	0
Total Expenditures	11,947,166	12,416,357	12,296,264	120,093
Excess of revenue over expenditures	(3,110)	(407,863)	(42,433)	365,430
Fund balance allocation	\$ 3,110	\$ 407,863		
Excess(deficiency) of revenue over expenditures				

TOWN OF MERRIMAC
COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
NON-MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2011

	Special Revenue		Capital Projects	Permanent	Total
	Grants	Other			
Revenues:					
Department charges for services		\$ 287,653		\$ 7,800	\$ 295,453
Intergovernmental	215,115				215,115
Investment Income	25	170		12,483	12,678
Other	2,894	196,003			198,897
Total revenues	\$ 218,034	\$ 483,826	\$ -	\$ 20,283	\$ 722,143
Expenditures:					
Current					
General government	1,343	73,378		311	75,032
Public safety	32,274	246,430			278,704
Public works					0
Human services	34,446	53,744			88,190
Recreation and culture	28,530	11,750		12,350	52,630
Capital Outlay	131,703		48,585		180,288
Total expenditures	228,296	385,302	48,585	12,661	674,844
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(10,262)	98,524	(48,585)	7,622	47,299
Other financing sources (uses)					
Proceeds from bond issues					0
Operating transfers in					0
Operating transfers out	(16,575)	(19,400)	(64,438)		(100,413)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(16,575)	(19,400)	(64,438)	0	(100,413)
Net changes in fund balances	(26,837)	79,124	(113,023)	7,622	(53,114)
Fund balances, beginning of year	117,851	653,462	136,199	415,345	1,322,857
Fund balances, end of year	\$ 91,014	\$ 732,586	\$ 23,176	\$ 422,967	\$ 1,269,743

**TOWN OF MERRIMAC
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
JUNE 30, 2011**

	Special Revenue		Capital Projects	Permanent	Totals
	Grants	Other			
<u>Assets:</u>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$(53,515)	\$ 768,107	\$ 23,176	\$ 104,029	\$ 841,797
Investments				318,938	318,938
Receivables:					0
Departmental		50,463			50,463
Due from other governments	144,529				
Total Assets	\$ 91,014	\$ 818,570	\$ 23,176	\$ 422,967	\$ 1,355,727
<u>Liabilities and Fund Balances</u>					
<u>Liabilities:</u>					
Warrants and accounts payable		\$ 35,521			\$ 35,521
Deferred revenue		\$ 50,463			\$ 50,463
Total liabilities	\$ -	\$ 85,984	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,984
<u>Fund Balances:</u>					
Nonspendable				\$ 312,117	\$ 312,117
Restricted	91,014	688,849	23,176	110,850	913,889
Committed					
Assigned		43,737			43,737
Unassigned					0
Total fund balances	\$ 91,014	\$ 732,586	\$ 23,176	\$ 422,967	\$ 1,269,743
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 91,014	\$ 818,570	\$ 23,176	\$ 422,967	\$ 1,355,727

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The Board of Assessors respectfully submits the following report for the calendar year 2011.

The Fiscal 2012 Interim Adjustment process went very well and we were finished up in record time to set the tax rate. Even though some homes decreased in value homeowners did not see big decreases in their tax bills or actually saw increases in their tax bill because the tax rate went up by \$1.25 per thousand to \$15.24.

The Assessors and the Department of Revenue are currently looking at sales from 2011 in preparation to set new values throughout the town for Fiscal 2013. Again this year, we expect to be done much earlier than in previous years with the permits we have to look at and the sales to be checked.

Property information is now available on the Town website at www.merrimac01860.info.

New construction is still less than many previous years. Many of the new permits taken out are for home maintenance and additions. There were 5 new homes built in 2011.

Board of Assessors

Edward R. Davis, Chairman	Term expires 2012
Louise Lingerman	Term expires 2013
Joyce E. Clohecy	Term expires 2014

TAX RATE RECAPITULATION FISCAL 2012

1. Tax Rate Summary	
A. Total Amount to be raised	\$15,440,049.79
B. Total Estimated Receipts/Revenue	5,458,708.38
C. Net Amount to be Raised by Taxation (Levy)	9,981,341.41
D. Classified Tax Levies	
1. Residential	94.6021%
2. Open Space	0
3. Commercial	3.0076
4. Industrial	1.1992
5. Personal	1.1911
2. Amounts to be Raised	
A. Appropriation	\$15,135,071.38
B. Total Cherry Sheet Offsets	7,177.00
C. State & County Cherry Sheet Charges	175,802.00
D. Allowance for Abatement/Exemptions	116,887.56
Total Amount to be Raised	\$15,440,049.79

3. Estimated Receipts and Other Revenue	
A. State	\$ 1,160,037.00
B. Local	3,733,156.75
C. Revenue Sources Appropriated	565,514.63
Total Estimated Receipts	\$ 5,458,708.38

Number of Taxable Accounts	
Residential Single Family	1,588
Residential Two Family	107
Residential Three Family	8
Residential Apartment Bldgs	8
Condominiums	219
Residential Land	177
Commercial	52
Industrial	21
Commercial Other	57
Misc other	8
Personal Property	143

ANNUAL REPORT - OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen

As the Town Clerk of the Town of Merrimac, I hereby submit my annual report for the year ending December 31, 2011.

BIRTHS

Number of Births Recorded	30
Males	17
Females	13
Father Native Born	--
Mother Native Born	1
Both Parents Native Born	225
Both Parents Foreign Born	1
Mixed Parentage	3

MARRIAGES

Number of Marriages Recorded	19
First Marriage, Male	11
First Marriage, female	10
Male Native Born	15
Female Native Born	15
Average Age, Male	39 yrs
Average Age, Female	36 yrs

DEATHS

Number of Deaths Recorded	37
Males	20
Females	17
Under 5 years	--
Males, Native Born	19
Females, Native Born	17
Parents, Native Born	29
Parents, Foreign Born	4
Mixed Parentage	3
Average Age	73 yrs
Oldest Person	97

LICENSES

Total Dog Licenses	698
Male	35
Female	20
Spade	315
Neutered	328
Kennel Licenses	--
Sporting Licenses	132
Minor's Sporting Licenses	4

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia E. True
Town Clerk

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL OFFICER

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen: Activities from January 2011 to December 2011.

The number of dogs licensed for the license year 2011, was 656. Under MA General Law CH 140 Sec 137 all dogs over six months are required to have rabies shot and licensing.

Four dogs were picked up or dropped at Police Department and six others were picked up at different locations in town. Eleven dogs returned to owners, eight dogs kenneled at Bed and Biscuit. Six dogs were picked up at Bed and Biscuit, dogs released upon paying fines. One dog was surrendered; two dogs were abandoned and placed in good homes after being fostered for an extended time. There was one call where a dog got loose and killed two chickens, dog was quarantined and owner made restitution. Several complaints concerning dogs running at large and defecating on properties. Numerous nuisance calls for dogs.

Eight lost cats, only four found. One cat was picked up and brought to Amesbury Animal Hospital and later died. Another stray had been brought in to the animal hospital and then boarded at the Bed and Biscuit, never claimed and later placed in a home. Keeping cats indoors is the best avenue in keeping your pet alive and well.

Quarantine for animal bites, eight dog bites quarantined for ten days, seven of the dogs had all shots to date. One did not. The animal was tested and came back negative after the quarantine. One dog had been euthanized while on quarantine, animal had been brought to Nevins MSPCA. Rabies shots are required by MA General Law Ch140 Sec 145 for the protection of pets and people.

Barking complaints, nuisance, dogs running at large, several warnings and fines given.

Always having your animal on a leash is the safest situation for everyone.

Wild life, many calls on raccoons, skunks, squirrels, and other small wildlife that were found to be a nuisance suggested to leave them be, remove any food in your yard and keep garbage cans sheltered. Several calls investigated concerning coyote sightings. Had officers assist me in shooting a raccoon and a fox both which had been wounded. Many possum calls, two dead.

Livestock complaints a couple of horse loose on the Haverhill line owners came and retrieved them.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Young-Carey, ACCO

ANNUAL REPORT 2011 MERRIMAC TV CHANNEL 18

The year 2011 was an exciting one for channel-18, Merrimac-TV. Through hard work, innovation, and exciting partnerships with the community, we were able to fill out our programming schedule with lots of new original shows. We aired several newscasts from students at Pentucket High School, events and short films shot and edited by students. We covered events such as musical concerts featuring the chorus, band, and Jazz ensembles, awards night, and graduation for the first time. We produced shows with residents featuring the best of Skip's Auto Show and Merrimac Old Home Days. We continued to air regional programs of special interest such as Physician Focus, Consumer Affairs, and Senior Scene. Informative and educational programs and important PSAs are continually being made available to the station from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and MyMassTV. Several residents produced their own shows, such as Merrimac Talks, while others worked on short films with original musical compositions. We also continued training members of the community in covering Selectmen Meetings and operating our camera and computer equipment. In an effort to increase the transparency of the regional school system, we implemented live internet streaming broadcasts and simultaneous video recordings of the Pentucket School Committee and aired these in a timely manner. We also have started airing coverage of some sports from Pentucket with the help of community producers. If you are reading this report and have an interest in discovering the world of Public-Access Television, I urge you to get involved. We have the equipment and resources available for the public to learn, use, and benefit from.

