

# REPORT OF THE OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of the Town of Abington:

As your representatives to the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC), we are pleased to present this report on behalf of the Council for 2006.

The Old Colony Planning Council was established in 1967 by state statute and is authorized to prepare plans for the physical, social and economic development of the fifteen-member community region. OCPC is designated as: an Economic Development District by the U.S. Department of Commerce for the coordination of regional economic development activities; an Area Agency on Aging (AAA) by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs to plan, manage and coordinate elder services in a twenty-three community service area; and, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to plan and program transportation and transit improvements for the region.

In addition to the above-designated responsibilities, the Council is concerned with a wide variety of area-wide and inter-municipal concerns as they pertain to the development of the Planning District. The Council also assists its member municipalities with technical planning, grant application preparation and current local and regional trends socioeconomic information.

During the past year, the Council completed work on the Halifax and Plympton GIS parcel mapping; the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) 2006 Area Plan; the OCPC 2006 DataBook; the Old Colony 2006 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS); BAT - FY 2006 Ridership Analysis; BAT - Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP); BAT - Title VI Plan; numerous Intersection/Technical Studies, and the FFY 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This past year, the Council conducted traffic counts at approximately 225 locations throughout the region. The Council also continued work on updating the Long Range Regional Transportation Plan, which identifies transportation project needs in the OCPC region, for the next twenty-five years; OCPC Policy Plan; East Bridgewater Economic Target Area (ETA) designation; Route 3A Corridor Study in Kingston and Plymouth; Easton Circulation Study; and participation on the MBTA Taskforce in the New Bedford/Fall River Commuter Rail Growth Impact Study. OCPC is also working with the Regional Wastewater Committee including the towns of Avon, East Bridgewater, Easton, West Bridgewater and the City of Brockton on developing a scope for a feasibility study looking at potential regional solutions to wastewater management. The Area Agency on Aging provided approximately 100,000 vehicle miles of volunteer Transportation; 2,000 hours of legal services; and approximately 500,000 meals to the seniors.

Each member community of the Council is represented by one delegate and one alternate member. The Council members establish policy, develop the work program, and employ and oversee the activities of the professional staff. The Council meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the OCPC offices located at 70 School Street, Brockton, MA. In 2006, the Council elected Robert Overholtzer of Hanson as President of OCPC; Jeanmarie Kent Joyce of Easton as Council Treasurer; and, Joseph P. Landolfi of Stoughton as Council Secretary. Pasquale Ciaramella serves as Executive Director of the Council.

The Council gratefully acknowledges the generous support and cooperation of its member communities and the participation and involvement of the many individuals who participate as members of committees. Special thanks are extended to Joint Transportation Committee Chair Noreen O'Toole; Comprehensive Economic Development Committee Chair Salvador A. Pina; and, the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Committee Mary Willis for their commitment, dedication and leadership during the year. The Council also recognizes the work of local boards and commissions and the government agencies, public and private institutions and individuals who assisted the Council in its efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Stanley Littlefield, *Delegate*

Joseph Murray, *Alternate*

Matthew Striggles, *Delegate At-Large*

## **REPORT OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Inhabitants of the Town of Abington:

The Park and Recreation Commission submit its 124th Annual Report on the operations of the Park and Recreation Department to the Townspeople of Abington.

At the annual town elections, Steven J. Wakelin was elected to his 3rd term.

Organizing for the year, Christopher Trucchi was elected Chair, Paul F. Mollica was elected vice-chair, and Robert Walsh was elected as Secretary.

Track meets, soccer games and summer band concerts are in the there second season at the John B. Reilly Field. Attendance at these events has been very good. Many positive comments about the complex.

All fields remain extremely busy from late March until late November. We are seeing more players, more teams, and more leagues on our fields now than we have ever seen before. As these youth programs continue to grow, our fields are receiving less and less time to recover from the use. The Commission and the youth organizations have worked very closely trying to plan schedules so fields have a chance to rest and recover.

During the winter months, equipment and manpower were made available to the Highway Department for snow and ice removal.

Other unseasonable chores include bench and bleacher repair, maintaining all small engine power equipment, maintenance of all larger landscape equipment such as riding mowers, walk behind mowers and mowing decks, and tree removal and brush cutting.

General maintenance and upkeep of the 70+ acres of Town property, parks and fields was done on a daily basis.

The Commission and the Park and Recreation Department assisted with the Cancer Relay for Life and the Night Before the Fourth Committee. Both annual events were a great success.

The 27th Annual Charles F. Whitman Senior Citizen's Cookout was held in August. There were over 200 Senior Citizens in attendance that enjoyed the festivities of the day. The Commission would like to extend Thank yous to all cooks and servers and especially to our sponsor, the North Abington Cooperative Bank. Also thank you to the Businesses in Town that donated prizes for the raffle. Once again the John Shea Orchestra supplied music. The John Shea Orchestra has been performing for the Senior Citizens since the beginning of this event. Thank you to the John Shea Orchestra.

All of the programs, except for a small portion of the staffing at Island Grove, offered by the Park and Recreation Department is self funded.

With the help of the Friends of Island Grove Committee, we increased the awareness of Island Grove and the Eager Beaver programs. The Friends of island grove Committee, the Park and Recreation commission and the Park and recreation department worked very closely together to ensure that these programs will stay open for the benefit of the residents of Abington. The Commission and the Department is looking forward to working with the Friends of Island grove for many years to come.

