

Andrea Miles, Chair
Carol Constant, Vice-Chair
Nicole Casolari, Clerk
Jeff Cyr
Renee Sweeney

Lisa Wong
Town Administrator

Town Administrator's Report to Selectboard December 5, 2023

Administration, Finance and Operations

- **Personnel:** Congratulations to Ed Beattie, who has been promoted to the Highway Superintendent in the Department of Public Works. Congratulations to Officer Felix Perez, who has been promoted to Police Sergeant. Both are long serving and dedicated employees who bring a wealth of experience to their new positions.
- **State Budget: From Jackie Bird (MMA):** The annual hearing where the Department of Revenue and other fiscal experts and economists discuss the prospects for the economy and state revenue over the second half of the current fiscal year and in the fiscal year to come will take place on December 4. Following the hearing, legislative leaders and the administration will reach agreement on a tax revenue forecast for fiscal 2025 that will be used in the governor's budget recommendation, which is due to be filed in January, and the House and Senate budget plans, which are customarily released in April and May, respectively. The hearing is important for municipal officials because it provides insights into the direction of the economy and anticipated state revenue available to fund municipal and school aid programs next year, particularly Unrestricted General Government Aid. Through almost the midpoint of fiscal 2024, state tax collections have been falling below expectations. On Nov. 3, the Department of Revenue announced that year-to-date tax collections for fiscal 2024 totaled approximately \$11.84 billion, which is 2.9% less than the year-to-date benchmark.

Community (HOLIDAY EDITION)

- **Senior Center:** The Senior Center will have a "Warming Tree" for donations of New Hats, Scarves & Mittens, beginning November 27 through to the end of December. We also provide ongoing monthly support to Neighbors Helping Neighbors with collection of non-perishable items (categories listed within our monthly newsletter). For Seniors (60 and up) we will be hosting a free holiday lunch catered by the chefs of Loomis Communities, along with entertainment, to be held Wednesday, Dec 20th.
- **Recreation:** Buttery Brook Park with Santa will take place December 7,8,9,10 and 14,15,16,17 from 530pm to 730pm.
- **Library:** SHPL has a long-standing holiday food drive for Neighbors Helping Neighbors that we hold in the month of December.

- **Police:** The Police held a turkey drive for Thanksgiving. They also had a Stuff the Cruiser with gifts and soup on December 2. Officers participated in the Home Base No Shave November program to raise money for invisible wounds of war for Veterans and their families. The Police Station also had a Toys for Tots drive from November 13 to December 4.
- **Veterans:** The Veterans Director worked with Iona’s and local scout units to do a hot meal delivery on Thanksgiving to senior and veteran families. We also work with Neighbors Helping Neighbor with the food delivery program that provides for families facing food insecurity which includes holiday meal support. The VFW Post in South Hadley presented a \$5000 check to three local food pantries. Mike, Mary Lou and the VFW commander were on mass appeal to talk about food insecurity and the need across Western Mass.

Facilities

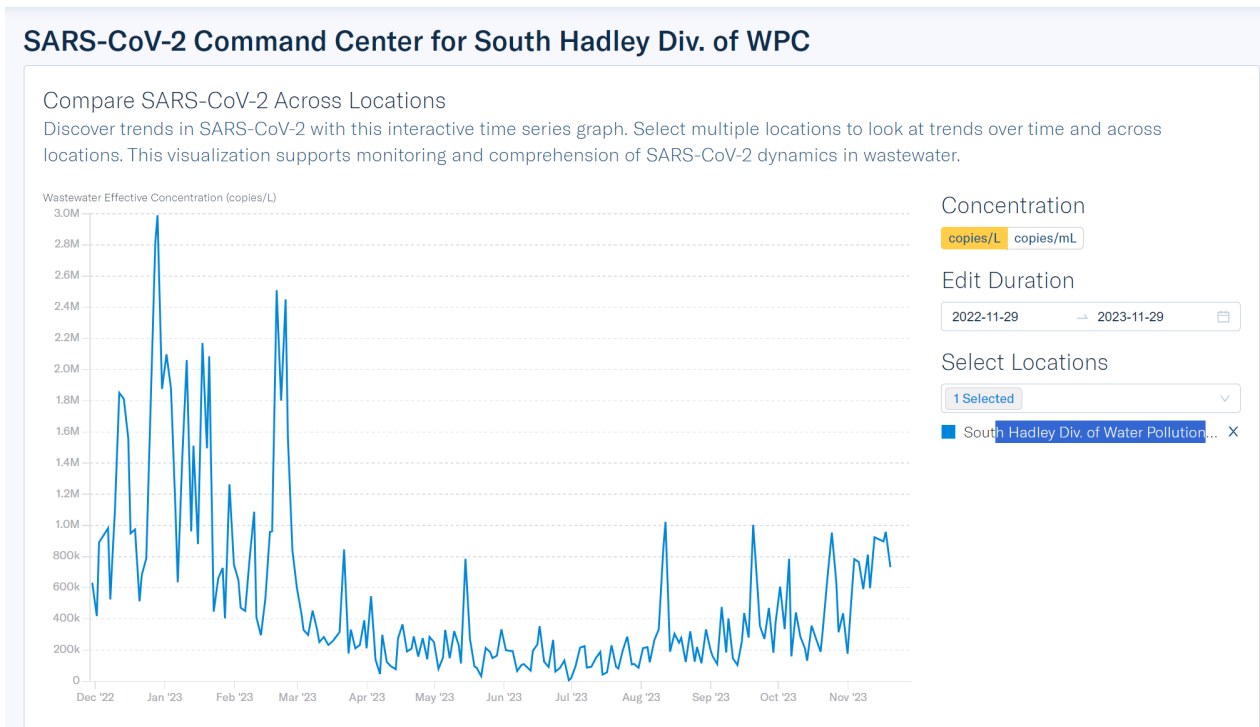
- Insulation repair project is being done next week at Ledges. Abatement at Buttery Brook Park is complete, the permit for demolition has been issued, and waiting for a date from the contractor.

