

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.



Selectboard Chair Greg Sheehan and Jennifer Wolowicz
The Personnel Officer acts as the professional advisor to
the Personnel Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer L. Wolowicz
Personnel Officer/Chief Procurement Officer

Information Technology (IT) Department

The Information Technology department continues to fulfill its crucial role of supporting the Town's current information technology and planning ahead to meet its future technology needs. As noted in last year's report, in FY 2008, the Selectboard formed a Technology Committee to review and assess present technology and advise the Selectboard on the design and purchase of new technology. The committee was broken down into subcommittees in the areas of Customer Service, Infrastructure and Security, MUNIS, GIS, Staff Training, Interdepartmental Communications, and Website Development. The twelve-member committee met twice and, among other things, researched the cost and benefits of various options for providing internet connectivity in the years ahead. Some of the options discussed include a fiber optic network to be provided by SHELD, a VPN network, and retaining the current internet access provided by Comcast. Obtaining wireless internet access for Town Hall was identified as a high priority.

The town's website (www.southhadley.org) continues to serve as a resource to residents and a clearing house for information on local news and events. On March 19, 2009, Common Cause of Massachusetts recognized South Hadley's commitment to providing access via the internet by awarding the town an e-Government award. To qualify, a town or city must post their governing body's agenda and minutes, budget information, general by-laws, and town meeting warrants and results. South Hadley was one of 119 municipalities throughout the Commonwealth to meet these criteria. As this Town Report went to press,

Town Meeting members had voted to create a Town Meeting Electronic Communication Advisory Committee to make recommendations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of electronic communications to Town Meeting members. The IT Department looks forward to working with this group to implement their recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel J. Evans
Information Technology Director

Intervenor Status Committee

The Intervenor Status Committee (ISC) was formed by the Board of Selectmen in 1995 to advise the Town on the relicensing of the hydroelectric facilities at the Holyoke Dam. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license to the Holyoke Water Power Company (HWP) for the Project in August 1999. Subsequent to issuance of the license, the dam and the license were transferred in 2001 from HWP to Holyoke Gas & Electric (HG&E). As a result of the efforts by the ISC and other Town officials, the license included certain conditions binding on the license holder which affect the Town regarding Channel Marking, the Texon Building redevelopment, creation of a riverfront park, Cove Island, and erosion control.

Development of the Comprehensive Recreation & Land Management Plan (CRLMP) in consultation with numerous parties including the Town of South Hadley was a key condition imposed on the license holder by FERC. Intended to address the dam's impacts on the impoundment area, this plan interconnects many of the other conditions and issues involved with relicensing of the Holyoke Dam.

The past year saw the ISC continue efforts toward implementation of the license, CRLMP, and related project plans. ISC members work towards facilitating cooperation among the participating agencies to expedite projects. In this vein, the ISC functions more in the capacity as a mechanism for coordinating the various departments and agencies of the Town that have jurisdiction over specific aspects of the licensee's activities.

During the fourteenth year of its functioning, the ISC concentrated on efforts to work with Holyoke Gas & Electric to implement projects required by the CRLMP and the license. Three principal aspects of the CRLMP and license conditions occupied the ISC this year: monitoring efforts by a Holyoke developer to redevelop the Texon building and property, development of a system of parks stretching from the Gatehouse above the dam to the 116 Bridge, and management of the impoundment area in the vicinity of the Bachelor Brook/Stony Brook Resource Conservation Area.