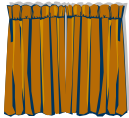




The Town of Sudbury, Massachusetts
Town Manager's Weekly EMAIL – September 30, 2005

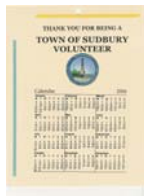
Town staff and committees are constantly working to improve the quality of life in Sudbury. This weekly email is designed to share information with Town staff and committee members about the many programs and efforts that are underway.

Town Hall Looking Good!!!



The Lower Town Hall keeps looking better and better, thanks to the Cable Television committee, and Mark Thompson, our Technology Administrator. The committee allocated funds to purchase a background curtain on the stage of the Lower Town Hall, and Mark did the ordering and oversaw the installation process. The curtain covers up the electrical boxes and switches on the wall, as well as the big white board that is generally not used during a Selectmen's meeting. The curtain also provides a better background for televising the Selectmen's meetings, and helps with the difficult acoustics in the room.

Volunteer Reception a Success



I am sorry that I was not able to attend the Volunteer Reception last week to thank all Town volunteers personally for the countless hours and energy you dedicate to Sudbury. I understand the Selectmen did a great job at this event and over 70 volunteers showed up. My thanks to Shaw's supermarket for the wonderful refreshments, Jan Silva for taking care of the many organizing details associated with this and Mary Daniels for designing the gift for the volunteers. The Selectmen presented each volunteer with a small token of thanks – a 2006 calendar with the Town seal (see picture of calendar here). If you served on a Board or Committee in 2005, and did not receive one, please stop by our offices on the 2nd floor of the Flynn Building, and Jan or Mary will be happy to give one to you.

Earth Decade Committee Improves Plastics Recycling



Though they are not a Town committee, the EDC is an energetic and dynamic group of residents who devote themselves to many environmental causes in Town. For the past few months, members of this group have been working at the Town Transfer Station to help with monitoring the recyclables that been brought to the Transfer Station, helping to educate residents and keep the various types of materials separate and in the appropriate bins. They are winding up their monitoring efforts now and have presented Bill Place and me with some suggestions for improvements at the Transfer Station, based on their observations and efforts. On behalf of the Town, I thank them for the considerable hours and efforts they have put forth, and I urge all of you to take the time to separate your recyclables and put them to good use! Recycling saves energy, money and the environment. Bill and I will be studying these recommendations and preparing options for the Selectmen to consider.

Revenue Enhancement Efforts



A review of the Town's web site will show you how actively our Treasurer-Collector's office is working to collect the back taxes that are owed to the Town. While the vast majority of Sudbury residents and businesses pay their taxes on time, there are those who do not, and in fairness to the rest of you, the T/C's office puts in a great deal of effort to either work out payment plans or use the procedures the State government mandates for collection of the back taxes. Bringing in these back taxes helps the Town's financial position in many ways – it improves our balance sheet, our collection rate, our liquidity and reduces the workload on the staff.

We're Number One!



You might have seen a newspaper article this summer mentioning that according to the Web site NeighborhoodScout.com, Sudbury is the number one town for families in the Boston metropolitan areas. The website compares a number of criteria, including good schools, rate of home ownership, low crime rate, residents with college degrees, etc. The developer of this methodology feels these types of measures indicate a community that has a great deal of community participation and dedication to the schools and the town, and commitment to keeping in place what is good about a community. Robert Putnam, a Harvard professor, wrote a book about the national decline in participation in community groups, called *Bowling Alone*, and what that does to a community. Sudbury stands out as a town that has resisted that trend and continues to show amazingly high levels of community involvement.

Now that's Commitment



Captain Peter Devoll of the Sudbury Fire Department celebrated his 40th year of service with the Town of Sudbury this past summer. His brother James Devoll also served the Sudbury Fire Department with distinction and dedication until he retired two years ago. He also achieved the rank of Captain in the department. Sudbury is fortunate to have so many dedicated employees who have made serving the public their life's work. Another long time Sudbury employee – Carolyn Young – retired this month from her work for the Council on Aging after 20 years of service to Sudbury seniors and people with disabilities. A tea and reception thanking her was held this week at the Senior Center.

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

Thank You