

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Our leading news story for the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 is, of course, the Town Hall Renovation Project. After two years of planning, informing, educating and budgeting, the Town Hall Renovation project was off the ground. In December of 2004, residents present at a Special Town Meeting voted to appropriate the first \$100,000 to begin paying Quisenberry/Arcari, architects for the project.

A grant was sought and received from the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) in the amount of \$520,880, which would help bring our renovated building into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, providing safe and easy access to our town government for all.

A diverse and well-qualified Building Committee was established and ACMAT was chosen as the contractor for the project from among the four bidders.

Early in the new fiscal year, the Towns of Durham and Middlefield and Regional District #13 made a thorough investigation of the possibility of housing the school buses locally in an effort to save tax dollars. Several properties in both towns were considered and there was even discussion as to whether there might be a joint use of the property. Although Regional District #13 continues to believe that this would result in a significant savings, there was no one property that met the criteria for affordability and location. The search continues.

In January of 2005, those present at a Special Town Meeting voted in favor of tax relief for two local businesses, Adams Commons located on Main Street and J & T Route 68 Property Management LLC located on Ozick Drive. CT General Statute 12-65b was designed to promote economic development. It allows a municipality to fix an assessment for a limited period of time for a property undergoing new construction or expansion. A third business, Aesthetic Structures, which is new construction, has also requested tax relief under this Statute. Once a Certificate of Occupancy has been issued, I anticipate that this request will be taken to Town Meeting for action.

As the water project moved forward to make necessary repairs and improvements to the Durham Center Water Company, Weston & Sampson Engineering Inc. of Rocky Hill was chosen for design and construction related services. Following the determination that the two existing wells did not provide an adequate quantity or quality of water, the search for a new source of water began. Under the guidance of the Department of Public Health (DPH), several test wells were dug. All attempts were unfruitful and the town initiated negotiations with the Durham Agricultural Fair Association (DFA) for the use of their two existing wells. Successful negotiations resulted in an agreement regarding the Town's use of the wells, provision of water to the Fair, use of the Town Green during Fair time, and an easement to locate the new booster station on Fair property adjacent to Maple Avenue.

This was just the beginning of numerous meetings with State agencies regarding the water project. When dealing with residents' drinking water, the DPH and DEP (the Department of Environmental Protection) want input, and rightly so. When there is \$750,000 of Grant money involved, DECD and OPM (the Office of Policy and Management) are involved. And of course, the Town and the Fair also played a role. We were very fortunate to have the experience, expertise and cooperation these agencies willingly provided on this important and challenging project.

The Open Space property at the end of Dunn Hill Road was dedicated as Curtis Woodlands. Elected officials, townspeople, and numerous family members gathered to share memories of former First Selectman and Conservation Chairman Gregory Curtis.

A Proclamation honored Dr. Leo V. Willett Jr. for his 35 years of distinguished service as the town's Health Director. A Proclamation honored Valerie Harrod for her 17 years of dedicated service as the town's Librarian. A Proclamation implemented the town's first National Day of Prayer as May 5, 2005, and a good number of residents from Durham and Middlefield gathered to pray for emergency personnel, leaders, and school children alike. A Proclamation honored the town's Public Works Department following their laudable efforts to "fit out" the temporary offices, which was originally a huge empty room, and move personnel, furnishings, and records with minimal chaos and interruption of services to the public.

Educational opportunities were offered to employees and town residents. Town Clerk Laura Francis and long-time moderator Dave Montgomery offered moderator training to Durham and Middlefield residents. Sponsored by the Public Safety Committee, CPR training was offered to town employees.

At the Annual Town Meeting held in October of each year, those assembled voted unanimously to accept from Roger B. and Patricia E. Newton the generous gift of a 17.8 acre parcel of land on the north side of Route 68.

A decision was issued by the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) in the proposed powerline upgrade. Although the town did not get the relief we worked so hard for, we did receive more than most other communities with the bypass around the Royal Oak subdivision. Now, we enter the Development & Management Phase of the project and continue to pursue better options for the two remaining residential neighborhoods.

As the powerline issue winds down, another opportunity arose for local officials and residents to work in harmony. A proposed 35-lot subdivision in Guilford intends to use the Town of Durham's Crooked Hill Road as the sole access. Strong efforts are being made to insure the safety of both Durham and Guilford residents in that neighborhood.

Research into the establishment of a Regional Health District was initiated. Nine of the CT River Valley Towns, of which Durham is a member, are investigating this opportunity. The new concerns and regulations to meet Homeland Security requirements caused us to recognize the need for the availability of a full-time Health Director. There is grant money available and a regional effort could make this endeavor affordable. Dr. Brad Wilkinson has graciously accepted to act as our Health Director until a final decision is made.

Tenacity and persistence resulted in the receipt of the \$494,000 Grant from DEP for the Wimler Development Rights for almost 300 acres on the Guilford Road.

The spirit of volunteerism that characterizes our community, obvious in our emergency responders and members of the various boards and commissions as noted in prior annual reports, continues to be one of our most valuable assets. As Board members Ernie Judson, Renee Primus and I participate in and observe the efforts of those involved in scouting, church groups, and civic organizations, we see how widespread this spirit of volunteerism reaches. We acknowledge and appreciate your hours of selfless dedication and service to our community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maryann Boord  
First Selectwoman

#### **OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK**

The laws of the State of Connecticut designate the Town Clerk as Keeper of the Town Seal, custodian of the town records, Registrar of Vital Statistics (births, marriages and deaths), and purveyor of fish and game, as well as dog licenses.

**Voter Registration.** Daily registration as an elector is available in the office. Bona fide residence, United States citizenship and a minimum age of eighteen years are basic requirements. Seventeen-year olds may register at any time during the year, but may not exercise the right to vote until their eighteenth birthday. Application forms are available at all Motor Vehicle offices, post offices and the Durham Public Library as well. Registrars of Voters hold special sessions prior to each primary, election or special election.

**Dog Licenses.** Must be purchased as soon as a dog becomes SIX MONTHS of age and annually thereafter during the month of June. Penalties are incurred on late registration, and WARNING, if the Dog Warden has occasion to find your dog unleashed or unlicensed, you are liable for a hefty fine! Rabies certificates must be presented at time of licensing.

**Fish and Game Licenses.** Good for the calendar year and may be purchased at any time. Purchasers of hunting licenses must have proof of owning a license at some time within the preceding five year period, or hold a Connecticut Safety Course Certificate for the same.

**Marriage Licenses.** Can be obtained in the town in which the ceremony is to be performed or in the residence town of the bride or groom. There is no waiting period or blood test requirement. The current fee is \$30.00.

**Passports.** Passport applications can be processed through the Town Clerk's office. Please call ahead for instructions. Generally, passport applications take approximately 4-6 weeks for completion. Applications may be expedited for an additional fee.

