

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.

The housing authority's goal is to complete this project in FY10.

The Housing Authority is currently accepting bids for the Lathrop Village Roof Replacement Project. DHCD approved \$187,875 to replace the roofs on six building at the Lathrop Village 667-3 development. We will replace the roofs on buildings 14 –19. Our goal is to replace the roofs during the fall of 2009.

The South Hadley Housing Authority and DHCD awarded a \$33,375 contract to Accurate Mechanical Corp. to complete a bathroom renovation project at 11 Abbey Lane. The apartment is home for the physically and mentally challenged. The Department of Mental Retardation is a partner in this renovation project and will share construction cost. Upon completion, the bathroom will be fully handicapped-accessible with a chair lift. This project is targeted for completion in 2009.

Hubert Place Apartments, the 44 unit supportive housing development, is fully occupied. The residents are a very active group, planning and conducting year round resident activities. The residents use the community rooms and gazebo area for social meetings and holiday events. Hubert Place Apartments are available on a wait list basis for persons 62 years of age or older with very low or extremely low incomes. Currently, there are 41 applicants on the waiting list for Hubert Place. Elder Care Initiatives, Inc. is the property owner and South Hadley Housing Authority is the Management Agent. West Mass Elder Care, Inc. provides an onsite Resident Service Coordinator and meals. The Resident Service Coordinator is responsible for assessing the supportive service needs of Hubert Place residents. Once the needs are determined, the Resident Service Coordinator works with various agencies to provide delivery of services.

The South Hadley Housing Authority is responsible for the administration of 136 units of mixed population housing (for senior and qualified disabled): 96 units at Lathrop Village and 40 units at Newton Manor. The Housing Authority also administers 12 units of family housing apartments on Abbey Street/Abbey Lane and two four-bedroom, special needs apartments on Abbey Lane.

The South Hadley Housing Authority, under contractual agreement between the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and Riverboat Village apartments, has administrative responsibilities for seven project-based apartments. The seven families residing at Riverboat Village receive rent subsidies as participants in the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP).

DHCD is the funding and regulatory agency for the housing authority's state-aided family and senior housing developments. The approved DHCD's FY09 operating budgets for the state-aided developments are:

- Lathrop Village/Newton Manor, Abbey Street/Abbey Lane Apartments **\$606,136.00**

- Mass Rental Voucher Program **\$ 31,253.00**
- 689-1 Special needs apartments **\$ 33,731.00**

The Hubert Place Section 202 Supportive Housing Development is federally funded by the Department of Housing & Urban Development. Hubert Place's annual operating budget is **\$343,000.**

Five full-time and one part-time permanent staff members are responsible for the daily operations of the South Hadley Housing Authority. The Housing Commissioners are Donna Asselin, Chair, Donna Robideau, Vice-Chair, Meg Clancy, Treasurer, Mary Dufault, Assistant Treasurer, and Connie Clancy, Member.

Respectfully submitted,

Willie J. Thomas, Executive Director  
Heidi M. Heisler, Executive Assistant  
Craig Osborne, Maintenance Supervisor  
David Ludwig, Maintenance Mechanic  
Margaret Miller, Resident Manager  
Dennis Stebbins, Maintenance Person



Employee Appreciation Luncheon

## Human Resources Department

The Human Resources department is an essential part of the town and provides support and guidance to department heads/appointing authorities and employees. The Department deals with a wide variety of issues relative to the quality of life in the workplace and seeks to improve the effectiveness of town services by recruiting the best employees.

The Department handled nineteen personnel transactions relating to a myriad of positions. This includes retirements, resignations, promotions, reclassifications, transfers, vacancy postings and advertisements, interviewing, selection, and orientation of new employees. The Town had ten new hires in FY09.