



Town of Sudbury
Town Manager Newsletter
November 2012

Message from the Town Manager

Greetings!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving spent with family and friends. Luckily we were blessed with nice weather so folks could travel safely.

Sudbury had its share of trouble with Hurricane Sandy, although thankfully not to the extent of those in New Jersey and New York. At least four homes received significant damage from trees, and some neighborhoods were without power for five days. While NSTAR received praise from some communities for their rapid response, Sudbury is among those communities with continued problems dealing with the utility's response to major storms. Most of our issues relate to NSTAR's methods of communicating with Town officials as well as our residents, their apparent lack of knowledge about specific conditions in the community that we felt needed immediate attention, and non-responsiveness to our priorities.

In preparation for the storm, Sudbury Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works Department, Inspectional Services Department and Town Manager's Office work as a team to anticipate and prepare for the impact of the storm and responding to service calls. We have conducted pre-incident planning and training, and in addition we had our "lessons learned" from last year's storms. With the exception of frustration with NSTAR, I felt the response to the storm was outstanding and am very proud of our Town employees.

Another great effort was recently put in by the Town Clerk's office, as the national election went very smoothly even with a very large voter turnout. . Now they are gearing up for the Special Election to be held on December 4th to consider two questions: Approving the debt exemption for the Nixon Roof project and acceptance of the Means Tested Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption, enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court and approved by the Governor on July 27, 2012.

Lastly, an update on the status of the legislative bill that would increase the size of the Board of Selectmen from three to five: There was a hearing on Beacon Hill before the Joint Committee on Election Laws on Tuesday, November 27 at 2:30 p.m.

Sincerely, *Maureen G. Valente, Town Manager*

From the Selectmen's office – Notes on Selectmen's Meetings

The Board met on Wednesday, November 7 and Tuesday, November 20. On November 7, as the first order of business, they signed a proclamation welcoming SPC James "Jake" Eckersley back home after a year of service in Iraq. Jake thanked the Board for the honor, and thanked all of Sudbury for being so supportive of him and other service members. The Board then discussed a number of items:

- With Fire Chief Miles, Police Chief Glavin and DPW Director Bill Place, they discussed Hurricane Sandy and thanked the Town departments and their crews for their hard work during and after the storm.

- With Police Chief Glavin, heard about the work of Sudbury Police Detectives in solving several recent break-ins and recovering stolen items back from residents.
- With COA members Jack Ryan and Bob May, heard about plans for a League of Women Voters information session to provide information for Sudbury voters on the two items on the upcoming December 4th Special Election ballot.
- Based on a request from resident Robert Weiss, 7 Lafayette Drive, discussed a question of selling Town owned land abutting his property and asked that Town staff stake out the area in question so they could better evaluate this question in the future.

The Selectmen voted to create a new committee to study the Fairbank Community Center, based on a draft mission statement. This committee will conduct a preliminary look at the potential space needs of the Recreation Department and the Council on Aging for the future, and options for financing any expansion or replacement, focusing particularly on the timing issues, so that a decision on the Fairbank Roof can be made with this information in hand by next Town Meeting.

The Board also voted to approve entering into an Inter-municipal Agreement between the Town of Sudbury and the city of Marlborough for shared veterans' services, as the existing shared arrangement with the Town of Hudson no longer was in effect with the resignation of the current Veterans Agent. The Agreement provides for Sudbury to be served by the Marlborough Veterans agent on a temporary basis while longer term arrangements are considered.

Finally, the Board took a number of votes as they approved the Town Manager's appointment of Elizabeth Armstrong to the Conservation Commission; continued the public hearing on the application for Northern Bank & Trust Company to build a bank building at 430 Boston Post Road; approved a permit for a temporary mobile home at 51 Jarman Road; appointed six residents to the Sudbury Celebrates 375/Sudbury Day Committee; approved a special permit for the 8th Relay for Life in May 2013; approved the L-S Ceremonial Bonfire on November 21; approved the extension of hours per the request of bistro20 and Lavender Asian Cuisine and Bar for the evening of November 21; and accepted donations to the Park and Recreation fund and the Holiday Lighting Fund.