The Island Grove and the Eager Beaver Programs are under the supervision of Mr. Clifford Murray, Recreation Director/Aquatics Director and Melissa Sulmonte, Eager Beaver Program Coordinator. Both programs experienced difficult summers with cold wet weather being the norm. Even though attendance was down in both programs because of weather conditions, the overall enthusiasm and spirit of the programs was outstanding. Both our programs were largely successful due to the commitment and caring of the Eager Beaver Staff and the Island Grove Staff. The Park and Recreation Commission would to thank all summer staff members for going to extra mile to make these two programs so successful this past summer.

Other Recreational Programs included Men's/Women's' over 30 Basketball, Co-Ed Adult Volleyball, Adult Tennis Lessons, Youth Tennis Clinic, Girls Basketball Camps, Baseball Camp, Drama Workshops, and the Fastbreak Basketball Camp

In all Recreational Activities the Commission tries to hire Abington Residents or Students as the Counselors or Instructors for all of its programs.

In closing, the Commission believes that the department is able to offer the taxpayers of Abington a good service thanks to the efforts of many organizations. The Commission would like to express its gratitude to all the Organizations, Clubs, other Town Departments and Citizens of Abington who have helped over the years.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Abington Park and Recreation Commis-  
sion*

Christopher Trucchi, *Chair*  
Paul F. Mollica, *Vice-Chair*  
Robert Walsh, *Secretary*  
Steven J. Wakelin, *Commissioner*  
Scott D. Tomlin, *Commissioner*  
Mark S. Chirokas, *Superintendent*

# REPORT OF PARTNERS HOME CARE, INC. ABINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES 2006

Partners Home Care, Inc., a non-profit Medicare certified agency, continues to serve Abington residents, offering nursing, physical, occupational, and speech therapy services, medical social work, nutritional counseling, and home health aide assistance. The agency continues to meet the highest standards of excellence fulfilling the mission of providing quality home health to those in need.

Under a contract with the Abington Board of Health, wellness programs, health promotion screenings, flu clinics, and immunization programs are offered to residents and town employees.

With the support of the Abington Housing Authority, we maintain office hours weekly at 100 Lincoln Blvd, Leavitt Terrace and our public health programs are housed therein. Office hours for walk-ins are Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon each week. Office appointments may be made by calling (781) 681-1013.

An ongoing communication regarding public health issues and initiatives continues with the Board of Health, Abington Public Schools and the many town agencies and departments. Detailed reports of our activities in the area of health education and the prevention and control of disease are submitted monthly demonstrating the fulfillment of our contractual obligation to the Abington Board of Health.

The following is a summary of our public health activities for the calendar year 2006.

<b>OFFICE VISITS</b>	<b>439 PATIENTS</b>	<b>IMMUNIZATIONS</b>	<b>148</b>
Blood Pressure Screenings	278	Hepatitis B	27
MD prescribed injections	1	MMR	1
Blood Sugar/tests	12	Flu	112
Tb Tests (1 for DPH)	8	Pneumonia	4
Tb Readings	8	Hepatitis A	1
Disease Instruction/Teaching	19	Varicella	1
		Pediarix	2

## SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION CLINICS

Immunizations administered at school clinics: Total given – 18 Tdap  
Tdap Immunizations – sixth graders at North, Center and Woodsdale schools

## TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAM

One Tuberculosis case contact was skin tested in the office this year. There were no active tuberculosis cases in Abington this year. Partners Home Care, Inc. purchases Tb testing serum. Tb testing is available at a nominal charge for pre-employment/OSHA regulations. Free testing of tuberculosis contacts continues under the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Tb Division and is available by office appointment or home visit.

## SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS/ABINGTON

**March 23, 2006** Attended the American Cancer Society Advocacy training program in preparation for the Relay for Life to be held in Abington in June.

**April 5, 2006** – Attended all day seminar – Infectious Disease Surveillance and Reporting.

**April 7, 2006** – Participated in Table-Top Emergency Preparedness Exercise at Wheaton College, along with several members of Abington’s Emergency Management Team/Police, Fire and Board of Health.

**May 12, 2006** - Attended “Be Prepared for Pandemic Flu” seminar presented by Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

**June 9th and 10th** - American Cancer Society Relay for Life held at Memorial Field in Abington – was a volunteer at The Cancer Advocacy table – gathering signatures on the Wall of Hope Banner and petition books to encourage our Legislators in Washington, D.C. to make the eradication of cancer a national priority.

**Summer of 2006** – FEMA Courses IS-00700 and IS-100/successfully completed the two courses required for town emergency first responders/volunteers under the Homeland Security Program.

**ADULT WELLNESS CLINICS - 425 PATIENTS - 47 CLINICS**

<i>Leavitt Terrace</i> <i>(January – December)</i> <i>First Tuesday</i> <i>9:00-10:30 A.M.</i>	<i>Shaw Avenue</i> <i>(January – December)</i> <i>Secondary Thursday</i> <i>10:00-11:00 A.M.</i>	<i>Chestnut Glen</i> <i>(January – December)</i> <i>Third Wednesday</i> <i>11:00 A.M -12:30 P.M.</i>	<i>Stop &amp; Shop</i> <i>(January – December)</i> <i>Last Thursday</i> <i>2:00-4:00 P.M.</i>
11 Clinics	12 Clinics	12 Clinics	12 Clinics
81 Patients/BP	91 Patients/BP	93 Patients/BP	160 Patients/BP
11 Blood Sugar Tests	4 Blood Sugar Tests	25 Blood Sugar Tests	56 Blood Sugar Tests

Monthly Clinics for Blood Pressure/Blood Sugar Screenings.  
Two clinics had to be cancelled due to inclement weather conditions.

