

Chapter 2.4 Community Facilities

2.4.1 HAMMONDSPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT

FACILITIES AND ENROLLMENT

The Hammondsport School District encompasses a service area within a roughly 60-mile radius from the Village of Hammondsport and includes all or portions of the Towns of Urbana, Pulteney, Bradford, Wayne and Prattsburgh. The District is comprised of two facilities in the Village: the Glenn Curtiss Memorial School located at 60 Lake Street and the Hammondsport Junior/Senior High School (JSHS) at 8272 Main Street Extension. In total, the district educates a student body of 730 students, comprised of 344 kindergarten through sixth grade pupils at Glenn Curtiss Memorial School and 386 seventh through twelfth grade students who attend Hammondsport JSHS. As shown below in Table 2.4-1, the student body has declined over the past 20 years with a 18.5 percent drop between 1982 and 1992 and a less dramatic 6 percent decrease between 1992 and 2001.

Table 2.4-1 Hammondsport School District Enrollment Trends, 1982-2001				
Year	Kindergarten - 6th	7th - 12th	Total	% Change
1982	457	493	950	-----
1992	433	341	774	(18.5%)
2001	344	386	730	(5.7%)
Source: Hammondsport School District				

The buildings and other facilities are going through a \$4.5 million project which will add space, update technological resources, and update athletic facilities for the students. Currently, each classroom includes two multi-media/internet accessible computers, in addition to the District's five computer labs. As part of the renovation project, the District will add 75 computers to its present total of 200 to 220 personal computers. The project also includes relocating the District's four tennis courts, adding a junior-varsity soccer field with a surrounding track, providing drainage tiles under the softball diamond, and adding space and updated facilities to the JSHS locker rooms.

The District provides standard New York State curricula, with the High School providing Regents degrees and the elementary school focusing on preparation for high school Regents courses.

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There are many after-school activities for the students, including participation in sports, arts and crafts, and more. In addition, the School District provides an extensive continuing education program for adults during the spring and fall semesters.

CAPITAL PROGRAM

The School District maintains a Five-Year Capital Program to organize its budgetary process and capital priorities.

2.4.2 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

FIRE PROTECTION

STAFF AND FACILITIES

The Hammondsport Fire Department Citizens' Hose Company is located on the southeastern point of Keuka Lake at 8521 State Route 54. The Department's jurisdiction entails the entire Town of Urbana, including the Village of Hammondsport. Receiving about 100 calls per year, the Department's average response time is between 2 and 2.5 minutes, not including assisting helicopter landings at the Ira Davenport Memorial hospital (which have response times between 6 and 10 minutes with a 25-minute window for response).

An all-volunteer force, the Department's personnel consists of 40 firefighters and 10 fire police. Despite being a volunteer organization, there has been no problem recruiting firefighters. In fact, there is currently a waiting list to volunteer. The popularity of being part of the force is largely due to the volunteers having the opportunity to contribute to the community in general, and to be involved with the Citizen's Hose social organization. In order to become and remain part of the force, each volunteer must regularly attend training classes, drills and meetings.

The Department's firehouse was built in 1981 and contains ample bays, meeting rooms, a dining room and kitchen. The Fire Department owns each piece of equipment stored in the firehouse. While each fire truck is built to last approximately 25 years, a 20-year replacement cycle is in place. The following are brief descriptions (including the year of purchase) of each major piece of equipment utilized by the Hammondsport Fire Department:

- ☞ Tanker (1990) - Has a 2,000 gallon capacity and can fill its portable container in less than 1 minute, dump the container and then retrieve more water.
- ☞ Brush Truck (1986) - Has a 750 gallon pumper.
- ☞ Ladder Truck (1994) - Has a 75-foot ladder with 2,000 gallon pumper. In case this ladder is not tall enough, the Town of Bath Fire Department can provide assistance with its 110-foot ladder truck.
- ☞ Pumper (2000) - Has a 1,500 gallon pumper and a compressed air foam system, which enables it to use less water and extinguish fires more quickly. This is the only engine in the County with a compressed air foam system and serves as the force's first response truck, able to handle full crew. While many of the Town's fire trucks are unable to travel on all of the steep hillside roads in the area, this new engine can.

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- 👉 Rescue Truck (1997) - This truck carries various types of rescue equipment including air, water, ice, and an infra-red camera.
- 👉 Pontoon Boat (1993) - The boat, equipped with a high pressure pump and two underwater cameras, is manned by a specially trained dive team.

