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Bruce Forcier

Michael J. Sullivan
Town Administrator

Town Administrator’s Report to the South Hadley Selectboard April 2, 2021

Covid 19 Update

Cases

As you can see from the LBOH table below are once again on the rise in South Hadley. It is fully understandable to be dismayed and concerned. We cannot encourage all residents enough to continue to take measures to stay safe and keep other safe. Wearing masks, practicing social distancing, avoiding crowds, and washing hands regularly still are some of the best ways to fight the spread.

LBOH Count - Events Per Disease and Classification in Jurisdiction

Classification: confirmed,contact,probable,revoked,suspect

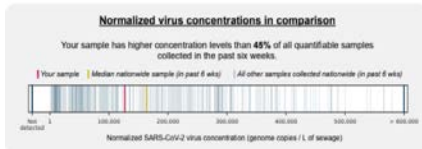
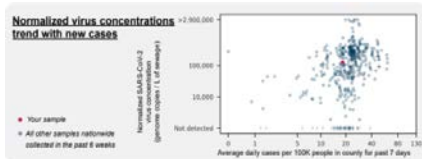
Event Dates from 03/01/2020 to 03/31/2021

Jurisdiction(s) selected: SOUTH HADLEY

Jurisdiction(s) used for report: SOUTH HADLEY

The report contains confidential information. The data are current as of 03/30/2021 and are subject to change.

Disease	Status	3/30/21	3/23/21	3/16/21
Novel Coronavirus	CONFIRMED	947	919	907
Novel Coronavirus	CONTACT	730	719	710
Novel Coronavirus	PROBABLE	74	67	66
Novel Coronavirus	SUSPECT	18	19	19



Biobot COVID-19 incidence estimate*

This incidence estimate represents the projected average of confirmed new clinical cases (per day) that will be reported in your community 7 days from the sampling date. This estimate reflects active R&D.

*using Biobot's current analysis model v2.0, which reflects active R&D and will change over time with developing research.

1 to 5 new cases / day
(0.03% incidence rate)

Using a reported flow rate of 2.73 MGD

For more information, read the whitepaper: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.06.18.20117747>

This number is derived from Biobot's latest proprietary case model, leveraging thousands of samples analyzed for Covid-19. For context, USA Facts reports 18 new cases on this sampling date and an average of 29.6 cases per day for the past 7 days in Hampshire County, MA.

Visit our website for more details behind the process: <https://www.biobot.io/case-estimates>
<https://www.biobot.io/updated-model>

Vaccines

We continue to update information on the COVID 19 page of the town website southhadley.org concerning all aspects of the virus, including vaccines.

You also can contact the COA on the South Hadley Vaccine Hotline at 413 650 1021. We did receive confirmation that the state has given approval to open a vaccine site to the City of Chicopee at which both Granby and South Hadley residents will be able to book appointments.

The vaccines will be given at the Castle of Knights on Memorial Drive. Other than that piece of information, like you we are waiting for further details.

Re-opening of Municipal Buildings

Town Hall will continue to stay closed through May as we continue to evaluate how to keep employees and the public safe from COVID 19. Administration has been gathering input from department heads and their staff about ideas, effective measures, and concerns which can further enhance service to the public.

The Library Director is presently working with the Health Department on a re-opening plan which hopefully can allow the library to open safely by perhaps as early as May. We continue to monitor the trends in the community related to COVID 19 as we make decisions about public access.

There continues to be a robust effort to enhance service in innovative ways, including curbside services and safely contacting people where they live when appropriate and when it can be done safely. In some situations, some departments have done home or site visits or have made outdoor appointments, weather permitting. There have been numerous people who have encouraged us to take measures in a thoughtful way and listen to the science before making any changes - thank you.

It is critically important for citizens to understand one of the major concerns is if we are not careful an outbreak could reasonably close services from an entire department, as some other communities have experienced, for days if not weeks. Any measure we take needs to be sustainable and not threaten service at large.

South Hadley Police Department “One Mind Campaign”



The South Hadley Police Department has developed an exciting new partnership with Behavioral Health Network (BHN) regarding the nationally acclaimed “One Mind Campaign.” This initiative will better prepare the South Hadley Police Department to deal with people in the midst of mental health crisis episodes.

There will be a licensed clinician available to officers 24/7 twenty-four seven through BHN. 100% of full-time officers have undergone 40 hours of training and presently 25% of all dispatchers have also taken the training for what is referred to as “Mental Health First

Aid.”

My sincerest congratulations to Chief Gundersen and Officer Cynthia Boyle for placing the South Hadley Police Department at the forefront of this movement and for understanding how critically important additional training and support services in this complex field will better prepare officers who find themselves encountering a growing number of cases related to mental illness. Many

departments across the nation are reporting that 20% or more of the calls received have a mental health component.

This is presently a grant-funded program. Thank you Chief Gundersen. The department is excited to be working with BHN, also paid for through the grant, to break down barriers and add another layer of efficacy to public safety in South Hadley. Thank you to the women and men of the South Hadley Police Department for their enthusiastic participation in this program. They truly represent the kind of police officers we need in every community.