**REPORTED COMMUNICABLE DISEASES: 25**

Salmonella	3	Strept pneumonia	1
Hepatitis B	2	Hepatitis C	4
Campylobacter	1	Viral Meningitis	2
Lyme Disease	6	Varicella	3
Pertussis	2	Legionellosis	1

Confidential case follow-ups are completed and submitted to the MA DPH as required.

**FLU CLINIC ACTIVITY - Fall 2006 635**

(\*Free Clinics – DPH Vaccine Only – for “elderly and high risk” as defined by the MA DPH)

*Abington VFW	11/17/06	259
*Shaw Ave.	11/14/06	26
*Chestnut Glen	11/15/06	31
*Abington Library/ECC	11/16/06	<u>208</u>
		524
Office Visits - 109	Home Visits - 2	

**DISTRIBUTION- DPH VACCINE**

Mildred Alford – Nursing Home 100  
(Mildred Alford Nursing Home closed its doors – November 2006. 40 unused doses transferred to another skilled nursing facility.)

Colony House - Rehab Center 100

**HEALTH PROMO VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE: 5**

Flu shots with MD orders – homebound patients – 2  
Assessment – 1 Tb test – 1 Reading – 1

A special thank you to the Board of Health Agent, Michelle Roberts and the Board of Health Secretary, Maureen Kilroy, who maintain close contact and provide assistance regarding health issues and concerns. They were particularly helpful during our busy flu season/ assisting with the preparations for advertising clinics.

I would like to thank the Board of Health and all the residents and businesses for their continued support – and a special thank you to the many volunteers who assist with our clinics throughout the year. It is through this ever-welcomed support that we can successfully meet the health care needs of our community and enhance services for the residents of Abington.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Miller, RN  
*Community Health Nurse*

## REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

To the residents of the Town of Abington:

We the members of the Abington Planning Board, respectfully submit our Annual Report for the year 2006.

The duties of the Abington Planning Board are many and varied, but its primary responsibility is to plan for the future development of the Town. The Board does this through the comprehensive planning process and through the preparation of a Comprehensive Master Plan. The Abington Master Plan was completed in 1999 and updated in 2004 by the Planning Board through the preparation of the Abington Community Development Plan. The Board has also prepared an Affordable Housing Strategy to guide the Town's efforts in meeting its requirements to provide affordable housing in the community. These documents form the basis for guiding the growth and development of the community and are implemented through land use controls that include the Zoning By-Law and Subdivision Regulations. These land use controls are annually reviewed and updated by the Planning Board to respond to changing conditions and are the principle means of implementing the goals and objectives of the Master Plan and the Planning Process.

In 2006 The Abington Planning Board spearheaded an effort to prepare an update to the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) to be filed with the State Division of Conservation Services. An up-to-date, approved and state certified OSRP is required for any request for State and Federal Grant assistance to acquire land or facilities for open space or recreation. The Planning Board together with the involvement and cooperation of the Park and Recreation Commission, the Conservation Commission and the Open Space Committee successfully completed the Plan Update in June, 2006 and submitted it to the state for review and approval.

During the year, the Board was involved in the drafting and review of regulations that will govern the development of the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station. A primary concern of the Board is to assure to the extent feasible the impacts of the development on the Town of Abington and its residents will be properly mitigated.

The Planning Board provides direction and supervision of the work of the Town Planner Daniel Crane, AICP who assists the Board along with Planning Board Secretary Elizabeth Shea in carrying out the day to day operations of the Planning Office. The Planning Board reviewed fifteen development proposals during 2006 and one condominium conversion. In addition, the Board acted on seven Special Permit applications, three subdivision plans and one roadway acceptance. In 2006 the Planning Board considered and approved six surety bond reductions for on-going subdivisions under development.

The Planning Board is available to respond to any questions or concerns regarding development in the community and is appreciative of any input the townspeople may offer. The townspeople are invited to contact the Board through the Town Planner at 781-982-0069, in writing to the Board at the Town Offices or by attending a meeting of the Board. The Board meets at Town Hall in the Susan Meir Room on the first Monday of the month and at other times when needed. The Board would like to give thanks to the other Town Boards for their input and for the help from Town Planner Dan Crane and Liz Shea. Please feel free to attend our meetings, which are open to the public, and to observe what is discussed and accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne P. Smith, *Chairman*  
Timothy P. Barry, *Vice Chairman*  
Bruce G. Hughes, *Clerk*  
Jeffrey M. Rangel, *Member*  
Robert Soper, *Member*

## **REPORT OF THE PLUMBING AND GAS INSPECTOR**

This department has recorded 194 plumbing permits and 187 gas permits during the 2006 calendar year.

Plumbing and gas permits continue to come in at a steady pace. Once again this department had a very busy year. All inspections were made as requested in a timely manner with very few problems.

I would like to thank my two assistant inspectors, Dale Gardiner and Kenny Kristiansen, for their continued support to me and service to the residents of Abington. I also thank the building inspector and building department staff for their continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael C. Lydon  
*Plumbing and Gas Inspector*

## REPORT OF THE PLYMOUTH COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

The role of Plymouth County Cooperative Extension is to deliver research-based information to Plymouth County residents through non-formal methods. The Plymouth County Extension staff work in concert with UMass Amherst Faculty and Extension staff on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, to provide valuable information in Extension's four major program areas: Agriculture and Landscape; 4-H Youth and Family Development; Nutrition Education; and Natural Resources & Environmental Conservation. The Extension System is supported by County, Federal and State funds, and operates under Federal and State laws and agreements. Local citizens, appointed by the Plymouth County Commissioners, serve as Plymouth County Cooperative Extension Trustees, directing the overall program. Volunteer advisory groups work with Extension staff on developing programs.