Sincerely,

Chris Liquori
Merrimac Television

2011 ANNUAL REPORT OF CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

As in other years, departments were asked to submit forms documenting their capital requests for FY'12 and the next five years to the Capital Planning Committee. For consideration as a capital item the request must have a life duration of at least five years and an initial cost of \$10,000 or more. In February and March the committee met with the departments and reviewed supporting documents to determine its recommendations. The criteria applied for developing recommendations in order of priority are: a) necessary to respond to state or federal mandate; b) public health and/or safety consideration; and c) operational necessity.

At the Special Town Meeting on April 25, 2011, the CPC recommended that \$121,073 be taken from Free Cash for capital items for Town departments and the elementary schools. Also recommended was a transfer of \$155,000 from the Wastewater Retained Earnings for improvements to that system. From Water Retained Earnings and Water Capital plus borrowing, a total of \$785,000 was recommended for rehab of the well fields and storage tank and a new booster pump. Also, \$3,400,000 was recommended to be borrowed for the purpose of extraordinary energy savings repairs to the Donaghue and Sweetsir elementary schools with 51.42% to be reimbursed by the state Green Repair program. All recommendations were voted affirmatively.

At the Special Town Meeting on October 17, 2011 an additional \$530,000 was recommended to be borrowed on behalf of the Water Department for further work on the well fields and repair of water filters. Also \$45,000 from savings in other items was recommended to be expended on emergency repairs to the Municipal Building. All recommendations were voted affirmatively.

There was no transfer from certified Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund as there were not sufficient funds remaining after the transfer to cover additional cost of Snow and Washout.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Venner, Chairperson
Janet Bruno, Vice Chairperson
Patricia Dillon, Representing the Finance Committee
Ed Madden (resigned in April 2011)
Carol Traynor, Representing the Board of Selectmen

MERRIMAC CONSERVATION COMMISSION 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

The primary function of the Conservation Commission is to protect and preserve wetland resource areas as defined in the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act and the Merrimac Wetland Protection Bylaw. Since Colonial times, Massachusetts has lost nearly one third of its wetlands to development. The loss of wetlands means the loss of the vital benefits they provide. These benefits include the protection of water quality for Merrimac's surface and ground waters, stormwater and flood damage protection, and the protection of wildlife and plant habitat.

The Commission works to protect the Town's natural resources in accordance with the Act and the Town Bylaw. The Conservation Commission is composed of six members who serve as unpaid volunteers, who are assisted by a part-time Wetland Agent. The Commission generally meets once a month on the second Wednesday of the month to conduct regular business and public hearings on proposed projects under the Commission's jurisdiction. When necessary, the Commission schedules special meetings and site visits to review projects. During the course of this year twelve regular meetings were held and six site visits were conducted. There were thirteen projects filed with the Commission, primarily involving construction of subdivision roads and utilities, new single-family homes, and additions to existing buildings throughout Merrimac. In addition to reviewing proposed projects submitted by property owners, the Commission addresses work that affects wetlands conducted without the required permits. In 2011, seven enforcement orders were issued to property owners regarding work undertaken in violation of the Act.

This year the Commission continued to implement the additional protection measures provided in the Merrimac Wetland Protection Bylaw and the Merrimac Wetland Protection Regulations when considering proposed projects in Town. The Bylaw was adopted at Town Meeting in the fall of 2003, and it became effective in late 2003. The regulations include a number of provisions to strengthen protection of Merrimac's wetlands beyond what is addressed in Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act including:

1. Provide added protection to wetlands with no or limited protection by state law such as isolated wetlands and vernal pools--wetlands that hold water in the spring long enough to provide critical breeding habitat for frogs, salamanders and other aquatic life and most dry up by mid-summer. Vernal pools are rare in the landscape. Many vernal pools are small, isolated wetlands that have little or no protection under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act.
2. Establish a no-disturb zone surrounding wetlands to protect wetlands from new development and encroachment from existing development.
3. Allow the Commission to issue fines to irresponsible property owners who ignore orders issued by the Commission and damage wetland resources.
4. Allow the town to charge reasonable application fees to defray the cost of administering the Bylaw.

If you are contemplating any work within 100 feet of a wetland or within 200 feet of any river or stream that flows year-round (such as the Merrimack River and Cobblers Brook), you need to consult with the Commission prior to undertaking any work.

Wetlands are an important resource to Merrimac. They protect, filter, and provide the high quality of water in our wells. They protect and support fish and wildlife in Lake Attitash, the Merrimack River, and other water bodies in town. They provide habitat and food sources for the birds, reptiles, amphibians and other animals that make Merrimac a unique place to live. They provide large tracts of open and undeveloped land that make up the quality of life we all enjoy in Merrimac. The Commission is eager to assist landowners in their decisions about whether and how to proceed with a project near wetlands. We encourage all residents to contact us regarding any questions or concerns related to the Towns wetland resources. The Commission is always looking for interested citizens that may want to become involved in working to protect the valuable wetland resources we all share in Merrimac. The Commission is currently looking for other member, so if you have an interest or expertise in protecting wetlands please contact any of the Commission members, or just attend one of the meetings, to get involved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merrimac Conservation Commission

Robert Prokop, Chairman

Ellis Katz

Jon Pearson

Tim Simmons

Janet Terry

Arthur Yarranton

BOARD OF HEALTH, 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

The Board of Health meetings are usually held on the first or third Thursday of each month. We may be contacted at 978-346-4066 or at BOH@townofmerrimac.com. The office is staffed on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 to 4:00.

During 2011, the Board of Health has continued to participate in Homeland Security, the Emergency Preparedness Plan, Pandemic Flu Plan and Regional Coalition. Deborah Ketchen, Health Agent, and Charlotte E. Stepanian, Public Health Nurse, are our primary representatives and contacts in this program.

Deborah Ketchen has been our Health Inspector since March 2006, and was a board member since 1999. She inspects food establishments, schools, municipal buildings such as the town hall, senior center, fire and police quarters; rental units; and disposal system and well installations. She reviews septic designs, witnesses percolation and deep hole tests, responds to health-related complaints from occupants or owners, and performs many other Title V and health-related duties.

Deborah is an active participant in Homeland Security, Emergency Preparedness and Pandemic Flu Plan, attending numerous symposiums related to septic and well criteria, updates on food regulations, etc. She regularly attends meetings of the NE Region 3A Coalition where training plans are formulated. She also assists in the immunization clinics. Attributed to the health agent's periodic monitoring, conditions in restaurants and rental units have greatly improved, resulting in fewer complaints and code violations. Our health agent acts as our representative during hearings that are litigated at the Housing Court. She is responsible for the ultimate enforcement of the Code of Massachusetts Regulations as they pertain to the minimum standards of health and safety.

Battis Road

The health agent has been coordinating private well samples with homeowners, the lab and the environmentalist. These samples are collected from the private wells in close proximity to the former landfill. Private well water sampling will continue at quarterly intervals over a period of a year or two, when intervals will decrease to two times a year or until the standards of the Department of Environmental Protection are met. Surface water sampling is regularly conducted by the environmentalist around the perimeter of the landfill and towards the brook to monitor the content for any invasive particles.

Donaghue School

In mid December 2010 the mold remediation project was followed by an emergency asbestos abatement. Again, insurmountable hours were expended in monitoring, closing the school to students because of odors/irritants, reopening, then closing again because of the adverse air quality. We maintained continued contact with the DPH and the DEP, seeking guidance in our endeavor to provide a healthy and safe environment. The school was reopened on St. Valentine's Day 2011.

Police Department

It was brought to our attention that there was a water and mold problem within the police

department. Our Health Agent once again made numerous visits to inspect the remediation process and followed it through to its completion and resuming regular operations – a period of approximately five to six months.

Carol Traynor has been a Board member since May 2008, and was elected to a three-year term in May 2009. She has a background and training in many aspects of the health-related field, including emergency preparedness programs. Carol is also a member of the Board of Selectmen where she has become well acquainted with the various town departments and their responsibilities and interaction with each other.

Dr. Mark Sofia has served on the Board since 2009, and was elected for a three-year term in May 2010. Dr. Sofia has an established chiropractor business and brings helpful health information to the table. He completed studies through the Federal Emergency Management Institute, Incident Command System, and was awarded completion Certificates of Achievement in ICS-100, ICS-200 and ICS-700. Dr. Sofia is a firm believer in private well water testing at regular intervals to rule out arsenic content. There are some areas of naturally occurring arsenic, and arsenic levels in the private wells could potentially become affected, especially where artesian wells are drilled through bedrock.

Eileen Hurley, Chairperson, has served on the Board since 2000 and is also the Office Administrator since 1999. She is MAHB Certified, and assists contractors and the general public by responding to their questions and requirements. Several responsibilities include managing the Title V Program, updating records of well installations and water test results throughout the town, maintaining central records and minutes of meetings.

BOARD OF HEALTH ANNUAL LICENSES OR PERMITS

Annual application forms and regulations may be obtained at the Board of Health office or on our web site at merrimac01860.info. Applications and notification of expiration are no longer mailed. License fees are payable by December 31 each year.

During 2011, the Board responded to multiple complaints relating to odors, dumpsters, septic conditions, and other private matters.

