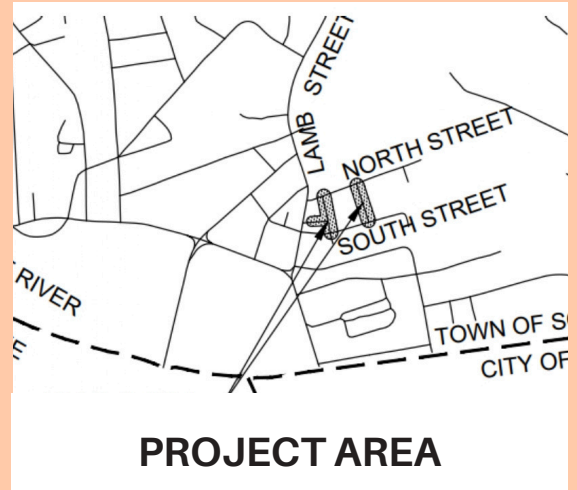


Welcome to the 2nd edition of the South Hadley Redevelopment Authority's newsletter! Our intent is to provide the community with current information about the people, projects, and events in South Hadley Falls.

## Center Street Neighborhood Roadway Improvements Coming Soon

Engineering and design plans for comprehensive roadway and utility upgrades to Center, Warner, and Graves Streets have been completed and construction is anticipated to begin later this summer.

Work will include replacing, repairing and/or updating roadways, sidewalks, drainage systems, sanitary sewers, and public water distribution pipes. Funding for the \$950,000 project is being provided by a Community Development Block Grant to the Town of South Hadley.



See plans at: <https://southhadley.org/DocumentCenter/View/12871/Center-Warner-Graves-Project-Plans>

## Free Trees!

Tree saplings in a variety of species are available for Falls residents. Complete an application for the September planting online here:

<https://southhadley.org/1063/Tree-Planting-Program>

## New Bench Coming to Smith Park



The Redevelopment Authority has donated a new bench to the Fred M. Smith Park. The bench will be located next to the Old Firehouse Museum and provide a third sitting area for visitors to the park.

## Sign up for the Falls Business Directory and Falls Digest!

Use the QR code (below) to enter your business' contact information in our new Falls Business Directory. This will help us stay in touch with you about resources available to support business growth and development, and be shared with the public in upcoming Falls marketing features.

Use the same QR code to subscribe to this newsletter.

## FALLS BUSINESS GATHERING

**Saturday, September 13 at 10am-noon**  
**South Hadley Public Library, 2 Canal Street**

Join the South Hadley Falls Neighborhood Association, the Redevelopment Authority, and South Hadley Staff to talk about your local business needs and plans for the future, as well as other projects and happenings in the neighborhood. Refreshments will be served.

Questions? (413) 538-5030 x6128

"Falls Digest" is a quarterly newsletter by the South Hadley Redevelopment Authority.

### Questions?

South Hadley Planning & Conservation Department  
[acapra@southhadleyma.gov](mailto:acapra@southhadleyma.gov) 413 538 5030 x6128

Use this QR Code to sign up to receive an electronic copy of the Falls Digest and/or to sign up for the Falls Business Directory.



# falls digest

## Ebenezer's - A Beloved Restaurant in the Falls

Ebenezer's Bar & Grill: a favorite South Hadley Falls Gathering Spot

**Nestled in the heart of South Hadley Falls at 60 Bridge Street, Ebenezer's Bar & Grill has become a cherished local institution, offering a warm, welcoming atmosphere and a menu brimming with comfort food favorites.**



It is affectionately referred to as "Eb's" by many of its customers!

Eb's prides itself on being a place where the customer always comes first & strives to exceed expectations with top quality food and beverages at reasonable prices. The restaurant's casual ambiance makes it an ideal spot to relax, catch up with friends, or make new ones. Its reputation as a great neighborhood bar is well earned, with patrons frequently praising the friendly staff and inviting environment.