Cooperative Extension resources and programs for Plymouth County residents include: sustainable garden lectures, fruit pruning demonstrations; research and educational programs on winter moth and gypsy moth caterpillars; pesticide applicator training and licensing exams; the annual UMass Extension Garden Calendar; landscape and horticultural training and resources for municipal employees and green industry professionals; accredited overnight 4-H summer camps; and teacher workshops and resources. New research findings are translated into practical applications and shared with residents and communities through workshops, conferences, field demonstrations, radio and television, local libraries, technical assistance, and newspaper articles. Publications such as newsletters, booklets, and fact sheets bring information directly to those who need it. Additional information is delivered through office visits, phone calls, and UMass-Amherst Extension web access [www.umassex-tension.org](http://www.umassex-tension.org).

The Plymouth County Extension office is located at P. O. Box 658, High Street, Hanson, MA 02341 (781-293-3541; 781-447-5946) [plyctyext@mindspring.com](mailto:plyctyext@mindspring.com). Regional Extension programs are often conducted in Southeastern Massachusetts.

UMass Extension also operated the Cranberry Experiment Research Station, located in Wareham and the Nutrition Education Program, located in Brockton.

### **Members of the Plymouth County Staff:**

Michael D. Koski, 4-H Youth and Family Development Program  
Molly Vollmer, 4-H Youth and Family Development Program  
Deborah C. Swanson, Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry Program  
Debra L. Corrow, Executive Assistant

### **Board of Trustees:**

Michael Connor, Chairman – Halifax	Chris Iannitelli – W. Bridgewater
Loren Decker – Middleboro	Marjorie Mahoney – Hingham
Jere Downing – Marion	John Peterson – Halifax
Elizabeth A. Francis – Plymouth	Wayne Smith – Abington
Jeffrey M. Welch, Chairman, Plymouth County Commissioner - Abington	

## REPORT OF THE PLYMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

The Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project are pleased to submit the following report of our activities during 2006.

The Project is a special district created by the State Legislature in 1957, and is now composed of all Plymouth County Towns, the City of Brockton and the Town of Cohasset in Norfolk County. The Project is a regional response to a regional problem, and provides a way of organizing specialized equipment, specially trained employees, and mosquito control professionals into a single agency with a broad geographical area or responsibility.

The 2006 season began with a normal water table until record May precipitation produced large numbers of spring and summer brood mosquitoes throughout the County. Efforts were directed at larval mosquitoes starting with the spring brood. Ground and aerial larviciding was accomplished using B.t.i., an environmentally selective bacterial agent. Upon emergence of the spring brood of mosquitoes, ultra-low volume adulticiding began. The Project responded to 13,708 requests for service from residents.

In response to the elevated threat of mosquito borne diseases in the district, we increased our trapping, aerial and ground larviciding, and adult spray in areas of concern to protect public health.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus was first isolated from *Culiseta melanura*, a bird biting species, by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in Carver on July 17, 2006. Of the season's record breaking total of one hundred fifty seven EEE isolates, fifty four were from Plymouth County as follows: Bridgewater- 7/1(2), 8/18 8/19; Brockton- 9/18; Carver- 7/17,8/2,8/6,8/21 (2),8/22,10/2; Cohasset- 8/25; East Bridgewater- 8/9; Halifax- 8/2 (2), 8/7,8/10,8/16,8/21,8/31(3); Hanover- 9/18; Hingham- 9/12; Kingston- 8/7(2), 8/10(2), 8/21,8/22,9/25; Lakeville- 7/25,7/26(2), 8/28/6(4), 8/22; Marshfield- 8/31; Mattapoisett- 8/10; Middleboro- 8/1; Pembroke- 8/16; Plympton- 7/31, 8/16(2), 8/28,8/30; Rochester- 9/6; Rockland- 8/14 and Scituate- 9/12. Five human cases of EEE were confirmed statewide with cases reported in Lakeville and Middleboro. Three horses were diagnosed with EEE in Plymouth County (Lakeville, Middleboro and Pembroke). A Llama from Scituate was also tested positive for EEE.

Analysis of risk indicators in Southeastern Massachusetts were showing that the risk of human EEE infection was at a critical level. This precipitated aerial spraying at dusk on August 8th of approximately 159,000 acres and an expanded aerial spray zone of approximately 425,000 acres between August 22nd and 24th which included a great portion of Plymouth County. We normally end our spray season on Labor Day. This year we suspended ULV ground spray season on September 30. Based on guidelines defined by the "Vector Control Plan to Prevent EEE" in Massachusetts, Southeastern Massachusetts will be at a "moderate level of EEE risk" beginning the 2007.

We are pleased to report that in 2006 there were no human or horse West Nile Virus cases in Plymouth County. A total of five birds tested positive for WNV in the following three Towns: Bridgewater (3), Brockton (1) and Pembroke (1). A total of six isolations of WNV in mosquitoes were found in the following Towns: Bridgewater (8/22), Carver (8/21), Halifax (8/30), Kingston (9/19), Pembroke (8/6) and Plympton (8/30).