Income from licenses and permits issued In 2011:

BUSINESS LICENSES			WORK PERMITS		
Qty.	Category	Fee	Qty.	Category	Fee
4	Restaurant	\$ 330	9		
2	Non-PHF Food	100	5		
4	Common Victualler	200	1		
1	Mobile Food Service	50	3		
1	Catering Service	65			
5	Milk Products	50		Disposal System	
2	Peddler	45		Permit	\$ 3,950
1	Temp. Food Service	20		Deep Hole Test & Perc	1,900
19	Installers	1,625		Well & Pump Permit	150
4	Haulers	215		System Abandonment	150
2	Tanning	100			
3	Tobacco Sales	150			
2	Mfrd. Homes Park	100			
Total:		\$ 3,050	Total:		\$ 6,000

Respectfully submitted,

Merrimac Board of Health

Carol Traynor Term expires 2012

Dr. Mark Sofia Term expires 2013

Eileen Hurley Term expires 2014

MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM INFORMATION

SURVEILLANCE and **LARVICIDING** are of the utmost importance, and they comprise the greatest portion of the program cost. This is the regular testing of mosquitoes and birds for the virus, and the application of larvicides to mosquito breeding areas to kill or inhibit the growth of mosquito larvae (the early stage of the mosquito) from developing into the adult form. Continued annual surveillance is an early intervention or preemptive action to prevent a potential mosquito breeding site from becoming an actual mosquito breeding site.

ADULTICIDING is a term used by mosquito control to describe spraying for adult or flying mosquitoes. There are two kinds of adulticiding: Aerial, done by aircraft only in the event of a public health emergency; and Ground, sprayed from trucks selectively in accordance with the individual municipality's Best Management Practice Plan (BMP).

Ground Adulticiding is used in today's programs to control the mosquito populations in their aquatic or larval stages. This is accomplished by means of a truck-mounted Ultra Low Volume (ULV) aerosol sprayer. ULV sprays up to six ounces of insecticide per acre, creating a 300- to 400-foot swath. Depending on wind direction this swath will drift off the road; and tiny droplets will impinge on mosquitoes, effectively controlling the mosquitoes in the area.

Insecticide: The District uses Anvil (EPA Reg. No. 1021-1688-8329) for ULV applications. The active ingredient, Sumithrin, has a very low toxicity to mammals. This product is registered for use by the US EPA and the Mass. Pesticide Bureau. All District personnel are certified applicators and annually attend seminars to obtain recertification credits.

Most people are not expected to experience any adverse health effects after pesticide spraying for adult mosquito control. This includes pregnant women and unborn children. If a person has any concerns, the Board of Health may be contacted to request that spraying be excluded from the specific property.

Ground sprays do not pose an unreasonable risk to birds or mammals. Since spraying is done in the late evening, the bees and other flying insects are not foraging at that hour and will not be affected.

West Nile Virus: The primary mosquito carrier of WNV, *Culex Pipiens*, usually breeds in artificial containers such as catch basins, storm water structures, industrial parks and commercial or agricultural livestock facilities. Regularly empty any water-holding containers on your property such as garbage cans, flower pots, swimming pool covers, watering troughs and birdbaths, and dispose of old tires.

Information about EEE and reports of EEE activity in Massachusetts during 2008 can be found on the MDPH website at www.mass.gov/dph/wnv/wnvl.htm. Merrimac will continue to work closely with the MDPH Arbovirus Surveillance Program and the NE Massachusetts Mosquito Control Agency on mosquito control and surveillance efforts. Decisions regarding spraying will be made by the Board of Health in cooperation with the Mosquito Control Agency. As long as this program is continued annually, we remain protected from severe outbreaks.

2011 PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE REPORT

For the four decades that I have served as the Town or Public Health Nurse for the Town of Merrimac, each year has seen local health events parallel much the same as is happening in communities across the country. Our town, while still small but growing in population numbers, experiences similar health concerns and challenges as do our big city, urban counterparts. We both have growing numbers of residents with chronic diseases struggling with the activities of daily living, isolation and the inability to remain self-sufficient because of the challenges and limitations of their own mobility and often access to transportation and/or care. But cost and efficiency dictates that remaining in the community in one's own home is the most beneficial solution for the majority as they age and live with their chronic but not life-threatening conditions.

I speak to this topic because the coming of age of the baby boomers as the "new generation of elders" represents the newest challenge for public health to meet all their needs that are not always medically based. Perhaps the shift in receiving flu vaccine at your health care provider's office or the local health department to that of a commodity that one can obtain at any grocery store or pharmacy at least a month before the doctor or local health receive their vaccine supplies, has actually freed up local health to now be able to address health promotion and disease prevention across the life-span in our communities. I have been doing this since the fall of 1998 through my monthly health information and education columns that now appear in both hard copy and online through the Senior Center newsletter and its website as well as the town's website.

The second season for pharmacies and grocery stores widely advertising their ready access for a flu shot has dramatically reduced the number of vaccine doses administered to local and area residents in Board of Health clinics. It has also served to reduce the efficiency and readiness of staff for an emergency dispensing site in the community as is required by our regional emergency preparedness coalition. Levels of readiness still must be maintained quarterly despite the lack of opportunity for meaningful live activity.

My annual infectious disease report continues to identify Lyme disease as the most frequently reported disease affecting Merrimac residents of all ages and locations. This disease which becomes another of the chronic disease is completely preventable through active vigilance and simple personal preventive measures. Lyme disease must be considered as epidemic in our region with the term "Tick Check" a necessity for both humans and pets whenever outdoors in grassy or wooded areas.

The Board of Health sharps disposal program continues for residents to bring used household medical sharps waste to the Senior Center during regular business hours for safe disposal. All material, used lancets and syringes must be in a heavy gauged sealed plastic container or a traditional Sharps container.

Weekly blood pressure and health maintenance clinics continue at the Senior Center in the Library on Tuesdays at 12:30 PM and at Merri Village in the Function Hall on Wednesdays at 1 PM. Both are open to the public and area residents.

In addition to my position as the nurse for both the Merrimac Board of Health and the Council on Aging, I have also been Adjunct Faculty in the Online Master of Science in Nursing Program at Saint Joseph's College of Maine in the Population-focused Care courses for the past seven years. This has been an excellent opportunity to expose the traditional hospital nurse and future educator to public health and the endless opportunities to improve the health and well-being of our communities across the country. It is actually a tremendous opportunity for me to experience public health or the lack thereof in the big cities and small towns across America in this time when prevention has finally become valued and may at last be integrated into the health care delivery system.

I invite residents to visit the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's website at <http://www.mass.gov/dph> for information about current health threats and state specific health concerns.

I can be reached at my office at the Senior Center during business hours. The phone number is 978-346-9549.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte E. Stepanian, MSN, RN-BC
Merrimac Public Health Nurse

MERRIMAC CULTURAL COUNCIL

For 2011, the Merrimac Cultural awarded a total of \$6,745 to the following applicants (all programs took place):

Dick Kaplan & The Excellent Jazz Band, Strolling Swing/Jazz for Old Home Days, \$350; Pentucket Fine and Performing Arts Foundation, Exit Dance Theatre Workshop and Community Performance, \$300; John Root, "Wildflowers of the Northeast," presentation at the Merrimac Senior Center, \$550; Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orchestra, 50th anniversary season, \$300; Merrimac Public Library, "Hands-On History," a program on the life ways of the Continental soldier, \$400; Scott Jameson, Magic and Juggling Performance at the Merrimac Public Library, \$495; Anthony B. Beatrice, Underground Railroad Multidisciplinary Project with Pentucket Music and History departments), \$700; Merrimac Public Library, exhibit coordinator position, \$600; Tricia Silverman, presentation at Senior Center on "Cultural Foods: Nutritious Habits of Healthy Populations," \$475; Theater in the Open, Children's Spring Production, \$500; Beverly Mitchell, Art Classes at the Merrimac Senior Center, \$575; Merrimack Valley Concert Band, Concert during Merrimac Old Home Days, \$500; Newburyport Literary Festival, \$300; Outdoor Sculpture at Maudslay 2011, \$200; Newburyport Chamber Music Festival, 10th Season, \$500; Edward M. Wirt, Old Home Days concert, \$1,200 (carried over from 2010).

Submitted by

Gage Cogswell
Chairman
Merrimac Cultural Council

MERRIMAC COUNCIL ON AGING ANNUAL REPORT FY11

This year was highlighted with increased services to residents of all ages. The staff at the Senior Center worked closely with other departments and agencies to help meet the needs of seniors, their families, and residents seeking information and referrals. The partnerships and associations that we worked with included the Merrimac Police and Fire Departments, the Merrimac Public Health Department, the Merrimac Public Health Nurse, Merrimac Light and Water Department, Merrimac Cultural Council, the Essex County Sheriff's Department, Northern Essex Elder Transport (NEET), Elder Services of Merrimack Valley, Community Action, Lifeline Screening for Stroke and Our Neighbors' Table.