**TOWN OF DURHAM VITAL STATISTICS  
JULY 1, 2004 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2005**

**BIRTHS – 64                      DEATHS – 40                      MARRIAGES – 55  
TOWN CLERK UPDATE**

Under the guidance of Town Clerk Laura Francis, Jason Bertoldi, a Durham resident who attends Choate Rosemary Academy, was hired as the General Government Intern. Jason assisted the Town Hall staff in records management activities.

Assistant Town Clerk Kimberly Garvis attended the New England Municipal Clerk's Academy at Salve University on full scholarship. She attended a full week course on computer skills.

Laura Francis continues to be the administrator of the official Town of Durham website [www.townofdurhamct.org](http://www.townofdurhamct.org) and a member of Project Connect. Laura attended the International Institute of Municipal Clerks conference in St. Paul, Minnesota where she conducted a class on building municipal websites to approximately 200 clerks from all over the world. Laura Francis served another year as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of the Connecticut Town Clerks Association and Technology Chairman of the New England Association of City and Town Clerks.

The land record computer system was upgraded to include document imaging and a searchable public computer station. The upgrade allows for records indexing and proofing, scanning, storing, retrieval and printing, retrieval of data and images, printing of the records books and alphabetical indexes and CD creation. A \$7,000.00 grant from the Connecticut State Library Records Preservation program was used for converting historical land record index data so that a complete search can be achieved electronically. Grant money was also used to purchase a locking storage facility for all the service separation records and vital statistics and to preserve an old town meeting record book.

None of the Town Clerk's accomplishments would be possible without the dedication and talents of Assistant Town Clerk Kimberly Garvis. Her commitment to our office and our town is genuine and much appreciated. We continue to work on different projects to serve the public. Your suggestions are always welcomed. Our office is open Monday through Friday 8:30-4:30 and Saturdays 10:00-12:00 (accept for holiday weekends) during the months of September through June. We can be reached via e-mail at [lfrancis@townofdurhamct.org](mailto:lfrancis@townofdurhamct.org) and [kgarvis@townofdurhamct.org](mailto:kgarvis@townofdurhamct.org).

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura L. Francis, CMC/CCMC, Durham Town Clerk

**ELECTION AND REFERENDA RESULTS**  
**JULY 1, 2004 - JUNE 30, 2005**

-  
Democratic Primary  
Congressional District 2  
August 10, 2004

Endorsed Candidate  
Jim Sullivan

Challenge Candidate  
Shaun McNally

**RETURN PRESIDENTIAL & STATE ELECTION**  
November 2, 2004

**Presidential Electors for**

Bush & Cheney(Republican).....	2024
Kerry & Edwards (Democratic).....	2017
Cobb & LaMarche(Green).....	23
Peroutka & Baldwin (Concerned Citizens).....	1
Badnarik & Campagna (Libertarian).....	14
Nader & Camejo (Petitioning Candidate).....	32

**United States Senator**

Jack Orchulli (Republican).....	1407
Chris Dodd (Democratic).....	2402
Timothy A. Knibbs (Concerned Citizens).....	16
Leonard H. Rasch (Libertarian).....	29

**Representative in Congress – Congressional District 3**

Richter Elser (Republican).....	314
Rosa L. DeLauro (Democratic).....	673
Ralph Anthony Ferrucci(Green).....	33

**Representative in Congress – Congressional District 2**

Rob Simmons (Republican).....	1569
Jim Sullivan (Democratic).....	1249

**State Senator – Senatorial District 12**

William A. Aniskovich (Republican).....	1950
Edward Meyer (Democratic).....	1793

**State Representative – Assembly District 100**

Raymond Kalinowsk (Republican).....	2535
Theodore Raczka (Democratic).....	1411

**REFERENDUM VOTE HELD ON May 3, 2005**

**QUESTION:** “Shall we accept the proposed budget of \$29,005,558 for the 2005-2006 fiscal year as prepared and presented by the Regional District 13 Board of Education?”

<b>Durham</b>	<b>Middlefield</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yes - 399	Yes - 164	563
No - 391	No - 194	585

**REFERENDUM VOTE HELD ON May 24, 2005**

**QUESTION:** “Shall we accept the proposed budget of \$29,005,558 for the 2005-2006 fiscal year as prepared and presented by the Regional District 13 Board of Education?”

<b>Durham</b>	<b>Middlefield</b>	<b>Total</b>
Yes - 540	Yes - 265	805
No - 506	No - 291	797

**SYNOPSIS OF TOWN MEETING ACTIONS**  
**JULY 1, 2004 - JUNE 30, 2005**

Annual Town Meeting – October 4, 2004

- Established May 9, 2005 for the Annual Budget Meeting
- Elected Dick Spooner and Martin Anderson to the Personnel Policy Board
- Elected Lynn Stanwood, Mary Ryan, Lynn Johnson and Bob Booz to the Library Board of Directors
- Elected Doug Stender to the Board of Trustees of the Durham Volunteer Fire Co. Inc.
- Accepted a 17.80-acre parcel of land on the northerly side of Route 68 from Roger B. and Patricia E. Newton.
- Authorized the transfer of \$10,000 from Building Maintenance Reserve into Building and Health Office Equipment, line item #1520 158, for the purpose of microfilming land records, as approved by the Board of Finance.

#### Special Town Meeting – December 6, 2004

- Approved the transfer of \$100,000 from the Town Property Maintenance Reserve Fund into the Town Hall Renovations line item #2560 599, as approved by the Board of Finance.
- Approved the transfer of \$38,335 from the Parmelee Hill Barn Reserve Fund for the Friendly Acres barn into line item #2561 599 as approved by the Board of Finance.
- Approved Carryovers from FY 2003-2004, in the amount of \$835,366.00, into FY 2004-2005, as approved by the Board of Finance.
- Approved final transfers for FY 2003-2004, as recommended by Board of Finance.
- Approved the transfer of funds not to exceed \$100,000 from the Fire Equipment Reserve Fund to line item #4020 599 for the purchase of one 2005 Ford F550 brush truck.
- Accepted Berten Ridge Road as an approved town road.

#### Special Town Meeting – January 24, 2005

- Approved a resolution fixing the assessment on property of Adams Commons LLC.
- Approved a resolution fixing the assessment on property of J&T Route 68 Property Management LLC.

#### Annual Budget Meeting – May 9, 2005

- Elected Carolyn Wallach, Debra Golschneider and Norm Hicks to the Regional School District #13 Board of Education.
- Elected Tom Russell and Bill Lintz to the Durham-Middlefield Interlocal Agreement Advisory Board.
- Authorized the Board of Selectmen to accept any and all Town Aid Highway Funds (Transportation Infrastructure) which may be due and available to the Town of Durham for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2006.
- Adopted a total town budget in the amount of \$5,244,073, less state and local estimated revenue of \$1,195,390, for a net town budget of \$4,048,683, as recommended by the Board of Finance at its meeting of April 20, 2005.
- Adopted a five-year Local Capital Improvements Plan.

