



Town of Sudbury
Town Manager Newsletter

May 25, 2012

Message from the Town Manager

Greetings!

This Town of Sudbury is once again showing our commitment to our military service men and women and their families. Upon notice that Lance Corporal Michael Ronner, a 2007 graduate of Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School had passed away, Sudbury residents and staff joined in to be sure that we did all we could to assist the Ronner family and honor Michael's memory and his service to his country. Selectman John Drobinski represented the Board of Selectmen at the funeral, the Police Department assisted with providing an escort in bringing Michael back to Sudbury, and Fire Department personnel flew the US flag from the ladder truck at the graveside. Sudbury's Veterans' Agent, Brian Stearns, provided coordination between the Town and the Ronner family and made sure to offer all the assistance the family felt comfortable with. And the Sudbury Military Support Network, while not a Town committee, nevertheless works closely with Town staff, particularly Maryanne Bilodeau, the Assistant Town Manager, to provide outreach to all military families in Sudbury and keep Town officials up to date with what is going on among our active military residents and their families.

You can show your support and appreciation for all military personnel by turning out for Sudbury's Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 28. Beginning at 9:30 am, the parade will leave from Rugged Bear Plaza and march up to Town Center, ending this year at Heritage Park at the September 11 Memorial. The Memorial Day Committee has done some great work planning this year's parade, so bring your kids, watch as the parade goes by, and join in the festivities at the end as we remember and show gratitude to all those who have served. My father was a career Air Force officer, and he and my Mom sacrificed a great deal to do what meant so much to them – serving and defending our great country. It is a legacy I cherish and hope all of Sudbury will find a way to show your appreciation too.

Sincerely, *Maureen G. Valente, Town Manager*

Highlights of the 5.22.12 Board of Selectmen Meeting

The Board began the night by hearing a report from the Memorial Day Committee chairman Peter Harvell about the upcoming parade and several changes that are planned, some of which I have mentioned above.

The major discussion of the night was regarding the plans of NSTAR to commence tree clearing in South Sudbury along the Right of Way (R.O.W.) owned by the utility. The ROW crosses Stock Farm Road and Pelham Island Road, and allows NSTAR to do tree clearing and other vegetation management activities within the easement, without needing the approval of the property owner or the Town. NSTAR has been progressively removing most of the trees and brush in this area, not only directly under their structures but also within a wide area that borders the structures. Unfortunately, most of the trees the utility plans to remove provide back yard screening and shade for the homeowners, who have carefully tended these trees for many years. The Selectmen voted to impose a moratorium on NSTAR's plans for tree cutting

activities until their questions about how NSTAR will perform this work are addressed. Unfortunately, legally this moratorium is not binding on NSTAR, but the Board hopes that it conveys to NSTAR that this work must be done carefully and meticulously, and with respect for the value that Sudbury residents hold for the trees in our community.

The Board held one of its periodic Town Forums. Town Forums are public meetings the Selectmen have with other Town committees and Department Heads from time to time to discuss the activities and accomplishments of the past year and plans and challenges for the upcoming year. Town Clerk Rosemary Harvell covered her office's primary responsibilities, mentioning in particular that they have a great many "post Town Meeting" activities: for example, ensuring that Town Meeting votes are properly submitted for approval by the State, as necessary. And Public Works Director Bill Place provided the Board with an overview of the many tasks associated with maintaining and improving both the visible and the "invisible" assets of the Town, meaning the drainage and other subsurface infrastructure. Areas of concern for the future he mentioned include the need to begin replacing the deteriorated old corrugated metal pipes under many of the Town roads with reinforced concrete pipes, particularly in the Goodman's Hill Road and Pratt's Mill Road.

The Selectmen voted to approve Mr. Place's request to keep the price of transfer station stickers at FY12 levels, as his office is preparing to mail out the renewal forms. He was able to leave the sticker prices the same due to savings in health insurance for transfer station employees and the cost of disposal, both of which have gone down slightly, which offset other areas where prices have increased.

The Board approved a number of appointments to various Town committees – some were re-appointments - for those residents willing to continue to serve; others were new appointments, as residents expressed interest in getting involved and offering their time and talent to the Town through serving on a committee. .