The core programs of the Council on Aging offered through the senior center are Nutrition (congregate meal site); Transportation (COA van and NEET volunteer drivers); Outreach: Identifies Needs, Case Management, Home Visits and Calls, Information and Referrals; and Health & Wellness: Intellectual, Social, Emotional, Vocational, Spiritual, and Physical; and Activities and Services offered at the Senior Center:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| • Exercise (M/W/TH) | • Chair Yoga (W) | • Blood Pressure Clinic |
| • TRIAD (2 nd M/Month) | • Bowling at Leo's (F) | • Flu Clinics |
| • Meal Site (M-F) | • Painting Classes | • Trips |
| • Pool (M/F) | • Line Dancing (F) | • Zumba (evenings) |
| • Bingo (M) | • Lunch Club | • Our Neighbors' Table |
| • Wii (T) | • Movies at the Center | Mobile Food Pantry |
| • Cross Stitch | • Host site for AA | Site(1 st /3 rd Sat. - |
| • Bridge (T) | groups (W/TH) | Merrimac Residents, |
| • 45's Card Game (T) | • Newsletter Committee | all ages |
| • Poker (TH) | • Tax Work Off | • Seasonal Events |
| • Crochet & Knitting (T) | • Volunteer | • Friends of COA |
| • Senior Food Pantry | Opportunities | • Salvation Army |
| • Craft Shoppe | • Intergenerational | Service Unit Contact |
| (T/W/TH) | Programs | |
| • Quilting (W) | • Cultural and | |
| • Yoga (W-4 pm) | Educational Events | |

Without volunteers, the senior center would not be able to function as well as it does since the Director and Administrative are the only 2 full time staff members of a Director. Thanks to the volunteers who fill in the gaps, including all staffers who work many extra, unpaid hours, the Merrimac Senior Center is considered to be one of the best in the state. Volunteers lend their expertise and time as drivers, receptionists, dispatchers, kitchen assistants, food pantry organizers, trip leaders, group leaders, tax assistance, craft fair organizers and craft shop, and handy men & women. Over 80 people provided nearly 4,000 hours of volunteer service to the Senior Center. This does not take into account the countless volunteer hours from members of the Friends of the Council on Aging who have held many fundraisers, including the annual Senior Golf Scramble to raise funds that help support programs and activities at the Senior Center. The Senior Center Crafters Showcase and annual Holiday Fair have provided local

talented seniors with a way to sell their wares, and support the Senior Center by giving 10 per cent.

We would also like to thank the local businesses and churches who have helped support programs and activities at the Senior Center: Pilgrim Congregational Church, Merrimacport United Methodist Church, Salvation Army, AARP Tax Assistance, Common Grounds, Merrimac Savings Bank, Economy Co-Operative Bank, West Newbury Food Mart, Dr. Steven St. Germain, Atty. Margot Birke, Merrimac Lions Club and the people of Merrimac.

In October of 2010, Laura Dillingham-Mailman received Director Certification from the Massachusetts Councils on Aging (MCOA) state association, following 6 months of intensive work and completion of a portfolio that was presented for review to the Certification Committee. This was the 7th year MCOA had awarded certification to COA Directors the purpose of which is "To promote professionalism in our chosen field and encourage excellence in our network...(so) that the public and our colleagues can identify COA Directors and staff who meet the high professional standards set by MCOA". We are also pleased to note that two other directors and Merrimac residents received Director Certification at the same time: Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, who serves as chairwoman for the Merrimac COA and is the Director of the Georgetown COA and Elizabeth Pettis, who the Director of Salisbury COA.

Merrimac TRIAD was very active this year providing many educational opportunities and events: Reminder Sheets for Doctor Visits, Yellow Dot, I.C.E. your Phone (In Case of Emergency), Grab & Go Bags, Speaker series, Photo ID's, File of Life, Prescription Drug Disposal," Is Your Number Up?" and several appearances of the Essex County Sheriff's Department Canine Unit giving demonstrations.

In May we lost one of our most dedicated and loved staff members, Peggy Casazza who was the Outreach nurse and Senior Food Pantry Coordinator. The food pantry now serves over 50 families twice a month. Plans to honor Peggy include naming the Food Pantry "Peggy's Pantry" and holding an annual food drive in her name. Nancy Bachelder who co-founded the pantry with Peggy has helped to reorganize and continue the legacy with the help of dedicated volunteers Herb Sayers, Dot Whiting, and Julie Buzzell.

There continues to be building maintenance issues that are a result of the California HVAC system that was put in ten years ago when the senior center was built. Maintenance of the system is a costly part of our budget expenses. In addition, we needed to replace the roof on the older part of the senior center.

An amazing statistic is that in FY11, the COA served 2,352 unduplicated elders and 266 non-elders in a town whose population is roughly 6,250. The level of enthusiasm, camaraderie, and willingness to help others among the elders themselves makes this senior center a bustling place. The team spirit of the staff and the genuine caring that they demonstrate provides professionalism wrapped with love. Many people who enter our doors for the first time remark what a wonderful place this is and how welcome they feel. We are proud and honored that we are able to offer fun activities to those who are looking for something to do, bring smiles to those who may be lonely, comfort to those who need someone to listen to, and information to

those who don't know where to turn. As our motto says, "We are here when you need us". We are the "Spirit of Community".

FY11 Council on Aging Board of Directors:

	Term Expires
Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Chairwoman	(June, 2013)
Carol Ranshaw, Secretary	(June, 2013)
Nancy Bachelder	(June, 2012)
Natalie Christie	(June, 2012)*
David Dutton	(June, 2012)
Betty Elliot	(June, 2014)**
Dorothy Lumsden	(June, 2014)
James Murphy	(June, 2014)
Lucy St. Pierre	(June, 2013)
Dave Vance	(June, 2013)

Alternate Members:

Muriel McNair and Julie Buzzell

*Replaced Charles Hackett,

**Replaced Irene Kimbrell

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Dillingham-Mailman, Executive Director
Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello, Chairwoman

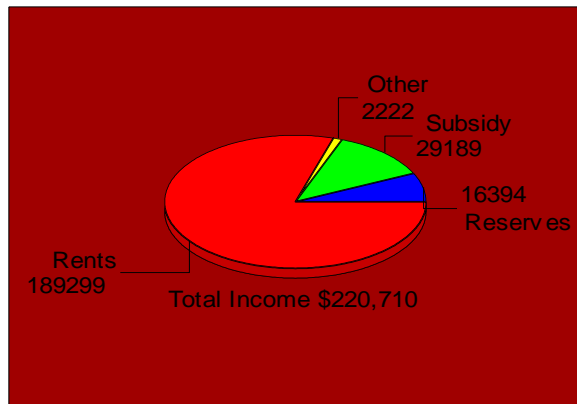
**MERRIMAC HOUSING AUTHORITY
52 MERRI VILLAGES
MERRIMAC, MASSACHUSETTS 01860**

Annual Report of the Merrimac Housing Authority
To the Merrimac Board of Selectmen for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2011

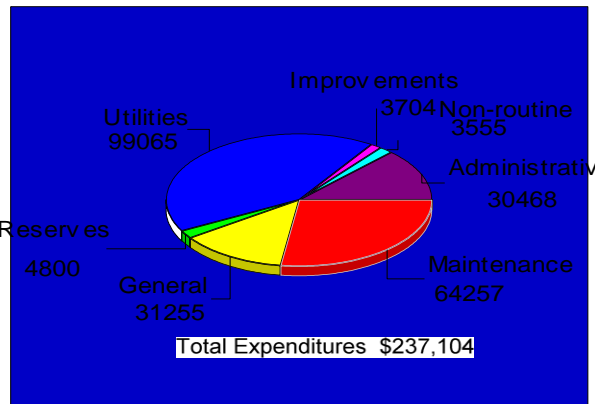
To: The Honorable Members of the Merrimac Board of Selectmen:

The Merrimac Housing Authority owns and manages 52 units of housing in the Town of Merrimac. Occupied in 1973, the Merri-Village project located on Middle Street contains forty-eight units, of one bedroom housing funded under the Chapter 667 program. This program serves individuals and couples who are elderly or disabled. In addition to the 48 one-bedroom units, the MHA owns and manages two duplex units. These are multi-bedroom units, intended for families. Merrimac residents receive a priority for occupancy into these programs. The Merrimac Housing Authority collected \$220,710 in rental and other income during the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2011 for the 52 units under management. Annual expenses amounted to \$237,104.

**Merrimac Housing Authority FYE 09/30/11
Income, where it comes from**



**Merrimac HA - Expenses FYE 09/30/11
Expenses - Where it Goes**



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts provided \$29,189 in operating subsidy during this 12 month operating period through the Department of Housing and Community Development. Average monthly rent for the Merrimac Authority Housing units is \$307. The average monthly cost of operation is \$353 per unit month.

The Merrimac Housing Authority had seven Vacancies during the 2011 calendar year. This is much higher than our average of 3. Those vacant units are filled by utilizing a waiting list that has been developed and managed using protocols established by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The average waiting list time can vary from three months to three years for a one-bedroom unit. Merrimac Residents and veterans who reside in Merrimac receive the highest priority under the existing

selection system. Under the selection system that we use, local residents over 60 have priority and veterans (or their widows/widowers) from Merrimac have super priority.

