

Greater Springfield  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity

**Hops for  
Habitat**  
beer passport

expires Sunday, June 30.

Return to Habitat/brewery by July 15.

Greater Springfield  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity

**ONE WAY**  
807 Maple Road,  
Longmeadow

**HANG WITH  
HABITAT** Thursday,  
July 18: 6-8pm

Greater Springfield  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity

**Recycling  
event**

July 20: 10am to 2pm  
Ludlow High School  
500 Chapin St, Ludlow

Empty, clean aluminum cans wanted

Greater Springfield  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity

**Thank  
you!  
We're  
halfway  
there!**

368 Cold Spring Ave, West Springfield  
(413) 738-5503

Greater Springfield  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity

**Make an impact for years to come.**  
(877) 277-4344  
habitatspringfield.org/cars-for-homes



Greater Springfield  
**Habitat**  
for Humanity

# NEWS

**July  
2024**



The cement walls of the foundation are poured at the build site of Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity's newest home on Dwight Street in Springfield.

## Construction has started GSHFH builds newest home

**I**t's happening!  
Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) recently began construction on its newest home. Situated at the corner of Dwight and Harriet streets in Springfield, the home will have three-bedrooms, one-and-a-half bathrooms, and measure approximately 1,430 square feet. Construction of the home will also include several green technologies. When finished, it

will be purchased by a family that was selected for the homeownership program last July.

"We are excited to start the Dwight Street project and look forward to having volunteers back out on site with us during construction of the home," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director.

KeyBank, an environmental sponsor of the project, recently

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# Greater Springfield Habitat hosts all-ages read-a-thon in Hampden County

By Dakota Wirf and Nathan Shlosser  
GSHFH interns

What does reading mean to you? Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) is hosting a read-a-thon called “One for the Books” taking place from June 1 to July 31. The event is for anyone, but is targeted to those in Hampden County. The read-a-thon invites participants to explore books, open their imagination, and raise money for Habitat.

“The money goes to our overall operation so it can help with new construction, repairs, and also helps us put on more fun programs for the community,” said Olga Callirgos, Homeowner Programs coordinator. Greater Springfield Habitat is a county-wide organization that raises money to build home and repair homes for the limited-income population.

The idea for the read-a-thon came up when Olga asked herself, “How do I combine the two things I love the most: reading and my job?” Olga said she went to Brandy O’Brien, Marketing and Communications manager, with the idea. They talked about it and its logistics. Shortly after, they brought the idea to Aimee Giroux, executive director. She approved it and they began planning the event.



Photo by Dakota Wirf, GSHFH intern

“One for the Books” read-a-thon participants Trina Winans (left) and Olga Callirgos read their respective books in the Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity office in West Springfield.

Finding someone to sponsor a participant can be challenging or easy. Having a conversation with someone is one way. Another, is crowd funding, which is a way to raise money for an individual or organization by submitting donations through a website. Friends, family, strangers, acquaintances, businesses, and others can contribute. By using social media, in addition to word of mouth, crowd funding can reach more potential donors than traditional forms of fundraising. GSHFH is utilizing GiveLively.org to collect online donations for the read-a-thon. To view current read-a-thon pledge pages, visit [bit.ly/3U1ZOm7](http://bit.ly/3U1ZOm7)

Audrianna Giroux-Withers signed up for the read-a-thon because her kids love reading fiction comics and she loves romances and thrillers. She said it’s because she loves the suspense and not knowing what’s going to happen next.

Trina Winans is a local teacher who is participating in the read-a-thon because she wanted to support the nonprofit.

“I really believe in the mission of Habitat for Humanity,” she said. “I wanted to support it, so I felt the best way that I could do that is by taking part in the read-a-thon.”

To learn more about the read-a-thon, visit [habitatspringfield.org/one-for-the-books](http://habitatspringfield.org/one-for-the-books)



## Volunteers wanted

- No experience necessary
- Instruction and tools provided

(413) 739-5503  
[volunteer@habitatspringfield.org](mailto:volunteer@habitatspringfield.org)

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gifted Greater Springfield Habitat a grant to offset the cost of green building and energy-efficient products. Mass Save, a joint effort between Massachusetts electric and natural gas utilities, and energy-efficiency service providers, is also offering an “all-electric” initiative. New all-electric homes that follow certain requirements are eligible for up to \$25,000 and technical assistance.

“At KeyBank, supporting affordable housing solutions is core to our community investment strategy and how we help our communities thrive,” said KeyBank Branch Manager Ramon (Tito) Albizu, who leads the bank’s Holyoke branch.

Additionally, James Hardie Industries, a building materials company, has donated soffit, exposed siding underneath a roof’s overhang, and concrete fiber board siding for the new home. Aimee said the product is long-lasting, will protect against



The build site of Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity’s newest home on Dwight Street in Springfield.

damage from extreme weather, and is maintenance free.

Future homeowners, Driss and Majda, said they with their four children are excited about the prospect of a new forever home.

“We applied through your program to get a home so that our children would have a better life,” said Driss, the patriarch who works as a truck driver, while his wife Majda

cares for their four young children. “My dream is for my children to be good people and useful to society and do good deeds for the environment and achieve their dreams.”

The construction phase traditionally takes between 18 and 24 months. If interested in volunteering, visit [habitatspringfield.org/volunteer](http://habitatspringfield.org/volunteer)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

**NEW**  
**VOLUNTEER**  
 registration & calendar

**View calendar to see available options**



# Habitat Classifieds

**Line ad | 2.4"x.5"**  
**\$50/12 monthly issues**

**Mini ad**  
**2.4"x1"**  
**\$100/12 monthly issues**

**1-column ad**  
**2.4"x2.9"**  
**\$150/12 monthly issues**

Advertise with Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity. Your ad could be seen by **10,000 followers** via social media, the website, and email marketing.