Open 7 days a week, the food is delicious, and the extensive menu offers something for everyone, from classic appetizers to hearty entrees. The restaurant also offers a variety of salads, burgers, wraps, and sandwiches. Eb's keeps things fresh with dinner specials every Thursday and Friday evening from 4 to 8 pm.

Eb's owner Dave Isakson is dedicated to South Hadley Falls and his commitment to the community is evident through his active engagement in the South Hadley Granby Chamber of Commerce.

Eb's also sponsors many charitable events in the area. On why Dave opened Eb's, he stated, "I had a vision of creating a restaurant that was welcoming for someone wanting to grab a beer after work with friends as well as to families grabbing a bite to eat. Over the years, we have invested in renovations to the space that has made this vision a reality."

Whether you're a longtime resident or just passing through South Hadley, Ebenezer's offers a delightful dining experience and worth a visit!

For more information or to view the full menu, visit [www.ebenazersbarandgrill.com](http://www.ebenazersbarandgrill.com).

## Championing Community and Equity

A dedicated resident in the Falls: Adam Reid

**Adam Reid is a dedicated resident of the Falls whose passion for community, education, and social justice is helping shape a brighter future for our town.**

Originally from Florida, Adam and his partner settled in the Falls in 2019, purchasing a home on Bardwell Street. With a master's degree in Latin American Studies from the University of Florida, Adam now teaches History and Ethnic Studies at Springfield Public Schools. In addition to teaching, he is an active member of the Western Mass music scene, performing in several bands including Nanny, Gold Dust, and The In-Betweens. But his contributions to the community extend well beyond the classroom and stage.

Since 2020, he has served as an elected Town Meeting Member for Precinct A, representing the Falls with a commitment to equity and inclusion. Adam has worked with residents across South Hadley's precincts to reimagine public safety in ways that prioritize justice for all. His efforts culminated in the passage of the Welcoming Community Ordinance at this year's Annual Town Meeting, now a town bylaw that protects residents from being unjustly targeted or detained due to their immigration status.

"The outpouring of support this ordinance received, not only in the Falls but across all precincts, truly made me feel grateful to live here," Adam shared.



A strong advocate for community connection, Adam envisions more locally owned businesses and community spaces in the Falls to bring the community together.

He also dreams of expanded bike paths to safely connect the Falls to other parts of town and neighboring communities, fostering both accessibility and sustainability. "I can picture Main Street as a miniature walkable downtown for the Falls," he says, "with businesses and services like a small food cooperative, so residents don't need to drive for healthy groceries. This would improve quality of life and move us toward a more sustainable community model."

# falls digest

## Who was Fred Merwin Smith?

"A loyal and patriotic citizen" who earned the love of his community

**There is a lovely park at the corner of Main and North Main Streets in South Hadley Falls that bears the name Fred M. Smith Memorial Green.** Look through town reports from the early 1900s and you would likely see his name listed on many committees and in various roles. There are also fireman's muster trophies and award ribbons that bear his name. Fred M. Smith was South Hadley's original go-to guy, a multitasker who served his community in many ways.

Fred was the son of Hiram and Harriet Smith. He was born in the family home at 46 North Main Street on September 19, 1862. His father owned a grocery store on Main Street as served as the Town Treasurer and as Postmaster. Fred attended South Hadley public schools and later enrolled at Williston Academy. His first employment was as a reporter for the Springfield Union newspaper. He then became assistant treasurer of the Valley Paper Company, and eventually the President of Axtell and Cady, a printing company. In 1892 he married Evelyn Bardwell of Shelburne, who was a teacher at the School Street School. The couple lived in a grand home at 54 North Main Street, where they raised three sons.

Fred was the leader of the Republican Party in South Hadley, and became a member of the School Committee at age 28, Town Treasurer at age 29, and Water Commissioner of Fire District No.1. He was a Master of the Mount Holyoke Chapter of Masons, Town Meeting Moderator for 20 years, served in the Massachusetts Legislature, was a director and trustee of many area businesses, and headed the Local Draft Board Division #7 during World War I.