Changes to family program

The family unit's waiting list can range from 3 to 8 years. The MHA Board has decided to close the four family units, convert them and allow them to be managed for veterans' and their families in partnership with the Veteran's North East Opportunity Center in Haverhill. The MHA is developing a plan in close cooperation with the VNEOC of Haverhill to convert the Green St. duplex with to 2BR units, to accessible housing for veteran's with special adaptations and two units with more bedrooms.

Merrimac Housing Authority Board of Commissioners as of September, 30. 2011.

Name	Position	Term Expires
Shirley Jones	Treasurer	2013
Stephen True	Vice Treasurer	2013
Althea E. Ottman	Member at Large	2012
Anthony Pretti	Member at Large	2014 (recently resigned)
State Appointee	position	Vacant

Partnership with Veteran's North East Opportunity Center (VNEOC) Prospers

For the current fiscal year which began on October 1, 2012, the MHA Board approved a Three-year Management Agreement between the Amesbury Housing Authority and Merrimac Housing Authority for 12.5 hours of maintenance assistance per week, with additional coverage for emergency calls after hours. Effective October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2014.

Narrative: This agreement outlines the relationship, duties and compensation for the contract maintenance services provided by the Amesbury Housing Authority. This relationship has been in place since October 2011. It has worked well for both parties, and has allowed the MHA to remain solvent, utilize trainees from the Vets Center of Haverhill and draw upon the many years of experience offered by the AHA maintenance staff. This agreement also outlines the administrative and financial support that MHA has been provided on a pro-rata basis since 1973.

This arrangement has benefited both agencies. The MHA gets good service from the Veteran-trainees and they get a job that helps them to develop new skills and build work knowledge. The MHA also benefits from having the many years of experience offered by AHA staff. Having even a part time employee with full benefits was no longer sustainable for the MHA. Changes were made in 2009 to address that which included partnership with the VNEOC.

Management Summary:

The Merrimac Housing: Authority operates a state-aided affordable housing programs, which provides or 52 units of affordable housing for Merrimac residents. In addition, the Authority staff administers 9 other separate housing programs, for the Amesbury Housing Authority for a

combined total of 315 units of public housing and 108 units of federal subsidy. The staff also monitors all modernization work and is charged with applying for additional capital improvement funds when they become available.

The Merrimac Housing Authority has pledged to work closely with the Merrimac Board of Selectmen and The Town Planning Board in their attempts to bring more local control to affordable housing development in Merrimac and to be in compliance with the housing development goals contained in MGL Ch. 40B and Executive Order 418.

Under its existing by-laws, the Merrimac Housing Authority holds regular monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of every month at 52 Merri Village at 4:00pm. Merrimac Housing Authority's annual meeting schedule is posted annually at Merrimac Town Hall at Town Clerk's Office. Special meetings are announced and posted at least 48 Hours in advance. Agendas for all meetings are announced and also must be posted at least 48 Hours in advance. The Annual Meeting is held on the 3rd Wednesday in June. Housing Authorities in Massachusetts are incorporated under Massachusetts General Laws 121B.

Residents at the 48-unit State-Aided Merri-Village project on Middle Street pay 30% of their adjusted monthly income for rent; all utilities are included and the units are heated electrically and water is also heated electrically. Residents only pay for telephone, internet access, and any cable TV service.

Budget Woes Affect All Affordable Housing in the Commonwealth and Shrink Modernization Funds Available

In the past 40 months, and consistent with the economic downturn we have seen for the nation, we have also seen a steady reduction in financial support from the Commonwealth. This reduction is in the midst of increases in energy costs, water and sewer rate increases and the cost of materials. The MHA has been making changes and implementing austerity programs where it is able to do so in order to reduce our operating costs.

The eight most significant replacements were identified that will fit within the limitations imposed by the "formulas funding allocations" offered by the Commonwealth to local housing authorities. These are a small portion of the list that was developed in an engineering study completed in 2008. In that study, \$784,733 of needed modernization was identified for the MHA inventory, while DHCD could only provide funding of \$152,818 over the next 3 years. That is 19.47% of the total identified for replacement. Making the choices was not an easy task, as many important repairs and replacements must go unfunded. The most important and critical replacements were selected, that will have the greatest impact if not addressed. Unfortunately, we did not even have enough funding allocated to address all first priority items or systems requiring replacement. (The MHA Board selected the following priority items.

- A. Motion 2012-02-04 Board Approval of the final Modernization plan as Identified in the "Capital Planning System" (CPS) and the "Capital Improvements Management System

Merri-Village:

- Perform rehabilitation of mortar joints in brick veneer, where necessary,
- Provide ADA controls for front and rear entrances of Community Building
- Install non-electric emergency heater in Community building for power outages.
- Repair Bulkheads, as needed

180-705-02 (8-10 Green St.)

- Replace roofs (pitched and flat) , install rain gutters and down spouts
- 180-705-01 (Lincoln St.) - No replacements planned at this time (inadequate funding)

Massachusetts is unique. No other state in the union has made the commitment to create such an asset.

Unfortunately the zeal that allowed Massachusetts to become a leader in providing a myriad of affordable housing options to its citizens has waned over the past decade. That leadership is no longer evident. With many years of neglect and under-funding, this remarkable asset is rapidly becoming a liability.

It has been a challenge to manage these units, especially in these troubled financial times. The legal requirements, .expectations and reporting requirements get more and more demanding with every passing year, as reserves and funding levels wane. There is little reason for optimism. The Commonwealth cannot find the funding available through taxation or bond financing to provide adequate funds for modernization. If the State does not have the resources or resolve to make up difference, we can expect no good outcome.

Energy Expenses, Water and Sewer

Our monthly average electric bill is almost \$5,200 for Merri-Village for the past year ending October 2010 totaled almost \$66,981. That means that each unit is using an average of \$107 worth of electricity every month.

Now this .amount also includes site lighting and the electricity used in the Community Building For lighting and laundry machines. In 2008, the cost of electricity increased by 4% over 2007. In 2009, *the* cost of electricity increased by 14% over 2008. We saw the price of a kilowatt Hour increase every month in 2009. We rely heavily on electricity at Merri-Village as in addition to lighting, it is the primary heating source for unit heat and hot water.

Meanwhile, our annual consumption for Water & sewer is about 760,800 gallons per year. We have seen water and sewer costs grow to the present \$26,541 per year. That is about \$40 per unit per month. Once again the water used in the Community Building is considered as part of these totals. In 2004 we installed all new water saver toilets. These new toilets use 1.5 gallons per flush versus the 3.0 gallons that the older toilets used.

Part of the Community

Merri-village has been part of the Merrimac Community since 1973. In those 39 years, over 80,000 unit months of affordable housing have been provided to Merrimac residents. From their inception, state-aided public housing programs in Massachusetts (like Merri-village) rely on a close cooperation and support between the municipality and local housing authority. The MHA has always enjoyed a good working relationship with a vast majority of town officials, elected, appointed and employees. Many of which have consistently exhibited high levels of professionalism and competency in the course fulfilling their duties for the Town of Merrimac.

Housing Authority Personnel

Name	Position	Start Date
Mr. Robert J. Mazzone	Executive Director (part-time)	employed 2/01/2000
Ms. Jeanne Koch	Administrative Assistant (part-time)	employed 4/18/1995
Ms. Ruth Simon	Leased Housing Admin. (part-time)	employed 5/01/2004
Ms. Mary Beth Damon	Leasing Clerk (part-time)	employed 11/0512005

Respectfully Submitted.

Robert J. Mazzone
Executive Secretary to the
Merrimac Housing Authority Board

2011 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Affordable Housing Board of Trustees was established in June 2009 in accordance with the Town By-Law voted in May 2008. The Board's primary responsibility is to implement the Town's Housing Production Plan. In December 2010, notification was received from the state Department of Housing and Community Development that the plan was approved and will expire effective December 11, 2015. It is available at the Town website.

The Board is continuing a dialogue with Emmaus, Inc., Haverhill about the possibility of development of affordable housing units in Merrimac. Janine Murphy, Executive Director of Emmaus, Inc. reports there is a need for housing for female veterans who would benefit from living in a quiet environment. The Board has obtained copies of RFPs from other communities to serve as a model for an RFP that would guide the development of affordable housing as the Board has found to be in the best interest of the Town. The Board will submit an article for the April 2011 Annual Town Meeting warrant to make Town owned property available for this development. The Board also will continue to work with other Boards and Committees in Town to explore this and other affordable housing opportunities.

Respectively submitted by:

Sandra Venner, Chairperson
Ray Gingras, Vice-Chairperson
Earl Baumgardner, Representative of the Board of
Selectmen
Laura Dillingham-Mailman
Joseph Moran
Phillip Parry
Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello

**TRUSTEES OF CEMETERIES
2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

The Trustees meet the third Tuesday of the month at the Cemetery Office, 2 Locust Grove Road. The Trustees are grateful to Betty Emery, who did not seek reelection when her term expired, for her years of service, many as Clerk. Special thanks to her for being willing to fill in this year as clerk pro-tem in the absence of Carol Ranshaw.

During the past year all cemeteries were well maintained by the Highway Department. A senior volunteer working under the tax write-off program provided additional support. In addition to routine maintenance of trees at all cemeteries, additional work was required following a surprise snowstorm in October. Professional services were required for some of the work at Locust Grove, while the Highway Department was able to handle the rest.