Planning

- **Technical Assistance:** The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is soliciting proposals for their 2024 round of District Local Technical Assistance Grants. The Town is considering housing and zoning support for this round. Proposals are due on December 8th.

Public Health

- **COVID:** The chart below shows detection of COVID in the town’s wastewater in the past year.



- **COVID:** The tables below show the most recent data on vaccination rates from 7/2 to 11/25/23. Hampshire County is at 21.3% vaccination rate and the Town is 18.5%.

Total	Total vaccinated individuals	18150.00011	18.5%
Age	Under 5 Years	643.7502136	< 20%
Age	5-19 years	3370.466248	< 20%
Age	20-34 years	4078.679443	< 20%
Age	35-49 years	2865.447144	< 20%
Age	50-64 years	3527.114685	< 20%
Age	65-79 years	2550.765259	40%-60%
Age	80+ years	1113.777115	40%-60%
Ethnicity	Hispanic	1280.199782	< 20%
Ethnicity	Non-Hispanic	16869.80025	< 20%
Ethnicity	Unknown or missing ethnicity	0	< 20%
Race	American Indian or Alaskan Native	39.79860506	< 20%
Race	Asian	963.4011734	< 20%
Race	Black or African American	524.3044599	< 20%
Race	Multiracial	1168.872408	< 20%
Race	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	3.68227777	*
Race	Other race	0	< 20%
Race	White	15449.9411	< 20%
Race	Unknown or missing race	0	< 20%
Sex	Female	10804.51929	< 20%
Sex	Male	7345.48082	< 20%
Sex	Other, unknown, or missing sex	0	< 20%

- **FLU:** The tables below show the most recent data on vaccination rates from 7/2 to 11/25/23. Hampshire County is at 33.6% vaccination rate and the Town is 32.1%.

Total	Total vaccinated individuals	18150.00011	32.1%
Age	Under 5 Years	643.7502136	20%-40%
Age	5-19 years	3370.466248	< 20%
Age	20-34 years	4078.679443	< 20%
Age	35-49 years	2865.447144	20%-40%
Age	50-64 years	3527.114685	20%-40%
Age	65-79 years	2550.765259	60%-80%
Age	80+ years	1113.777115	60%-80%
Ethnicity	Hispanic	1280.199782	< 20%
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Race	American Indian or Alaskan Native	39.79860506	< 20%
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Race	Multiracial	1168.872408	< 20%
Race	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	3.68227777	*
Race	Other race	0	< 20%
Race	White	15449.9411	20%-40%

Public Safety

- **Hazard Mitigation:** The public is invited to provide input on Dec 14 at 6pm at the Library.

South Hadley Hazard Mitigation Plan Public Forum

December 14, 2023, 6 pm
South Hadley Public Library
2 Canal Street, South Hadley

Are you concerned about natural hazards like flooding, strong storms, heavy snow/ice and extreme temperatures?

Come learn what the Town is doing to prepare and share your thoughts! There will be food and giveaways of t-shirts and bicycle helmets.



Photo credit: wwlp.com

Public Works

- **Trash/Recycling:** The Town is researching options on transition to a tote system for trash and/or recycling in the upcoming fiscal years. The topic will be brought forward at one of the next Selectboard meetings.

Schools

- Congratulations to the South Hadley Football team for their Thanksgiving win.
- We are proud of the South Hadley Girls High School Soccer team for reaching the championships. They are all champions to us!
- The Assistant High School position is posted on SchoolSpring, which also has other opportunities in the school district.
- The High School is hosting a 413Elite Professional Basketball game on December 16. Doors open at 5pm, tip-off is 6pm. Tickets are \$10 and more information is online at www.413elite.com. The owner of 413Elite as well as one of their star players recently visited Town Hall and presented the School Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Town Administrator and Assistant Town Administrator with a jersey and official Basketball.