



The Town of Sudbury, Massachusetts
Town Manager's EMAIL Newsletter – January 30, 2006

Town staff and committees are constantly working to improve the quality of life in Sudbury. This email is designed to share information with Town staff and committee members about the many programs and efforts that are underway.

FY07 Budget Update

The Finance Committee heard presentations from other town committees last week, as their responsibilities include making recommendations to Town Meeting on all financial issues. On Monday night the Capital Improvement Planning Committee (CIPC) presented their recommendations for FY07 budget.  Sudbury has a bylaw which requires a citizen committee to review and make recommendations on requests that qualify as capital projects.

The CIPC, chaired by Kirsten Roopenian, recommended 7 projects at a cost of \$332,585 for FY07. One third of that amount is for replacement of DPW heavy equipment, one third for acquisition of three software packages (for permitting, tax collection and human resources) and most of the remainder is for repairs and preventative maintenance for Town buildings. The Minuteman Regional Technical/Vocational High School also presented its budget needs for FY07 to the Finance Committee, and their preliminary request is about \$5,000 higher than FY06. Finally the Community Preservation Committee briefed the FinCom on the projects they have voted to recommend to Town Meeting this year.

Sue Petersen and I will update revenue estimates for the Finance Committee tonight. Governor Romney unveiled his budget last week, and his recommended Local Aid figures for Sudbury were quite disappointing, given his announcement that he was proposing that Local Aid for the state as a whole would rise substantially, and it is clear now the increases are going to towns and cities other than Sudbury. The Finance Committee will meet with the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday night to discuss the overall situation. The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet again on Thursday night for deliberations and may vote their recommended budget that night.

Civic Lesson at a Young Age

We all know we should understand how your town government works, but how many Sudbury residents really do? I'm happy to report that a large number of young boys have taken the time to learn more because they are Cub Scouts! Recently PAC 62 Scouts, from the Noyes Elementary School, spent time with Judie Newton, our Assistant Town Clerk, as she gave them an overview of how Sudbury Town government works, answered their many questions and provided a tour of Town Hall.  The Scouts sent a beautiful thank you note to the Town Clerk's office following their visit. So to Max, Noah, Matthew, William, Nate and Patrick (and their Moms), thanks for learning about our local democracy – and thanks to the great staff in the Town Clerk's office for sharing your knowledge with them.

Letters – We Get Letters!

Every year about this time the Board of Selectmen and I start getting letters from 8th



graders at the Curtis Middle School. As part of an assignment, the students are instructed to choose and research a public policy issue and then write a letter to a public official at the Town, State or Federal level, expressing their concern, the data they have gathered, and a proposal they have developed for addressing the issue. These letters are great and it is clear the students have really put a lot of energy into this assignment. Here are just some of the suggestions:

- More entertainment options in Sudbury. Suggestions have included the Town should build a movie theater and a bowling alley in Town.
- More walkways and a rail trail. Many students want to see the Town make it safer and easier for them to ride bikes and walk. And several have pointed out the health benefits of more exercise for Sudbury youth, and the impact on the environment from fewer car trips.
- Better information on avoiding Lyme Disease and protecting pets from coyotes

Each letter is answered, and the suggestions are passed along to the Town office that oversees the service the students are writing about.

Planning Board Staff to Stay in the Flynn Building

I'm pleased to confirm that due to changes I've made in the job description of Jody Kablack, Town Planner, I've decided to permanently locate her office in the Flynn Building. I've asked Jody to take on more responsibility for coordinating the work of our land use and community planning offices and committees, as well as assume the lead role in handling all site plan permit activities. Those activities used to be handled by Jan Silva before her retirement. The Board of Selectmen will still be the site plan approval authority, but beginning January 1, 2006, the work of accepting site plan applications, coordinating site visits, staff meetings and staff reports, and preparation of draft decisions for Selectmen approval, will be handled by Jody. This requires that her office be located closer to mine. I will be sharing more information very soon on how these new coordination responsibilities of Jody's will work with other offices and committees, but in the meantime she and Julie, her assistant, will be staying put in the Flynn Building.



January 26 Declared Clay and June Allen Day In Sudbury!

Selectmen, family, colleagues, and many friends turned out to congratulate Clay and



June on their 60th wedding anniversary. Clay and June are Sudbury's "super volunteers", having served on numerous committees, task forces and special projects. They have touched so many lives and hearts with their contributions to their home town, and their energy is boundless. Nancy Holland, the oldest of Clay and June's children, was quoted in the *Sudbury Crier* as stating that her parents taught their children the importance of service to others as a guiding principle, and they taught this by example. As far as I can see, they have been teaching a whole community this lesson too. I look forward to working with Clay

and June for many years to come.

My thanks to all the staff and volunteers who work hard to make these good things happen. You make Sudbury great! Maureen Valente, Town Manager