The four evergreen trees behind the flagpole at Locust Grove were evaluated by a professional nursery. All four trees were found to be diseased. The center trees were removed, and the two outside trees were sprayed, and mulch and soaker hoses installed at their bases. At least one further spraying will be required.

Work on the proposed by-laws was completed, and the final draft sent to the Selectmen. Town Meeting approval will be required.

Resolution of the issue of repair or replacement of the wall at the Church Street Cemetery has not been reached.

The Trustees wish to thank Harold White II and the Highway Department for their support and cooperation throughout the year.

Members:	Patricia Casey	Term Expires 2012
	Carol Ranshaw	Term Expires 2013
	Rick Gould	Term Expires 2014

Respectfully submitted,

Carol S. Ranshaw, Clerk

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, APRIL 25, 2011

Article 1. The Town voted to transfer a sum of money from Article 1 of the April 26, 2010 Annual Town Meeting, Fiscal Year 2011 Omnibus Budget, line item #12, Property and Liability Insurance, in the amount of \$10,000 (ten thousand) to line item #80, Snow and Ice.

Hand Vote

Motion Approved April 25, 2011

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Free Cash, a sum of money in the amount of \$386,225 for the following specific purposes outlined below; or take any other action relative thereto.

a. \$80,026 to be transferred to Line #80 of Article 1 of the April 26, 2010 Annual Town Meeting Article, Snow & Washout, to reduce the deficit in this line item.

b. \$28,000 to be transferred to Police Salaries, for payments relating to the retirement of the Chief of Police.

c. \$106,399 for emergency asbestos and mold remediation at the Donahue School.

d. \$6,500 for the purchase of an Accu-Vote tabulating machine and other necessary voting equipment required for a second precinct in Town.

e. \$6,000 to replace and repair the flooring at the Senior Center.

f. \$8,000 to purchase new pagers for the Fire Department.

g. \$5,000 for all associated costs for repairs to the repeater for the Fire Department radio system

h. \$20,300 to purchase and install a new server estimated at \$10,073 and upgrade the Town's accounting software estimated at \$10,227.

i. \$26,000 to replace the bodies of truck #5 and truck #7 for the Highway Department.

j. \$35,000 for the purchase of a new police cruiser.

k. \$15,000 for the purchase and installation and all associated costs of a server and desktop computers for the Police Department.

l. \$35,000 for the purchase and all associated costs for a command vehicle for the Fire Department.

m. \$15,000 for the purchase and installation and all associated costs for tiling or other material for the floors at the Donaghue School.

Article 2. The Town voted to appropriate from Free Cash, a sum of money in the amount of \$386,225 (three hundred eighty-six two hundred twenty five) for the specific purposes outlined above.

Hand Vote

Motion Approved April 25, 2011

Article 3. The Town voted to transfer a sum of money in the amount of \$82,966.31 (Eighty two thousand nine hundred sixty-six and thirty one cents) for emergency asbestos and mold remediation at the Donaghue School, the transfers are as follows: \$211.01 from Article 10 of 10/18/10 Special Town Meeting, Donaghue Water damage; \$61,397.69 from Article 13 of the 4/28/2008 Annual Town Meeting, Repair Donaghue Roof; \$18,317 from Article 3(g) of the 4/28/2008 Special Town Meeting, Sweetsir Tiles and \$3,040.61 from Article 9 of the 9/6/2006 Special Town Meeting, Driveway at the Sweetsir.

Hand Vote

Motion Approved April 25, 2011

Article 4. The Town voted to raise and appropriate or transfer a sum of money in the amount of \$13,968.07 (Thirteen thousand nine hundred sixty-eight and seven cents) to Wastewater Expenses, to fund said appropriation; transfer from Article 12 of the 4/26/2010 Annual Town Meeting, Ridgefield Road, the amount of \$9,651.53 and appropriate from Wastewater Retained Earnings the amount of \$4,316.54.

Hand Vote

Motion Approved April 25, 2011

Article 5. The Town voted to appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$70,000 (seventy thousand) from Wastewater Retained Earnings for the purchase and all associated costs of a new Ultra Violet Disinfection System at the Sewer Treatment Plant.

Hand Vote

Motion Approved April 25, 2011

Article 6. The Town voted to appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$15,000 (Fifteen thousand) from Wastewater Retained Earnings for the purchase and installation of new discs at the Sewer Treatment Plant and all associated costs.

Hand Vote

Motion Approved April 25, 2011

Article 7. The Town voted to appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$70,000 (Seventy thousand) from Wastewater Retained Earnings for engineering to rebuild the Attitash Life Station.

Hand Vote

Motion Approved April 25, 2011

Article 8. The Town voted to appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$345,000 (Three hundred forty five thousand) or any other sum, for the rehabilitation of the Sargent Pit Well Field and Pump Control Building, including the costs related to the bidding and design, engineering and construction phases; to meet this appropriation, \$66,547.13 shall be transferred from Water Capital, \$150,000 shall be transferred from Water Privilege, \$63,981.08 shall be transferred from Retained Earnings and \$64,471.79 shall be transferred from the unexpended

balance of the appropriation under Article 18 of the May 6, 2002 Town Meeting: and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project.

Hand Vote

Motion Approved April 25, 2011

Article 9. The Town voted to appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$295,000 for the rehabilitation of the West Main Street and Bear Hill Road Storage Tanks, including the costs related to the bidding and design, engineering and construction phases; to meet this appropriation, \$60,000 shall be transferred from Water Retained Earnings and the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to borrow \$235,000 (Two hundred thirty five thousand) under MGL Chapter 44, Sec. 8 (7C) or any other enabling authority; and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project.

2/3 Vote Required

Unanimous

Motion Approved April 25, 2011

Article 10. The Town voted to appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$145,000 (One hundred forty five thousand) for the costs related to the bidding and design, and engineering phases of improvements to the water system serving the Attitash Ave/ Emery Street Area, West Main Street/ Birch Meadow Road Area and the Little Pond/ River Road Area consisting of the installation of three booster pump stations and water mains on Union Street; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to borrow \$145,000 (One hundred forty five thousand) under MGL Chapter 44 Sec. 7(22) or any other enabling authority; and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project.

2/3 Vote Required

Unanimous

Motion Approved April 25, 2011

Article 11. The Town Voted to approve the \$3,400,000 borrowing authorized by vote of the Pentucket Regional School District for the purpose of paying costs of making extraordinary repairs to the District's Helen R. Donaghue Elementary School located at 24 Union Street, Merrimac, Massachusetts and the Dr. Frederick N. Sweetsir Elementary School located at 104 Church Street, Merrimac, Massachusetts; such repairs consisting of replacement of doors, windows, replacement of roof top heating units and the roof at the Sweetsir Elementary School and the replacement of the roof at the Donaghue Elementary School, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the schools and preserve assets that otherwise are capable of supporting the required educational programs, said sum to be expended at the direction of the School Building Committee. The Massachusetts School Building Authority's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs of the project that the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District; provided further that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA shall not exceed the lesser of (1) 51.42% of eligible, approved project

costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA, and that amount of the borrowing authorized shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement relating to the proposed repair project that may be executed between the District and the MSBA; and the Town acknowledges that pursuant to the District Agreement, all costs of the project, including debt service on the notes issued by the District to finance the project, shall be allocable solely to the Town of Merrimac.

2/3 Vote Required

Yes 131

No 2

Motion Approved April 25, 2011

Article 12. The Town voted to approve the \$5,162,400 borrowing authorized by vote of the Pentucket Regional School District, for the purpose of paying costs of adding and making extraordinary repairs to the District's Dr. Elmer S. Bagnall Elementary School located at 253 School Street, Groveland, Massachusetts (the "Project"), including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, all of the costs of which shall be assessed upon the Town of Groveland in accordance with the District Agreement.

2/3 Vote Required

Yes 138

No 1

Motion Approved April 25, 2011

Article 13. The Town Voted to approve the \$2,424,000 borrowing authorized by vote of the Pentucket Regional School District, for the purpose of paying costs of making so-called green repairs to the District's Dr. Elmer S. Bagnall Elementary School located at 253 School Street, Groveland, Massachusetts (the "Project"), including the payment of costs related to making roof, window and boiler improvements, and the payment of all other costs incidental or related thereto, which proposed Project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, said sum to be expended at the direction of the School Building Committee. The Town and the District acknowledge that the Massachusetts School Building Authority's (MSBA) grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District; provided further that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA shall not exceed the lesser of (1) 51.42 percent (51.42%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA, and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to the vote of the District shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement relating to the Project that may be executed between the District and the MSBA, and that all costs of the project, shall be assessed upon the Town of Groveland.

2/3 Vote Required

Yes 131

No 1

Motion Approved April 25, 2011

Article 14. The Town voted to amend the name and purpose of Article 10(i) of the April 26, 2010 Annual Town Meeting, Merrimac Commons Project Revolving Account to “Inspectional Services Inspection Revolving Account”, with 70% of all fees received from building, wiring, plumbing and gas to be used by Inspectional Services Department for costs relative to required inspections for the Inspectional Services Department; said expenditures to be approved by the Building Commissioner, not to exceed \$50,000 (fifty thousand) during the Fiscal year 2011.