The recurring problem of EEE and WNV continues to ensure cooperation between the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project, local Boards of Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. In an effort to keep the public informed, EEE and WNV activity updates are regularly posted on Massachusetts Department of Public Health website at [www.state.ma.us/dph/wnv/wnv1.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/dph/wnv/wnv1.htm).

The figures specific to the Town of Abington are given below. While mosquitoes do not respect Town lines the information given below does provide a tally of the activities which have had the greatest impact on the health and comfort of Abington residents.

**Insecticide Application.** 1,855 acres were treated using truck mounted sprayers for control of adult mosquitoes. More than one application was made to the same site if mosquitoes reinvaded the area. The first treatments were made in June and the last in September.

Our greatest effort has been targeted at mosquitoes in the larval stage, which can be found in woodland pools, swamps, marshes, and other standing water areas. Inspectors continually gather data on these sites and treat with highly specific larvicides when immature mosquitoes are present.

**Water Management.** During 2006 crews removed blockages, brush and other obstructions from 2775 linear feet of ditches and streams to prevent overflows or stagnation that can result in mosquito breeding. This work, together with machine reclamation, is most often carried out in the fall and winter.

Finally, we have been tracking response time, which is the time between notice of a mosquito problem and response by one of our inspectors. The complaint response time in the Town of Abington was less than two days with more than 288 complaints answered.

**Mosquito Survey.** A systematic sampling for the mosquitoes in Abington indicates that *Aedes vexans* was the most abundant species. Other important species collected include *Coquillettidia perturbans* and *Ochleratatus Canadensis*.

We encourage citizens or municipal officials to visit our website at [www.plymouthmosquito.com](http://www.plymouthmosquito.com) or call our office for information about mosquitoes, mosquito-borne diseases, control practices, or any other matters of concern.

Raymond D. Zucker  
*Superintendent*

Commissioners:  
Carolyn Brennan, *Chairman*  
Michael J. Pieroni, *Vice Chairman*  
Leighton F. Peck, *Secretary*  
William J. Mara  
Kenneth W. Ludlam, PhD.

## REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

It is my privilege to submit the Abington Police Department's Annual Report to the residents of Abington. Members of this department continue to diligently serve its residents with dedication and compassion.

This past year, Abington's Vehicle Maintenance Department inscribed the phrase "Community Partners" on every marked police vehicle. These simple words accurately reflect how each member of this department is fully committed to working with the townspeople and other professionals to help resolve the current issues facing us all. History has revealed that there is strength in numbers, and that only by working together can we fully accomplish our goals.

Since the beginning of my tenure as your police chief, my top priorities have remained consistent. First and foremost, we must all work together to address the substance abuse issues that continue to plague not only our town, but society as a whole. All members of the department have made narcotic enforcement a top priority, and I truly believe that their commitment to the issue has made a positive difference for the residents of Abington.

However, even after the staggering amount of arrests that we have made this year alone for heroin, cocaine, oxycontin and marijuana distribution and possession, we continue to see an alarming amount of teenagers and adults battling life threatening addictions. With a growing amount of overdoses and deaths linked to drugs in the region, I am convinced that enforcement alone is not the solution. In my professional opinion, strong family and community involvement, education at all levels, and zero tolerance are the cornerstones to eradicating this issue.

Secondly, my next goal is closely tied to the first, which is my strong belief that we need to assign a police officer to work full time in the Abington school system. The school resource officer would work hand in hand with school personnel to help educate our youth about the dangers of substance abuse. Furthermore, along with the law enforcement responsibilities, this officer would act as a mentor and a positive role model for our youth.

Lastly, the police department is once again requesting funds to bring us back to staffing levels of years past. With the expansion of business and housing in the town over the past decade, our calls for service have steadily increased while staffing levels have been decreased. It is my belief that as the community continues to grow, we must remember to keep all of our town departments adequately staffed to meet the ever increasing demands.

In closing, I want to thank the members of the Police Station Building Committee for their tireless work and never-ending dedication to bringing our new police station to fruition. It has been a long and arduous process that will be sure to benefit us all in the end. Once again, thank you to the townspeople for your support. I look forward to serving you during the next 12 months and for many years to come.

Respectfully Submitted

David G. Majenski  
*Chief of Police*

## REPORT OF THE POLICE STATION BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Police Station Building Committee is pleased to report on its activities for the calendar year 2006.

The Committee is comprised of five members, appointed by and to advise the Town Manager on the construction of a new police station authorized by votes of the April 4, 2005 Annual Town Meeting and certification of a recount of the April Town Election, appropriating \$ 6,300,000 for the design, construction and equipping of a new police station. The Committee has continued working with the firm of Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc., who were selected as architects of the new station and Maguire Group, Inc., who serve as project manager

After working diligently to come up with a design for the new station the Committee authorized the project to be placed for public bid in 2006, and, after receiving bids noted that all bids were far in excess of the appropriation available to the Committee. The Committee then returned to redesign the proposed station and after many months of work and reducing expenditures considerably the Committee is prepared to place the project out to public bid in the first quarter of 2007.

The Committee is hopeful that with the award of a successful proposer that construction of the new police station will begin in the spring of 2007 with full occupancy slated for the summer of 2008.

The Committee wishes to extend its profound thanks to Town Manager Phillip Warren, Assistant Town Manager Dori Jamieson, Superintendent of Streets Kenan Connell, Water Manager Daniel Callahan, Fire Chief Arthur Pelland, the Members of the Planning Board, the Members of the Conservation Commission and the Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the assistance given to the Committee during our several years of planning for this new facility that will hopefully abate the crowded conditions that exist at the current police station.

