

## *TOWN COUNSEL*

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The duties of a Town Counsel, although diverse and varied, can be divided roughly into two classes: (a) offensive/defensive services, and (b) preventive services.

The first class of service involves cases where the Town is being subjected to legal action of some sort by a person or persons who claim that they are owed money or that their rights have been violated by the Town or its officials; or where the Town must institute legal action to prevent a violation of local bylaws or to vindicate the legal rights or itself or its citizens.

The second class of services, by far the most numerous, involves the efforts necessary to be sure that the policies and programs developed and implemented by our elected and appointed officials are legally appropriate. That is, the Town Counsel must, if possible, find a legal way for town officials to do what they wish to do, and prevent them from doing things, which are illegal, or from doing legal things in an illegal manner.

To the extent that a Town Counsel performs the second class of services well, his need to perform the first class is diminished; and this is the essence of the challenge presented by the office.

There are typically between thirty and sixty litigation cases involving the Town or its officials active at any given time. At the present time, the number stands at forty-nine. As cases are resolved new cases tend to be filed. For example, between November 2008 and November 2009, eight lawsuits were resolved by trial or settlement while eleven new ones were filed. Invariably, the litigation arising out of the regulation of land development in the Town presents the greatest demand on the Town's legal resources. The suit over access to the beach in the Old Rexhame section has caused very significant costs in the 2009 fiscal year.

As required by Town Meeting vote, the following is a summary of all pending litigation involving the Town and a statement of the total cost of settlement of cases or judgments against the Town during the period covered by this Report.

The Town Counsel's office continues to be grateful for the cooperation of all the various town boards and officials.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert L. Marzelli  
Town Counsel

**SUMMARY LIST OF TOWN OF MARSHFIELD  
PENDING COURT CASES AS OF NOVEMBER, 2008**

<i>NAME OF CASE</i>	<i>NATURE OF CASE</i>	<i>STATUS CODE</i>
<b>Abbruzzese/Petipas v. M'fld</b>	<b>Title Dispute</b>	<b>1</b>
Acosta, Tr. v. ConCom	Wetlands Appeal	5
Armstrong v. ZBA	Zoning Appeal	3
Armstrong v. M'fld	Eminent Domain	2
<b>Brown/Taylor v. ConCom</b>	<b>Wetlands Appeal</b>	<b>4</b>
Byrne v. M'Field	Zoning Appeal	1
Calhoun v. ConCom	Wetlands Appeal	1
<b>Camp Daniel Webster v. ZBA</b>	<b>Zoning Appeal</b>	<b>3</b>
Cobbett v. ZBA	Zoning Appeal	1
Crary v. ZBA		
ConCom v. O'Brien	Wetlands Enforcement	4
Curtlo Realty Tr. V. Ass.	Tax Appeal	3
Darling v. Bd. of Appeals	Zoning Appeal	3
• <b>Donovan v. ZBA</b>	<b>Zoning Appeal</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Earley v. ConCom</b>	<b>Wetlands Appeal</b>	<b>3</b>
Flaherty v. ZBA	Zoning Appeal	6
Fraser v. ZBA	Zoning Appeal	1
<b>Gillespie v. ZBA</b>	<b>Zoning Appeal</b>	<b>1</b>
Gregory v. Bd. of Appeals	Zoning Appeal	7
Gregory v. Marshfield	Challenge to Zoning Bylaw	7
Hall v. Pl. Bd.	Subdivision Appeal	1
• <b>Harvey v. ZBA</b>	<b>Zoning Appeal</b>	
Hawthorne Realty v. Marshfield	Title Dispute	2
Health Bd. v. O'Brien	Health Code Enforcement	7
Ingoldsby v. ZBA	Zoning Appeal	1
<b>Junior v. ZBA (5 cases)</b>	<b>Zoning Appeal</b>	<b>2</b>
Killion v. Bd. of Appeals	Zoning Appeal	3
Kincaid v. Bd. of Appeals	Zoning Appeal	3
Marshfield v. MassPort	Appeal of Flight Path Changes	5
Marshfield Fair vs. ZBA	Zoning Appeal	7
MacDonald v. Bd. of Appeals	Zoning Appeal	2
<b>Mahaney v. ZBA</b>	<b>Zoning Appeal</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Marshfield v. Taylor/Brown</b>	<b>Wetlands Enforcement</b>	<b>3</b>
Miles v. ConCom	Wetlands Appeal	2
Murphy v. Bd. of Appeals	Zoning Appeal	3
Murphy K. v. ZBA	Zoning Appeal	1
Nagro v. Marshfield		7
<b>Newcomb v. Sullivan</b>	<b>Appeal – Denial of Gun Permit</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Norman v. ZBA (1)</b>	<b>Zoning Appeal</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Norman v. ZBA (2)</b>	<b>Zoning Appeal</b>	<b>2</b>

