

CITY CELEBRATES

Easthampton's 225th anniversary plans growing to include a parade, live music, pancake breakfast, performances and other events.

HAITI RELIEF

The Pioneer Arts Center of Easthampton hosts a Haitian Relief Benefit Show with Mitch Chakour, Mountain Interval, Lion Cub and more.

All this and more inside.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2010, SERVING EASTHAMPTON, WESTHAMPTON AND SOUTHAMPTON • PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DAILY HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE

Town with a vision

Southampton invites residents to help shape future

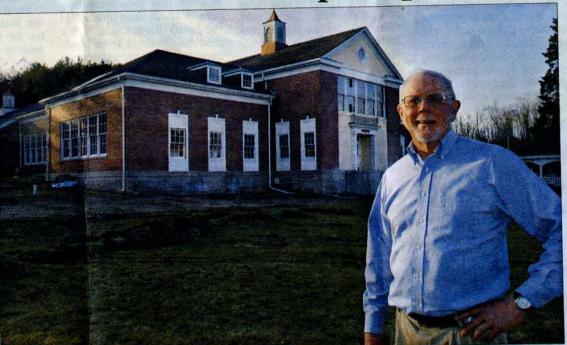
By REBECCA EVERETT Gazette Contributing Writer

SOUTHAMPTON — Residents will be asked to close their eyes and imagine Southampton as it will look 20 years down the road at three workshops organized by the Master Plan Committee. The committee hopes that residents attend the Visioning Workshops, which begin today and continue over the next several days. They will help shape the town's Master Plan.

"This is the last big chance for people who want to have their say," said Henry Barton, chair of the committee. "It's important to participate because if the plan doesn't reflect the ideas and thoughts of people in town, it's not a good plan."

The Master Planning Committee, with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, is working to draft a document that will guide development in Southampton for the next 10 to 20 years. The goals, strategies and actions outlined in the plan will dictate decision-making on land use and open space, public services, economic development and zoning, among other topics.

The workshops are the third and final step in the community input phase of the master planning process. In December, the commit-



KEVIN GUTTING

Henry Barton, chairman of the Southampton Master Plan Committee, stands in front of the Larrabee School Building on College Highway this week. Residents will be asked to help plan for a new village center around the building.

■ See TOWN/ Page 2