

THE WEEKLY WRAP UP

A report from Town Administrator Lisa Wong

UPCOMING MEETINGS

**SELECTBOARD - 6 p.m.
Hybrid @ Senior Center**

- **Tuesday, Aug. 12**

www.southhadley.org/agendacenter

SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPOINTEE & VACANCY

The Selectboard and School Committee jointly appointed NAME to fill a vacancy on the School Committee until the April 2026 town election.

The boards also accepted the resignation of member Daniel Vieu and are advertising that vacancy.

To apply, send a letter of interest to kmaher@southhadleyma.gov.

The board will again jointly meet at a to-be-determined time to fill this vacancy.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION A SUCCESS



The fireworks at the 2025 South Hadley Independence Day celebration lit up the skies Saturday night at the middle school where crowds gathered to enjoy festivities culminating in a dazzling fireworks display. Organizers extended heartfelt thanks to longtime sponsors including PeoplesBank, Fiberspring, IGM, and the South Hadley Cultural Council, as well as to the many town departments and volunteers, especially fire districts 1 & 2, SHPD, DPW & Parks, school department, SHELD, the Board of Health, and countless others whose behind-the-scenes work made the event a success.

PROTECT FROM MOSQUITO BITES

Massachusetts confirmed its first West Nile Virus-positive mosquito sample of the season, collected June 13 in Shrewsbury. This early detection underscores the need for mosquito bite prevention. WNV can cause serious illness, especially in people 50+, though most cases have no symptoms. No human or animal cases have been reported this year. Residents should use insect repellent, wear protective clothing, and eliminate standing water. Officials also recommend checking online maps for updated mosquito risk levels.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

KEEP UP WITH SOUTH HADLEY'S LATEST NEWS



New School Zone established near SHHS

The Town of South Hadley is introducing a new school zone along Newton Street (Route 116) and Lincoln Avenue in response to growing concerns over student and pedestrian safety near South Hadley High School. Residents and caregivers have consistently reported issues of speeding and distracted driving on both roads, particularly during school commute hours.

Traffic data collected by the South Hadley Police Department shows that while the posted speed limit on Lincoln Avenue is 30 MPH, up to 47% of vehicles are exceeding that limit. On Newton Street, daily traffic reaches more than 8,400 vehicles, making it one of the town's busiest routes. SHPD enforcement of Lincoln Avenue earlier this year involved 28 traffic operations over 14 hours, resulting in 10 motorist stops. While enforcement has helped reduce speeds temporarily, data from speed boards confirms that drivers tend to return to higher speeds when officers are not visibly present.

The new school zone will be established around key access points to the high school, including entrances, parking areas, and athletic fields. The zone will feature clearly marked signage, reduced speed limits during school hours, and continued enforcement by SHPD to maintain driver awareness. With more students being driven to school or driving themselves, rather than using buses, vehicle volume has increased significantly making it all the more important to adapt the road environment to current usage patterns.

The town urges all motorists to stay alert, slow down, and respect the new school zone for the safety of students, families, and community members.