Patel v. Bd. of Appeals	Zoning Appeal	3
Patriacca v. ZBA	Zoning Appeal	2
• Planning Bd. v. ZBA (2)	Zoning Appeal	2
• Rein v. Marshfield	Street Defect	7
Sanborn v. ConCom	Wetlands Appeal	1
<b>Schorle v. ConCom</b>	<b>Wetlands Appeal</b>	<b>1</b>
• Sears v. ZBA	Zoning Appeal	On Appeal
• Silverberg v. ZBA	40B Appeal	3
Sullivan v. ZBA	Zoning Appeal	1
• Taylor v. ConCom	Wetlands Appeal	1
• Trainor v. Pl. Bd.	Subdivision Appeal	1
Vilandry v. ZBA	Zoning Appeal	1
Wiley v. Healey	Zoning Enforcement	3
Wiley v. Hammitt	Zoning Enforcement	6
Williams Bros. Of M'field vs. Plan Bd.	Zoning Appeal	6
Winn v. Bd. of Assessors	Tax Abatement	6
Zych v. Marshfield	Claim of Town Land by Adverse possession	2

Costs of Settlement of Cases Against Town = \$0

**KEY TO STATUS CODE:**

- 1 = Suit Recently Commenced
  - 2 = Discovery Stage
  - 3 = Discovery Complete; Awaiting Trial Assignment
  - 4 = Trial Date Assigned; Awaiting Trial
  - 5 = Case Tried; Awaiting Decision
  - 6 = Case Settled or gone to Judgment
  - 7 = Inactive Case
  - = Case disposed of since last report
- BOLDFACE** - New Cases since last report

## **TREASURER COLLECTOR**

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BALANCE IN TREASURY JULY 1, 2008 ----- \$32,928,790.29

Total Receipts for Fiscal Year 2009 ----- \$117,422,205.20

Paid on Selectmen's Warrants ----- (\$117,653,963.76)

BALANCE IN TREASURY JUNE 30, 2009 ----- \$32,697,031.73

Investment Income for all Funds ----- \$736,296.26

During Fiscal Year 2009, the Collector's Office processed the following payments on the Fiscal 2009 levies:

Real Estate Taxes - Levy of 2009 ----- \$41,900,484.34

Community Preservation Act - Levy of 2009 ----- \$928,322.79

Personal Property Taxes - Levy of 2009 ----- \$606,061.87

Motor Vehicle Excise - Levy of 2009 ----- \$2,441,907.02

Boat Excise - Levy of 2009 ----- \$40,777.16

Utility Charges - Levy of 2009 ----- \$6,490,639.11

There were 80 new tax liens secured in fiscal year 2009. Over the course of the year, 78 liens were resolved resulting in \$537,764 in collections.

There was a \$4,196,000 general obligation bond issued in March 2009 at a net interest cost of 2.08% and a \$352,000 bond anticipation note issued in June 2009 at a net interest cost of 1.59%.

I wish to thank the following dedicated members of the Treasurer-Collector's Office for their professionalism and support over the prior year; Beth Brown, Diane D'Allessandro, Barbara Dobson, Ellen McGuinness, Carolyn McNeil, Mary Ryan and Terry Wening. This year's report is dedicated to our friend and co-worker, Barbara Dobson, who passed away on July 5, 2009 after 50 years of service to the Town of Marshfield.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Holt  
Treasurer Collector