There are a number of roads in Urbana that most of the Department's equipment cannot traverse due to the unpaved and steep conditions of these roads. These problematic roads include Brewer Road, Cider Hill Road, Hungry Hollow Road, Peacock Road, Putnam Road, Stone Schoolhouse Road, Snell Road, Urbana Gulch Road, and Vogt Road. However, as stated in its description, the new pumper truck can handle even the most difficult roads in Town.

In addition to its firefighting and rescue duties, the Fire Department is responsible for lighting the area in front of the Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital and indicating the wind direction for emergency helicopter landings. This task is necessary approximately once per month and requires a one or two truck response. The Department also has a trained dive team that works in conjunction with the Steuben County Sheriff's Department on rescue and recovery missions in Keuka Lake.

IDENTIFIED NEEDS

Overall, the firehouse has enough capacity to meet Urbana's needs for the foreseeable future. One possible improvement in the firehouse, that would be beneficial and convenient to the firefighters, would be the installation of showers. In addition, for safety and convenience purposes, it would be helpful if a paved landing pad was constructed in front of the Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital, where only a grass landing area currently exists. As stated above, there are no unmet staffing needs at the present time.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Hammondsport Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc. (HVAC) is a non-profit, privately funded agency. Its facility is located in Hammondsport on Pulteney Street. The HVAC was established in 1969 and built their current facility in 1986 which includes two bays, an office, meeting room and training room. The Corps is equipped with two Type 3 ambulances (e.g., walk-through units, with access from the rear through to the driver's cab), one is a 1991-year model and the other a 1995. The agency is planning the purchase of a new vehicle which will replace the older ambulance in 2002.

The HVAC's 30-person all-volunteer staff provides 24 hours per day/7 days per week service, and responds to approximately 350 calls annually. Though response time varies slightly due to weather conditions and time of day, the Corps average response time over a 12-month period is approximately five minutes. Its service area covers the Town of Urbana and Village of Hammondsport. The agency is classified as an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) unit due to its equipment and the training levels of its volunteers. In addition, the agency provides its own training and also trains persons from other emergency service units EMT-Basic, Advanced EMT-Intermediate, Advanced EMT-Critical Care, and associated refresher- courses.

Funding for the agency comes from subscriptions, fundraisers and memorials. In addition, the unit receives funding from the State of New York for training equipment based on the number of students that successfully complete the EMT courses.

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IDENTIFIED NEEDS

As an all-volunteer outfit, the HVAC is always seeking new volunteers for technician and dispatcher positions. In addition, the HVAC is considering an increase of its state certification from Intermediate to Critical Care. The Critical Care designation would allow the HVAC to be the sole respondent to most calls. The New York State Department of Health mandates Critical Care/Paramedic assistance on many types of calls, which is currently provided by Rural Metro of the Southern Tier. If the HVAC were to achieve Critical Care certification, residents who are serviced by ambulance will not be subject to the large fees from the additional ambulance service. Since many of the HVAC's volunteers already have the required Critical Care training, the unit would primarily need to purchase the additional equipment required for the increased level of care, which is estimated to be between \$40,000 and \$50,000. Currently, those covered by the HVAC pay a nominal annual charge of \$7 to \$15, depending upon household size. The potential increase to Critical Care will not impact annual fee rates as the HVAC is planning to finance the required equipment for Critical Care designation through fund-raising efforts. Finally, the HVAC building's location on busy Pulteney Square at times poses logistical issues.

2.4.3 POLICE PROTECTION

STEBEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Police protection in the Town of Urbana, outside the Village of Hammondsport, is primarily provided by the Steuben County Sheriff's Department on a 7 days per week/24 hours per day basis. The closest Sheriff's Department facility is its headquarters, which is located nearby off Route 54 in the Town of Bath. The Urbana/Hammondsport/Bath zone is one of four zones that the Sheriff's Department separates the County into for patrol purposes.

The Sheriff's Department has 19 full-time deputies and 5 part-time deputies. The Department has access to part-time deputies from nearby police agencies if there becomes a need for additional officers. In addition to its regular crew, the Sheriff's Department adds 4 full-time deputies from Memorial Day to Labor Day to patrol Keuka Lake. These deputies utilize two boats and work two shifts per day which span from 8:00AM to 10:00PM. In addition, the County receives grant funding for supplemental traffic and Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) patrols.