#### Special Town Meeting – June 13, 2005

- Approved an appropriation not to exceed \$15,000 for renovations to the Durham Public Library's heating and air conditioning, as recommended by the Board of Finance at its meeting of June 1, 2005.

### **TAX COLLECTOR**

A new computer system to be used by the Tax Collector and Assessor offices was chosen by the Project Connect Committee. The Finance Department already uses this system and the Building and Health Department will be using it in the near future. The hope is that this type of integration will lead to efficiencies throughout Town Hall. After long hours of training and verifying data converted from the former system, the new system was ready to be used by the end of the fiscal year covered in this report.

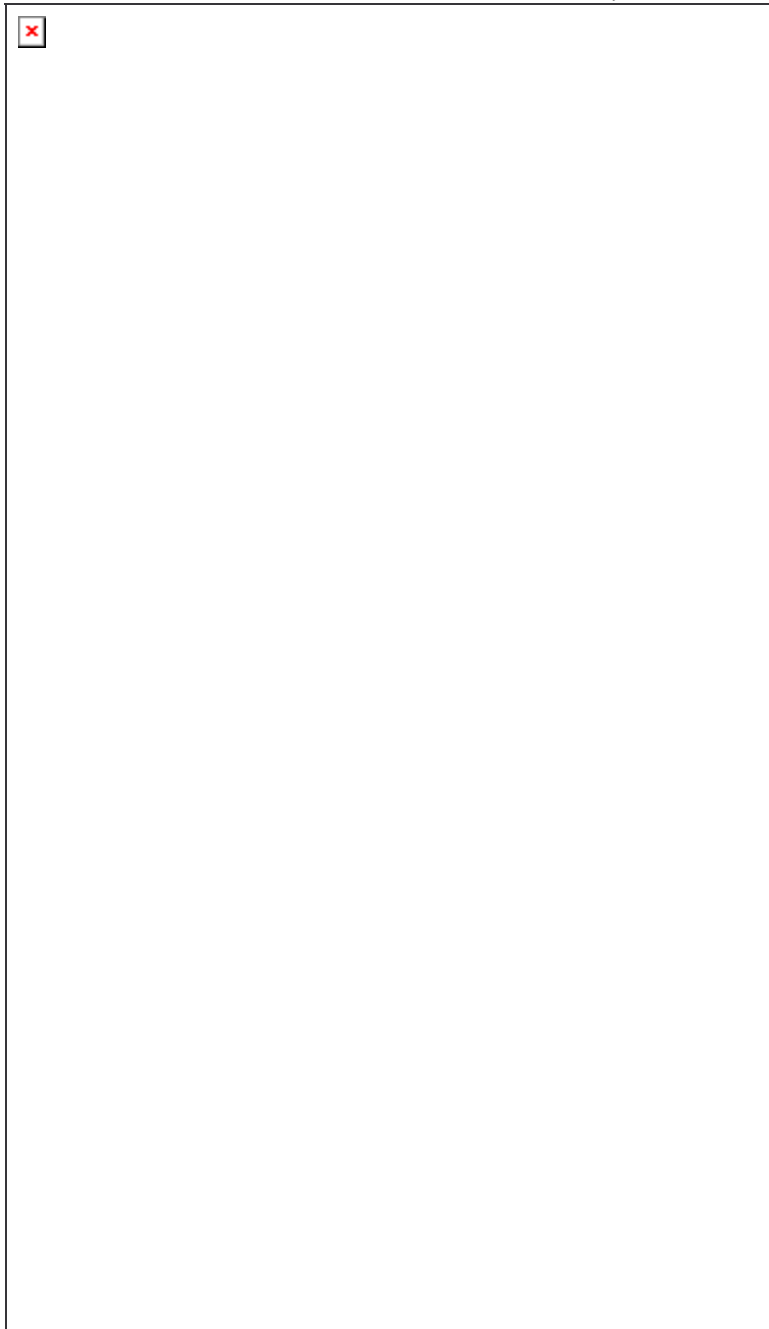
During this same time all departments in Town Hall were planning the move to our temporary location for the duration of the long awaited Town Hall renovations. The Tax Collector's office business hours increased to 35

hours per week. Please refer to the *Taxpayer's Guide* included each year with your tax bill for the current office hours. However, if there is a pressing issue that cannot be resolved during these hours, please call our office, (860) 349-1165 for an appointment. Payment by mail is encouraged; credit card payments are possible at [www.officialpayments.com](http://www.officialpayments.com) (with a fee). Unless there is a problem with your tax bill, payment in person is not necessary.

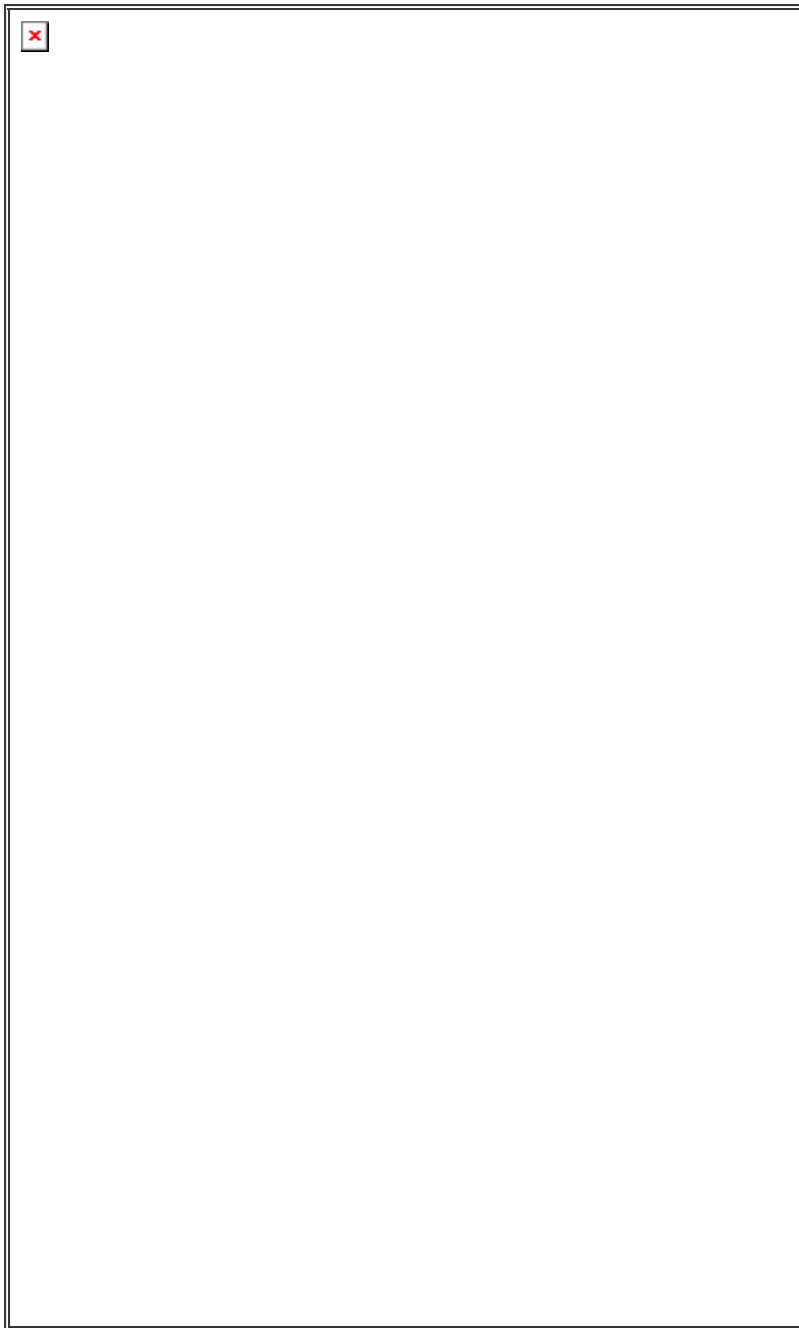
Your suggestions as to how we can better serve you are appreciated. Our office strives to accommodate the needs of the citizens of Durham by establishing and adhering to policies that ensure equal treatment of all taxpayers, friendly customer service, and the timely deposit of receipts for use by the Town. Thank you for your continued courtesy when dealing with our office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martin French  
Tax Collector  
[mfrench@townofdurhamct.org](mailto:mfrench@townofdurhamct.org)