TOWN OF MARSHFIELD  
 CHANGES IN ISSUED DEBT  
 Year Ended June 30, 2009

Issuance/ Maturity	Purpose of Debt	Interest Rate	Outstanding July 1, 2008	Principal Issued	Principal Paid	Outstanding June 30, 2009
<b>General Fund</b>						
1899/2008	Seawalls	4.61%	45,000.00		45,000.00	0.00
1999/2009	Bridge Program	4.61%	10,000.00		10,000.00	0.00
1899/2009	Fire Station	4.61%	85,000.00		85,000.00	0.00
1999/2009	School Roof - GWS	4.61%	25,000.00		25,000.00	0.00
1899/2009	Thomas Webster Estate	4.61%	10,000.00		10,000.00	0.00
1899/2009	Gnt Chamber (40%)	4.61%	10,000.00		10,000.00	0.00
2000/2020	Sewer Outfall/W/ Disinfection - MWPAT (40%)		471,009.80		33,081.80	437,928.00
2001/2009	Seawalls	4.64%	80,000.00		80,000.00	0.00
2001/2011	School Roof - Daniel Webster	4.64%	60,000.00		20,000.00	40,000.00
2001/2021	Sewer Residuals & WWTf Upgrades (40%)	4.64%	418,000.00		46,000.00	372,000.00
2001/2021	Sewer 2000 - Eickson (40%)	4.64%	130,000.00		10,000.00	120,000.00
2001/2011	Sewer Meadowview Extension (40%)	4.64%	42,000.00		14,000.00	28,000.00
2003/2023	Sewer 2000 MWPAT (40%)		2,435,184.31		126,381.09	2,308,803.22
2003/2010	Fire Ladder Truck	2.35%	170,000.00		85,000.00	85,000.00
2003/2013	Seawalls	2.35%	700,000.00		210,000.00	490,000.00
2003/2013	Senior Center	2.35%	1,550,000.00		310,000.00	1,240,000.00
2003/2013	School Alarms/Repairs (SW)	2.35%	780,000.00		195,000.00	585,000.00
2003/2013	Sewer WWTf Upgrades (40%)	2.35%	100,000.00		20,000.00	80,000.00
2004/2009	Seawalls	1.93%	10,000.00		10,000.00	0.00
2004/2009	Road Construction	1.93%	40,000.00		40,000.00	0.00
2004/2009	Bass Creek Dredging Project	1.93%	40,000.00		40,000.00	0.00
2004/2009	High School Track	1.93%	70,000.00		70,000.00	0.00
2004/2009	School Remodeling-SW Telephone/Clocks	1.93%	30,000.00		30,000.00	0.00
2004/2009	Fire Station - Diesel Recovery System	1.93%	5,000.00		5,000.00	0.00
2004/2009	EPA Stormwater II Plan	1.93%	10,000.00		10,000.00	0.00
2004/2009	WWTf Building Modifications (40%)	1.93%	10,000.00		10,000.00	0.00
2004/2009	Sewer Master Plan Update (40%)	1.93%	4,000.00		4,000.00	0.00
2005/2015	Replace Floor Drains - H/FP	3.32%	70,000.00		10,000.00	60,000.00
2005/2014	Exterior Door Replacement - DW	3.32%	85,000.00		16,000.00	70,000.00
2005/2010	Air Quality Projects - DW, SR, GW	3.32%	20,000.00		10,000.00	10,000.00
2005/2010	Exterior Repairs - DW, SR	3.32%	20,000.00		10,000.00	10,000.00
2005/2015	Resilient Flooding DW, EW, GW, SR	3.32%	70,000.00		10,000.00	60,000.00
2005/2010	Septic System Study EW, GW, SR	3.32%	10,000.00		5,000.00	5,000.00
2005/2015	Window Replacement - SR	3.32%	210,000.00		30,000.00	180,000.00
2005/2014	Rehab of Fire Station 2	3.32%	60,000.00		10,000.00	50,000.00
2005/2015	Forest Fire Truck 1 Replacement	3.32%	55,000.00		30,000.00	25,000.00

