

The Weekly Wrap-up

A Report from Town Administrator Lisa Wong

Library grant



The Library will receive \$62,790 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council in an unrestricted operating support grant through the Cultural Sector Recovery Grants for Organizations program. The Trustees will discuss priorities for the funding.

PUBLIC HEALTH

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, all SNAP households have been receiving temporary extra COVID SNAP benefits. However, recent action by Congress is ending these additional benefits.

The state has launched a new website — [Mass.gov/ExtraCOVIDSNAP](https://www.mass.gov/extra-covid-snap) — to help residents plan for the end of these temporary federal benefits and learn how they can get the most out of their SNAP benefits, save some of it to help after March 2, and be connected with other resources.

Over the next several months, individuals and families are advised to explore any optional expenses that could increase their normal SNAP benefits.

<https://gettingsnap.org>

Selectboard

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 21 at 7:30pm at the Senior Center. There will be a hearing about the trash contract.

www.southhadley.org/agendacenter

Hearings

The Planning Board will be holding a series of public hearings for various zoning issues. Please visit the website for details.

Ledges

The Bike/Walk committee will hold a guided trek on the Ledges Golf Course on Sunday, February 26 at 1pm. Meet at 12:45pm at the clubhouse. Please note that the bathrooms are closed for the season.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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The Selectboard is discussing whether to extend the current contract for waste and recycling or to seek other options. There is a hearing on **Tuesday, February 21 at 8:15pm at the Senior Center** and also via Zoom. The Town will consider options that include using totes. The current contract - Pay As You Throw (PAYT) with Republic Services that was entered into after a competitive bid process in 2020. The 3 year contract ends June 30, 2023 and has Two 1-year options to extend contract with 4% increase each year.

The Town pays \$556,900 this year for curbside - Contractor provides all labor, equipment, collection and transportation for curbside collection of solid waste and recyclables. If the Town converts to a tote system, there will be an additional cost to buy or lease the totes, as well as maintain and replace them. If the Town moves away from PAYT, the disposal costs will increase and the fee will increase to offset the lost revenue from the Green Bags.

The average lbs per household in South Hadley is less than 900, and well under the state average. The Town will need to weigh how any changes will impact this.