The role of the local draft board was to determine which of the volunteers, and later, draftees, were physically, mentally, and morally fit for duty. There were more than 160 registrants for service from South Hadley, and most were eventually accepted for duty. Some were denied entry into the service due to physical limitations or dire family circumstances.

Fred and Dr. Henry Doonan were responsible for determining that all who wished to serve were fit for duty. Fred maintained an extensive collection of correspondence with the many young men from South Hadley who were drafted and sent overseas to fight in WWI. The letters, photographs, postcards, and meticulous records kept show the sincere interest and concern that he had for the young men he sent to war, and also their fondness and appreciation for him. This collection of correspondence is housed in the Firehouse Museum.

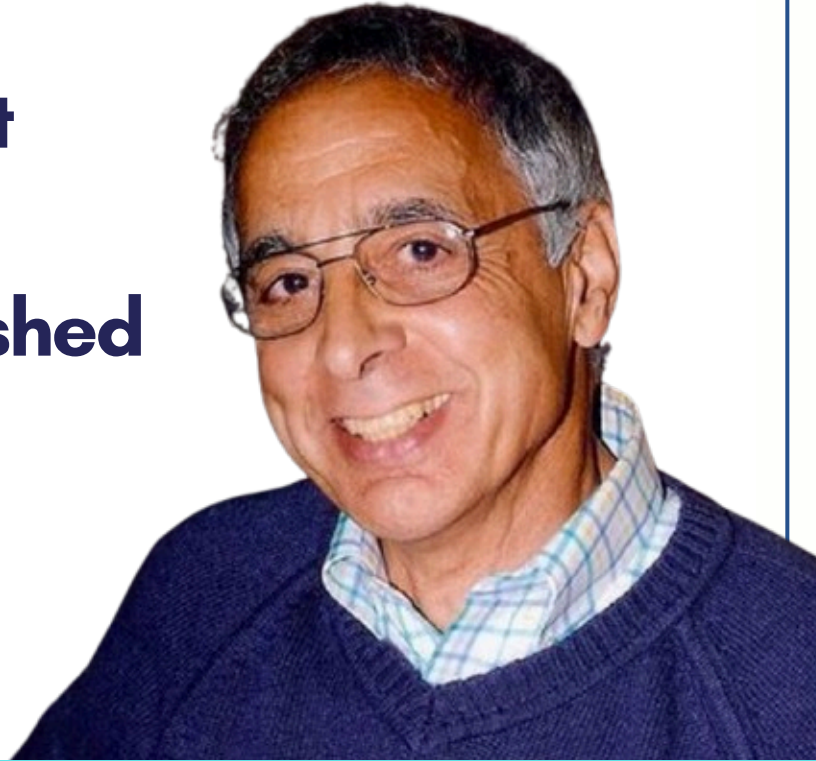
Fred died on January 7, 1928, at the age of 65. Town offices were closed, schools closed at noon, and businesses and factories shut down for one hour on January 9th for his funeral. Evelyn Smith lived to the age of 107, and both are buried in the Evergreen Cemetery.



Two years after Fred's death, family and friends gathered at the newly-landscaped plot of land at the corner of Main and North Main Streets to honor his memory and to dedicate the public space in his name. Arthur Gaylord, Esq. gave the eulogy and spoke of Mr. Smith's life as one filled with kind deeds and generous acts of public service. Mr. Gaylord said, "The community is poorer for his loss, but richer for his life."

A large granite boulder was unveiled at the ceremony, dedicating the land as the Fred M. Smith Memorial Green. A bronze plaque on the boulder reads: **"Dedicated to the memory of a loyal and patriotic citizen, whose efficient and untiring service won the esteem, confidence, and love of the people he served."** The Kiwanis Club of Holyoke presented a marble garden seat to the memory of their beloved president. The Memorial Green is now one of the few remaining open spaces in South Hadley Falls, with park benches and plantings that encourage us to pause in a place steeped in history.