**TOWN OF MARSHFIELD**  
**CHANGES IN ISSUED DEBT**  
 Year Ended June 30, 2009

Issuance/ Maturity	Purpose of Debt	Interest Rate	Outstanding July 1, 2008	Principal Issued	Principal Paid	Outstanding June 30, 2009
<b>Inside Debt Limit by Year of Issuance:</b>						
<b>General Fund</b>						
2005/2012	Library HVAC Upgrade	3.32%	20,000.00		5,000.00	15,000.00
2005/2015	Coast Guard Renovation	3.32%	420,000.00		80,000.00	360,000.00
2005/2010	Repairs to Fields	3.32%	20,000.00		10,000.00	10,000.00
2005/2010	Brant Rock Esplanade Traffic Improvments	3.32%	40,000.00		20,000.00	20,000.00
2005/2015	Seawalls & Riprap	3.32%	525,000.00		75,000.00	450,000.00
2005/2010	Sidewalk Plow & Sweeper	3.32%	25,000.00		15,000.00	10,000.00
2005/2010	Road Reconstruction	3.32%	100,000.00		50,000.00	50,000.00
2005/2010	Excavator & Trailer Pplcmt #205	3.32%	20,000.00		10,000.00	10,000.00
2005/2015	Operations Building - Exterior Repairs (40%)	3.32%	58,000.00		8,000.00	48,000.00
2005/2015	Sewer 2000 - Extension (40%)	3.32%	140,000.00		20,000.00	120,000.00
2005/2010	Yactor Jet Truck Replacement (40%)	3.32%	40,000.00		20,000.00	20,000.00
2008/2017	School Roof - SRS	3.70%	185,000.00		25,000.00	160,000.00
2008/2017	School Roof - SRS	3.70%	175,000.00		20,000.00	155,000.00
2008/2017	School HVAC - GWS	3.70%	50,000.00		10,000.00	40,000.00
2008/2017	Highway Garage Repairs	3.70%	45,000.00		5,000.00	40,000.00
2008/2017	Police Station Roof	3.70%	50,000.00		10,000.00	40,000.00
2008/2015	Masonry Repair - schools	3.70%	35,000.00		5,000.00	30,000.00
2008/2011	Ambulance	3.70%	120,000.00		40,000.00	80,000.00
2008/2011	Loader #75	3.70%	115,000.00		40,000.00	75,000.00
2008/2011	Forest Fire Truck #2	3.70%	105,000.00		36,000.00	70,000.00
2008/2011	Chipper #19	3.70%	15,000.00		5,000.00	10,000.00
2008/2011	Road Reconstruction	3.70%	420,000.00		140,000.00	280,000.00
2008/2016	Seawalls	3.70%	420,000.00		65,000.00	365,000.00
2008/2012	Financial Software	3.70%	80,000.00		20,000.00	60,000.00
2008/2011	Bridge Study & Rte 130 Eng Study	3.70%	105,000.00		36,000.00	70,000.00
2008/2017	Narrows Dredging	3.70%	120,000.00		15,000.00	105,000.00
2008/2013	Skatepark	3.70%	25,000.00		5,000.00	20,000.00
2008/2017	Emilient Domain Land Damages	3.70%	45,000.00		15,000.00	30,000.00
2008/2012	Land Acquisition/Drainage	3.70%	55,000.00		20,000.00	35,000.00
2009/2012	Ambulance	2.08%	0.00	178,000.00		178,000.00
2009/2012	Mower	2.08%	0.00	66,000.00		66,000.00
2009/2019	Fire Engine 3 Pumper	2.08%	0.00	380,000.00		380,000.00
2009/2014	Forest Fire Truck	2.08%	0.00	45,000.00		45,000.00
2009/2018	DPV vehicle #180	2.08%	0.00	81,000.00		81,000.00
2009/2014	Menz Muck Excavator	2.08%	0.00	66,000.00		66,000.00
2009/2014	DPV vehicle #37	2.08%	0.00	38,000.00		38,000.00

**TOWN OF MARSHFIELD**  
**CHANGES IN ISSUED DEBT**  
**Year Ended June 30, 2009**

<u>Issuance/</u> <u>Maturity</u>	<u>Purpose of Debt</u>	<u>Interest</u> <u>Rate</u>	<u>Outstanding</u> <u>July 1, 2008</u>	<u>Principal</u> <u>Issued</u>	<u>Principal</u> <u>Paid</u>	<u>Outstanding</u> <u>June 30, 2009</u>
<b>General Fund:</b>						
2009/2014	DPV Vehicle #101	2.08%	0.00	128,000.00		128,000.00
2009/2014	Food Service Equipment	2.08%	0.00	50,000.00		50,000.00
2009/2014	Seawalls & Riprap	2.08%	0.00	500,000.00		500,000.00
2009/2014	Seawalls & Riprap	2.08%	0.00	250,000.00		250,000.00
2009/2017	Reshame/Fieldston Drainage	2.08%	0.00	230,000.00		230,000.00
2009/2017	Telegraph Hill Drainage	2.08%	0.00	202,000.00		202,000.00
2009/2012	Road Reconstruction	2.08%	0.00	200,000.00		200,000.00
2009/2014	Road Reconstruction	2.08%	0.00	300,000.00		300,000.00
2009/2014	EVMS School Roof	2.08%	0.00	310,000.00		310,000.00
2009/2014	Library Roof	2.08%	0.00	248,000.00		248,000.00
2009/2014	Highway Garage Repairs	2.08%	0.00	25,000.00		25,000.00
2009/2017	WAN Network	2.08%	0.00	274,000.00		274,000.00
2009/2014	Library Computers	2.08%	0.00	31,000.00		31,000.00
2009/2014	Wireless WAN	2.08%	0.00	203,000.00		203,000.00
2009/2018	Inner Harbor Dredging	2.08%	0.00	380,000.00		380,000.00
2009/2014	Feasibility Study-Ocean Bluff Fire St	2.08%	0.00	30,000.00		30,000.00
			<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,342,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,342,000.00</b>
<b>Sewer Enterprise Fund:</b>						
1999/2009	Grl Chamber (80%)	4.81%	15,000.00		15,000.00	0.00
2000/2020	Sewer Outfall/UV Disinfection - MWPAT (80%)		706,514.40		48,822.40	656,882.00
2001/2021	Sewer Residuals & WWTf Upgrades (80%)	4.84%	627,000.00		69,000.00	558,000.00
2001/2021	Sewer 2000 - Extension (80%)	4.84%	195,000.00		15,000.00	180,000.00
2001/2011	Sewer Meadowview Extension (80%)	4.84%	63,000.00		21,000.00	42,000.00
2003/2023	Sewer 2000 MWPAT (80%)	2.35%	3,682,776.47		189,671.64	3,483,204.83
2003/2013	Sewer WWTf Upgrades (80%)	2.35%	150,000.00		30,000.00	120,000.00
2004/2008	WWTf Building Modifications (80%)	1.83%	15,000.00		15,000.00	0.00
2004/2009	Sewer Master Plan Update (80%)	1.33%	6,000.00		6,000.00	0.00
2005/2015	Operations Building - Exterior Repairs (80%)	3.33%	84,000.00		12,000.00	72,000.00
2005/2015	Sewer 2000 - Extension (80%)	3.32%	210,000.00		30,000.00	180,000.00
2005/2010	Vector Jet Truck Replacement (80%)	3.32%	60,000.00		30,000.00	30,000.00
2009/2009	WWTf Repairs	3.70%	80,000.00		80,000.00	0.00
			<b>5,964,390.67</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>662,194.04</b>	<b>5,302,096.63</b>

