

**SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST**

This year is the 200th Birthday of Southbridge!

- **Grand Parade**
Saturday, May 14th
- **Grand Fireworks Show,**
Saturday, August 13th

Website

<http://www.southbridge200.org>

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Hiring a permanent Police Chief and Deputy Chief	2
Conservation of Energy. Saving Tax Dollars	2
Curbside Disposal	3
Adopt a Park Program	4

Celebrating Southbridge

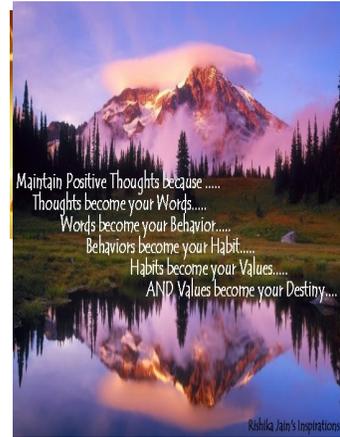
ISSUE 2

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Positive About Southbridge!

One of the responsibilities of a Town Manager is to promote the positive attributes of the town. Why is this important? We need to attract more businesses to our community. New businesses means more jobs for our citizens, a sharing of our tax burden, and they require little in town services. Another logical reason is to increase the value of our properties. Citizens have invested in their homes and want it to increase in value. For most

of us it will be the largest investment we make in our lives. Southbridge has amazing assets and we



Maintain Positive Thoughts because
Thoughts become your Words.....
Words become your Behavior.....
Behaviors become your Habit.....
Habits become your Values.....
AND Values become your Destiny....

should be proud of what has been built by the hard-

working people of this town. I have toured some amazing businesses in town that are making products that are being marketed around the world. For instance, glass lenses that are being used in our space program. Yes, like many communities we need to improve. We must understand our problems and address them. Being negative without offering positive solutions simply damages the reputation of the town and hurts all citizens. Lets work together to build a better future.

Dealing with Blight Issues

Are you tired of seeing Blight throughout Southbridge? Town government agrees with you. Citizens need to take care of their property. The truth is that blighted properties bring down the value of all homes in Southbridge. Our government is working to

strengthen By -Laws against blight. The intent of the law is to protect and preserve public health, public safety, security and quiet enjoyment of occupants, abutters and neighborhoods by requiring all residential, commercial and industrial property owners, including lenders to

properly maintain blighted, and/or foreclosed properties. If a blighted condition remains after notification from the town, a significant fine may be imposed.



The Town Council is always looking for ways to save money and this is a win—win situation. We are going to improve lighting at all town buildings and save money at the same time.!

Hiring A Permanent Police Chief and Deputy

The Southbridge Town Council confirmed Provisional Police Chief Shane Woodson as the town’s permanent Police Chief and Jose Dingui as permanent Deputy Chief. Town Manager Ron San Angelo recommended the two candidates after placing first and second in the Police Chief Assessment

Testing administered by Badge Quest, a highly respected state wide testing firm.

“It is great that we have within our department two highly qualified candidates either of which can serve the town as Police Chief” said San Angelo.

Police Chief Woodson

has a Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice , Chief Woodson has been a member of the force for 21 years and has held every rank within the department.

Deputy Chief Dingui has a Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, has served 18 years on the force and serves as the Director of the Cops and Kids Program.

Conservation of Energy— New Energy Efficient Lighting in Town Buildings - \$12,464 a year in electric bill savings! Taxpayers get more for less!

Town Manager Ron San Angelo is working with the Town Council to replace all non-efficient lighting in town buildings and replace them with new energy efficient LED lighting. This proposal includes an incentive contribution provided through the National Grid Energy Initiatives Municipals program of \$156,525.

The total net cost to the Town of Southbridge for

this project is \$471,158 with an estimated annual energy savings of \$125,550, for a simple payback period of 3.75 years. Financing is offered for the net cost to the Town through National Grid at 0%. The project has a net monthly positive cash flow of \$1,039, cost versus electric savings.

This program allows the town to improve all lighting in existing buildings and at the same

time save taxpayer dollars.

“ The Town Council is always looking for ways to save money and this is one of those win-win situations. We are going to improve lighting at all town buildings and save money at the same time.” stated Ron San Angelo.

This program is supported by the State of Massachusetts to improve the environment.



