

# THE WORD ON COMMON STREET

December 29, 2023/VOL 007  
DEVELOPMENTS SHAPING OUR TOWN

## Welcome Aboard!

We are happy to welcome Gene Novak to #teamsobo as our new Local Inspector! He will be assisting the Building Department in conducting inspections and making sure your projects and additions are safe and to code! He comes to us with a plethora of experience in building, carpentry and building inspection as he previously worked for the MA Department of Public Safety, Division of Inspections. Please welcome him as you see him around Town!



Gene Novack

## Good luck to Joe!

Joe Durant, our Program Coordinator for the Recreation Department will be leaving his position effective 12/29/2023. He has accepted a position with the Concord, MA Recreation Department where he will serve in the capacity of Program Supervisor. Please join us in wishing him the best of luck. Joe has had an incredible impact on our department through his programming and service to our community and he will be missed!

## Holiday Hours

Town Offices [non-Public Safety] will be closed on the following days:

\*\*Monday, December 25th  
\*\*Tuesday, December 26th  
\*\*Monday, January 1st

## Transfer Station

The Transfer Station will have normal hours through the rest of December and into the new year.

The Library will be closed the following days:

\*\*Friday, December 22nd  
\*\*Saturday, December 23rd  
\*\*Monday, December 25th

## Happy for him - Sad for us!

Southborough Fire Chief Steven Achilles took an offer of a lifetime at Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida.

This means we lose a great leader and friend come early February.

During his time here, he has hired two female firefighters, increased morale, provided superb public relations for the department, and has become a valued member of the community. Chief Achilles has added a new pumper, enhanced employee development and hosted many events including numerous Boys and Girls Scout tours. His support for his staff is evident in the numerous emergency calls and fires that have saved lives and property. We will miss him greatly and wish him and his family the best!

In the meantime, the Select Board is working towards next steps in filling these big shoes with our next Fire Chief. Stay tuned to Select Board meetings to hear about the process. Meetings can be viewed here: <https://www.southboroughma.gov/674/Virtual-Meetings>

## Town Resources - Taxation Aid

For those low-income seniors, disabled residents and veterans in need of financial assistance, the Town of Southborough has a Taxation Aid Fund to help. Those that qualify are able to apply once a year during the month of February. Eligibility is one award per fiscal year for property owners. Please click on this link for more information and the application: <https://shorturl.at/cnyDL>



Chief Achilles



Pic of Bea Ginga  
& Town Employees

## Way to Go, Recreation!



picture of handclap

In Calendar Year 2023, the Recreation Department brought in 3,686 registrations for programming across the town. A 14% increase over registration totals in 2022.

After years of studies, funding rounds, and construction, Kallander Field was officially reopened for use by the general public and youth sports! The field's new drainage system and general upgrades have proven consistently successful and are holding their value.

The Recreation Department, along with generous donations and grant funding, introduced AED's to our most active, outdoor recreational facilities. These life-saving devices are accessible at Depietri Field, Richardson Tennis Courts, Neary Field, Trottier Track and Field, 9/11 Memorial Field, and Woodward/Choate Fields.

### Boy Scout Christmas Tree Pickup

Leave your tree out at the end of your driveway by 9:00 AM on January 6th for the Boy Scouts & they will pick it up and dispose of it after you email your name, address, & phone to [troop1trees@gmail.com](mailto:troop1trees@gmail.com) by 7:00 PM on January 5th. It is \$15 per tree or free for Senior Citizens, Veterans, Police Officers and Firefighters. Clip your money in a clear bag to the top of tree and off it will go - no fuss or mess in your car! All donations will go to fund future Boy Scout events.



pic of tree in truck



Mark Purple 2023

## NECC Gift Bag Drive

Are you in need of gift bags this holiday season? The handmade gift bags from [@NECCforautism](#)

are a deal & a great way to support our community.

You can stop in their lobby to purchase a selection. Gift bags are for sale year-round. Prices range from \$1.50-\$3.00 and come in sizes Small, Medium, Medium-Long and Large. Bundles are sold for \$15 and include eight bags: three small, two medium, one medium-long, and two large. One free small bag is included in each bundle! [These bags are available year round.](#) Click here for more information: <https://www.necc.org/student-gift-bags/>



NECC Gift Bag Flyer

## Mental Health & the Holidays



We'd like to mention that though the holidays can be stressful and taxing, the Town has services that can help. Please see the Youth and Family Services website for resources: <https://shorturl.at/egOW6>. Remember to be kind to yourself and practice self-care in a way that brings you peace. At the Town House we have employees with desk bikes, some who take daily walks, listen to music, take time to connect with each other in the break room and play Wordle together. "As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others." - Maya Angelou

## Happy Holidays!

From our office family to your entire family, we wish you a happy, healthy and joyous holiday season! We will strive to provide you with the same excellent service this coming year. Merry everything and happy always!



Happy New Year!

## Contact Info:

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