The November 20 meeting was focused on resuming discussion on three major long-term financial issues facing Sudbury: (1) the unfunded liability for the Town/SPS and L-S for the cost of providing health insurance for retirees, known as OPEB obligations, (2) increasing our reserves to the 5% of revenues target set by the Board of Selectmen in prior years; and (3) planning for future capital and infrastructure needs of the Town, SPS and L-S over the next 10 to 15 years. A consultant explained what OPEB obligations are, what actions can be taken to minimize them in the future, and options for funding this unfunded liability. Her analysis showed that by joining the GIC health insurance program for Town and SPS employees and retirees, the Town was able to reduce unfunded liability by at least \$15 million over the next 30 years. The consultant's report is on the Town's website.

The Selectmen were joined at this meeting by members of the Finance Committee, Sudbury Public School Committee and the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Committee, and there will be continued discussions and follow-up as the Board works with staff and other committees to develop a strategy for evaluating, prioritizing and funding these important financial challenges.

The site plan hearing for Northern Bank & Trust was continued until the Board's next meeting.

Selectmen's Office - Licensing

It's "Licensing Time" (Nov/Dec) again in the Selectmen's Office, and it becomes a multiple-department effort since it involves the Treasurer's Office, Building and Fire Departments and the Board of Health. Patty Golden, our Office Manager, begins the process by requesting updates from the Treasurer's Office on whether licensee taxes are current and from the Board of Health, asking for a status on health-related restaurant inspections. Finally, the Building Inspector and Fire Chief must sign off on a "Certificate of Inspection" for all restaurants with a pouring license. This particular safety inspection became law a few years ago as a result of the horrific 2003 "The Station" nightclub fire in West Warwick, RI. These requirements, in addition to the following, become part of the whole renewal package.

By the first of November each year, renewal applications are received from the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) for those restaurants, Clubs or Innholders which serve wine and beer or all alcoholic beverages. These renewal applications must be signed by November 30th and submitted to the ABCC early in December. Along with the ABCC renewals, all Common Victualer (no alcoholic beverages involved), plus Class I, II and III Motor Vehicle Licenses must also be renewed before year end.

This annual licensing is a very labor-intensive process requiring the completion of special forms (up to three in some cases) for each entity. Once assembled, these are brought to the first Board of Selectmen's meeting in December each year, in time for the ABCC renewals to be sent to Boston and returned with their approval or disapproval in advance of December 31st.

Assistant Town Manager

Flu Clinic for Town and School Employees

During September and October, Parmenter Community Health Care administered flu shots to Town and School employees. The Human Resources Department arranged and promoted the flu clinics and Nurse Allison visited our employees at various Town and School Departments. The flu shot is just one of many precautions that employees can take to protect themselves from a number of infectious diseases. Flu shots can reduce health care provider visits, reduce lost work days, and keep our staff healthy.

Employee Benefits Fair

The Employee Benefits Fair for Town and School employees was held on October 24, 2012. Representatives from AFLAC, Boston Mutual, All One Health (EAP Program), Middlesex County Retirement, and SMART Plan (Deferred Compensation) were available to enroll employees and answer questions about their services. The enrollment process went quite smoothly, and we had a great turnout for this event! Lots of marketing materials were provided by the vendors to help our employees make the right choice for their lifestyle and family situation. Our AFLAC representative took the time to meet with some of the Town and School departments after the fair so employees could have that one-on-one time for further discussions and questions.

In the spring, we'll be preparing for the Employee Benefits Fair for health and dental insurance.

Town Clerk's Office

Special Town Election on Tuesday, December 4

To view the November 6, 2012 State Election Specimen Ballot for your precinct, click the following link:

[**Specimen Ballot Town Election December 4, 2012**](#)

Polls are open on Election Day at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

Where do you vote?

There are two polling locations in Sudbury:

Precincts 1, 1A, 2 and 5 vote at Fairbank Community Center, 40 Fairbank Road.

Precincts 3 and 4 vote at the Lower Town Hall, 322 Concord Road.

To find what precinct you reside in, click here: [Precinct numbers for streets in Sudbury](#)

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is Monday, December 3, 2012 at Noon. Click on this link for [Absentee Ballot Information](#)

Submitted by: Town Clerk

Board of Health

The Board of Health conducted a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on October 27, 2012 at the Curtis Middle School. Two hundred and seven vehicles brought household hazardous waste which represented an average collection day compared with other years. The collection was two days before Hurricane Sandy which may have reduced participation as residents prepared for the storm.