From the Selectmen's Office

The Annual re-appointments of the wonderful volunteers who serve on all the Town Boards and Committees and keep Sudbury functioning so well was made on Tuesday night, May 22nd by the Board of Selectmen. There are always plenty of opportunities available to serve on a Board or Committee. The website contains a listing of available positions, and the volunteer opportunities list will grow once the re-appointments are finalized. Any resident who wants to see what openings are available on a committee can check out the Town's website, www.sudbury.ma.us, under "Volunteers and Jobs." Click on "Selectmen's Office" and download an application OR call the Selectmen's office at 978-639-3381. Volunteers are always welcome!

The Board of Selectmen and the office wish to thank all who supported the Town-wide Cleanup on Saturday, April 28. It was a spectacular day and many of you came out in force to spruce up the "highways and bi-ways" – and what a great difference it made! Welcome to the newcomers who chose to participate in their first Cleanup and a well-deserved round of applause to those who show up faithfully year after year. Again, it's what makes Sudbury special!

Office of Planning and Community Development (PCD)

Upon passage of Article 30 at the 2012 Annual Town Meeting, the Planning and Community Development Department has been working on the final details of the Pantry Brook Farm preservation project. The Sudbury Valley Trustees are drafting a Conservation Restriction with the provisions noted at Town Meeting. A LAND (*Local Acquisition for Natural Diversity*) grant application is being prepared for submittal in July, requesting \$400,000 towards the Town's costs.

The Planning Director is also soliciting prices to conduct a highest and best-use study of the Melone Gravel Pit located on Route 117. These funds were approved in the Budget Adjustment (Article 2) at Town Meeting.

Review of the Johnson Farm 40B application continues at the Zoning Board of Appeals. The current plan proposes 58 town house style rental units. The ZBA has conducted a straw poll in favor of this plan, and the focus of the next hearing on June 18 will be the preliminary engineering for the revised plan.

With the passage of Article 27, CPA funding for walkways, planning for the next walkway segments will begin this summer. The targeted areas are Peakham Road, Dudley Road and Old Framingham Road.

The Planning Board will begin its review of draft zoning materials prepared by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council for the Route 20 commercial area. This process will continue through the summer and fall, with possible warrant articles for the 2013 Annual Town Meeting. The Planning Board is also reviewing the addition of 5 units to the Maple Meadows Senior Residential Community development on Maple Avenue.

Memorial Day Committee

The Sudbury Memorial Day Parade, Heritage Park Ceremonies, and Hosmer House Program are held on the last Monday in May. This year the date is 28 May 2012 starting at 9:30 am, at the Rugged Bear Plaza. Watch the Sudbury Companies of Militia and Minute, Company F, 12th Georgia Infantry and the American Legion fire musket and rifle salutes. Come salute a Sudbury legend: 2012 Parade Marshal Ed Kreitsek, WWII soldier, Korean War Air Force officer, Past Sudbury Selectman and co-founder of Buddy Dog. Come visit the Militaria displays in the Hosmer House and sit in an armored HUMVEE and armored LMTV provided by the MA Army National Guard, 1060th Transportation BN in Framingham. The parade and ceremonies honor veterans of all wars that involved Sudbury residents starting with King Philip's War in 1676 thru today's conflicts in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Fire Department/Police Department

The funds to merge separate Fire and Police Dispatch into one single Public Safety Dispatch Center at the Police Station were approved at this year's Annual Town Meeting. The Town has been studying this idea for a long time. While researching this issue, Police Chief Glavin found a letter dated June 26, 1991, authorizing then Fire Chief Michael Dunne to proceed with plans for dispatching jointly with the Sudbury Police Department.

Last June, the Massachusetts State 911 Department issued a new mandate for a procedure known as EMD, Emergency Medical Dispatch. In simple terms, the State wants the Dispatcher to stay on the phone line to deliver pre-arrival instructions to a caller while he or she waits for the arrival of the ambulance. After several meetings, Police Chief Glavin and I agreed the best way to comply with the mandate was to have two dispatchers working side by side in one location. This change will also eliminate the "Ringdown" that is now part of calling 911 in Sudbury. At this time, a 911 call from a Sudbury land based phone is routed to the Police Station. If you need Fire or Ambulance Service, the Dispatcher must Ringdown your call to the Fire Department, necessitating that you talk with a second Dispatcher. With the new Public Safety Dispatch Center in operation, that Ringdown will be eliminated. All Fire and Police Services will be available from the Dispatch Desk at the Police Station.