Curbside Disposal - Do the Right Thing by Andrew Pelletier, Health Director

I remember; we had a galvanized barrel and a 55 gallon drum sitting in the detached garage. Every night, one of my chores was to bring the kitchen trash can, only one, out to the garage and dump it into one of the barrels; it didn't matter which one everything went into those cans and it all got mixed together. Then, every Saturday morning I was tasked with dragging the two barrels out of the garage and figuring out how to get them into the back of the van, a monumental task for an eleven year old.

Then came the fun part, me and usually one or two of my siblings piled into the van and we went to the dump where we were allowed to pick through the "Dump Shack" for treasure while my dad dumped the barrels into one huge pile of waste that would eventually be buried on site.

Today we accept our landfills as a destiny of last resort, and why not? If we can reuse, recover or recycle some of our disposal isn't it a responsible thing to do?

Today in Southbridge we strive to make doing the responsible thing as easy as the law allows. Utilizing the concept of single stream recycling, we have

reduced the required containers in the kitchen from four to two; we offer large wheeled carts for both waste and recycling to be conveniently transported to curbside and we have redesigned our web page, thinkreduce.com, with helpful information on recycling and alternative disposal options.

How do I prepare:

Trash?

Take kitchen/household bags of trash to trash container. Cover container with tight fitting cover, an attached cover is recommended. If you do not have an appropriate container, We do have a voluntary 64 gallon trash toter program. Please contact the Health Department at 508-764-4252 or thinkreduce.com for more information and ordering.

Place durable, rodent-proof, water-tight trash container at the curb by 7 AM on your collection day.

Recycling?

Recycle plastic containers marked with #1-7, glass and metal containers, paper and cardboard. Put all recyclables in clearly marked recycling toter. Place toter or bin at the curb by 7 AM on your collection day every other week.

Bulky Waste?

Register any item that will not fit in your trash container by noon Monday at thinkreduce.com or call the Health Department at 508-764-4252. The list of accepted items can be found on our online registration form at thinkreduce.com.

Bulk waste pickup is strictly for residence use only. ALL landlord pickups or clean outs are considered commercial and cannot be handled through the Town of Southbridge Curbside Program.

Place the registered bulky item at the curb according to the instructions on thinkreduce.com.

Residence Convenience Drop Off – Is for extra bags of trash or recycling generated from an event or a single bulk item. You can drop them off on Saturdays from 7AM till 12 Noon at the Southbridge Landfill / Transfer Station. This is a residence only event. **No commercial drop offs will be accepted.**

Remove all items from the curb within 24 hours.

For more information, visit thinkreduce.com or call 508-764-4252.

Para traducir esta información en Español por favor llame al Departamento de Salud 508-764-4252.

Southbridge Unveils an Adopt-a-Park Program

The Town of Southbridge is developing partnerships between the Recreation Department, businesses and local organizations to improve park facilities and playgrounds through an Adopt-a-Park program. The purpose of the program is to improve recreational facilities for all citizens of Southbridge.

Adopter groups organize a clean-up/improvement day at least once a month from April-October. Park improvement day projects include but are not limited to, landscaping, litter removal, repainting equipment and graffiti removal, maintaining playing surfaces and playground surface material, etc. The Adopter group will be publicly recognized by the town and have the option of a sign placed on site acknowledging your continued adoption efforts.

“We are excited about the potential of this program to come together as a community to improve the condition and pride in the town’s recreational resources,” stated Steven Roenfeldt, Recreation Director

List of Adoptable Parks and Facilities in Southbridge:

Walcott Street Playground, Main Street Playground, West Street Lower Fields and Playground, West Street Tennis Courts and Playground, Alva Gregoire Memorial Fields, Charlton Street Recreation Area, Charlton Street Recreation Area Football Field, “The Rez” on High Street, Morris Street Playground and Basketball Court, Morris Street Athletic Fields, Ed McCann Softball Field, Ed McCann Baseball Fields, Ed McCann Basketball Court, Ed McCann Playgrounds and Joe Capillo Park.

“The Town Council strongly supports having high quality public recreation facilities that can be enjoyed by all citizens. This is an area where our business community, town organizations and local government can form a partnership that will benefit everyone” stated Town Manager, Ron San Angelo.

More information on the program is available on the town’s website:

www.ci.southbridge.ma.us.org/recreation

An information meeting will be held at the Jacob Edwards Library on Thursday March 31st at 5 PM in the Pioppi Room.