**TOWN OF DURHAM  
REPORT OF TAX COLLECTOR – PROPERTY TAXES  
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2005**



**Uncollected Real Estate Property Taxes  
As of June 30, 2005**



**TRANSFER TO SUSPENSE TAX BOOK  
UNCOLLECTED MOTOR VEHICLE TAXES**

As of June 13, 2005

Martin French, Tax Collector

<u>Name</u>	<u>List #</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason for Transfer</u>
<u>List of 1999 Personal Property</u> CM Burr Real Estate	40042	37.25	Moved/no forwarding address
<u>List of 1999 Motor Vehicle</u> Burr CM Management	50803	245.25	M/NF
<u>List of 1999 Motor Vehicle Supplemental</u> Ferrara Jonathan D	80332	88.80	M/NF

List of 2000 Personal Property

Second Cousins of Durham	40214	490.80	M/NF
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List of 2000 Motor Vehicle

Fincher Lori B.	51971	31.19	M/NF
Ferrara Jonathan D.	51939	56.52	M/NF
McNamara Louise E.	54012-13	430.05	M/NF

List of 2001 Motor Vehicle

Guggenheim Timothy J.	52640	44.66	M/NF
Casco Carlos	50961	92.19	M/NF
Fincher Lori B.	52005	31.90	M/NF
Ferrara Jonathan	51979	73.05	M/NF

List of 2001 Personal Property

CIBC World Markets	40047	99.21	M/NF
Direct2you Wireless	40078	171.30	M/NF
Jason Soda Company	40000	6.38	M/NF
Mellon First United Leasing	40162	276.26	M/NF
Parsons WA Co. Inc.	40188	9,610.84	M/NF
Progressive Finance Corp	40202	133.98	M/NF
Second Cousins of Durham	40211	1,172.34	M/NF
Sierracities Com Inc.	40213	188.22	M/NF

List of 2002 Personal Property

Parsons WA Co. Inc.	40184	1,413.38	M/NF
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List of 2002 Motor Vehicle

Doolittle Walter	51825	18.09	M/NF
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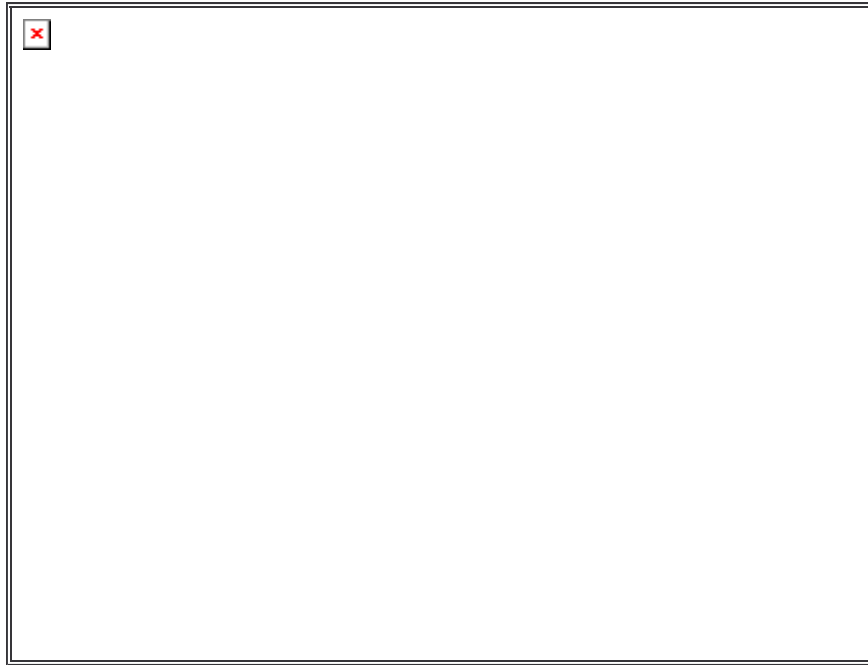
List of 2002 Motor Vehicle Supplemental

Cacho Victor	80164	43.22	M/NF
Defelice Athena I	80335	40.37	DECEASED
Constantinou Anthony	80256	157.52	M/NF
Constantinou Kathleen	80257	121.94	M/NF

List of 2003 Motor Vehicle

Cacho Victor	50931	128.98	M/NF
Linna Larry E.	53937	361.72	M/NF

<b>Total</b>		<b>\$15,765.41</b>	
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**John Burton with his father Albert Gastler and a yoke of oxen-Circa 1920. Albert was first in his family born in America. His family came to America in 1870. Albert bought a 70 acre farm on Middlefield Road in 1905 which is still owned by the family.**

**BUILDING AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY  
2004-2005**

*Insert report here*

*Excel File Name: Building and Health Report 0405*



## The Year in Review

The number of applications received by the Planning and Zoning Commission remains steady. A breakdown of the applications reviewed by the Commission follows:

### REGULATION AMENDMENTS

- Initiated by the Planning and Zoning Commission, Amendments to the Zoning Regulations, Section 12.13. "Fences"
- Initiated by the Planning and Zoning Commission, Amendments to the Zoning Regulations, Section 11.01.02.03. "Signs"
- Initiated by the Planning and Zoning Commission, Amendment to the Zoning Regulations, Section 12/04.01. "Home Occupations"
- Initiated by the Planning and Zoning Commission, Amendment to the zoning Regulations, Section 13.05.05.(2) "Dwellings for Elderly and/or Handicapped"
- Initiated by the Planning and Zoning Commission, Amendment to the Zoning Regulations, Section 12.13 "Fences"

