



The Town of Sudbury, Massachusetts
Town Manager's EMAIL Newsletter – December 30, 2005

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.

Jan's Last Day

I can't let today end without once more reflecting on Jan's retirement from working for the Town. Today is Jan's last day. I hope all of you are planning to come and say goodbye to her next Thursday, January 5, and thank her for 33 years of devoted service. The reception will begin at 4 pm at the Town Hall and go until 6 pm. I look forward to seeing you there. I know we will all miss her very much, and certainly Town Meeting won't be the same without her! Best of luck to Jan and her husband John as they move into a new and hopefully more relaxed phase of their lives!



Welcome New Readers!

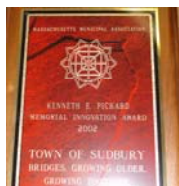
Mark Thompson has updated our list of e-mail addresses for those serving on Town Boards and Committees, so now many of you that were not receiving the EMAIL newsletter before are now a recipient. I have been sending these out beginning this summer, as one strategy for accomplishing a FY2006 goal of the Board of Selectmen to improve communication efforts. I am sending these out about every two weeks. You can find all the prior ones on the Town's web site, at this address:

http://sudbury.ma.us/services/department_documents.asp?dept=TownManager

Thanks, Mark, for undertaking this time consuming project to update all the addresses, and I ask everyone on a board or a committee to let Rosemary Harvell in my office and Mark Thompson know of any email changes, or if you are suddenly not receiving e-mail from the Town that you normally have been. Rosemary maintains our data base of committee membership.

Email Newsletter Wins Innovation Award

Speaking of the E-mail Newsletter, I was pleased to be notified by the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) that the *Town Manager's E-mail Newsletter* was selected for a Kenneth E. Pickard Municipal Innovation Award for 2005. The Awards ceremony will be at the MMA's annual meeting in Boston on January 14. This is the second time in recent years that Sudbury has won this prestigious award, as our Council on Aging's *Bridges: Growing Older, Growing Together* Program was honored in 2002.



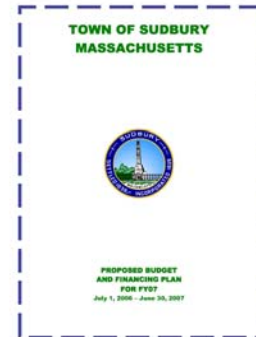
Sudbury Police Crack Down on Drunk Driving

If you noticed the electronic sign boards proclaiming a safety message on Route 20 these past few weeks, its part of the requirements for the Town to be able to participate in the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau "You Drink & Drive, You Lose" program, which is in effect from December 19 to January 1. Sudbury joins with 270 other localities to try to target impaired and aggressive drivers and those who do not

use safety belts and child safety seats. The state gives grant funds to towns and cities to allow these extra traffic enforcement efforts. Enhancing public safety is one of the Board of Selectmen's top goals for Sudbury and thanks go to Chief Fadgen and the Sudbury Police Department for working to keep all of us safe this holiday season.

FY07 Proposed Budget and Financing Plan

The proposed budget for FY07 was completed about 5:30 pm last Friday night and delivered to the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen for their consideration and action. This document contains my FY07 budget request for the operation of the Town Departments, the Sudbury Public School Committee and the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Committee requests for operation of the school systems, and all the other parts of the Town's financial operations that require funding on an annual basis. It also contains our estimate of the revenues available for funding FY07 budget requests. As of today, it appears that there will be sufficient new revenue to support an overall increase of 4.2% over the FY06 budget.



And while that is good news compared to the prior three years, its important to remember that increases in the cost of health insurance and pensions for employees and retirees is growing at a double digit rate. To put that into perspective, property taxes are projected to increase by \$1.8 million within the levy limit, but the cost of benefits and pensions for Town, SPS, and LS (Sudbury's share) employees and retirees are projected to rise by \$1.3 million. Energy costs are also projected to grow at a rapid rate. Put all that together with the growth in Town population and student enrollment, the increases in our contracts with the many vendors we depend on, and the increasing mandates from the state and federal government, and we will have another serious financial challenge this year arriving at a balanced budget.

The Finance Committee will be holding hearings to learn more about the budget requests, and these hearings will be televised on Channel 8. LS will present their budget to the Finance Committee on January 9, Sudbury Public Schools on January 12, and I will present the Town's budget on January 19. I plan to have a PDF version of the budget document on the Town's website next week for those who would like more detail.

I will try to keep you up to date through this newsletter as budget deliberations continue. A million thanks to Sue Petersen, Finance Director, for her work on preparing the operating budget and the capital budget. It's a huge amount of work and she does it very well.

Happy New Year!

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

I hope your holidays have been peaceful and joyful and safe thus far. This is a special time of year to reflect on what is important to us. Whether you are a volunteer or paid employee, working for the Town of Sudbury is an honor and a privilege and a responsibility I know we all take very seriously. On behalf of the Board and myself, thanks for making 2005 a year of many accomplishments and progress. And here's wishing 2006 is even better.

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