



Lisa Lanno’s Paranormal “Other Side” Presentation

The South Hadley Cultural Council supported a “Bytes to Books” program that linked computer gaming and literacy. Using popular computer programs aimed at ages 10-16, gaming strategies were linked to the Massachusetts Competencies in English Language Arts Standards. Participants were awarded prizes for their play – and also discovered that history can be fun and relevant!

The library is governed by a publicly-elected nine-member Board of Trustees. In FY09 the Trustees welcomed Shane Robitaille to the Board and bid farewell to Doris Newman. The Trustees spent much time planning for the future. In September the Board approved a new five-year Strategic Plan that outlines a vision of services through FY 2015. This vision of services fueled the development of a Library Building Program, approved by the Trustees on June 1, 2009. This Building Program outlines the services the library hopes to provide in the next twenty years and the spaces needed to provide those services. The Trustees will appoint a Library Design Study Committee to work with an architect in moving the Building Program from a series of spreadsheets to the schematic design of the next generation South Hadley Public Library. This project is funded by a Planning & Design Grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners with matching support from the Friends of the Library and the citizens of South Hadley.

Finally, all this activity took place under the professional guidance of our dedicated library staff: Meg Clancy, Jennifer Comeau, Lorraine Ensor, Liz Frosch-Dratfield, Jeanne Hebert, Jeff Lachowetz, Linda Manijak, Desiree Smelcer, Rena Stromgren, and Bob Williford. The many accomplishments and progress of the past year would not have happened without their continued efforts and commitment to the Town of South Hadley.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Rodio, Library Director

**Tax Collector**

Statement of outstanding balances for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2009:

Description	Outstanding Balances
<b>Real Estate Taxes</b>	
2009	381,612
2008	42,662
2007	3,067
Prior Years 1999-2006	4,500
<b>Personal Property</b>	
2009	7,389
2008	3,562
2007	1,372
2006	1,368
Prior Years	4,500
<b>Motor Vehicle Excise</b>	
2009	96,773
2008	28,880
2007	16,290
2006	11,261
Prior Years 1998 – 2005	17,763
<b>Boat Excise</b>	
All Years	31,030
<b>Rollback Taxes</b>	
	22,507
<b>Sewer Use Charges</b>	
	141,865
<b>Curbside Rubbish</b>	
	29,824

The Collector’s Office issues over 53,000 real estate, personal property, curbside pick-up, sewer use fee, motor vehicle and boat excise bills each year. As part of the collector’s function, this office pursues the timely collection of all bills and maintains a collection rate of over 98 percent for all real estate and personal property tax bills. The Collector’s Office is continually working to collect past due taxes and fees and over the past fiscal year has been very successful in collecting a large portion of previous year real estate taxes. One parcel, which for legal reasons could not be taken into tax title, had past due real estate taxes dating back to FY2003. All of the taxes on this parcel, totaling approximately \$30,000, have been collected and have remained current. The prior year balance on real estate bills which covers the FY99 through FY06 is entirely made up of balances on parcels where the owner is unknown. One of the goals for the coming year is to determine the best method of clearing these balances. I take this opportunity to thank my staff, Joan Germain and Claudia Frappier, for all of their hard work and dedication over the past year. Without them this office would not run nearly as efficiently as it does.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Baldini, Collector

## Town Clerk

The position of Town Clerk has an ancient & honorable history. In biblical times town clerks were scribes or scholars, learned men who were among the few people who could read or write. Their writings became the historical record of the times.

The position has since evolved to include over 450 different functions to perform that are referred to in Massachusetts General Laws. So what does the Town Clerk Office do?

### We are the Chief Election Official

- The Town Clerk oversees polling places, election officers and their training, and the general conduct and organization of all local, state & federal elections.
- Directs preparation of ballots, helps locate polling places, purchases election equipment, prepares voting lists, administers campaign finance laws, certifies nomination papers, initiative and local petitions; and is on the Board of Registrars.
- Supervises voter registration, its continual updating and purging, absentee balloting, prepares and reports official election results to all as required by law, including the Secretary of the Commonwealth.
- Conducts the annual town census, prepares street list of residents, school lists, jury lists and other such lists as required through public records requests.

### We are the Recording Officer

- Records and certifies all official actions of Annual and Special Town Meetings votes on appropriations and ordinances, planning and zoning by laws, signs all notes for borrowing, and is the keeper of the town seal.
- Records state tax liens, child support liens and various other required filings.

### We are the Public Records Officer

- Administers the oath of office to all elected and appointed members of local boards, committees and commissions, and ensures that all elected and appointed officials are informed about the State's Open Meeting and Conflict of Interest laws. The

Clerks office posts all meetings of all government bodies.

- Provides access to public records in compliance with the Public Records Law.
- Provides certified copies of vital records and performs genealogical research for the public; is responsible for maintenance, disposition and preservation of municipal archival records and materials.
- The Town Clerks office maintains records of adopted municipal ordinances, resignations and appointments, petitions, publications, budgets, minutes and other statements and reports.

### We are Licensing Officer

- Issues state licenses and permits including: marriage licenses, hunting, fishing and trapping, local dog licenses and other such certificates and permits as mandated by law.
- Public Information Officer.
- Respond to inquiries from the general public where we provide knowledge and assistance in a fair and impartial manner to all.

As the Town Clerk I tend to consider my office as the first stop in local government because the Town Clerk's Office serves as the central information point for residents and citizens at large. Please note that we now have been approved by the State Department to issue passports too!

For further information contact:

Carlene C. Hamlin  
Town Clerk  
Phone: 413-536-7306  
Email: [clerktreasurer@southhadley.org](mailto:clerktreasurer@southhadley.org)

(Reproduced in part from the Massachusetts Town Clerk Association)

## Town Treasurer July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

Balance in Treasury	\$21,163,435.00
July 1, 2008	
Receipts	
July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009	
General Fund	\$73,699,222.79

\*Variance \$610.47