Respectfully submitted:

Kevin R. Donovan, *Chairman*  
Shawn P. Reilly, *Secretary*  
John R. Buckley, Sr.  
Police Chief David G. Majenski  
Police Detective Kevin R. O'Neil

## **REPORT OF THE SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Abington.

The yearly report for 2006.

It is the duty of the Weights and Measures Department to visit and test for accuracy every commercial scale and fuel pump each year. All scanners are to be tested every other year. This is to ensure that consumers get the correct amount of product they pay for.

All the testing weights used for sales and prove used for gasoline have been certified by the state-testing laboratory.

Having passed the required Massachusetts continuing education program and examination, I am now a Certified Weights and Measures Inspector.

In 2006 I passed the required Massachusetts continuing education program and examination, and I am now a certified Price Verification Inspector.

Complaints are given top priority and are addressed as soon as possible. I would like to remind you that if you want to make a complaint and have your complaint answered, you must give your name and or telephone number so that I can contact you with the results. All complaints are confidential.

All gasoline pumps, scales, and reverse vending machines were tested and sealed. They were all found to be in compliance.

I turned in to the Town Treasurer \$6400.00 in fees.

I would like to THANK Assistant Town Manager Dori Jamieson for her assistance. Also Supt. of Streets Kenan Connell for the loan of equipment, Mark Chirokas, Park Dept., for allowing me space for my equipment, and A Special Thank You to Nancy Hurst for her patience.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Leo Donovan  
*Sealer of Weights & Measures*

## REPORT OF THE SELF HELP INCORPORATED

During the program year ending September 30, 2006 Self Help, Inc., received a total funding of approximately \$21M and provided direct services to 23,977 limited income households in the area.

In the Town of Abington, Self Help, Inc. provided services totaling \$494,505 to 588 households during program year 2006.

Self Help's total funding of \$21,006,167 does not tell the real value of services delivered to the area as a whole. This funding enabled us to mobilize an additional \$1,370,659 of other community resources such as, volunteers, donations of space, and private donations in the form of goods and services. Therefore, the total impact of Self Help, Inc., during the past program year was \$22,346,826.

In addition, Self Help currently employs 250 individuals. Many of these individuals are of limited income, and most reside in our service area.

We feel that October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006 was a successful program year for us because we were able to assist as many individuals and/or families as we did, regardless of the challenges of being a human service provider.

We thank the Town of Abington, and its representatives to our board, Ms. Lorraine Simon and Ms. Janet Johnson, and all the volunteers for helping us to make fiscal year 2006 a successful one.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Wang  
*Human Resource Manager*

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Abington, the Board of Sewer Commissioners respectfully submits its Annual Report for the year 2006.

We would like to welcome new Sewer Superintendent John Stone, who has been with the Sewer Department for four years. As Superintendent, John exhibits excellent leadership qualities and managerial skills.

With the help of our engineers, SEA Consultants, Inc. and National Water Main & Cleaning Co., the rehabilitation of the Brockton Avenue manholes has taken place. In addition, Bay State Piping has completed the rehab of the Green Street pumping station.

The sewer system has continued to grow. We currently have 13 operating pump stations. We also have over 100 miles of sewer pipe; and roughly 2,000 manholes that are maintained by our capable staff throughout the year.

The Board of Sewer Commissioners would like to note the excellent work of the Department's Personnel in the past year. Kristin Devine, Executive Assistant has been a vital member of the staff for seven years. Claire Wing has done a commendable job for 23 years. Craig Burnett continues to contribute his knowledge in his second year as a Sewer Technician. The Board welcomed new employee Jeanne White in the fall of 2006. Jeanne is a great addition to the team. The knowledge she has obtained from her six years of employment with the Assessors Office will be put to good use in the Sewer Department. Carol Young has been very helpful to the office staff as a part-time Clerk for the past three years.

We would like to thank the entire staff of the Sewer Department for a job well done.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark A. Jamieson, *Chairman*  
Janice McCarthy, *Vice-chair*  
E. Thomas Rogers  
Robert Toomey  
Michael Donovan, Sr.

## **REPORT OF THE SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL SERVICES GROUP**

The eighteen member communities of the Southeastern Regional Services Group (SERSG) have continued to benefit from the provision of procurement and other services to their municipalities during 2006. Lara Thomas has served as regional administrator of SERSG since 2004.

One of the organization's major accomplishments has been keeping dues at a reasonable level without an increase since July 1, 2003. The regional administrator has accomplished this by implementing cost savings measures including bundling phone and internet services, seeking out less expensive payroll services, participating in SERSG contracts for paper and office supplies, and making better use of technology to cut or maintain costs.

Cooperative procurements for Paper and DPW Supplies and Water and Sewer Treatment Chemicals were held in the spring and for DPW Services in the fall. Initial review of state and other municipal contracts reveals that SERSG procurements continue to yield lower prices on many DPW Supplies and Services for municipalities.

In addition to procurement work, Ms. Thomas worked with the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions to coordinate a local training available to conservation commissioners state-wide. Surveys of interest were conducted and the training was held in the spring and summer in Easton.

With many Board members describing the need to enhance employee morale, Ms. Thomas worked with LifeWatch Employee Assistance program to develop a March seminar entitled, "Building A Peaceful Work Environment" Almost 40 people from member communities participated, and the evaluations of the seminar were overwhelmingly positive. Similar trainings are being discussed for the future.