Conservation Commission

The Sudbury Conservation Commission (SCC) will be running the Archery Deer Management Program on some of the Town conservation lands again this year as it has done successfully since 1999. The archery season this year runs from Oct. 15 – Dec. 31, 2012. The purpose of the program is to control the deer population safely and ethically by allowing experienced archery hunters onto Town lands. Archery hunters who apply to the program must be experienced, have successfully completed the bow hunter safety course, and passed a proficiency test and interview before being accepted into the program. We have police officers, bow hunting safety instructors, fire fighters, and other experienced hunting and safety personnel in the program. No more than 25 hunters per year are given permits and these hunters are spread out among 15 Town conservation lands. Nine of this year's hunters have been participating in the program since 1999.

Once accepted into the program, the hunters are assigned to one of the Town's public conservation properties and may then harvest whitetail deer, using bow and arrow only, on their assigned area. Hunters must follow all of the State's game laws as well as additional rules dictated by the SCC designed to maximize the safety of non-hunters who may be using the same properties during the hunting season. All hunting equipment (tree stands, etc.) must be clearly labeled with the hunter's permit number. Anyone who finds hunting equipment that does not have a permit number is asked to contact the SCC office. It is unlawful to tamper with hunting equipment on SCC lands whether or not the equipment is properly labeled. Hunters with permits are also required to complete a service project dictated by the SCC that is designed to maintain or improve the Town's conservation properties. Please be respectful of these sportsmen and women and their equipment. They are providing a valuable service by helping control the deer population and thereby lowering the danger on the highway, reducing the amount of damage to residents' landscaping, impacting agricultural crops, reducing the biodiversity on many conservation lands by browsing the understory and sapling habitats, and maintaining a healthy deer herd with numbers that the land can sustain. For further information, please contact the Conservation Department at 978-443-2209 x1371.

Submitted by: Jerry Peters and Debbie Dineen/Conservation Coordinator

Department of Public Works

As the winter months progress, it is important to be informed about certain procedures relative to snow removal and plowing procedures. As this article was presented last month, the weather has prompted a repetition for Sudbury residents who may have not seen this before. Please use caution when driving in poor weather conditions.

Snowplowing and Snow Removal Procedures

This information is to provide residents of the Town of Sudbury a general overview of the plan of operation that the Department of Public Works puts into place when we have a snowstorm. Hopefully this will answer questions you may have regarding the DPW snow policy.

Snow Plowing Operations

When the snow starts falling, sanding and salting operations begin first with the major roadways, schools and Town facilities. Anti-icing is an important phase in dealing with snowfall. It prevents the snow from becoming compacted and frozen to the road surface.

When the snowfall continues and three inches of snow has accumulated, the plowing operations begin — again with the major roadways, secondary roads, schools and Town facilities. The main objective is to keep the roads passable during a storm.

Public Works Department personnel are well trained and dedicated to work “around-the-clock” if necessary to keep all roadways open and passable.

When the snow stops, crews spot and drifting snow. The plowed. Snow is pushed back at necessary.

Every storm is different. The more the resources are taxed, equipment, and, of course,



continue to monitor roads for icy sidewalks around school zones are different intersections if

longer the duration of the storm, This includes salt, sand, employees.

With your assistance and patience, the DPW will be able to provide the Town with important functions of our winter maintenance operation.

Plow Damage

The Town is not responsible for damaged lawns, sprinkler heads, fences, steps, trees, shrubs or other private property, i.e., basketball hoops, that are located within the Town’s right-of-way which is approximately 10-12’ back from edge of road pavement.

The Town will only be responsible for mailboxes that are physically hit by a plow. Mailboxes pushed over from the force of plowed snow are not covered.

Town plows cannot be hired or requested by residents to clear driveways or walkways.

Winter Tips

Pay close attention to weather forecasts. Remember: freezing rain and wet snow cause dangerous road conditions. Motorists are advised to stay off the roadways if possible until DPW crews get the pavement treated. Drive cautiously.

On-street parking is prohibited during snow and ice storms and snow and ice removal operations.

The DPW director is authorized to have any vehicle removed during snow or ice operations. Owners are liable for costs of removal/storage and subject to \$50 daily fine.