### SITE PLAN REVIEW

- Sterling Holding of Durham, LLC, Commercial Office Use and Dunkin Donuts, CT Route #17
- Whitehouse Brothers, LLC, Site Contracting in a Light Industrial Zone, Parsons Rd
- Datco, Inc., Above Ground Fuel Tank, 41B Commerce Circle
- Sterling Holding of Durham, LLC, Guardrails on South Edge of Parking Area, CT Route #17
- Greenland Realty, LLC, Temporary Processing of On-Site Traprock, 10 Mountain Rd
- Aberdeen LLC, Revise previously Approved Building Plans, Route #17 and Stagecoach Road

### SUBDIVISIONS AND RESUBDIVISIONS

- Harold and Sharon Hall, 2-Lot Subdivision, South End Avenue
- Rachel Stern, 1-Lot Resubdivision, South side of Haddam Quarter Road

### EARTH EXCAVATION AND REMOVAL PERMITS

- Tilcon, Inc., 1 year Renewal, South side of Wallingford Road

### HOME OCCUPATIONS

- Karen LeBoulluec, Design and Layout of Advertisements and Printed Materials, 98 Foot Hills Road
- Lynn Riotte, Framing Service and Art Gallery, 307A Main Street
- Shawomic Malek, Home Office, 31 Mattabeset Drive, Application Denied
- Maria Ward, Hair Services Office, 11 Wheeler Hill Road
- Christopher Ezzo, Internet Business, 8R Stagecoach Road
- Bryan Esparo, Office for Construction Company, 36 Bailey Road

### 8-24 REVIEW

- Catherine Berten-Gutch, Acceptance of Road, Berten Ridge Road
- Town of Durham, Renovations and Additions to the Town Hall, Town House Road

### SPECIAL EXCEPTION/SPECIAL PERMIT

- Kelly and Sean Davis, Accessory Apartment, 4 South Woods Lane
- Nosal Enterprise, LLC, Office, Storage Warehouse Buildings, Lot #5, Ozick Drive
- CT Area Classic Thunderbird Club, 1-Day Event, Antique Auto Show and Flea Market, Regional School District #13 Sports Fields
- Hans Pedersen, Construct Building for a Child Day Care Center, Brick Lane, Application Withdrawn
- Hans Pederson, Construct Building for a Child Day Care Center, 68 Main Street
- M&M Ventures, LLC, Automobile Sales and Service, Route #17 and Parsons Lane

- Greenland REaly, LLC, Removal of Traprock to allow for the Construction of a Berm, 10 Mountain Road, Application Denied
- Peter Grippo, Three Vendors – Grippo's Mobile Service Center, Subway and Dunkin Donuts, 349 Main Street
- Housewright Developers, Inc., Building for Professional Services, Offices, Plumbing, Heating and Electrical Establishments, Warehouse, etc., Lot #4, Ozick Drive
- J&T Route 68 Property Management, LLC, Rental Storage Units, Lot #9, Ozick Drive, Application Denied

#### EXTENSION

- Greenland Realty, Temporary Processing of On-Site Traprock, 10 Mountain Road

#### CHANGE OF ZONE

- Arrigoni Enterprises, LLC, DDD to HID, Old Mountain Road, Application Denied

#### RENEWAL OF ACCESORY APARTMENT PERMIT

- Mary Ryan, 257 Mica Hill Road

Respectfully submitted,

George Eames, III, Chairman

Durham Planning and Zoning Commission

### **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

The primary function of the Zoning Board of Appeals is to hear and determine applications for variances to existing zoning regulations. The Board is given this authority under the Connecticut General Statutes to vary a zoning requirement if it determines that strict enforcement of that zoning regulation would cause exceptional difficulty or unusual hardship with respect to a parcel of land. However, the variance must be in harmony with the general purpose and character of the zone in which it lies.

During the 2004 to 2005 fiscal year, the Zoning Board of Appeals held seven meetings, during which fifteen public hearings were heard and voted upon on a variety of variance applications.

In addition, the Commission conducted five site walks of various properties. Generally, site walks are conducted when application materials submitted do not clearly demonstrate the impact of the requested variance.

In total, the Commission approved two rear yard variances, six side yard variances and six front yard variances. Due to numerous extenuating circumstances, members also approved one variance to allow a 1.5-acre building lot in an area recently re-zoned to two acres. In September 2004, members requested that no applications be accepted which do not include information on the specific hardship claimed.

Generally, variances were approved due to lot configuration, topography of the land, location of wetlands, wells and septic systems, with special consideration given for lots which predate zoning. Members are very mindful of the impact variances may have on neighbors and prefer to hear from each abutter personally or by mail. Occasionally, applicants have chosen not to attend their public hearings, and rely on the written record as submitted in the application. The Commission is unlikely to make a decision in these cases as questions often come up during the hearing process which can only be answered by the applicant. All interested parties are strongly encouraged to attend.

The Commission continues to be concerned that a significant number of landowners apply for variances after the work has been completed, often after an enforcement official or abutting landowner brings the activity to the Board's attention. Landowners need to be aware that all in-ground and aboveground swimming pools, all decks, sheds and any other ancillary structures require, at the very least, a building permit. When in doubt, it's best to contact the Town's Building Department officials who will inform applicants which, if any, land use agencies they must seek approval from.

The Zoning Board of Appeals meets on the second Thursday of each month, provided there are applications to review. There is generally no meeting scheduled for August. Applications can be obtained from the Town's

Building Department.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia E. Dynia  
Commission Secretary



**George Gulilemette on two horse mower- circa 1920's.  
The Guliemette farm was located on both sides of Mica Hill road.  
The farm was originally started by George's father, Frank, who bought the property in 1919 with help from his  
brother-in-law Peter Agaliate.  
The farm is no longer active**

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#### **INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES AGENCY**

During the fiscal year July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005, this agency reviewed 24 applications for review and/or permit for activities in the wetlands or within 100 feet of a wetland. The agency conducted seven site walks and two public hearings, and issued four cease and desist orders for unauthorized activities in and around the wetlands.

These extensive reviews resulted in the Commission concluding that the majority of the numerous proposed activities (wetland crossings, building, septic and well construction within 100 feet of a wetland, pond dredging and harvesting of trees in and around wetlands) would entail either no activity in the wetlands, where activities took place within the review area, or limited activity in the wetlands, where the proposal entailed work within the actual wetlands. These decisions were based on plans presented by professional engineers and/or soil scientists, which included appropriate erosion and sedimentation controls, restricted materials storage plans in industrial zones, appropriate drainage pipe size and placement plans, as well as review and approval, sometimes with changes, by the Town's Engineer, Health Officer and Wetland Enforcement Officer.

