

concerts sponsored by the Village Commons and Recreation Department.



Farmer's Market on Town Common - Janice Stone
Another group requested permission to start a Community Garden on a portion of the Town Farm property. GRO-South Hadley was started with the assistance of the DPW and volunteers.

We continue to work with Holyoke Gas and Electric and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding the development of the Lower Riverfront Park and Texon Building.

In March we were notified that South Hadley had been awarded a "2009 E-Government Award" from Common Cause of Massachusetts. This recognized communities that have made government more accessible to the public via the internet. We thank the Website Committee for making this possible.

South Hadley was also recognized as a HEART Safe Community because all town buildings have AED devices and staff trained to use them. Our thanks go to Phyllis Lacoste for coordinating the fundraising effort with District 1 Fire Chief William Judd.

Throughout the year the Selectboard continued to award bids, one day beer and wine licenses, hold hearings, appoint committees and review policies.

None of this would have been possible without the many talented and dedicated staff and volunteers of South Hadley. A special thanks to Barry L. Del Castilho for coming out of retirement for the third time. We look forward to his guidance and that of Jennifer L. Wolowicz as we begin the process of searching for and hiring a permanent Town Administrator.

Respectfully Submitted
Carlene Hamlin
Greg Sheehan
Selectboard Chairs for FY 09

Ambulance Service

We submit herewith the report of the Ambulance Department(s) from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. Our ambulance services (Town of South Hadley, Fire District No.1, and Fire District No.2) answered a combined total of 1,958 calls:

<u>2008</u>		<u>2009</u>	
July	134	January	130
August	156	February	135
September	172	March	187
October	193	April	167
November	160	May	187
December	184	June	153

TOTAL EMS / AMBULANCE CALLS: **1,958**

As the statistics show, FY 2008 was no different than many previous years for the Emergency Medical Services System in the Town of South Hadley and the two Fire Districts. The number of calls went up in fiscal 2008 vs. 2007 with a percentage increase similar to prior years. However this year was certainly a significant year for South Hadley EMS in that it marked the end of one ambulance service and the beginning of two new ambulance services handling emergency calls in Fire District No.1 and Fire District No.2.

The Town of South Hadley like so many other area communities began its ambulance service back in the 1940s. Over those many years emergency medicine changed drastically in the United States. The Town of South Hadley Ambulance Service changed with the times and provided life saving services with a team approach utilizing Police Officer/EMTs along with Firefighter/EMTs, and more recently Firefighter/Paramedics. Advancements during these years have allowed for rapid response, quick assessment, and advanced care in the pre hospital setting. Many lessons learned in Viet Nam regarding appropriate care by first responders followed by rapid response to area hospital emergency departments and trauma centers are now being deployed in our country. The first EMTs were certified in the early 70s in Massachusetts with the promulgation of new legislation that dictated how emergency medicine was to be delivered across the Commonwealth. Firefighters, Police Officers, and other emergency personnel were now staffing ambulances for the first time as certified Emergency Medical Technicians, more commonly known as EMTs.

One of those first EMTs was Firefighter Kenneth McKenna of South Hadley Fire District No.1. Ken along with other dedicated Firefighter and Police Officer EMTs staffed the ambulance and responded to calls during those transitional years. Not long after becoming a newly certified EMT, Ken was asked to be South Hadley's Ambulance Director and head up this essential public safety department. Ken served as the Town of South Hadley Ambulance Director for approximately 30 years working both on the ambulance saving lives, as well as

handling the daunting administrative task of running a municipal medical department. Later Ken would serve as the administrator of the ambulance service although he was retired from his duties as a firefighter with District No.1. Many small Western Massachusetts communities were lucky enough during this same period of time to have very dedicated persons such as Ken to devote a lifetime to public service working behind the scenes to ensure essential ambulance services. Ken began his career working for the Town of South Hadley, and then moved over to be a Firefighter/EMT with District No.1 and the rest is history from that point forward. So the Ambulance Department annual report this year is not only the final report for the town's ambulance but also marks the end of an exceptional career in public service and public safety. Thank you to Ken McKenna for so many years of dedicated service to the citizens of South Hadley. May those of us that are now charged with running the emergency medical services system in South Hadley Fire Districts No. 1 & 2 continue the tradition exemplified by your dedication to public service and public safety for so many years.

Respectfully submitted,

Co-Ambulance Directors
 Fire Chief David Keefe
 Firefighter EMT-I Kurt Schenker

Animal Control Department

My report to the Selectboard from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 is as follows:

Calls Received	1,110
Dogs Found Unrestrained	69
Dogs Claimed	64
Dogs Adopted	4
Dogs hit by cars	1
Cat complaints	85
Other Small Animal Complaints	228

Animal Control is available 24/7 for animal problems. I wish to thank the following for their help and assistance:

Town Clerk's Office Staff
 Members of the Police Department
 VCA South Hadley Animal Hospital Staff
 Memorial Drive Animal Clinic/Dr. Cutting
 The Homeless Cat Project/Linda Gaunt
 Anne Jagodowski and Karen Utley
 Granby Dog Officer Gordon Landry

Respectfully submitted

Robert Dufault
 Animal Control Officer

Robert Whelihan
 Asst. Animal Control
 Officer

Board of Assessors

The Board of Assessors works to deliver fair and equitable assessments on all real and personal property within the Town of South Hadley. For fiscal 2009 the Board of Assessors successfully completed an interim adjustment year for all values as mandated by Massachusetts General Laws and in compliance with the standards set forth by Department of Revenue. The fiscal 2009 valuations were based on an analysis of the calendar year 2007 sales. Even though these sales were still somewhat elevated in comparison to the assessments, the Assessors took into consideration the actual market as well as knowing fiscal 2010 is a revaluation year and decided to leave the valuations at the same assessment level as the previous year.

That being said the valuations within the Town of South Hadley have risen dramatically in the past twenty years. Fiscal 1989 had a total valuation of \$693,306,319 as compared to the total valuation of \$1,583,416,154 in fiscal 2009. This equates to a 128.4% increase over the twenty year time frame. The following is a chart showing the total town valuation from fiscal 1989 through fiscal 2009:



The Assessors office committed 7,255 real estate and personal property tax bills to the Collector. These bills raised a total of \$19,887,707 in tax dollars for the Town, \$1,951,950 in taxes for Fire District #1 along with \$933,130 for Fire District #2.

The average single family tax bill (TOWN tax portion only) continues to rise along with the total valuation. Below is a chart showing the average single family tax bill for the same time frame as the illustration above. Fiscal 1989's average single family town tax was \$1,265 and in 2009 it was \$3,182.