How You Can Be of Assistance

- Check your mailbox to make sure it and the post are in good condition.
- Please observe the on-street parking snow ban which is in effect during snow and ice storms when plowing and sanding operations are taking place. The on-street parking ban starts in November and ends in April.
- Reduce your speed and drive carefully.
- Do not attempt to pass a sander or plow. These units weigh over 40,000 lbs. and are not easily maneuvered.
- Do not allow children to make snow forts at the edge of the road.
- Do not plow, blow or throw snow into the roadway. There is a \$50 penalty fee for violation of this Town Bylaw. Make sure your contractor is aware of this policy.
- For your own safety, please shovel out the fire hydrant located nearest to your house.
- Keep nearby catch basins clear of snow or ice to prevent street flooding during snow melting periods.

And last, but not least, please be patient. Snow plowing is a time-consuming and laborious job covering approximately 140 miles of roadway in the Town of Sudbury.

With your cooperation, we will all have a safe and enjoyable winter season. Thank you!

Contact

Please feel free to call the Department of Public Works at (978) 443-2209, ext. 1221, for further information. We'll be more than happy to help you.

Free sand is available to residents at the public works yard – 5-gallon pail maximum

NO COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES

Submitted by DPW Director

Public Safety

Fire Department

The Sudbury Public Safety Dispatch Center was successfully launched on October 1, 2012. All land-based 911 emergency calls are now answered and dispatched directly from the Police Station. Police Chief Glavin and I feel this is a much more efficient system for residents calling for assistance. Please remember that a 911 call from your cell phone will still be answered first by the Massachusetts State Police, and then forwarded to our Sudbury Public Safety Dispatch Center.

With the weather forecasters calling for a severe storm on October 29, 2012, the Sudbury Fire, Police, and Department of Public Works spent a few days preparing for Hurricane Sandy. Each of these departments hired extra personnel and put their storm planning into effect. As predicted, the storm blew in Monday afternoon and was responsible for a lot of tree and power line damage. We did well to respond promptly to all the calls for assistance, including a few trees that fell and struck homes. Particularly hard hit was the Thunder Road, Silver Hill Road, and Sunset Path areas of Town. Many large pine trees severely

damaged utility poles and power lines in that neighborhood. Although the Town suffered a lot of physical damage, we were fortunate there were no injuries to residents or responders.

In some areas of Town, roads remained blocked with downed trees and live wires into Thursday afternoon. As of Saturday morning, there were still a dozen or so homes without power. Despite many meetings over the past year to plead our case with NStar over their response, we continue to be frustrated with their lack of attention to the input of Sudbury Public Safety officials. I personally hear and feel the frustration of many residents over the NStar issue. We will continue to raise our concerns and strive for better cooperation from them in the future.

Submitted by: William Miles, Fire Chief

Library

Children's Holiday Program

This December the Children's Room will be filled with Holiday Cheer. Families can celebrate the arrival of winter with a variety of activities, including music, crafts, and dancing.

Children can listen to wonderful Hanukkah & Christmas stories throughout the month. You will see little ones carrying home their creations...perhaps a Dreidel, gingerbread house, or jar of reindeer crunch!

There will even be a mitten tree donation to support the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Submitted by: Esme Greene, Library Director

Planning and Community Development

The Planning and Community Development office is working to finalize both of the land deals approved at the 2012 Annual Town Meeting by the end of the calendar year. The Pantry Brook Farm project is awaiting a decision on the state LAND grant, which could bring up to \$400,000 to the project. The Conservation Restrictions for Pantry Brook Farm are near completion and are expected to be accepted by the Conservation Commission and the Selectmen in early December. The 15 Hudson Road project is awaiting final closing instructions from the Seller. Once the deed is transferred, demolition of the house and restoration of the property will begin.

The Planning Board will begin review of a new Senior Residential Development located at 40 Tall Pine Drive on December 12th. The proposal by the Green Company seeks approval to construct 26 homes on the property. The existing office building on the property will be demolished. The Planning Board is also reviewing the walkway proposal on Old Framingham Road under a Scenic Road application. The walkway construction requires the removal of 5 trees within the right of way, and the removal/relocation of approximately 15 feet of stone wall. The public hearing on that application is November 28th. The Planning Board is also considering the revision of the regulations for Stormwater Management Permits on November 28th. The changes to the regulations follow the bylaw changes approved at the 2012 Annual Town Meeting. Route 20 Zoning for the sewer project continues to be discussed by the Planning Board at their meetings.