**TOWN OF MARSHFIELD**  
**CHANGES IN ISSUED DEBT**  
 Year Ended June 30, 2009

<u>Issuance/ Maturity</u>	<u>Purpose of Debt</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Outstanding July 1, 2008</u>	<u>Principal Issued</u>	<u>Principal Paid</u>	<u>Outstanding June 30, 2009</u>
<b>Inside Debt Limit by Year of Issuance:</b>						
<b>Solid Waste Enterprise Fund:</b>						
2004/2009	Leader	1.93%	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00
			<u>30,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>30,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Inside the Debt Limit</b>			<b>\$17,366,484.78</b>	<b>\$4,198,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,048,856.73</b>	<b>\$18,512,828.05</b>
<b>Outside the Debt Limit by Year of Issuance:</b>						
<b>General Fund:</b>						
2003/2013	FEMart School Renovation	2.35%	250,000.00		50,000.00	200,000.00
2001/2001	School Construction - Furnace Brook/Mart	4.84%	16,185,000.00		1,250,000.00	14,935,000.00
			<u>16,435,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,300,000.00</u>	<u>15,135,000.00</u>
<b>Water Enterprise Fund:</b>						
1999/2009	Water Meters	4.61%	5,000.00		5,000.00	0.00
1999/2009	Water Mains - Settlers Path/Pioneer Trail	4.61%	5,000.00		5,000.00	0.00
2001/2011	Water Mains - Ocean/Old Ocean Sts	4.84%	145,000.00		50,000.00	95,000.00
2005/2015	Water Mains - Summer St	3.32%	235,000.00		35,000.00	200,000.00
2008/2017	Church St Land Acquisition	3.70%	585,000.00		85,000.00	500,000.00
2006/2017	FB Pump Station #1 Const	3.70%	810,000.00		80,000.00	720,000.00
2006/2017	South River St Water Main	3.70%	540,000.00		80,000.00	480,000.00
2009/2024	Water Tank Const/Ferry St PS	2.00%	0.00	2,500,000.00	0.00	2,500,000.00
			<u>2,395,000.00</u>	<u>2,600,000.00</u>	<u>310,000.00</u>	<u>4,495,000.00</u>
<b>Solid Waste Enterprise Fund:</b>						
1995/2009	Landfill	5.15%	0.00		0.00	0.00
			<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Outside the Debt Limit</b>			<b>\$19,740,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,600,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,610,000.00</b>	<b>\$18,630,000.00</b>
<b>Total Debt - Inside &amp; Outside</b>			<b>\$36,106,484.78</b>	<b>\$6,800,000.00</b>	<b>\$4,658,856.73</b>	<b>\$39,142,929.05</b>

## ***TRUSTEES OF VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK***

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The Veterans Memorial Park has a new handicap ramp in front of the park and a new water fountain in the lagoon. The fountain was finally fixed by a landscaper from Plymouth.

A new stone wall was added to the park at the entrance from the parking lot as well as plants, a fence, chipped stone and a Sawyer Memorial stone that had previously been up by the High School.

New aluminum boards for the dam have been made and will be put in next spring as all boards are out for the winter to prevent flooding.

A memorial stone was put in place in front of the lagoon with the inscription "THIS WATER FOUNTAIN IS DEDICATED TO ALL MARSHFIELD WOMEN VETERANS", donated by Marshfield Disabled American Veterans Chapter #35.

Many volunteers came forward to help out to keep the park looking beautiful all year long. Thank you so much.