The Commission struggled with, and continues in some cases to struggle with, unresolved issues regarding inappropriate materials storage within 100 feet of wetlands, especially in the industrial/business zone area along Route 68. This has resulted in the issuance of numerous cease and desist orders, public hearings, site walks and on-going discussions with various landowners and their legal representatives. Agency members are determined to resolve these issues in a way which will allow businesses to thrive in Durham in a manner which does not

threaten the integrity of our wetlands.

At the June 13, 2005 meeting, the Commission approved plans for the Town's water company to construct trenches and piping in order to utilize existing wells at White's Farm for distribution to water company customers.

The agency is required to review all subdivisions, whether or not there is a wetland activity, before Planning & Zoning can act upon them. Regulations also require a review by this agency of all activities in the wetlands or within one hundred feet of a wetland or watercourse.

The Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency meets on the second Monday of each month. Questions regarding activities may be directed to the Town Planner at Midstate Regional Planning Agency in Middletown, or to Building Department personnel at Durham Town Hall. Permit and review applications are available at the Building Department and Town Clerk's office. Applications for permit or review, along with all applicable fees, must be submitted at least three full business days before a scheduled meeting of the agency (exclusive of the date of the meeting).

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia E. Dynia  
Commission Secretary



*Ernest Otte on the family farm with a team ready to bed hay in the summer of 1937. Ernest was the son of August W. Otte, August's farm was a 72 acre piece on the corner of Cherry Lane and Fowler Avenue. This was previously the site of the first book company in 1733, not privately owned which was the forerunner of the town's present library, thus making Durham's the first public library in the country. (Excerpted from Myra Korn's writing in "Century of Change")*

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

The Durham Public Safety Committee consists of representatives from the public and Durham's Emergency Service Providers, including Police, Fire, Ambulance, and Civil Defense. The committee works to improve public safety by providing planning and analysis functions for the town, and instituting programs designed to reduce crime and motor vehicle accidents.

The committee also serves as a liaison between the residents of our town, the Board of Selectmen, and Durham's Emergency Service providers; acting upon appropriate citizen input regarding safety issues and concerns.

During the past year the committee implemented the *Neighborhood Watch Program* in twenty-eight neighborhoods. This successful has been designed to reduce crime without increasing the cost of police protection for our citizens. Residents who wish to learn more about the program are encouraged to attend any of the committee's informational meetings. Meeting dates and times are advertised in local newspapers and mailers.

The committee also conducted its annual review of the Resident State Trooper Program. This review concluded that the performance of the Durham RST Program continues to be successful; achieving crime-solve rates which exceed that of nearby towns with similar programs. During 2005 Mr. Peter DiGioia, our Resident State Trooper, worked in conjunction with the Public Safety Committee to present and implement the Neighborhood Watch programs.

The Public Safety Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Durham Public Library. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. For further information on the Durham Public Safety Committee or to request the committee's assistance with a matter, please contact Frank DeFelice at 349-9688 or Bill Smith at 349-9513.

Respectfully submitted,  
Frank C. DeFelice, PSC Committee Chairman

### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

The Emergency Operations Center established at the Durham Fair Emergency Medical Facility is operational and functioning well. During the past year we have been working with Homeland Security to receive Durham's share of the 2004 and 2005 grant money that has been authorized. In addition to enhancements to our electronic and telephone equipment, a badge identification system and generator have been approved and put out to bid.

Early this year on July 12<sup>th</sup>, we held a Mass Casualty drill at the Durham Fairgrounds. The exercise simulated an out of control vehicle descending the hill causing serious injury and damage. All emergency departments were included in the exercise including helicopter evacuation.

Now that the Strong School renovations have been completed, we are working to increase our shelter capacity. The shelter operations are a community service program of the Exchange club and they have provided the necessary manpower.

Monthly meetings with the Area II Emergency Managers continue at various towns in providing information and support for our region.

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) consists of the heads of various Town Department and Agencies. LEPC meets on an ongoing basis as needed, such as pre and post Durham Fair, to assess the Town needs and to update emergency operations planning.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christopher M. Soulias  
Emergency Management Director

### **DURHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, INC.**

The Durham Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. completed a safe year in FY 2004-2005. Our Company responded to exactly 300 emergency calls this year. Our responses covered the complete spectrum from structural fire calls in

Durham and in aid to our neighbors, motor vehicle accidents, automatic alarms, hazardous materials incidents, calls to assist the Durham Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc., (as they too respond to assist us), and other emergency and non-emergency, public service responses.

The Fire Company enjoyed a major interest in membership this past year with many new fire fighters joining the probationary ranks and several qualifying for inclusion in the active membership role. An encouraging new trend is emerging with our probationary members: they are immediately enrolling in State certification courses in Fire Fighter I and often Fire Fighter II and many of them are also completing certification as Emergency Medical Technicians. Our more senior members are also participating in certification training at these levels and courses as well as keeping up with continuing education through Company sponsored courses and programs offered through other Fire Departments and the State Training Academy.

One exciting addition to our ranks has been the Fire Explorer's Post. Through this program Company advisors have mentored teenagers interested in fire fighting. The Explorers work towards qualification to respond in a regulated fashion to emergency calls and act in a support role with Company fire fighters. Explorers have participated in Company training and have become a refreshing presence in the fire house on our weekly work days when they assist with truck checks and other duties that prepare them to become members of the Fire Company when they reach 18 years of age.

Our major Federal Emergency Management Authority Grant of more than \$250,000.00 has been completed. Through this radio communications grant we improved our ability to function in local and regional emergencies and also to provide safety protocols and equipment for our members. This grant was achieved completely through the work of volunteers and has achieved State and Federal mandates that would have cost the Town large amounts of money for required communication capabilities.

Finally, I want to thank all of the officers and members of the Company for their work in emergency responses and in the routine chores required to make our volunteer group successful. Also, thanks to the Town for its support and my annual request for residents to look at the street number in front of their homes and businesses. As always, I ask you to think about the visibility of your street numbers from both directions and if they will be easily seen by emergency responders on a dark night and in bad weather. Finding your home rapidly can be helpful to us in providing services to you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Steve Levy, Chief DVFC

## **DURHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY**

### STAFF

A library is a collection of resources, the greatest of which is the staff. In that, Durham is rich indeed. How extremely fortunate we were to find and hire one of the most knowledgeable, efficient and delightful librarians in the country. Valerie Kilmartin came to us after serving as the Director of Branch Libraries for the Queens Borough Public Library in New York City. In a matter of months, the patrons at our library benefited from her expertise, as the collection was reorganized and expanded. One feels a vibrancy entering the library as Valerie's energy has infused programming and directed the staff in new and exciting directions. In a very short period of time, she has become a positive force in not just our library, but in the town as well.

In the period after Valerie Harrod's retirement in November, Assistant Director Cyndi Shirshac did an extraordinary job as Acting Director while carrying her own heavy load of responsibilities. She could not have succeeded however without the support of the entire staff who worked together to maintain the same level of excellent service.

