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NEWS **September 2021**



Fall Feastival 2021 save-the-date card.

Fall Feastival is back: Nov. 4

Fall Feastival is back and celebrating its 20th year. The premium fundraising

including Twin Hills Country Club, Mamma Mia's, The Federal, and Nadim's Mediterranean

event held by Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity is a crowd pleaser that promises hours of well-deserved fun and networking opportunities for its ticket holders. This

year should be just as enchanting as previous years with an added bonus, ticket are only \$50 each, a \$25 savings.

In years past, attendees enjoyed cocktails plus sweet and savory samplings from local restaurants,

**Fall Feastival
Nov. 4, 5:30pm
Twin Hills Country
Club, Longmeadow
\$50 each**

[habitatspringfield.org/
fall-feastival](http://habitatspringfield.org/fall-feastival)

Restaurant. Additionally, live and silent auctions featured prizes such as a wine cellar with 14 bottles of assorted wine, jewelry, and gift baskets.

Neither this year's vendors

nor auction items have been released yet, but the event is sure to be a worthwhile event that raises money for Greater Springfield Habitat. For more information, go to habitatspringfield.org/fall-feastival

GSHFH renews partnership with SNHS

Likeminded organization aligns with Habitat mission

Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) recently renewed its partnership with Springfield Neighborhood Housing Services (SNHS). With a mission similar to that of Greater Springfield Habitat, SNHS empowers first-time low- to moderate-income homebuyers to purchase homes in the Western Massachusetts city by offering financial education and homeownership workshops; mortgage lending services; housing development; home repairs; and small business technical assistance and funding.

Greater Springfield Habitat builds two to three new homes a year, and offers a home preservation program to families needing assistance with accessibility modifications, home weatherization, general home repairs, yard cleanup, and landscaping. Funding to the program is limited and as of summer 2021, GSHFH helped three families before running out of money. This is where Springfield Neighborhood Housing can step in. With a greater budget, the organization can pick up where GSHFH leaves off and help more families in Springfield. SNHS is certified by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and offers home repairs to individuals who are in need of fixes but cannot necessarily afford a contractor on their own.

"I look forward to working with SNHS to meet the needs of more Hampden County families that we can serve on our own," said Deborah O'Mara, GSHFH Family Services manager.

Additionally, SNHS officials said they will inform their homeowners about the ReStore in Westfield, a nonprofit home improvement store that accepts donations of new and gently used furniture, appliances, lighting, building materials, and home goods, then sells them to the public at a fraction of the retail value.

"Our mission is to transform families via homeownership," said Leo Williams, SNHS executive director. "When I look at Springfield Neighborhood Housing Services, it has all the components to address the wealth gap and transferrable wealth. But the most important thing it has is something that can't be re-engineered and that's an appreciation of the culture. ... When you're within the culture, you understand it."

Leo and Jeff are both longtime residents of Springfield and have grown up in the city.



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Habitat welcomes newest board member

Michael Cardaropoli's interest in Habitat for Humanity began as so many others do – he and several colleagues volunteered at a build site. Through the course of the experience, Michael gained an appreciation for the Habitat mission, learned new skills, and bonded with his peers from Pellegrini, Seeley, Ryan & Blakesley (PSRB), a personal injury law firm, based in Springfield. Now, Michael is the newest member to join the Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) Board of Directors.

It's no wonder Michael was impressed by Habitat. He participated in the "Tommy's House" build. Formally known as Marine Gunner Sgt. Thomas J. Sullivan, the project honored the Springfield native who had been killed in the Chattanooga, Tennessee, shootings in July 2015. The house had later been purchased by a soldier and his family.

"I really enjoyed the project and working with the folks at Habitat. My favorite memory from that day is the laughs we shared with all of the other volunteers and seeing all the progress we made on the house," Michael said. "I have been interested in getting involved since that time."

Opportunity knocked when one of GSHFH's board members put out feelers and asked if anyone at PRSB might want to join the board. Michael, a Springfield native who now lives in East



Michael Cardaropoli

Longmeadow, stepped up.

"I liked the idea of doing something good in the community where I was born and raised," Michael said. "This cause is a great one."

This will be Michael's first experience with a board of directors, but he said he looks forward to serving with the other members and contributing any way he can.

Anne Eisenman, president of the GSHFH Board of Directors, said she is equally excited to work with Michael.

"Michael's commitment to the Greater Springfield community and his enthusiasm regarding previous volunteer experience on a construction site made him an excellent addition to our board of directors," she said. "In his short time with us, he has joined the planning committee for our upcoming Fall Festival (the autumn fundraiser) and has

SPOTLIGHT ON

Michael Cardaropoli
Board member
of East Longmeadow, MA

What would be the silliest feature added to your dream home? A room with enough TVs to watch every football game at the same time on Sundays.

What is one weird fact or tidbit you still remember from high school? Pythagorean Theorem

If you could change the ending of any famous movie, which would it be? What would be your new ending? Goodfellas. Ray Liota wouldn't be a snitch.

If you could have a celebrity for a best friend, who would you choose and why? Tom Brady because he's the GOAT.

shown support for our mission to provide decent, affordable, housing in Hampden County. I look forward to working with Michael to further our goals."

Help GSHFH receive a grant from Novelis

Thank you to everyone who has donated their cans and is helping us earn a grant from Novelis. If you haven't yet surrendered your cans or set up a can receptacle in your place of business, don't fret, there's still time. This is an ongoing effort. Drop us a line at support@habitatspringfield.org or call (413) 739-5503. We can give you a bin and/or pick up your cans.

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