This is a veterans memorial park, dedicated to veterans who gave their lives so that we can enjoy the freedom we have today. Please respect the Veterans Memorial Park

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Barney Dowd, Caretaker  
Marshfield Veterans Memorial Park

## ***VENTRESS MEMORIAL LIBRARY***

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The Library experienced a record breaking year of activity, with circulation of library materials reaching the unprecedented amount of one third of a million. 65,000 books were circulated via OCLN interlibrary loan service. The library added the following to its collection of 76,478: 3,422 books, 296 cds/books on cd, 397 dvds; subscribed to 171 periodicals and newspapers; and offered 826 electronically downloadable titles for patrons.

The Library was open 2,905 hours including 52 Saturdays. Twenty-four volunteers worked 1,127 hours, shelving and sorting books, and tutoring ESL residents. The library updated its files and now has 14,552 registered borrowers.

The Library Building Committee progressed with the design and development, funding for which was authorized at the spring 2008 Town Meeting. The Committee and Library Board of Trustees plan to seek funding when the next Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners construction grant round is announced in late Spring 2010. Both groups met with the Playground Committee who wish to locate an 11,000 sq. ft. handicapped accessible playground in Library Plaza.

The Friends of the Library, an independent fundraising and advocacy organization, provided cultural events, museum passes, sponsored the children's summer reading program, purchased rental books and ran book sales. They made gifts which were used to augment the Library's book budget.

### **The Ventress Library Reference Department Report**

The Reference Department was busier than ever, especially in the Internet Age. Staff members fielded queries through increasingly numerous technologies including e-mail, telephone, website communication links and even instant messenger. Reference trends for FY09 were as follows: increased job search queries and help with resume writing; history and genealogical research needs; Reader's Advisory questions were more frequent as patrons asked for help on what to read next; patrons needed help accessing state and federal services; many without e-mail relied on librarians to set up accounts for them; patrons needed telephone help accessing audio books and troubleshooting online resources from their home computers; increased use of the Library by summer residents and visitors for Internet use, research, and recreational reading; and helping school children of all ages. In October 2008, the Reference Department hosted a "Database Expo" to highlight all the electronic sources available in-library and remotely through [www.ventresslibrary.org/](http://www.ventresslibrary.org/). The Departments' librarians sat down with patrons to guide them through the "ins and outs" of multiple database offerings. Personal service and community came together that day as the patrons were educated and entertained. The staff convened again in April to welcome Janis Duffy from the Massachusetts Archives in Dorchester as she described to staff and the public how to

research ancestors using physical and archival material. The library hosted an ESL tutoring program to help those learning the language become more fluent. Volunteers used a specialized resource library housed in the Reference area. All the advances of FY2009 highlighted the Department's basic mission, namely, to empower the citizens of Marshfield with the information they need.

### **Program/Events Report**

FY 2009 was a banner year for programming. The Ventress Library Cultural Series continued on Saturdays with music, entertainment and lectures free to all. The second annual "Train Day" drew throngs of young and old to the model trains, music, games, crafts and food of this popular festival. A Veterans Day event highlighted the wars in which Marshfield residents gave service. Invited veterans gave moving testimonials, and all sang the Star Spangled Banner in the Library Program Room. The VML Classic Book Group continues to convene to find fresh insights in classic literature. Hundreds of Marshfield residents enjoyed these free and entertaining events, all part of the Library's outreach initiative.

### **Children's Department Report**

In the summer of 2008, the Children's Department participated in the Regional Summer Reading Program "*Wild Reads at the Ventress Memorial Library*". Approximately 300 children participated in the program, which included children reading on their own, and children being read to by an adult. In conjunction with the state wide program, the Library also participated in *Reach out and Read* - a literacy program which makes books available to children during their well doctor office visits. A weekly raffle for a *Borders Bookshop* gift certificate was offered, and each child who participated in the program received a gift certificate for a free ice cream cone from *Dairy Queen*. During the school year three different story times were offered, including: *Tales for Tots* - a drop in program for infants thru age 3 and their caregivers consisting of 20 minutes of short stories, songs and finger plays followed by a 30 minute play-group; *Story Time* - a drop in program for 3 - 4 year olds on their own consisting of 25 minutes of picture book stories, songs and finger plays, and *Story Craft* - a program requiring registration for a group of 5 - 7 year olds consisting of 45 minutes of longer stories and a related craft each week.

In addition, three book discussion groups were offered for children in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, children in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and for children in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade. These groups were offered on Saturday afternoons and met approximately once every 4 - 6 weeks.

A computer with internet access for children to use for research purposes was added to the children's room, as well as a collection of *Playaway* audio books purchased with money from the Friends of the Library.

The Children's Department also hosted various performers throughout the year. And the children's librarian made monthly visits to various local preschools and daycare centers to read to the children. Also, the children's librarian hosted tours and story

times for various schools, daycare centers and scout groups, who came to the Library for a visit.