Hand Vote

Motion Approved April 25, 2011

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, APRIL 25, 2011

Article 1. The Town voted to fix the salary and compensation of all elective officers of the Town as provided by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 41, Section 108 as amended: Town Clerk, Three Assessors, Three Commissioners of Municipal Light; and raise, appropriate or transfer sums of money therefore and to determine sums of money to be raised or transferred to defray the necessary and usual charges and expenses of the Town for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2011 and make appropriations for the same, said sums of money so raised, appropriated or transferred to be expended for specific purposes as follows:

Maturing Debt	\$ 788,322
Interest on Debt	183,880
Unclassified	904,394
General Government	498,190
Public Safety	1,390,728
Health & Sanitation	85,882
Highway	518,969
Public Assistance	219,042
Whittier	513,588
Pentucket	6,446,542
Library	226,238
Recreation	12,300
Cemetery	46,959
Total Omnibus	11,835,035

The sum of money will be raised as follows:

Raise & Appropriate	\$11,823,935
Appropriate from Water Pollution Abatement Trust	\$ 11,100

Hand Vote
Motion Carried

Article 2. The Town voted to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to operate the Wastewater Department Enterprise.

Salaries;	\$364,903
Expenses:	\$481,779
<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>\$312,241</u>
Total	\$1,158,923

And that \$1,158,823 be raised as follows:

Departmental Receipts:	\$1,108,923
Wastewater Betterment	\$ 50,000

Hand Vote
Motion Approved May 9, 2011

Article 3. The Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds a sum of money to operate the Water Department Enterprise.

Salaries:	\$ 272,630
Expenses	\$448,055
Debt service:	<u>85,805</u>
Total	\$806,490

And that \$806,490 be raised as follows:
Departmental Receipts: \$806,490

Hand Vote
Motion Approved May 9, 2011

Article 4. The Town voted to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money in the amount of \$9,098.82 (Nine thousand ninety-eight and eighty-two cents) from the Electric Light Operating Balance, said money to be used by the Assessors to reduce the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year commencing July 1, 2011.

Hand Vote
Motion Approved May 9, 2011

Article 5. The Town voted to raise and appropriate, a sum of money in the amount of \$9,000 (Nine thousand) to be expended by the Board of Assessors to perform duties and incur expenses relating to any equalization or revaluation of the Town; to authorize the Board of Assessors to hire themselves at the rate of \$20.00 per hour and to hire such necessary assistance as the Board of Assessors may deem necessary and convenient.

Hand Vote
Motion Approved May 9, 2011

Article 6. The Town voted to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$10,740 (Ten thousand seven hundred forty) to be expended by the Board of Assessors to hire a consultant to perform an independent revaluation.

Hand Vote
Motion Approved May 9, 2011

Article 7. The Town voted to transfer, a sum of money in the amount of \$6,400 (Six thousand four hundred) from available funds known as "Sale of Cemetery Lots", such sum or part thereof, to be expended under the direction of the Cemetery Trustees for the care, improvement and embellishment of said cemeteries, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 114, Section 15 and 25.

Hand Vote
Motion Approved May 9, 2011

Article 8. The Town voted to accept the State Grant of Chapter 90 Highway Funds and authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend said funds for Highway purposes in accordance with the terms of said grants.

Hand Vote

Motion Approved May 9, 2011

Article 9. The Town voted to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money in the amount of \$185,000 (One hundred eighty five thousand) for Solid Waste Recycling and Disposal and Leaf Collection.

And that \$185,000 be raised as follows:

Raise & Appropriate	\$90,000
Transfer from Trash Offset Receipts	\$95,000

Hand Vote

Motion Approved May 9, 2011

Article 10. To see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, to establish revolving funds for the following departments for the specific purpose outlined below for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012; or take any other action relative thereto.

- a. **Police Firearms Revolving Fund:** Fees received for firearms licenses and permit fees to be used to pay the state share of such fees and similar departmental needs, said expenditures to be approved by the Police Chief; and not to exceed \$5,000 during the Fiscal year 2012.
- b. **Zoning Board of Appeals Revolving Fund:** Fees received for applicants requesting appeal of zoning decisions to be used to pay for advertising, mailings, legal and administrative costs, said expenditures to be approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals; not to exceed \$4,000 during Fiscal Year 2012
- c. **Board of health Town Nurse Revolving Fund:** Fees received for nursing programs and services to be used by the Town Nurse to pay for materials and technical services for nursing programs and health promotion programs, said expenditures to be approved by the Board of Health; not to exceed \$10,000 during Fiscal Year 2012.
- d. **Parks & Recreation Revolving Fund:** Fees received for Summer Playground Program and Fundraising Events to be used to pay seasonal staff and related costs associated with the summer playground program and costs associated with the maintenance and enhancement of the Town's parks and fields, said expenditures to be approved by the Playground Commissioners; not to exceed \$50,000 during Fiscal year 2012.
- e. **Zoning By-law and Building Code Compliance Enforcement Revolving Fund:** 5% of all fees received from building, wiring, plumbing and gas permits plus 100% of all fines and monetary judgments received as a result of Inspectional Services Department compliance enforcement actions to be used by Inspectional Services Department for legal fees and administrative costs relative to Zoning Bylaw and Building Code

compliance enforcement actions; said expenditures to be approved by the Building Commissioner; not to exceed \$5,000 during Fiscal year 2012

- f. **Board of Health Project Revolving Fund:** 50% of all permit fees received for the Bear Hill Road and Quail Ridge/ Battis Road Subdivisions to be used by the Board of Health to pay tests and inspections for these two projects; said expenditures to be approved by the Board of Health; not to exceed \$2,500 during Fiscal year 2012.
- g. **Assessor's Map Update Revolving Fund:** Fees received from the creation of new lots to be used by the Assessors to pay for updates of the Town maps; said expenditures to be approved by the Board of Assessors; not to exceed \$5,000 during Fiscal Year 2012.
- h. **Village of Merrimac Project Revolving Fund:** Fees received from developers for the Village of Merrimac applications to be used to pay for plan reviews, inspections and related legal and administrative costs, said expenditures to be approved by the Board of Selectmen; not to exceed \$50,000 for Fiscal year 2012.
- i. **Board of Health Revolving Fund:** 80% of fees received from pre-rental inspections to be used to pay for the Health Agents inspections, the remaining 20% of fees and 100% of all fines and monetary judgments received as a result of Board of Health compliance enforcement actions to be used by the Board of Health for legal fees and administrative costs relative to the Board of Health Regulations and Health Code compliance and enforcement actions. Expenditures are to be approved by the Board of Health and are not to exceed \$4,000 during Fiscal 2012.
- j. **Inspectional Services Inspection Revolving Fund:** 70% of all fees received from building, wiring, plumbing and gas to be used by Inspectional Services department for costs relative to required inspections for the Inspectional services Department: said expenditures to be approved by the Building Commissioner, not to exceed \$80,000 during fiscal 2012.

Article 10. The Town voted pursuant to M.G.L., Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ , to establish revolving funds for the departments for the specific purpose outlined above for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012

Hand Vote

Motion Approved May 9, 2011

Article 11. The Town voted to raise and appropriate, a sum of money in the amount of \$20,000 (Twenty thousand) to the Ambulance Stabilization Fund, pursuant to MGL Chapter 40, Section 5B.

2/3 Vote Required

Unanimous

Motion Approved May 9, 2011

Article 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$326,800 to fund a portion of its share of the Pentucket Regional School District Budget for Fiscal Year 2012, contingent upon the successful passage of a levy limit override

question in the amount of \$326,800 on May 2, 2011 under Mass. General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C; or take any other action relative thereto.

COPY OF THE VOTE

Article 12. The Town voted to Table this Article

2/3 Vote Required

Unanimous

Motion Approved May 9, 2011

Article 13. The Town voted to raise and appropriate, a sum of money in the amount of \$50,000 (Fifty thousand) for additional closure activities at the Battis Rd. Landfill.

Hand Vote

Motion Approved May 9, 2011

Article 14. The Town voted to accept Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 59A to allow the Town to offer and to grant real estate tax abatements for the purpose of environmental cleanup of sites zoned for commercial or industrial uses.

Hand Vote

Unanimous

Motion Approved May 9, 2011

Article 15. To see if the Town will amend the General By-laws to add a new section XI to Article IV as follows:

Section XI **Brownfields Tax Abatement Agreements**

1.Purpose:

Pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 59A, it is the intent of the Town to offer and to grant real estate tax abatements to encourage the continued environmental cleanup and redevelopment of sites zoned for industrial and commercial use from or at which there has been a release of oil or hazardous material.

2.Eligible Properties

Property which may be eligible for real estate tax abatement agreements pursuant to this by-law must:

- a. Be a site or portion of a site from or at which there has been a release of oil or hazardous material
- b. Be owned by an eligible person, as that term is defined in M.G.L., Chapter 21E Section 2; and
- c. Be zoned for commercial or industrial use.

3. Abatement Agreements

The Financial Director is hereby authorized to negotiate agreements for the abatement of outstanding interest, penalties and payment of real estate taxes (herein after, "Abatement Agreements") with owners of Eligible Properties, the terms of which Abatement Agreements shall be subject to approval by the Board of Selectmen.