The contributions each staff member makes are unique and vital: it is an accepted fact that Jane Churchill knows every book in the collection and in a pinch could probably run the Library single-handedly; Nancy Turner, whose institutional memory is irreplaceable, makes countless trips (on her own time) to the Middletown Service Center for new audio books, large print and picture books to supplement our collection; Christina Geary's artistic talent

is put to use in the preparation of our flyers, banners and signage; in addition her pastels were on exhibit in the gallery during February; Cyndi is not only an excellent administrator but a tenacious reference librarian, whose special skill, reader's advisory, is put to constant use; Carol Herzig's love of the library and joy in her work is not only evident in everything she does, but is contagious as well; Melissa Bates, a dynamic and dedicated children's librarian, uses her knowledge of children's literature to meet the needs of her young patrons; Christine Tkacz's creativity and enthusiasm characterize all that she does.

To a new Director, coming in mid-year, with a budget due in a matter of weeks, the challenges were significant. From the start, the staff was extremely helpful and welcoming. While it takes a team to run a Library, Cyndi's extensive knowledge of DPL's systems and operations and the

community, and her willingness to share that knowledge, demand special mention. Her judgment, feedback and advice were then, and are now, invaluable.

During this past year, Carol Herzig made a smooth transition from Library Page to Library Assistant, easily taking on new responsibilities. Elizabeth Dougan, long-time volunteer, joined the staff as Library Page. Christine Tkacz, formerly a substitute, became our second Children's Librarian.

### CHILDREN/YOUNG ADULT

Melissa Bates, Head of Youth Services, with Christine Tkacz, Youth Services Librarian, took over all children's programming after the retirement last year of Pat White, Durham's popular storyteller. Children and parents/caregivers have responded enthusiastically to the somewhat changed formats in pre-school programs. Melissa introduced "Baby Bounce," an interactive story/song program for babies 6 – 18 months. She reports that this program is especially popular with first time parents.

Melissa's "Evening Adventures," a book discussion group for 1<sup>st</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> graders continues to be a popular program. Christine provided two special events based on the "Series of Unfortunate Events:" a book discussion and film program – both were well attended. This was the third year for the Valentine Sharing Tree, and each year surpasses the one previous in numbers of books bought.

Melissa, Christine and Valerie participated in the read aloud at Brewster School; Valerie facilitated a book discussion group at the Strong School. In May, Christine assumed responsibility for the YA collection and services. She got off to a great start with a "Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" jeans decorating party and contest, plus book discussion, which attracted 18 participants.

### ADULT

In May, 2005, Durham resident Michael Good gave a book talk on "The Search for Major Plagge," the compelling account of his parents' experiences during the Holocaust and his search for the Wehrmacht officer his mother credits with saving her family's lives. Over 90 people attended the event, which was recorded for broadcast by C-SPAN. Other programming highlights include the three discussions led by Hedda Kopf for the Book Lover's Circle, and the Fryer-Balaban Swingtet concert "Pages from the American Songbook" in April, both funded by P.A.L.S. Under Cyndi's direction, the Mystery Book Club is a popular discussion program, which during the past year welcomed two authors during the discussion of their works.

### COLLECTIONS

With support from P.A.L.S. and the Library Development Fund, we were able to start the "Fast Track" collection. These are mostly leased copies of high demand titles that circulate for 7 days, cannot be reserved or renewed – assuring high turnover and availability. This initiative also involved purchasing two display units, one for "Fast Track," the other used for rotating displays and new paperbacks. The new book collection was shifted for maximum impact and purchases are targeted to meet request demands. As a result, circulation of adult new books has increased by 82% over the same period in 2004. A Travel section was created, bringing videos together with books; other merchandised areas include "Great Cooking," and "Diet, Health and Exercise." In the Children's Room, Melissa had been selecting picture books on popular topics for a special section that will

be easier for parents/caregivers to use. This new collection, designated "Concept Books" in the catalog, includes titles on bringing home a new baby, death, divorce, counting, ABC, seasons etc.

All collections were weeded. Much of this was done in time for the book sale. Use, condition, copyright, availability of new material are all factors taken into consideration in the de-selection process, an essential component of collection maintenance. Since we expect to migrate to a new ILS next year, doing this now is both time and cost effective.

## TECHNOLOGY

During the Fall, wireless internet capability was installed at very low cost on the main floor. In February, wi-fi was extended to the lower level as well. Also in the Fall of 04, 3 new PCs were put in the children's room, adding one more internet access PC.

In February '05, we began giving patrons receipts of their transactions to prepare them for the transition to receipt only. In April we discontinued stamping books and other materials with due dates, providing patrons instead with a printed receipt of what they checked out and the dates due. To promote the change in service, we provided patrons with refrigerator magnets that read "My Books Are Due On," which also displayed Library hours, telephone and web address. New books are now prepared with labels on the back covers to facilitate speedier checkout.

## BUILDING

With extremes in temperature and high humidity, the oil burner had been run year round to stabilize conditions in the two downstairs meeting rooms. This, together with the lack of a functioning temperature control/monitor system, led the Board of Trustees to solicit bids to repair the HVAC system. The Board selected the bid submitted by AC Mechanical, whose principal, Albert Chmura, has maintained the HVAC systems in both buildings for many years. In May, Board President Jane Eriksen and Vice President David Turley appeared before the Board of Selectmen to request discretionary funding of \$15,000 for the repair. The Board of Selectmen supported the request and on June 13, the allocation was approved at a Town Meeting held at Strong School. The work was completed before the end of the FY.

The Town re-structured the budget, removing the fuel oil line from the Library's budget. The Town will consolidate purchasing oil for Town owned buildings in the hope of securing a better price than individual departments could negotiate. This is timely, considering that our fuel expenditures totaled \$15,600 this year, exceeding the budget line by \$7,100. One of the benefits of the new HVAC system is that we will no longer have to run the burner through the summer, and it will be set to lower levels during closed periods, again conserving fuel.

## VOLUNTEERS

Durham's true community spirit can be seen in the strong tradition of volunteer service. The Library is extremely fortunate in the consistent quantity of time and quality of effort on the part of all of our volunteers. Of particular note are Alma Hinman, Ellen Patterson and Etzie Heyl, our Tuesday book prep crew and Gloria Nilson, retired librarian, who is indexing our folk tale collection. At our second annual staff volunteer luncheon, Maria Monkovic was named Volunteer of the Year. Twenty-three young volunteers staffed the summer reading desk, assisting the 609 children, 75 teens and 159 adults who registered.