The FY14 Community Preservation Act proposals are under review by the CPC, and 2 important meetings are scheduled in the next few weeks. On December 5th, a public hearing on CPA needs will be held by the CPC. This hearing will include recreation needs, as this has been formally approved as an eligible category for CPA funding. Other funding categories for CPA funding include affordable housing, historic preservation and open space. This hearing provides a forum for boards, committees and the public to discuss priorities for CPA funds over the next several years. On December 19th, the CPC will hold project reviews of the FY14 proposals. Each proponent will describe their proposal, followed by questions from the CPC and the public. The FY14 proposals can be accessed on the Town's website at <http://sudbury.ma.us/departments/CPC> .

The Town of Sudbury will be an Exhibitor at the National League of Cities Convention held in Boston Nov. 28-Dec.1, showcasing the Regional Housing Services Office. The invitation to be an Exhibitor came about as a result of the MMA Innovation Grant received by the RHSO last year.

Submitted by: Jody Kablack/Director Planning and Community Development

The Sudbury Senior Center

December Programs and Activities

On Wednesday, December 12, the Senior Center hosts a special **Holiday Luncheon**. This event will feature a special meal from Heritage Assisted Living and entertainment by "Strings and Things". Music Educator Richard Travers will offer a class called "Music and the Military" on December 6, while Polly Meltzer of the Sudbury Garden Club will offer a Holiday Boxwood Tree workshop on December 7. The monthly Pizza and a Movie event feature "Dolphin Tale" on December 20. Friday afternoon movies will be classics this month including: "It Happened One Night" on December 7, "Love in the Afternoon" on December 14, "Miracle on 34th Street" on December 21 and "It's a Wonderful Life" on December 28.

The Senior Center will host several Bridges Reunions. The Bridges program offers older adults the opportunity to participate in an intergenerational curriculum with all the 4th grade classrooms in Sudbury. At the end of a six week program a Reunion celebration brings the 4th graders to see their "seniors" at the Senior Center for a final lesson and a tour of the Senior Center. Bridges Reunions will take place on December 3, 10, 11, and 13.

The "History of Ancient Egypt" class continues on Mondays in December, as does the U.S. History DVD series, which finishes on December 12. Our fitness classes will be ongoing with only a momentary pause just after the holidays for Yoga, Better Bones, Tap Dance and Zumba. Fit for the Future classes will continue all month on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Another program that we are fortunate to offer is the "Current Events" group. Volunteer Facilitator Richard Nesmith makes sure every voice is heard and keeps the topics lively. Current Events group will meet on Thursday, December 6.

Veterans Appreciation Luncheon

The Sudbury Senior Center and the Sudbury Military Support Network celebrated Sudbury's Veterans with a special luncheon on Wednesday, November 14. Over 80 veterans and spouses attended the event. Longfellow's Wayside Inn provided a delicious meal and special guest Captain Thom Kenney made a powerful and enlightening presentation on his work in Afghanistan. The presentation was videotaped by SudburyTV; look for it on your cable lineup.

Veterans Transportation to Hospitals

We would also like to let veterans know that the Metro West Regional Transit Authority offers free transportation to the VA hospitals in West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain, as well as the Boston hospitals in the Longwood Medical area. For information or to register please contact Lisa Long, Call Center Manager, at (508) 820-4650.

Holiday Bazaar a Great Success!

The Friends of Sudbury Seniors and the Thursday Crafters group held a very special *Holiday Bazaar* on November 10. Many volunteers participated in this event! Seniors prepared tables with delicious baked goods, jewelry, and handmade crafts, some made soup and hotdogs, others set up and cleaned up. Jean Semple and her husband put in a huge effort to organize this event – thank you Jean and Bill! Martha Dow and Vera Gazza worked hard on the Crafts and Grandma's Attic tables. This year, Sudbury Coldwell Banker Real Estate sponsored Magician Jim Munsey for the grade schoolers, and special guest Tommy the Balloon Guy showed everyone how he makes balloon animals!

Mercury Removal and Disposal Program

Ed Gottmann, the Senior Center Volunteer Coordinator, has organized an additional Mercury Exchange program at the Senior Center on Saturday, December 8 from 11:00AM-1:00PM. Sudbury seniors can bring their old mercury fever thermometers to the Senior Center and receive a new Vicks digital fever thermometer donated by Kaz, Inc. of Southborough. Thanks to Lenny Simon of Sudbury who generously volunteered his time to be at the Senior Center on two Saturdays in October to help with the collection and exchange.

Submitted by: Deb Galloway/Senior Center