Ledges Opening

We are very excited to have Ledges opening on April 1. IGM has been very busy preparing for the season. Having their experience managing many golf properties throughout the country will benefit safety and maximize the return. I remain confident if all things continue in a positive manner we will see the course in the black this year.

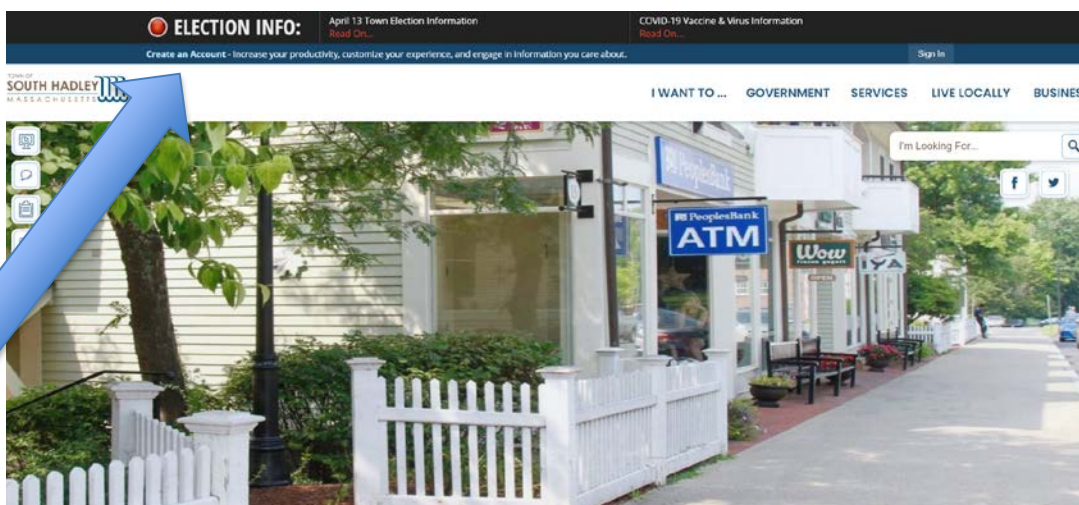
Last year's \$130K in losses were inextricably tied to the pandemic which effected the opening and hampered food and beverage sales for the entire season. In a recent meeting with IGM officials, General Manager Mike Fontaine, Recreation Director Andy Rogers and myself, there was a clear momentum being built of the strong golf side showing in 2021. The number of passholders has increased, new approaches taken to the food and beverage component, opening a full month earlier and more outings booked all bode well for the Ledges.

Town Hall Elections

The elections scheduled for April 13 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. at South Hadley High School is taking shape. Clerk Hamlin has been testing machines, working on safety protocols, and working with various departments and staff to ensure anyone who wants to vote will be able to in reasonable safety.

Information on Mail-in Ballots or Absentee Ballots can be found at:

<https://www.southhadley.org/AlertCenter.aspx?AID=April-13-Town-Election-Information-51>



Above you can see there is an “Election Info” button on the homepage of the website which will connect you to election information.



The drop box is in place at the rear of the police station as it was in the fall Presidential election. You can securely drop applications for ballots and the actual absentee or mail-in ballots in the box. The box can be viewed by the security cameras in the PD, and the Town Clerk checks the box in the morning and at the end of the day as added security.

We have and continue to remind candidates and their supporters that political signs are not allowed on “public” properties. We thank everyone for their cooperation on the matter.

Investments

Treasurer Donna Whiteley and I meet with our investment bank Bartholomew to review the most recent quarters. I am happy to report both the General Fund portfolio and the OPEB investments continue to grow consistently and are invested in only state-sanctioned prudent investments.

Presently there is more than \$22 million invested with Bartholomew. The original investment eight years ago was \$9 million. The growth has been enhanced by investment gains, however most of the growth was from consolidating and adding to the funds annually. There is an additional \$1.9 million in the OPEB investment fund. OPEB is invested more aggressively as a longer-term investment and it produced more than \$300K in gains over the last year. I have proposed putting an additional \$500K in the OPEB in 2022 from General Fund and unreserved free cash. The General Fund holdings are more conservatively invested but still produced more than \$400K in value. Thank you, Treasurer Whiteley, for your stewardship!

Age And Dementia Friendly Plan

Recently I was very happy to participate in a Zoom call with Becky Basch from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to develop an “Age and Dementia Friendly plan” in conjunction with AARP. The call had first responders, department heads, commissioners/board members, community supporters and service organization representatives all working to make South Hadley a more livable, attractive, and understanding community.

As we continue move closer to opening a new Senior Center, the tenants of an age-friendly community are more important than ever. This working group is vital to creating a blueprint for not only that asset, but also how we best utilize and allocate other resources to become an Age and Dementia Friendly Community.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Sullivan
Town of South Hadley, Administrator