Table 2.4-2		
Steuben County Sheriff's Department Activity - Town of Urbana		
Type of Call/Activity	1999	2000
Motor Vehicle Accident Investigations	65	65
Driving While Intoxicated Arrests	6	5
Community Policing	67	147

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Vehicle Stops	142	196
Complaints Received	663	726
Source: Steuben County Sheriff's Department, May 2001		

In 2000, the Department responded to 28,989 calls county-wide, with response times not exceeding 20 minutes. The most frequent crimes in the area are minor burglaries and larcenies. According to the Sheriff's Department, most accidents in the Town are along State Route 54. Table 2.4-2 above, describes the calls the Sheriff's Department responded to in the Town of Urbana for 1999 and 2000.

COORDINATION WITH THE STATE POLICE

The nearest New York State Police Office is located in Bath. Besides having a mutual backup system, a closest car agreement has been made between the Steuben County Sheriff's Department and the State Police. In terms of highway patrol, the County Sheriff's Department currently patrols State Routes 54 and 54A while the State Troopers safeguard Interstates 390 and 86.

IDENTIFIED NEEDS

At the present time there is no 911 service in the County. There are plans to implement 911 service in the County by approximately 2003. A new facility will be built for this service and will utilize a vehicle identification system that will determine the closest vehicle to the incident site (from either the New York State Police or the Steuben County Sheriff's Department). A neutral dispatcher will operate the system in the new facility. The new facility will be located in Bath, either in the Sheriff's office or in a new building on the opposite side of State Route 54.

HAMMONDSPORT POLICE

STAFF AND FACILITIES

The Hammondsport Police Department is located on Lake and Main Streets in the Village, occupying approximately 450 square feet of space. There are no lock-up facilities in the Village, therefore, any person taken into custody that needs to be incarcerated must be sent to the Steuben County Sheriff's facilities in Bath. The Department is equipped with one 1999 Ford Crown Victoria which is on a four-year replacement cycle. The Department is primarily funded by Village taxes, but it also occasionally obtains grants for specific programs or equipment.

The Department's personnel consists of two full-time and three part-time officers who respond to between 300 and 400 calls annually. The Department's average response time is five-minutes per call. The most frequent calls are domestic disputes, disagreements between neighbors, as well as general complaints such as parking problems during the tourist season.

While the Village is a relatively safe area year-round, during the summer the population and general activity level increases dramatically. Therefore, part-time officers are employed and, in addition to the vehicular patrol, the Department conducts both bicycle and foot patrols during the warm weather .

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The Department works cooperatively with the County Sheriff's Department and the State Police, providing mutual back-up when necessary. Thus, the Village Police Department often responds to calls outside their jurisdiction and the County and State agencies frequently provide assistance in the Village.

IDENTIFIED NEEDS

In general, the Department's equipment is adequate to meet the needs of the Village. However, there are a few updates that would enhance the Department's capability, such as a new computer with updated software, better radio communications equipment and a digital camera.

2.4.4 LIBRARY FACILITIES

The Hammondsport Public Library was founded in 1876 with an original collection of 388 books. Since its inception, the Library has moved four times. It is presently located in the Town/Village Hall building on Lake and Main Streets, occupying 2,500 square feet of space. The Library has a growing collection that now includes over 19,244 books and 2,500 compact disks and video cassettes. In addition, the library currently subscribes to 70 magazines.

The Library's immediate service area includes the Towns of Urbana and Wayne, and has about 2,450 cardholders. The library draws approximately 28,000 visits annually. The Library is funded through local taxes from both Towns of Urbana and Wayne and obtains additional funding through government grants, the United Way, private organizations and memorials.

Since the Hammondsport Library is part of the Southern Tier Library System - which includes the counties of Allegany, Steuben, Yates, Schuyler, and Chemung - it acts as a much larger facility, with many additional resources and a secondary customer base that include residents from the other Southern Tier communities. As a member of the network, the Hammondsport Library regularly receives rotating collections of videos and large print books from the Southern Tier Library System. In addition, patrons searching the Hammondsport Library catalog may also search the entire Southern-Tier Automated Regional Catalog (STARCAT) to locate an item(s) they are interested in. In order to utilize the inter-library loan service, patrons may e-mail book requests via the Library website or call or stop by the library to place their request free of charge.

The Hammondsport Library has updated its technological resources, and has six computer workstations with internet access as well as a computer equipped with Microsoft Office that is mainly used for word processing purposes. The Hammondsport Library has many online resources available including three encyclopedias, dictionaries, NYS Statutes, online information databases such as EBSCO, Infotrac/Healthlink and OCLC. Patrons may also utilize the library's fax machine and copier for nominal charges.

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The Library offers programs that include story hours for young children, summer reading and art programs for grade school children, as well as book discussion and writers' groups for patrons of all ages. In addition, the Library has a head-start program for children who need extra help with reading.

IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The library has out-grown its present venue and needs additional space. According to Katherine Meade, the Library's President, ideally the Library would be situated in a facility with 6,000 square feet including a meeting room, offices, accessible restrooms, and a place for the childrens' story hour program. The Library is in the process of evaluating its spatial needs and its future location/space options.

2.4.5 MEDICAL AND WELLNESS SERVICES

Urbana and Hammondsport are well-served by a network of health care facilities in and around the Town. Major facilities are described below.

MEDICAL SERVICES

THE IRA DAVENPORT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

The Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital (IDMH) is a 66-bed acute care hospital located at 7571 State Route 54 in the Town of Urbana, offering a wide range of medical services to the community (See Table 2.4-3). In addition, the IDMH is the lead agency for the Central Steuben Rural Health Network (CSRHN), a collaborative system of community agencies which serve the Urbana/Bath area, including the Towns of Avoca, Bath, Bradford, Campbell, Cohocton, Urbana, Prattsburgh, and Wayland. The Network addresses three identified critical needs of this service area: Preventive/Health Education, Primary Care Services, and Aging Services. The CSRHN was formed and became funded in June 1997 by a grant from the New York State Department of Health.

Table 2.4-3 Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital Services		
Adult Day Care	Intensive Care Unit	Psychiatry
Alcohol Detoxification	Laboratory Services	Public Education Programs
Audiology	Mammography	Pulmonary Function Testing
Cardiac Rehabilitation	Maternity Services	Pulmonary Rehabilitation
Cardiology	MRI Scanning	Radiology/X-ray
Carotid Doppler	Nephrology	Rehabilitation/Restorative Care
Chemotherapy	Neurology	Respiratory Therapy
Childbirth Classes	Nutrition Counseling	Respite Care
CT Scanning	Obstetrics/Gynecology	Same Day Surgery
Dental Services	Occupational Therapy	Skilled Nursing Facility

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Echocardiography	Oncology	Speech Therapy
Emergency Services	Ophthalmology	Sports Medicine
Endoscopy	Orthopedics	Stress Echocardiography
Ears/Nose/Throat	Pain Management	Stress Testing
Fluoroscopy	Pediatric Services	Support Groups
Gastroenterology	Physical Therapy	Swing Bed Program
Source: Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital, July 2001		

Also located in the IDMH complex is the Woman's Health Center, which offers services ranging from well women annual examinations, maternity care, surgical operations, as well as counseling in various areas concerning women's reproductive health.

DAVENPORT & TAYLOR FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

Located at 226 West Morris Street in downtown Bath, the new Davenport & Taylor Family Health Center provides urgent, primary and dental health care services. Staffed by physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners who are affiliated with and supported by the services of Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital, the Family Health Center offers health maintenance, management of acute illness, immunizations, physicals, health prevention, management of chronic illness, well child visits, and workers' compensation visits.

GUTHRIE MEDICAL GROUP, P.C.

Guthrie is a not-for-profit healthcare provider that offers a wide array of medical services. The Clinic has its headquarters in Sayre, Pennsylvania and includes a regional office network that encompasses subspecialty and primary sites in 23 communities throughout Pennsylvania and New York. Guthrie's Urbana office is located inside the IDMH complex on State Route 54. While not having any legal affiliation with IDMH, Guthrie rents space from IDMH and some of its physicians provide services at IDMH. Services offered in Guthrie's Urbana Office include obstetrics/gynecology, ophthalmology, urology, and otolaryngology.

SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

THE FRED & HARRIET TAYLOR HEALTH CENTER

The Fred & Harriet Taylor Health Center is a modern 120-bed skilled residential nursing facility located within the IDMH complex. Since it is a hospital-based facility, residents have ready access to a variety of services including primary care, emergency services, laboratory, diagnostic, physical therapy, and all the ancillary services of Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital. The Fred & Harriet Taylor Center is fully accredited by the Joint Commission of Health Care Organizations.

IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital was originally built around 1960, and the facilities are now in need of modernization. The focus of the renovation work is on updating the obstetrics/maternity and surgical facilities in the hospital.

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In order to maintain all the services offered by the hospital, there needs to be a higher utilization of the services that are offered at the complex. If there is such demand and the additional need for more services arise, then the hospital will likely be required to expand to accommodate such additional services.

Also, as stated previously under “Fire Protection,” the addition of a paved helicopter landing pad, replacing the current grass landing area in front of the IDMH, would facilitate both the safety and maintenance of the landing area.