I am compelled to include this letter from a library patron when asked "Tell us how library services improve the quality of your life":

*I am thankful every day for my knowledge that the library is there to be called on at any time. Cooking, sewing, décor, travel, entertainment of my liking without the commercials that drive me crazy I can have access to, plus, I can use the computers to access webmail while traveling.*

*Libraries are PRICELESS!*

*I have lived in a number of states and had library card in all of them for 50+ years starting in High School when I went to the Wenatchee, WA library. I graduated in 1959. I have had a library card in California when my children were small. When I lived in Alaska, books were so valuable to us during the long winters and short days. I have recently lived in Georgia where the reverse was true – a good book indoors, with air-conditioning, during a raging hot, humid summer in the south is a wonderful thing! My thanks to all who work to provide all library services for us.*

*We all need to become smarter every day, not either remain stagnant or go backward. A book in a person's hand is so much more comforting than staring at a computer screen. May actual physical books never, ever become obsolete. Again my thanks to all of you who make them possible through the library in Marshfield, MA and other libraries in Massachusetts plus all of the other 48 states!*

Many thanks go to the following organizations and individuals who provided gifts and services to the Library in the past year through fund-raising, co-sponsoring programs, financial donations and beautifying the Library:

The North River Arts Society  
North River Community Lion Club Foundation, Inc.  
Marshfield High School  
Friends of the Ventress Memorial Library  
Jean J. Alexis  
Tom Anderson  
Laurie Baker  
Derek Boland  
Richard Cahill  
Alan C. Copithorne  
Janice and Bob Deady – Dairy Queen  
Julie Decina  
Dr. David Dibenedetto  
Lauren Downey  
George Earle, American Legion Commander  
George Eggars

ELS/Literacy Volunteers  
Greg Guimond  
Gen Guimond  
Karen Heneghen Getchell  
Jack Heneghen  
Joann Hayes  
Beverly Johnston  
Robin Mc Clusky  
Amy Mac Kinnon  
Janet O'Connor  
Barbara and Pat Roche  
Roche Brothers Supermarket  
Schreiber Family Foundation  
Seaside Gardeners  
Shaws Supermarket  
Lewis and Sharon Verash Family  
Library Volunteers:  
    Mary Benson  
    Nancy Call  
    Eileen Cedrone  
    Lois Giordano  
    Norma Haskins  
    Dorothy Lynch  
    Gerry Shanley  
    Lisa Mulrey  
    Brett Robinson  
    Y'se Gardeners

**In Memoriam Gifts from friends and family of:**

Claire Rowe  
Tina Clemente

Respectfully submitted,

The Ventress Memorial Library Board of Trustees  
Jeanne W. Horan, Chairman  
Sharon Botelho, Clerk  
Dr. Stephen Kane, Treasurer  
Jean Christensen  
Stuart L. Twite

Ellen P. Riboldi, Director

## *VETERANS' SERVICES*

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For the past nine years, it has been my duty and honor to assist Marshfield Veterans with whatever their needs were. At the end of June in fiscal year 2009, Veterans' Services enrollment for ordinary benefits, fuel and medical benefits stood at 53 veterans including their widows. An additional eight dependents also received benefits. That is an increase of one case over a one year period. While the number of cases fluctuates monthly, they remain about the same over the year.

The expenditure level in fiscal year 2009 was \$465,745 as compared to \$390,135 in fiscal year 2008. This is an increase of \$75,610 for FY '09 or a 19% increase in expenditures. The increase is due to annual increases in shelter, prescription drugs, returning unemployed veterans, laid off veterans and more cases involving ordinary benefits rather than medical only eligibility. Of the \$465,745 spent, \$386,676 is subject to a 75% reimbursement by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Other major expenses causing this large increase were four unemployed veterans new to the veterans' rolls in 2008 and continued into FY 2009. The Deputy position was reduced to fourteen hours per week for FY '09. This position, voted by the Town, has insured that the Veteran's Office has coverage most of the time and insures the mailing of benefit checks in the event of unforeseen absences of the Veteran's Officer.

Again this year, we seek your assistance in referring a veteran or his widow (er) that is having difficulty financially, they may be eligible for some benefits subject to qualifying under the Commonwealth of MA Laws. If you know of such a person, please notify this office. We will contact them to see if they are eligible.

We continue to send out the Marshfield Bugles every three months to 1,100 veterans. The newsletter continues to inform veterans and entertain them with military experiences of Marshfield veterans. It is a vehicle to enable veterans to know their rights, current legislation, and to share experiences and issues of concern. If you are a veteran or widow of a service person and are not receiving **The Bugle**, please call the Veteran's Office at 781-834-5576 and ask to have your name placed on the mailing list.