A representative of the State Office of Women and Minority Business Assistance (SOWMBA) made a presentation at a fall Board of Directors meeting to clarify new guidelines for municipalities involving contracts to Minority and Women Business vendors.

Ms. Thomas was invited to speak to the Wrentham Board of Selectmen over the summer to clarify the cooperative procurement process and to explain how membership benefits the town.

The Pipeline Project continued to be active during the year with Ms. Thomas coordinating Committee meetings, the RFP process and hiring of a community relations firm, and the RFP process for a construction supervisor for the projects. Mitigation negotiations were finalized in two of four communities during 2006, and the Committee is hopeful that construction on municipal rights of way may be able to begin in spring 2007.

Finally, monthly meetings of the Board of Directors and the Highway Superintendents continued to provide valuable opportunities for representatives from member communities to share concerns and receive ideas and feedback about a wide variety of issues affecting municipalities.

# REPORT OF THE SOUTH SHORE RECYCLING COOPERATIVE

SSRC CY2006 Annual Report

p. 1 of 7

**SOUTH SHORE  
RECYCLING  
COOPERATIVE**  
ssrc.info



103 Farm Street  
Dover, MA 02030  
(508) 785-8318  
fax (508) 785-2296  
ssrcclaire@comcast.net

## 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

1/19/2007

The Town of **ABINGTON** is a member of the South Shore Recycling Cooperative (SSRC), a voluntary association of fifteen South Shore towns established by Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) and Special Legislation in 1998. Members of the SSRC are: **Abington, Cohasset, Duxbury, Hanover, Hingham, Holbrook, Hull, Kingston, Marshfield, Norwell, Plymouth, Rockland, Scituate, Weymouth, and Whitman.**

Representatives from each member town are appointed by the Selectmen. **Susan Brennan, Vice Chairman and Michelle Roberts, Health Agent** is represented by **ABINGTON BOARD OF HEALTH.** (see attached list, page 5).

The mission of the SSRC is: "to provide a forum of cooperative management of solid waste by members, to assist each member Town to improve the cost-effectiveness of their recycling efforts by providing economy of scale while maintaining full control over solid waste management; to assist members to improve programs to divert waste materials from the waste stream and to reduce the amount and toxicity of wastes; and to provide such assistance on an individual basis to each member Town and cooperatively in joint programs with other Towns."

Since 1998, each member town has paid an annual membership fee of \$4,000. In 2006 the SSRC raised a total of **\$60,000** through these fees, which the SSRC supplemented with \$14,278.34 in grants from MassDEP and Covanta at SEMASS. Those funds pay for the services of the Executive Director and support various solid waste and recycling activities during the year to benefit member towns. The SSRC estimates that in 2006 these activities **saved member towns an estimated \$154,800**, and provided **318 hours** of direct services to the towns.

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS PRODUCT COLLECTIONS

The SSRC bid out and awarded a new contract for the collection and disposal of **household hazardous products** this year. By using this regional contract with **Clean Harbors**, Member Towns paid about **27% less** than the State contract rates, and avoided the administrative time to bid, schedule and publicize them. **2,622 residents** attended the thirteen collections held in 2006, and Member Towns saved **\$47,731** for this service. The contract also enabled **129 residents and businesses** to attend other Member Towns' collections using the **reciprocal arrangement**, which is administered by the Executive Director. The SSRC advertised the events with several thousand **flyers** delivered to the town halls and libraries, and ongoing press releases in all **local papers, on cable TV and the radio.** The Executive Director attended and helped run ten of the collections, handed out paint stirrers with cost saving instructions on latex paint disposal, provided signs and calculated the **proper billing** for the vendor to ensure that discounts and allowances were credited and visitors billed properly.

## **SPECIAL AND DIFFICULT TO MANAGE WASTE**

### **Construction and Bulky Waste**

By using an arrangement facilitated by the SSRC with the **Bourne ISWME**, Member Towns enjoyed a disposal rate of \$70-75/ton for **construction and bulky waste**, which is **\$12.50/ton less than the gate fee**. With generation of **7,533 tons**, Member Towns saved **\$94,165**.

### **Mattresses**

Cohasset, Hanover and Kingston save on mattress recycling by using an SSRC arranged program with Miller Recycling in Plainville to transport and process mattresses for \$14/each, including container rental. This arrangement saved the three participating towns approximately **\$11,900** on the **1,698 mattresses** they collected.

### **Compost and Brush**

The SSRC contracts for **brush grinding, compost screening and chip removal**, awarded to Letourneau Corp. and Lion's Head Organics in CY05, were used by six of our towns for 35 days.

### **Mercury Bearing Waste**

The SSRC helped the thirteen member towns that have contracts with SEMASS to maximize their benefits from the **Material Separation Plan (MSP)**, including the provision by SEMASS of digital thermometers for exchange, reimbursement for mercury disposal costs, and outreach assistance (HHP flyers, radio ads) valued at approximately **\$7,000**. These programs removed **about 100 lbs. of mercury** from the waste stream.

### **Paper**

The SSRC facilitated the siting of 76 Abitibi Paper Retriever containers at public and private entities in thirteen of our towns. In 2006, they captured an additional **406 tons** of paper, and returned **\$2,217** to the municipalities and local organizations.

### **Textiles**

The SSRC introduced Bay State Textiles, which pays \$50/ton for used clothing and textiles, to the managers. Their competitors pay nothing, and service isn't always good. Five towns recycled **246 tons** of material through them, for which they were paid **\$12,319**.