With inadequate page hours to keep up with our shelving, we placed an item in the *Town Times* requesting volunteers to shelve books. Several people responded and their weekly hours help us keep our shelves stocked and the collections in order. Other volunteers have provided knitting, puppet and science programs. On the staff side, the Plant Sale/Swap is a very popular event organized and managed by Cyndi with assistance this year from Nancy and Christine. Pat White, Tina Gossner, Brenda Marino and Leslie Wilt also volunteered to help. The proceeds from this fundraiser support craft programs. In all, we recorded 1,107 volunteer hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Eriksen  
President, Board of Trustees

Valerie R. Kilmartin  
Director

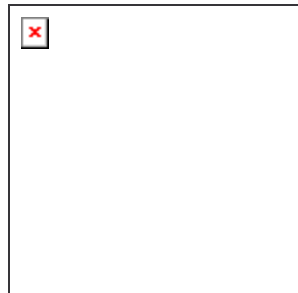
### **DURHAM SENIOR CITIZENS BOARD**

The Durham Senior Citizens Board holds meetings every month except for July and August. We continue to offer many programs to the seniors such as exercise classes, yoga classes, art classes, bingo, and card parties. The exercise classes meet at the Durham Fire House and the bingo, card games, and art classes meet at the Durham Library.

In addition to these programs there is also a senior bus that provides transportation for Durham and Middlefield Seniors for medical appointments and for planned recreational activities.

We look forward to continuing to offer more varied programs are committed to finding a site for a Durham Senior Center in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lainy Melvin, Chairperson



*Andrew Naples on tractor 1940. Naple's farm on Bear Road purchased by Andrew in 1927. This farm had the first market garden in Durham-1937.  
Family member Phyllis and husband Peter still market garden on the homestead and at Dudley Farm in North Guilford.*

### **HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

The Historic District Commission has had a busy year. Alan Reed presided as Chairman for most of the year until he resigned in October due to his move from Durham to Wallingford.

I, Duncan Milne, will carry his role as Vice Chairman until January 2005 when the Commission will have its annual election of officers. I am happy to continue as Chairman if endorsed in the election.

Recently we held a Historic District Walk to celebrate the publication of an excellent booklet entitled, *Durham Historic District Walking Tour*. This is the culmination of efforts by Jim McLaughlin as prime coordinator and designer, Diana McCain as researcher, photographer, etc., and very importantly the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, which provided us with a grant of \$2,500. Despite the cold and rain we had a successful walk following a presentation by Diana McCain.

Our year from July 2004 to June 2005 included action on ten (10) Certificates of Appropriateness. In many cases the owners came to meet with us preliminarily which we appreciate and encourage.

Other issues addressed during the year were:

- Satellite dishes
- Main Street signage infractions
- Main Street chain link fence infractions
- Opportunities to increase awareness of the Historic District, its virtues, its benefits, and its extent of control.

Respectfully submitted,  
Duncan S. Milne  
Acting Chair, Historic District Commission

### RECREATION COMMITTEE

What a great year! Our year was filled with fun activities for all to enjoy. Our children participated in the summer playground for grades 1-7. One hundred and seventy-two children registered for the playground program. Little People's Program registered 62 and was for all four and five year olds. The children participated in arts and crafts, kite flying, bug day, and other exciting activities. Youth recreation met for eight weeks on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Memorial School. Activities included basketball, kickball, volleyball and other activities. This program was held for grades 5-7. Sixty children registered for youth night. Karate classes were held at Brewster School for grades K-8 and have become a great program for all to learn discipline and self confidence. We had a great Junior Counselor Program that met this summer at Allyn Brook Park. Thirty-one youths participated in the Junior Counselor Program where they learned leadership and responsibility skills working with younger children.

Our summer sports clinics have become very popular. The girls and boys Blue Hoop clinic and Offensive Basketball clinic had great turnouts. The Devil Track clinic was a great experience for all who attended. Children learned how to run, throw, jump, and all had a great time. A special treat was held after their workout. Pizza, strawberry shortcake, ice cream, and watermelon were served, and a cook-out was held on the last day. Summer fun runs were held on Tuesday evenings for adults and children. Ribbons were awarded to all who participated. Adult exercise was also held in the evenings at Brewster School during the months of September through June. Shoshin Ryu was also held at Korn School during the year.

A women's softball league was held during the summer months of July and August. Six teams of women played in the softball league. A women's volleyball league was held in the months of September and October at Coginchaug High School. Fifty-two women attended the program. Women's open gym basketball was held at John Lyman School during the months of December, January, and February. Other sports offered were children's and adult's tennis lessons. The men's basketball league met during the months of January through April. The league had eight teams of Durham and Middlefield residents. The games were played at Strong School.

The Youth boy's and girl's recreation basketball league for grades K-8 played at all of the District 13 schools on Saturday mornings during the months of December through February. Practices were also held at all of the schools. We also had eight travel basketball teams that played in the Shoreline League. Children's fun and fitness classes were held at Brewster School for children aged 1-3 and 4-6. This program met on Saturday mornings during the months of March and April. Lacrosse was also offered in the summer. Co-ed volleyball met on Monday evenings at Coginchaug High School at the outdoor sand court. We also had a girl's summer sunset basketball program that met on Monday evenings at the outdoor courts at Coginchaug High School. Durham Recreation is also the sponsor of the September 11<sup>th</sup> remembrance on the Town green.

Many family activities were enjoyed by all, including an Easter Egg Hunt (eggs donated by Hi-Land Farms in Durham); a Holiday Tree Lighting (co-sponsored by Planeta Electric); a Halloween Parade and Pumpkin Contest held at Brewster School; and the Summer Concert Series sponsored by the Town of Durham held at Allyn Brook Park.

Sincere thanks to George Planeta for making our tree lighting on the green a very special occasion. Special thanks to District 13, Coginchaug Little League, and the Coginchaug Soccer Club for their organization of the Youth Sports programs. A special thank you goes out to all of our volunteers and Recreation Committee members who help make our recreation experiences memorable ones. Input from the community is always appreciated. Recreation Committee meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Durham Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherry F. Hill, Recreation Director

**DURHAM CEMETERY COMPANY**

Barbara J. Olsen, President	Tom Palmeiri, Treasurer
Tom Anderson, Assistant Treasurer	Laura L. Francis, Secretary
Mary G. DiMella, Assistant Secretary	Doug Harmon
B. Robert Atwell	Phyllis Naples Valenti
Margaret S. Atwell	Arthur Bielefield
Richard A. Olsen	Delores Caturano
Ann Shepardson	Robert White

Lewis Hinman

Ken Jay, Sexton

There were 12 burials and seven cremations in the past year. Inquiries concerning the purchase of plots at Mica Hill Cemetery can be directed to our Sexton or to any member of the Board of Directors.

This year, with matching funds from the Town of Durham, we have finished our 2003-2004 restoration of four brownstones in the Center. This is under the direction of Francis Miller, Sculpture Conservator of Conserv Art, LLC in Hamden, Connecticut. This is an ongoing project by the Cemetery Company to preserve a valuable piece of Durham history.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara J. Olsen  
President



*The Parmelee Farm after the tornado of 1940.*

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*4 pages*

Excel File name is: 2004-2005TownBudget

TOWN OF DURHAM  
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
FOR YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005