

THE WORD ON COMMON STREET

February 16, 2024/VOL 009

DEVELOPMENTS SHAPING OUR TOWN

Welcome Aboard!

As we said farewell to Fire Chief Achilles, the Select Board asked Community Paradigm Associates to find an Interim Fire Chief as the search for a permanent replacement is made.



Paul Fillebrown

We are happy to welcome former Boxborough Fire Chief, Paul Fillebrown! He spent four years in Boxborough leading a strong group of firefighters and making great connections as Chief.

Chief Fillebrown comes with a vast amount of knowledge of all levels of firefighting after 35 years of service in the Town of Ayer, the last 18 as Fire Captain. We are excited to have Chief Fillebrown in the Town of Southborough. He started on February 7th and has been a welcome addition to the team.

Upcoming Trash Hopper Repairs

Please be advised the Trash Hopper at the Transfer Station will be closed for repairs for approximately 1 week beginning March 4, 2024.



Pic of temp procedure

A new procedure to dispose of your trash will be in place for your convenience and safety. A row of small dumpsters will be aligned along the stone retaining wall near the transfer station building (see map by clicking the image below). Cars will pull up adjacent to the dumpsters and will unload their waste into the dumpster. During this time ONLY bagged trash or barrels will be accepted, NO Large Items will be allowed. Enlarge the map here: <https://shorturl.at/kBFH6>

Town Meeting - March 23rd

Town Meeting is being held March 23, 2024 at Trottier Middle School (49 Parkerville Road). The meeting starts at 10AM this year and will go through the day with no scheduled breaks. Some highlights from the Warrant include:

- Reauthorizing Lunblad Field Funds for the construction of a dog park,
- Replacing the Public Works Planning Board with a Public Works Advisory Committee,
- Approve zoning changes related to the MBTA Communities Act,
- Establish the Tricentennial Trust for Southborough's 300th celebration.



Pic of Microphone

The final warrant will likely not be posted until late February. To review all articles (currently in draft form) click here: <https://shorturl.at/qyJPR> We hope to see a big turnout to vote on articles that impact the town and all residents.

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. We are currently accepting applications and urge those who need assistance to apply! before February 29th. Eligibility is one award per fiscal year for property owners. Please click on this link for more information and the application: <https://shorturl.at/FPQTW>

"Happy Leap Day. A day where 'this time last year' and 'this time next year' does not apply." —Anonymous

Bravo, Police Department!

In 2023, the SPD brought in approximately \$250,000 in grant money for police services and updated equipment- easing the burden on taxpayers while providing professional, community police protection and services.

The SPD researched and implemented the first-ever, Southborough Police Department Satellite Office at Finn Elementary School to provide a stronger school-safety relationship with the school and further the ability and scope of their admin operations for the department.

They expanded and implemented even more Community Policing Events in Southborough this year. They also partnered with the Fire department, the Northborough - Southborough schools, the Rec department, the Senior Center, the Library, Southborough Youth and Family Services, and the Southborough Garden Club.



Officer Fontana @ Finn School

Do you know where this is?



Picture of Southborough Property

This historical gem of a picture was taken during the visit of a very important person! With our Tricentennial coming up, we will be sharing more of our Town's history. President Theodore Roosevelt visited Southborough in the early 1900s to speak to students at St Mark's regarding a recent hunting trip. The Town House was decorated accordingly with red, white and blue bunting in his honor. His picture was hung from the middle of the second floor to welcome his arrival.

Our very own James Nichols-Worley wrote a wonderful summary through the Community Advocate about his trip that you can read here: <https://shorturl.at/prRY6>

21 Highland Future Use Committee

The Town is looking for resident volunteers for the 21 Highland Future Use Committee. Two of these openings require a resident who lives within a 1/2 mile of the building. Currently 21 Highland houses the Recreation Department and Youth and Family Services.

The Select Board would like to develop alternative uses of the building to, if practical, preserve it. We'd love you to participate in the process. Volunteer here: <https://shorturl.at/yLUV>



Pic of Hands Volunteer

A Familiar Face at Recreation!

Welcome Christina McCarthy to the Program Coordinator position in the Recreation Department! She has been a friendly and helpful face at Youth and Family Services for three years and has decided to pursue her passion for resident's health and physical fitness. We are so excited to see her find a position in the Town of Southborough that is fulfilling and we know she is going to be spectacular! Best wishes and congratulations to Christina!



Christina McCarthy

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Mark Purple 2023