### **Books**

The SSRC introduced GotBooks, which pays \$100/ton for used books and other media, to the managers. Several towns set up book collections through them.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH:**

### **Recycle More Paper campaign**

The SSRC was awarded a Municipal Waste Reduction **grant of \$13,000** plus 80 hours of **Technical Assistance** from MassDEP for a paper recovery outreach campaign which resulted in an annualized **reduction in trash of over 2,500 tons**. Through the grant, the amount of recyclable paper that each of the fifteen towns was disposing (30,000 tons per year altogether, or about 62%), how much the waste was costing the towns (over \$2 million/year) was estimated and published by the local and regional press. Signs and banners also informed residents of the magnitude and cost of the waste, and six local paper shredding events, advertised in the local

papers and radio, emphasized the scope of paper products that are recyclable. The towns recovered **106 more tons of paper** in the month of June than in the previous June.

### **Bill Inserts**

The Executive Director designed, customized and/or arranged for printing of "Recycle More Paper" bill stuffers for Abington, Duxbury, Hingham, Kingston, Marshfield, Plymouth and Weymouth. This service is available to any member town that requests it. A template is included in this report.

### **Radio Ads**

The SSRC produced 8 more **radio ads** promoting recycling and waste reduction, in addition to the 16 recorded in 2005. Together they were broadcast over 400 times on **WATD** 95.9 fm (Marshfield), **WPLM** 99.1 fm (Plymouth) and **WJDA** 1300 am (Quincy) throughout the year. The SSRC obtained **sponsorship from Covanta at SEMASS** to cover 1/3 of the airtime cost for the ads. We also partnered with the North and South River Watershed Association for reduced airtime costs on WATD. Total cost was **\$9,505**.

### **Newspaper Contacts**

The SSRC releases articles and provides information to the local press about waste reduction and recycling, and the proper disposal of hazardous waste.

### **Resident Contacts**

The Executive Director fielded **110 calls** from Member Towns' residents in CY06 to answer questions, mostly about hazardous and difficult to manage product disposal.

### **Website**

**ssrc.info** provides town-specific recycling information, household hazardous product collection information, SSRC meeting minutes and annual reports, press releases, a quarterly newsletter, and links to other sites.

### **Marshfield Fair Recycling**

With assistance from the Mass. DEP and the Town of Marshfield, the SSRC worked with event organizers to continue **event recycling programs at the Marshfield Fair**. While public education was the main benefit, five tons of material was also diverted from the trash for recycling, and another ton was composted. Recycling containers from a previous grant are available for loan to all Member Town events.

### **ADVICE, ASSISTANCE AND NETWORKING.**

The Executive Director's help is frequently sought by the solid waste managers on such issues as curbside contracting, disposal of special wastes, alternative vendors for different materials, regulations and accessing grants. She maintains regular contact with the solid waste managers from each town to stay up to date on their programs, update them on current trends, and advise on specific needs each town had. She attended Board/ committee meetings in **Hull, Kingston, Marshfield and Weymouth**, and helped **Hingham** source public space containers, **Hull** with a recycling RFQ, **Marshfield** with school tonnage tracking, **Norwell** on several difficult to manage wastes, **Plymouth** with data, **Rockland** with contract advice on recycling and hot loads, and **Scituate** on compliance with the new regulations.

She also provided the MSW managers with a nine page **directory of service providers**.

### **Quarterly Newsletter**

The SSRC publishes a newsletter filled with information of immediate interest to the South Shore solid waste community, including local solid waste news, regulatory and legislative proposals, meetings and seminars. The newsletter is circulated to over 350 town officials, legislators, regulators and volunteers, and is posted online at [ssrc.info](http://ssrc.info).

### **Monthly Meetings**

The SSRC provides valuable **networking opportunities** and information sharing at our well-attended **Solid Waste Manager meetings**, at which solid waste collection, disposal and recycling service, pricing and proposed laws and regulations are discussed among member towns. Guest speakers provide information on subjects of interest to the local MSW community, including special waste disposal, regulatory compliance, legislative and budget issues, and grant assistance.

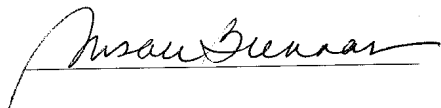

### **ADVOCACY**

The Executive Director, who has also elected **President of MassRecycle** in May 2005, drafted legislation that would benefit municipal solid waste programs at Senator Creedon's request, and met with key legislators to provide input on that and other state solid waste issues. She also attended policy meetings, forums and conferences hosted by MassDEP, Solid Waste Association of North America, the Council of SEMASS Communities, MassRecycle, and the Northeast Resource Recovery Association. In her capacity as MassRecycle President, she was appointed to and attends Mass. DEP Solid Waste Advisory Committee meetings. She shares what she learns with the Managers, and relays the Managers' concerns to the professional and State organizations and regulators.

The SSRC held a **Legislative Breakfast** in May at which Sen. Robert Hedlund (R-Weymouth) was recognized with our "Environmental Hero" award for his sponsorship and support of bills and budget items that promote waste reduction, and his role in the creation of the SSRC. Rep. Frank Smizik, the Chairman of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, also spoke at the event.

The SSRC exists to serve its member towns by facilitating their solid waste disposal and recycling functions. It always welcomes suggestions on how it can better serve its Members.

Respectfully submitted,

SSRC Representatives for the town of \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by Claire Sullivan, Executive Director,  
South Shore Recycling Cooperative