This office continues to advise veterans of their rights and to assist them in obtaining the correct forms in applying for: Federal Veterans' Benefits, signing up for enrollment in the VA Health Care System, and application for the Welcome Home Bonus. We act as facilitators in assisting veterans with claims such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Agent Orange Compensation. In many cases each year, the Veterans Administration awards or continues to provide over \$2,000,000 in compensation and pensions to various Marshfield Veterans. The Marshfield Veterans' Office is coordinating, facilitating, and involved operationally in the delivery of these benefits.

On a weekly basis, support group meetings continue to be held for veterans, veterans' widows, and for combat veterans. For the latter group, this office provides information, support services and transportation to all the VA Hospitals in the Boston area.

This office, with the assistance of generous volunteers and citizens, has shipped 88 boxes of hard candy, games, cards, vitamins, sun screen, etc. to service men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan as of June 30, 2009. If you have a son, daughter, wife or husband currently serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, call the Veteran's Office with their name and address and we will ship them a box of goodies. The schools, scouts, veterans' organizations, Elks, churches, and concerned individuals have been the prime movers in this operation.

Throughout Fiscal Year 2009, this office coordinated its activities with many agencies because of the overlap in functions. This is done to leverage our effectiveness and help veterans or their widows to find solutions in a timely manner. This year, the Council on Aging assisted many of our veterans to convert over to the MA Health Plan. This cut down on expenses incurred by Marshfield Veterans' Services.

Our Sentinel Program enables our staff and volunteers to visit isolated veterans at risk or WWII veterans in their homes. This program is designed to provide: legal entitlements, some socialization, care for their safety, and support services where needed. If you are available for volunteer work, please contact the Veteran's Office for an interview and further information on this important program.

The Office of Veterans' Services, with your help, will continue to ensure veteran's welfare and assist them to receive their entitlements.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard B. Martin  
Veteran's Officer

## ***ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS***

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The purpose of the Zoning Board of Appeals is to uphold the By-laws of the Town of Marshfield. The purpose of the By-laws as stated in Section 1.03 is: to lessen congestion in the streets; to conserve health; to secure safety from fires, panic and other dangers; to provide adequate light and air; to prevent the overcrowding of land; to avoid undue concentration of population; and to facilitate the adequate provision of transportation, water, sewerage, schools, parks and other public requirements; to conserve the value of land and buildings; to encourage the most appropriate use of land throughout the town; to preserve the historical character of the town; to prevent contamination of and preserving the quantity and quality of ground and surface water which provides existing or potential water supplies for the Town's residents, institutions and businesses; and to preserve and increase its amenities. It is made with reasonable consideration to the character of the district and to its peculiar uses suitability for particular uses, with a view to giving direction or effect to land development policies and proposals of the Planning Board, including the making of Marshfield a more viable and more pleasing place to live, work and play.

During the Fiscal Year 2009 the ZBA heard 87 petitions from 74 applicants. There were eleven Appeals, thirteen Site Plans reviewed , eleven Variances, forty-eight Special Permits, one Court Ordered remand and two modifications of Comprehensive Permits matters all heard by the Board in 2009.

The Marshfield Zoning Board of Appeals is a volunteer, seven-member Board with five persons serving as full members and two persons serving as associate members. The Board of Selectmen appoints all members for a three-year term.

The Zoning Board of Appeals consists of Chairman Carl E. Russell who was appointed in 1991, Vice Chairman Michael P. Harrington who was appointed in 1994, Clerk Joseph E. Kelleher who was appointed to the Board in 2004, Arthur Vercollone who was appointed in 2005 and Mr. Paul Younker who was appointed in 2007. Mr. Jonathan Russell and Mr. Kevin McMahon who were appointed in 2008 serve as Associate Members of the Board.

The close of business on June 30, 2009 signaled the end of our Chairman's more than 18 years of service on the Board of Appeals. In addition to the thousands of hours attending public hearings, Mr. Russell has spent countless hours as an able and much appreciated liaison for the ZBA on commercial and residential projects alike. The Board thanks him for his service to the Board and his continued service to the Town of Marshfield.

The Board relies on the expertise of Building Commissioner, Michael J. Clancy who also serves as Zoning Code Enforcement Officer.

The Board schedules public hearings, meetings and work sessions on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. every month and as needed. All meetings are open

to the public and are in Hearing Room 2 of the Marshfield Town Hall. The ZBA office is staffed on a part-time basis Monday through Friday and can be reached by telephone at 781-834-5557.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl E. Russell, Chairman  
Michael P. Harrington, Vice Chairman  
Joseph E. Kelleher, Clerk  
Arthur F. Vercollone  
Paul Younker  
Jonathan Russell