New equipment must be purchased to accomplish this goal. A new radio with two consoles was purchased with FY 12 funds to replace the 22 year old unit at the Police Station. We will also install a

new Fire Alarm Box monitoring system and a new Vocal Alarm System enabling the Dispatchers at the Police Desk to notify the three fire stations as to the nature and location of the call. The present Fire Alarm Box monitoring system and Vocal Alarm System were purchased when Fire Headquarters was built in 1992 and will remain there as a backup. Also, the new Fire Alarm Box monitoring system will have the capability of receiving Radio Boxes. At the present time, we have miles of expensive copper wire stretched from the boxes to the old style receiver at Fire Headquarters. As the older style Fire Boxes are replaced with the newer Radio Boxes, equipment and maintenance costs of the Fire Alarm system will be drastically reduced.

The cost of the new Police Radio was \$ 61,408, paid from this year's (FY 12) budget. The Fire Alarm Box Monitoring System and the Vocal Alarm System will be purchased with funds approved at Town Meeting from next year's (FY 13) budget. The costs of \$ 31,495 and \$ 39,255 respectively will be reduced by \$ 40,000 in State 911 Grant Funding, resulting in a cost to taxpayers of \$ 30,750 for those two pieces of equipment.

Another capital cost which will benefit three departments is the purchase of a new telephone system for the Department of Public Works. New phones will be installed at a cost of \$ 36,935 while the present DPW phones will be moved to the Fire Department. This expenditure will not only add efficiency to the DPW but will allow the Police and Fire Departments to operate with compatible telephone systems.

To operate the Public Safety Dispatch Center, two Civilian Dispatcher positions will be added. Chief Glavin and I see value to these positions for two reasons: 1) the Town will be able to take advantage of Dispatchers who are trained to perform their specific duties, and 2) these positions will free up additional Police and Firefighter/EMT personnel to respond to the ever-growing number of emergency calls. Training for Emergency Medical Dispatch will be provided and paid for by the State 911 department. Existing Police and Fire Dispatchers will also be cross trained to handle any type of emergency call that may be received.

Chief Glavin and I feel this new Public Safety Dispatch Center will benefit the delivery of Police and Fire services in many areas. We are grateful for your support of this initiative at Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Miles, Fire Chief

Public Works Department

There has been significant activity on the roads and walkways in the past month. The walkway on Route 20 was completed from CVS to Sullivan Tire. The Haskell field parking lot is complete while the department continues to review signage and directional flow of traffic.

The DPW has also cleaned over 300 catch basins of sump material. Ditches, culverts, and drainage issues were also replaced, cleaned, and installed. As the result of the October 29 storm, Tropical Storm Irene, and storm related debris, the department has removed 300 damaged trees.

Sudbury Senior Center

The Sudbury Senior Center continues to offer a wide variety of programming in order to satisfy the needs of older adult men and women in Sudbury.

On May 7, the Senior Center celebrated and thanked its many volunteers. Over 100 of our volunteers were in attendance at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, which included a lunch and entertainment,

sponsored by Heritage Assisted Living. Special guests included: Selectman Bob Haarde, State Representative Tom Conroy and Chairman of the Council on Aging, David Levington. Senior Center volunteers are involved with many aspects of Senior Center programming and services, such as: Front Desk reception, friendly visiting, home delivered meals, in home fix-it, sand buckets, baked goods pickup, grocery shopping assistance, legal clinic, volunteer medical transportation (FISH), setting up for events, and much more.

Older adults in Town continue to enjoy lifelong learning programming at the Senior Center. There is a new class taught by Dr. Lawrence Lowenthal on the “Significant Speeches of the 20th Century”. The Current Events group facilitated by Richard Nesmith continues. Board of Health Nurse Allison Latta’s “Tick Talk” on May 22 discussed how to avoid tick-borne disease. An experiential workshop on Meditation and a Basic Drawing class have been offered with much success. Senior Healing Yoga, Fit for the Future, Tap Dancers and Better Bones continue to offer classes as well.

The Senior Center is again advertising the availability of “lockboxes”. Lockboxes are small key safes that can be attached to an inconspicuous area outside your home. In the event of an emergency, the Fire Department can open the lockbox, retrieve your house key and get into the house without damaging it. To defray the cost of the lockbox, a \$65 donation is requested. Please call the Senior Center at (978) 443-3055, if you are interested having one installed.