

Celebrating Southbridge

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JANUARY 2016

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

This year is the 200th Birthday of Southbridge

- **Grand Gala Ball**
Saturday,
February 13, 2016.
- **Grand Parade**
Saturday, May 14,
2016.
- **Grand Fireworks Show-** Saturday,
August 13, 2016

Website

<http://www.southbridge200.org>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Southbridge Airport** 2
- Holiday Season** 2
- Goods for Guns** 2
- Drug Forum** 3
- Community Compact** 3
- Southbridge Manufacturers** 3
- Bicentennial Committee** 4

Happy New Year Southbridge!

As Southbridge Town Manager, I wish you all a Happy New Year! Together we are moving forward in a positive direction. Our future is a bright one. We have a strong base of both industrial and retail business. The Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center is top notch and has the ability to draw tourists and business customers. Harrington Hospital provides quality care throughout the region. We have numerous restaurants

and retailers that provide excellent meals and products that benefit everyone. Our churches are known



The best is yet to come!

for their beauty and inspiration. Yes, we have much to be proud of. In this New

Year we need to build on our strengths and each of us can make a difference in the future of our community. The Town Council, our employees, and I are committed to building a better Southbridge and we need you to help us. If you're a business leader, invest in our community. If you're a resident of our town, support our local businesses. Above all, tell everyone you know about our great history and the positive things that are happening every day here in Southbridge!

Celebrating Southbridge

The Town Council wants you to know what is happening in Southbridge. Town Manager Ron San Angelo is hosting a public access show called Celebrating Southbridge on Charter Channel 192. The purpose of the show is

to educate citizens regarding the services provided by local government. The Town Council strongly believes that local government should be transparent and that citizens should know what they receive in services as a result of their

hard earned tax dollars. Guests will include town department heads, community leaders, state officials, and others.

Southbridge Municipal Airport—A Ground Breaking Ceremony For the \$2.5 Million New Administration Building and Hanger



Small passenger planes at the airport

The following groups joined together at the Southbridge Municipal Airport for the long awaited ground breaking celebration of the new administration building and hanger.: Airport Commission, Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Agency, and Stantec Engineering.

The new administration building will house an office for the Airport Manager, a pilot’s lounge, six hundred square feet of rental space for the Aero Venture Institute Flight School and a public meeting room which can be rented for social events and meetings. Improvements at the

Airport are designed to enhance economic development opportunities and to provide residents a place to gather for community events.

Rudy DiGregorio, a lifelong resident of Southbridge and local businessman, enjoyed creating and building these displays.

Southbridge Celebrates the Holiday Season!

Citizens once again enjoyed a beautifully decorated Town Common and downtown area thanks to Councilor Denise Clemence and the Southbridge Holiday Visions Committee. The children of Southbridge smile as they see images of elves, reindeer, airplanes, Santa, and so

many more as they travel throughout town. A special thank you to all those who worked so hard preparing and setting up all the displays.

Rudy DiGregorio, a lifelong resident of Southbridge and local businessman, enjoyed creating and building

these displays throughout the years with the help of his friends. His love of community continues to live on through his legacy and reminds us of the spirit of the season.

This program has succeeded in getting guns off the street.



Goods for Guns Program

The Southbridge Police Department, working with Councilor Esteban Carrasco, participated in the state’s Goods for Guns Program

(also known as a gun Buy Back) on Saturday December 12, 2015. Since 2002 this program has succeeded in getting thousands of guns off the street and has also prevented many violent acts, reducing the chance

of a child coming into contact with a loaded gun. We are working in conjunction with staff from UMass Memorial, Worcester, MA, who is leading the effort, and we appreciate their work in trying to remove guns off our streets .

Educational Forum on Alcohol and Substance Abuse Held



On November 4, 2015 the Protection of Persons and Property Subcommittee of the Town Council held an

*illegal
drugs
kill*

Educational Forum on Alcohol and Substance Abuse at the Southbridge Town Hall. Councilman Albert D. Vecchia Jr., Chairman of the Subcommittee stated “Everyone

recognizes that this is a critical issue facing all communities. Southbridge wants to be on the forefront of dealing with the problem, and we need to do everything in our power to “save lives”.

Invited speakers included Joseph D. Early Jr., Worcester District Attorney; Lew Evangelidis, Sheriff Worcester County; Greg Mirhej, Assistant Vice President of Behavioral Health and Director of Recovery Services Harrington Hospital; Mark Orris, Regional Program Director of Spectrum Health Services, and others.

Southbridge Receives \$30,000 Community Compact Grant

On January 23, 2015 Governor Baker signed his first Executive Order, creating the Community Compact Cabinet, in order to elevate the Administration’s partnerships with cities and towns in all communities of the Commonwealth. Southbridge Town Manager Ron San Angelo

applied for a grant for the purpose of hiring a consultant to evaluate all town buildings and to develop a long-term Capital Facilities Management Plan. The plan is designed to insure that we keep all town building in good physical condition in order to protect the assets of the citizens of

Southbridge.

The following was received from the State: ‘Congratulations on entering into a Community Compact with the Baker-Polito Administration. Community Compacts create clear mutual standards, expectations and accountability for both the state and municipalities as together we seek to create better government for our citizens.’

Building Relationships between Manufacturers

Economic Development Director Rosemary Scrivens and Town Manager Ron San Angelo have been working with all local manufacturers to develop strong relationships between the various manufacturers and the town of Southbridge. “Southbridge has a strong manufacturing base and a very proud history

of creating great products and jobs for area citizens, stated Director Scrivens. A&M Manufacturing and United Lens hosted the first two meetings of local leaders. Each of these manufacturing companies provided tours of their facilities in order to solidify this partnership. “The conversations

occurring between these experienced leaders can lead to all kinds of opportunities. We would love to see them buy and sell to each other and also work together to lower the costs of doing business” said Town Manager San Angelo.



Robots used in today's manufacturing.

Town of Southbridge



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Hours of Operation

Monday 8:00 AM—4:00 PM
Tuesday 8:00 AM—4:00 PM
Wednesday 8:00 AM—4:00 PM
Thursday 8:00 AM—8:00 PM
Friday 8:00 AM—12:00 PM

Town History—Begins 1816

Southbridge was first settled by Europeans in 1730. In 1801 a poll parish, named the Second Religious Society of Charlton, and popularly called **Honest Town**, was formed from the west part of Dudley, the southwest part of Charlton and the southeast part of Sturbridge. In 1816 this parish was incorporated to become the township of Southbridge. Among the first settlers was the Dennison family and Moses Marcy, who owned a home on the site of what is now Notre Dame Church and was elected to Congress. Water power from the Quinebaug River made Southbridge a good location for sawmills and gristmills in the 18th century, and textile mills in the 19th century



Southbridge Bicentennial Committee

The Bicentennial Committee meets on the third Wednesday of each month in Town Hall.

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Southbridge Bicentennial Committee is to coordinate the celebration of Southbridge's historical and cultural heritage, with an eye on the present, while looking toward the future of our community.

Through a yearlong celebration, the Southbridge Bicentennial Committee plans to bring a snapshot of achievements

and developments of the town. As we plan events, our goal will be for young and old, generational and new residents, to mingle and celebrate with pride in our Town's 200 years of history in an informational, entertaining and affordable atmosphere.

We encourage residents, friends, community groups, and neighbors to help plan, participate, and share in our community celebration.



CONTACT US

Bicentennial Committee
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Southbridge, MA 01550