## The Redevelopment Authority of South Hadley has established a memorial fund to honor the legacy of Frank DeToma.



## Frank DeToma South Hadley Falls Redevelopment Fund

Frank passed away in 2024 after a two-year battle with cancer. He was passionate about local politics and civic engagement, serving as a Selectboard member, 30-year District 2 Water Commissioner, and multiple town committees, including the Redevelopment Authority.

The Frank DeToma South Hadley Falls Memorial Fund seeks donations to further Frank's vision for South Hadley Falls - redevelopment, beautification, and community engagement. Projects supported by this Fund may include property acquisition and/or redevelopment, creation of housing, business growth and development, and public parks and recreation facilities.



... Projects supported by the Fund may include property acquisition and/or redevelopment, creation of housing, business growth and development and public parks and recreation facilities.

**Donations by Check - Payable to:  
South Hadley Redevelopment Authority**

**Mail to:**  
South Hadley Redevelopment Authority  
c/o Planning & Conservation Department  
Town Hall  
116 Main Street,  
South Hadley, MA 01075

# falls digest

## Directory of Municipal Resources

Service	Description	Contact Info
<b>Free water saving supplies</b>	Free water saving shower heads, faucet aerators and dye tablets to check for toilet leaks	Pick up supplies at: <b>Water Department Fire District No.1, 438 Granby Road</b> available while supplies last!
<b>Free Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms Installation</b>	Free installation of smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms. Program offered through the American Red Cross -- only for homes that have battery powered devices.	Contact <b>Fire District 1 Captain Jason Houle</b> (413) 533-7112 or jhoule@shdistrict1.org  More info: <a href="https://www.redcross.org/local/massachusetts/about-us/our-work/home-fire-campaign.html">https://www.redcross.org/local/massachusetts/about-us/our-work/home-fire-campaign.html</a>
<b>Residential Lock Box</b>	A key box containing the homes keys is installed next to the front door and allows the Fire Department to enter the home in an emergency where the caller may not be able to get to the door. The access keys are only on the ambulances and Fire apparatus.	Contact <b>Fire District 1 Captain Jason Houle</b> (413) 533-7112 or jhoule@shdistrict1.org
<b>South Hadley Public Library Services</b>	The Library offers free WiFi, children's storytimes, youth afterschool programs, free library cards, meeting space for community groups, warming center	<b>South Hadley Public Library</b>  <a href="https://www.shadleylib.org">https://www.shadleylib.org</a>
<b>Property Tax Exemptions</b>	Property Tax Exemptions available for: Widows, Legally Blind, 70 and Older, Surviving Spouse, Service Connected disabled-Veterans, and others.	See the South Hadley Town Website "Personal Exemptions"  <b>Direct Link:</b> <a href="https://www.southhadley.org/648/Personal-Exemptions">https://www.southhadley.org/648/Personal-Exemptions</a>
<b>Motor Vehicle Excise Abatement</b>	Motor Vehicle Excise Abatement available if vehicle sold or traded, vehicle totaled, gifted etc. along with registration transfer or cancellation.	See the South Hadley Town Website "Motor Vehicle Excise"  <b>Direct Link:</b> <a href="https://www.southhadley.org/655/Motor-Vehicle-Excise">https://www.southhadley.org/655/Motor-Vehicle-Excise</a>
<b>Free Trees!</b>	Tree saplings in a variety of species are available for Falls residents. Complete an application for the September planting online here:	Contact: <b>Tree Warden Rebekah Cornell</b> rcornell@southhadleyma.gov (413) 538-5030 x6129  <b>Details:</b> <a href="https://www.southhadley.org/1063/Tree-Planting-Program">https://www.southhadley.org/1063/Tree-Planting-Program</a>