



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
- Joyce Roberts
- Priscilla Ryan
- Bernice Strong

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

recreation and other town services to increase the number of women's and kids clinics held at the course.

The course is still in great condition. Golf course superintendent Mike Fontaine and his crew at International Golf Maintenance continue to keep the course in fantastic shape. The conditions of the course, which the National Golf Foundation recently surveyed as the number one reason golfers play a course, are constantly praised by golfers. Mike also resumed his interim General Manager title through the 2009 season

During this past year, the golf commission has focused on strategic planning for the course's future. One area of planning that will be emphasized this coming year will be marketing. The course has all the amenities for a public golf course, yet has the conditions that rival any private course. The commission continues to be excited about the future, and will continue to make the Ledges a positive asset for the Town of South Hadley.

Kevin McAllister Mike Fontaine
Chair Pro Tem Interim General Manager

Historical Commission

During the past year the commission has continued to discuss a Demolition Delay By-Law, similar to those of surrounding towns. This By-Law would prevent the immediate demolition of historically significant structures for a period of review. An inventory of such properties has been under way by Bonnie Parsons of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, and is available for viewing on the web. Town Planner Richard Harris helped us out by getting information related to the Historical Commission on the town website.

Commission members Dave Daly and Ken Williamson participated on the South Hadley Historical District Study Committee, offering their valuable knowledge of our town's history. Mark Larrow and Bob Szklarz also attended various meetings including CPAC. We also met with builder Dan Luis who showed us his plans for improving an historical house at 36 Bridge Street.

The commission continued to correspond with Holyoke Gas & Electric regarding the dredging of the historic South Hadley Canal, which runs through the former Texon property, and the formation of a Riverside Park & Gatehouse Park.

New officers were elected, and there is currently one opening.

The commission will work on the recommendations of the Heritage Landscape Inventory report, which was recently completed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Larrow, Chair
Robert Sklarz, Vice Chair
Susan Canedy

Ken Williamson
Jo Wojnarowski
David Daly

Housing Authority

On behalf of the South Hadley Housing Authority, it is my pleasure to present the agency's FY09 Annual Report. This annual report reflects the housing authority's management, maintenance, fiscal programs and services as well as capital improvement, modernization plans and activities.

The present state of the economy on the national, state and local level has increased the need and requests for affordable housing. These factors have increased the challenge and the demand for the housing authority to meet its mission to provide safe and affordable housing in the Town of South Hadley

In FY09 the number of families and seniors seeking affordable housing increased. Applicants applying for subsidized housing included former home owners, the homeless and renters evicted or required to move by landlords due to mortgage foreclosures. Still other applicants are applying for affordable housing due to loss, decreased incomes or other reasons beyond their control.

Currently the South Hadley Housing Authority has on file 65 applications for senior housing developments, 86 applications for two-bedroom apartments, 41 for three-bedrooms and seven for four-bedrooms.

The staff and commissioners will continue to work with town residents and officials in FY10 to identify potential sites and resources for affordable housing. The need for affordable housing is evident by the number of income eligible seniors, disabled individuals and families on file for housing.

The staff and commissioners thank town officials, the Selectboard, the Town Planner, staff of various town departments, town voters, local agencies and community residents for their support in FY09. We look forward to working together and continuing our effort to address the affordable housing needs of the community.

Maintaining our existing affordable housing units is important. Like most state agencies the housing authority must do more with less. In FY09 we prioritized our capital and modernization needs and worked with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to find a way to get the repairs and upgrades done.

In FY09 we selected a contractor for the Abbey Lane Roofing and Siding Replacement Project. DHCD approved \$350,000 for this project. The contractor will replace the roofs and siding on seven duplex buildings located at 21 -31 Abbey Street and 1 - 25 Abbey Lane.