- a. Abatement Agreements may allow for reductions in outstanding real estate taxes, interest and/or penalties
- b. Abatement Agreements shall include, but not be limited to;
 - (i) The amount of outstanding real estate taxes;
 - (ii) The percent of interest to accrue if determined applicable by the Financial Director and the owner of Eligible Property (ies);
 - (iii) The description of quantifiable monthly payments;
 - (iv) The inception date of monthly payments;
 - (v) The date of the final payment;
 - (vi) The late penalties to be imposed; and
 - (vii) Any and all other contractual terms as arranged between the Financial Director and the owner of Eligible Property (ies).
- c. All Abatement Agreements shall be signed by the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen and the owner of Eligible Property(ies), whose signatures shall be notarized, and attested to by the Town Clerk.
- d. Copies of all Abatement Agreements shall be provided to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Commissioner of Revenue, the Board of Selectmen, and the owner of Eligible Property(ies).

Or take any other action thereto.

Article 15. The Town voted to amend the General By-Laws to add a new Section XI to Article IV as outlined above.

2/3 Vote Required

Unanimous

Motion Approved May 9, 2011

Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Water Use By-law, specifically Appendix D Cross Connection, Control and Back Flow Prevention

SECTION III –REQUIREMENTS, Section B. Policy

Paragraph 2:

- Replace the word “should” with “shall” to modify the first sentence to read: “The Owner’s system shall be open for inspection at all reasonable time to authorized representatives of the TOWN to determine whether cross connections or other structural or sanitary hazards, including violations of these regulations exist.”
- Add two new subparagraphs:
 - a. “It is acknowledged that unless the Owner’s consent is provided, or some recognized exception to the warrant requirement applies, a warrant is required to conduct an administrative inspection.
 - b. The TOWN shall inform the Owner by letter, of any failure to comply, by the time of the first re-inspection. The TOWN will allow an additional fifteen (15) days for the correction. In the event the Owner fails to comply with the necessary correction by the time of the second re-inspection, the TOWN will inform the Owner by letter, that the water service to the Owner’s premises will be terminated within a period not to exceed five (5) days. In the event that the Owner informs the TOWN of extenuating circumstances as to why the correction has not been made, a time extension may be granted by the TOWN but in no case will exceed an additional thirty (30) days.”

Paragraph 5:

- Replace the reference to Department with a reference to TOWN to read as follows: “Any person owning or occupying any premises where a cross connection is present shall apply annually to the TOWN for a permit for each reduced pressure backflow preventer and double check valve assembly installed on the premises.”

Paragraph 6:

- Delete entirely Paragraph 6 which reads “The Department of Environmental Protection shall revoke any approval or permit for any installation or change in installation of any backflow prevention device which is found to be in noncompliance with 310 CMR 22.22.”

SECTION III REQUIREMENTS

Paragraph B:

- Delete entirely Paragraph B which reads: “Any violation of these regulations shall be subject to the administrative penalty provisions of 310 CMR 5.00.”

ATTACHMENTS

- The following note has been added: “Note: These attachments are provided for reference and information only and are not to be construed to be part of the approved water use by-law document.”

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 16. The Town voted to amend the Water Use By-Law, specifically Appendix D – Cross Connection Control and Back Flow Prevention as outlined above.

2/3 Vote Required

Unanimous

Motion Approved May 9, 2011

Article 17, The Town voted to amended the Personnel By-law as amended from that outlined above,

Bereavement Leave Policy- Delete the current policy and replace with the following:

Employees shall be granted leave of absence with pay in the event of death in the immediate family. Such leave shall extend from the time the employee receives notification of death to the first work day following the day of the funeral, or memorial service, not exceeding a period of five (5) days. *Immediate family shall* consist of father, mother, spouse or significant other, child, step-child, father-in-law, mother-in-law, or other relative living in the household. Employees shall be granted a three (3) days of leave of absence with pay in the event of the death of a brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, grandparents, grandchildren, aunt, uncle, nephew or niece

Personnel Evaluations – Add the following:

Effective July 1, 2011, Annual employee evaluations will be completed for all employees, on or before June 30th of every year, based on previously discussed goals and objectives agreed upon with management.

Worker’s Compensation Policy – Add the policy per the following:

In accordance with applicable sections of MGL Chapter 152, Section 69 the Town shall carry worker’s compensation insurance. All employees, supervisors and managers must comply with the regulations of the statute and the directives of the workers’ compensation insurance provider. Employees who are receiving workers’ compensation payment for ten (10) or more days in one calendar month shall not accrue sick leave for the month in which workers’ compensation is paid.

Employees who are receiving workers’ compensation payment for more than six (6) consecutive months shall not accrue vacation time or personal leave while receiving workers’ compensation payments.

An employee who would lose accumulated vacation leave because of workers’ compensation status shall be allowed to carry forward all current accumulated vacation leave in accordance with Town of Merrimac policy.

2/3 Vote Required

Yes 104

No 3

Motion Approved May 9, 2011

Article 18. The Town voted to require separate approval by town meeting of contracts related in whole or in part to the use of private for-profit or non-profit firms to manage, operate, or maintain any component of the Town of Merrimac, MA Water System including but not limited to groundwater supply well fields; the greensand pressure filter treatment facility;

water storage tanks; the water distribution system; the associated efforts for monitoring, sampling, and inspection; and all regulatory reporting requirements. Said required town meeting approval shall apply to any future agreements between the Board of Selectmen and any private for-profit or non-profit firms related in whole or in part to outsourcing the management and operation of the Town of Merrimac Water System and any town operated and/or managed utility.

Yes 163

No 8

Motion approved as amended May 9, 2011

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING, OCTOBER 17, 2011

Article 1. The Town voted to reduce the amount raised and appropriated in Article 1 of the April 25, 2011 Annual town meeting in the amount of \$64,429 (sixty four thousand four hundred twenty nine). And amend the following line items:

Line #10, Property, Liability & Worker's Compensation Insurance Expense	(\$10,000)
Line #21, Department Offset Expense	(\$50,000)
Line #84, Pentucket Assessment	(\$ 4,429)
Total	(\$64,429)

Hand Vote

Motion Approved October 17, 2011

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to increase the amount raised and appropriated in Article 3 of the April 25, 2011 Annual Town Meeting: Water Department Enterprise Fund, in the amount of \$20,000 and amend the budget line items as follows:

	Original	Amended	Change
Salaries:	\$272,630	\$272,630	\$ 0
Expenses:	\$448,055	\$485,555	\$37,500
Debt Service	\$ 85,805	\$ 68,305	(\$17,500)
Total	\$806,490	\$826,490	\$20,000

and to raise said funds through departmental receipts; or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 2. The Town voted to increase the amount raised and appropriated in Article 3 of the April 25, 2011 Annual Town Meeting: Water Department Enterprise Fund, in the amount of \$20,000 (twenty thousand) and amend the budget line items as follows:

	Original	Amended	Change
Salaries:	\$272,630	\$272,630	\$ 0
Expenses:	\$448,055	\$485,555	\$ 37,500
Debt Service:	\$ 85,805	\$ 68,305	\$(17,500)
Total	\$806,490	\$826,490	\$ 20,000

Hand Vote

Motion Approved October 17, 2011

Article 3. The Town voted the amount appropriated under Article 8 of the April 25, 2011 Special Town Meeting for the Sargent Pit Well Field and Pump Control Building Project is hereby increased by the amount of \$270,000 (two hundred seventy thousand); that to meet this additional appropriation, the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to borrow \$270,000 under MGL Chapter 44, Section 8(7C) or any other enabling authority; and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project.

**Unanimous
Motion Approved October 17, 2011**

Article 4. The Town voted that \$260,000 (two hundred sixty thousand) be appropriated for services needed to maintain and repair the three (3) Tonka Water Filters at the Wallace Way Water Treatment Plant; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to borrow \$260,000 under MGL Chapter 44, Section 8(7C) or any other enabling authority; and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project.

**Unanimous
Motion Approved October 17, 2011**

Article 5. The Town voted to transfer a sum of money in the amount of \$2,450 (two thousand four hundred fifty) for repairs or replacement of a small sander, and to fund said appropriation transfer the remaining balance of \$2,450 from Article 2 (i) of the April 25, 2011 Special Town Meeting, Truck Bodies.

**Hand Vote
Motion Approved October 17, 2011**

Article 6. The Town voted to appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$5,0002.80 (Five thousand two dollars and eighty cents) for EMT Wages.

**Hand Vote
Motion Approved October 17, 2011**

Article 7. The Town voted to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$45,000 (forty five thousand) for emergency repairs at the Police Station.

**Hand Vote
Motion Approved October 17, 2011**

Article 8. The Town voted to raise and appropriate a sum of money in the amount of \$50.00 (fifty) and authorize the Town Clerk to pay the salary of 2 (two) election workers from a prior year.

**Hand Vote
Motion Approved October 17, 2011**

Article 9. The Town voted to transfer the amount of \$2,250 (two thousand two hundred fifty) to be used for the purpose of consulting work on an Alternative Energy By-law; and to fund said appropriation transfer the remaining balance of \$2,250 from Article 10 of the Special Town Meeting of September 18, 2006, (LID By-law Amendment Consulting).

**9/10 Vote Required
Unanimous
Motion Approved October 17, 2011**

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