

**HIGHWAY AND SEWER DEPARTMENT****James "Cutter" Galliher, Superintendent**

The department's primary mission is the maintenance and improvements of the town's infrastructure: roads, sewers, drainage, cemeteries and parks. This work is performed and accomplished by a very dedicated and professional staff, with many years of experience.

It was a five month winter season with snowstorms from mid-November until the end of March. An early season storm was large enough (approx. 18 inches) to trigger a snow emergency from the state and federal governments. That generated a reimbursement of around \$15,000 from the government to help replenish our snow and ice budget. Approximately 80-85 inches of snow fell in our area this past season. A lot of these storms required weekend, holiday, and night work and again our staff showed their dedication and professionalism in keeping our roadways safe and passable. Again this winter season all of our cemeteries remained open and burial arrangements and funerals were completed with only minor adjustments of scheduling. Also, main sidewalks around our school areas were plowed by a private contractor, Variety Trucking, who also generously donated time and equipment to many grave openings in the winter.

Approximately 5,000 tons of sand and salt were needed to keep our streets safe and passable during the year. All of this material must be picked up during the spring season along with any other winter debris that accumulated on the roads during the winter season.

All of the town streets are swept and clean by a combination of a private contractor and the town's sweeper and personnel. The private contractor sweeps most of the central or residential streets for the town and highway personnel take care of the outskirts of town. Most of the sweeping material is recycled. Some of the sand is mixed with gravel and stone and reapplied to our dirt roads as processed gravel. Some of it is mixed with compost and then screened, and used as loam for the parks, cemeteries, and shoulders of roadways, and some of it is just used for backfill for many of our excavation projects.

In the springtime all of the town's dirt roads are regraded and cleared of winter debris. Roads are graded to improve any winter damage and improve drainage. Most of our culverts are also cleaned and flushed at this time.

Springtime is also clean-up time for our four cemeteries and four playgrounds. The department tries to have these areas cleaned of winter debris for our Memorial Day observances and the spring and summer sports programs at our town parks, provided by the Dalton Recreation Association. Our department is usually assisted in this clean-up program by Berkshire County Sheriff Carmen Massimiano's community service program. This program is a great asset to the town and our department. This past year our Babe Ruth diamond was completed with the assistance of Canterbury Farms, Inc., and will be ready for the baseball season of 2005. A new outfield fence for this diamond was included in the project, along with some fencing for the softball diamond.

There was some vandalism in Greenridge Park this spring that resulted in a fire burning down equipment in a section of the park that was only one year old. Dalton's community spirit again rose to the challenge. Through the generosity of Crane & Co., which replaced and improved the damaged equipment, labor provided by the General Electric Elfun Society, Dalton Fire Department, and numerous townspeople volunteering manual services and

guidance and direction from the C.R.A. and Central Berkshire Community Partnership for Children, and other civic groups and private contractors, a new, improved and larger children's play area was up and running before the end of the summer. Thanks To All

The sewer and drainage systems were cleaned and flushed on a regular basis. Almost all of the catch basins and waterways and cross drains were done with the department's high velocity flusher truck. Some of the known problem areas were corrected and repaired or put on a scheduled maintenance program to alleviate blockages or flooding.

Regular maintenance and improvements are performed by the department during the summer and fall months. Orchard Road, Windsor Road, Grange Hall Road were a few of the streets that required attention this year. Hopefully these streets will be able to be resurfaced in future years. This year the entire length of Dalton Division Road was resurfaced with approximately 2 inches of blacktop. Also, new guardrails were installed, lines painted and drainage was improved along the street.

The department's capital improvements included a lawn mower for the cemetery, some doors and windows for the highway garage that replaced original equipment and the town is starting a new mapping system for its sewer system. There has been many improvements and additions since the last documentation in the 1950s.

It has been a very positive and productive year for the department, due largely to the staff of the Highway-Cemetery Department, which will continue to provide quality workmanship and safe roadways to the town. I would like to thank the citizens of Dalton, the Select Board, Town Manager, and all town employees and boards for their cooperation, support and guidance for another successful and productive year.