

state, and federal agencies to represent our town in emergency management issues and will retain Chief LaBrie in the Emergency Management Department as an alternate.

Frederick Marion,  
Plumbing & Gas Inspector

Respectfully Submitted,

David LaBrie  
Chief of Police

## Gaylord Memorial Library

[www.GaylordLibrary.org](http://www.GaylordLibrary.org)

Gaylord Memorial Library offers something for everyone in these challenging economic times. It is clear that the Library is more valuable and relevant to the children, adults, and families of South Hadley than ever before. It is a credit to our Board, volunteers and staff that in spite of decreasing revenue, the Library has continued to expand its services.

This year, South Hadley residents applied for 359 new library cards and borrowed nearly 20,000 items – including over 900 items delivered from other libraries. When people think of libraries they think of books, and books continue to be our most popular item. But today’s library offers much more than books: our collection consists of 13,509 audiobooks, movies, magazines, large print books, and learning kits for children, young adults and adults.

In recent years, technology has become an important part of libraries and our society in general. Patrons visit the library daily to use our electronic library catalog, our public access computers, search online databases, or to connect their laptop computers with our new wireless internet service. This new service has been important to patrons and staff alike – we are now able to enhance our programs with media clips, or connect with an author in real time via Skype in our Adult Book Group. Our redesigned website provides more information and makes it easy for patrons to search the catalog from the comfort of their homes.

In addition to ongoing programs such as our ever-popular Adult Book Group, Knitting Group, and Tea-Time Conversation Group, the Library offered a variety of programs to educate and entertain, such as bestselling author Dennis Lehane who packed over 50 guests into our rotunda, local author Dan Czitrom’s fascinating slide show called Rediscovering Jacob Riis, Flower Arranging with Pearl Edwards, Lisa Lanno’s paranormal “Other Side” and more.

Our active Youth Services Librarian, Mary Senecal, drew 20% more visitors this year to her popular story time programs. One parent recently commented that Gaylord’s Story Time Programs are “the best in the valley”, a compliment we were delighted to receive. Our Youth Services program serves area day care centers, family centers, preschools, and scouting groups and offers a vitally important summer reading program which keeps South Hadley’s youngest reading during the summer.

## Forestry Committee

The Committee held two meetings in fiscal 2009. Judd Forest Reservation is in good condition. The area is kept clear of broken glass and invasive exotic plants, and all bounds are in good condition. The DPW delivered the additional signs requested and we shall install them this fall. The gate on Old Amherst Road is kept locked, by and large eliminating drinking parties with their broken glass. The Skinner State Park Ranger has also helped.

The Reservation is used by Boy Scouts for camping, hiking, and nature study. The University of Massachusetts Salamander Study is ongoing. There is only one study pond within the Reservation. The map should be further improved this year via GPS. We are still awaiting a response on the draft Town Policy on invasive exotic plants.

Former Chair David Rundle resigned as of July 1, 2009 to pursue other interests. Lyndon Bagg and Steve Roberts were elected co-chairs.

Respectfully submitted,

David Rundle, Ex-chair  
Michael Lamontagne, member  
Steve Roberts, Co-chair  
Lyndon Bagg, Co-chair

## Gas and Plumbing Inspector

During the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, the following permits were issued

<u>PERMITS</u>	<u>FEES</u>
246 plumbing	13,850.00
263 gas	<u>10,025.00</u>
<b>509 TOTAL PERMITS</b>	<b>\$23,875.00</b>

Over the past year I have successfully completed State required Continuing Education. I have attended several seminars and meetings pertaining to installation and safety as they related to the plumbing and gas industry. I have attended workshops and received certification in the newest allowable materials.

Respectfully submitted,



PeoplesBank made it possible for South Hadley’s libraries, Odyssey Bookshop and South Hadley Council on Aging to offer additional adult and children’s programming, book discussions, and multiple copies of our 2009 selection: *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen. Programs supported by this grant included speakers, movies, craft programs, kids’ entertainment and author visits which drew 370 visitors; many more participated by reading the book.

In addition to this valuable grant, Gaylord Library received \$4,549 from the Mass. Board of Library Commissioner’s Public Libraries grant, which reflected the fundraising done by staff and Board members. Thanks to an active Friends group, the annual Columbus Day Book Sale brought in \$1,800, our Wine, Cheese and Chocolate evening under the dome raised \$2,300 after expenses, and more than \$14,000 was raised through the generous response to our Annual Campaign.



Wine, Cheese and Chocolate Fundraiser

The Library needs more than just income to ensure that it will continue to serve the next generation of library patrons. In response to the increasing necessity of disaster preparedness in today’s world, Gaylord Library, with Simmons College’s Ashley Blais, prepared an online Disaster Plan through the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners. This plan assesses the dangers which

might befall the library and addresses the response plan for specific issues.

The Library continues to reach out to the Community through Home Delivery, school outreach, our local museum pass program, cooperation with other town departments and organizations such as South Hadley Public Library, South Hadley Council on Aging, Odyssey Bookshop and South Hadley Chamber of Commerce. We would like to thank these organizations as well as Dan Evans and Jaime Doolittle from IT, Mount Holyoke College, Western Mass. Regional Library System, our delightful library patrons, our many dedicated volunteers and generous donors, and the Town of South Hadley for their continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Quigley, Director  
Mary Senecal, Youth Services Librarian

Board of Trustees:

- Charles Viens, President
- Norman Aubrey
- Jeffrey Barna
- Barbara Erwin
- Marilyn Gass
- Sara Lawrence
- Joseph Marois
- Matthew McDonough
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## Golf Commission

Once again, the Ledges Golf Club continued to improve its financial position over the previous fiscal year.

Despite the economic downturn, the golf course increased revenue to over \$900,000. Rates were increased slightly, based on market conditions, and the course increased its revenue for the fourth fiscal year in a row. The goal for the next two fiscal years is to cover operating expenses, at which time the course can start to break into the debt service. This is still within the timeframe established by the feasibility study of 2006. Additionally, the golf course saw an approximate 3% increase in rounds played. Plans are already in place to improve on these numbers to meet its goal of covering operating expenses.

There was personnel change again this year, but that did not diminish the optimism for continued improvement. With the teaching pro Marissa Kulig supervising the course operations, the Ledges has been able to introduce lessons as an additional revenue stream. She has been instrumental in marketing new outings, leagues, and tournaments to increase the number of rounds and new customers at the course. She will continue to work with