



Town of Sudbury  
Town Manager Newsletter  
April 13, 2012

**Message from the Town Manager**

Greetings! I am hearing from folks who enjoy the newsletter but suggest that residents be allowed to sign up to receive it in their mailboxes automatically. Such a great idea! To do this, all you need to do is use the following link and enter your email address:

<http://sudbury.ma.us/services/townmanager/mailing.asp>

But did you know you can sign up for other email lists from the Town? On the Town Web site front page, just click on "email lists" on the blue ribbon on the top. Below is the list of these newsletters and notices that can be delivered to your mailbox. Particularly helpful to all residents is the Treasurer/Collector's email, where Finance Director/Treasurer/Collector Andrea Terkelsen tells you when property tax and excise bills have been mailed out and reminds you of due dates.

- Goodnow Library - General Information
- Goodnow Library Children's Room - General Information
- Inclusive and Adaptive - General Information
- Recreation and Atkinson Pool News
- Senior Center - General Information
- Town Manager - General Information
- Treasurer / Collector - General Information
- Youth Coordinator - General Information

Lastly, I want to mention changes in our Town personnel. Maureen Hafner, our wonderful Director of Assessing for the past 14 years, will be retiring this summer. Maureen and her great team in the Assessor's office always provide professional and caring assistance to taxpayers, and are fair and precise in carrying out their responsibility to administer the property assessment function for the Town government. In addition, the part-time data collector in the Assessor's Office, Dave Tucker, has also notified me of his intention to retire after many years of service to the Town. We will miss Maureen and Dave and wish them well in future endeavors. And Fire Chief Miles is pleased to welcome new firefighter William Francis, who began taking his place in the Sudbury Fire Department this week. Firefighter Francis has been at the Fire Academy for the past 12 weeks, and he earned high marks from his instructors while there. Chief Miles took me and Assistant Town Manager Maryanne Bilodeau to the Fire Academy last year while several of our recruits were in training. We watched as they entered a burning building, in absolute blackness from the smoke, with flames all around, ready to rescue the "person" trapped inside. It takes very special people to want to enter this career, and I personally thank all our public safety employees for their commitment to being ready to serve and protect Sudbury.

Finally, I want to extend my sympathies to Public Works Director Bill Place, whose father passed away last week.

Sincerely, *Maureen G. Valente, Town Manager*

### Highlights of the 4.3.12 Board of Selectmen Meeting

The Selectmen had a very lengthy meeting last week, with their annual meeting with State legislators who represent Sudbury on Beacon Hill taking up the most time. Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Tom Conroy (Senator Susan Fargo could not attend) shared with the Board their priorities for legislative changes, and these include more local aid for municipalities and changes in the community preservation act, among others. Both were questioned by the Board on other items important to Sudbury, including help with the growing cost of out of district placements for special education and possible changes to the state's 40B requirements. Both legislators pledged to help support enactment of Sudbury's Special Act providing for means tested tax relief for seniors, once the Board of Selectmen finalize language changes in the current H.3435 to retain the key provisions that were approved by Sudbury Special Town Meeting last year.

The Board held one of its periodic *Town Forums* to review activities and plans with the Goodnow Library Trustees. Town Forums are public meetings the Selectmen have with other Town committees and Department Heads from time to time. Library Director Esme Green and Library Trustee Barbara Pryor represented the Trustees, and they recapped the past 12 months, which has been a time of significant change for the Library, with a new Director and a new head of children's services. The Friends of the Library and the new Library Foundation have been active and contributing to many initiatives of the Library. Looking to the next 12 months, Library Trustees and staff will be working on the Foundation's development campaign, integrating e-books into the Library collection, and working on a website redesign, among other goals. And it was noted that an average of 70% of the checkout of materials from the Library now occur via the self-checkout equipment, purchased through a capital budget item. When patrons use the self-checkout, Library staff is freed up to work on other items.

In other actions, the Selectmen designated the month of May as Military Appreciation Month, accepted a \$1,000 donation from Bravo Platoon Films in connection with the filming of the Tom Hanks movie in Sudbury, approved a contract for ground-penetrating radar at the Revolutionary Cemetery, appointed Lee Ford Swanson as the new Town Historian, approved a request from NStar and Verizon to install a conduit on Raymond Road, designated as special municipal employee the special counsel who will assist the Energy Committee in its work to develop a solar power generation facility at the closed landfill, and gave direction to the Town staff to develop an affirmative site plan decision for the proposed modifications to the Village Green. This proposal was described in the Planning & Community Development section of my last newsletter.

Lastly, the Board created a Review Committee to examine the bill reported out by the Revenue Committee of the state legislature, known as H.3435. While this bill kept much of Sudbury's Special Act, there were key changes, and the Board felt it prudent to have a citizen's committee examine H.3435 and suggest changes that might improve its chances of creating an exemption program that will be successful for Sudbury and serve as a model for other communities seeking similar types of senior tax relief.

The next Selectmen's meeting is scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup>.

### From the Selectmen's office

Just a reminder: the Selectmen's Office coordinates the **Annual Town Clean Up**, which is fast approaching – Saturday, April 28 with a rain date of May 5<sup>th</sup>. Dev Glaser in our office is waiting to hear from you (978-639-3399). If you haven't already done so, please consider calling for a street or location assignment. If the 28<sup>th</sup> is not convenient for your schedule, you can do it during the week.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, the *2011 Annual Town Report* will be available next week. By Friday, the 20<sup>th</sup>, we expect to have copies available at the Library, Town Clerk's Office, Fairbank Center (COA Department) and the Selectmen's Office. Please stop by to pick one up.

This is also the time of year when **Reappointments to Boards and Committees** are reviewed. Notices are sent to the Chairmen of each Board or Committee, who will be asked for feedback on member reappointments. In some instances, term limits will be reached; some volunteers will decide to continue serving, while others will opt to resign or for new choices; new members will be sought to fill those vacancies. All new appointments and reappointments become effective on May 31 while newly-elected positions take effect at the conclusion of Town Meeting. The Town website is frequently updated and vacancies are posted as they occur. Check the list of Board and Committee vacancies to see if there is something available to meet your skill set or interest. Sudbury is very fortunate to have so many caring and tireless volunteers, but more are always welcome as vacancies permit.

#### **From the Veterans' Agent**

Sudbury continues to welcome home our military men and women, and in April we are welcoming home Sergeant Charles Wilkinson and Captain Thom Kenney. Look for the banners on the front of Town Hall, proudly displayed for each returning military member. These banners are ordered by our Sudbury Military Support Network, and hung by members of the Sudbury Fire Department. As Sudbury welcomes home our military folks, please take a moment and reflect upon their sacrifices and all those who have served from Sudbury and made sacrifices on our behalf.

Veterans' Agent Brian Stearns reminds us that May is National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM), as designated by Congress. National Military Appreciation Month (May 2012) includes Loyalty Day (1st), Military Spouse Appreciation Day (11th), VE Day (8th), Armed Forces Day (19th), and Memorial Day (30th). This very important month honors, remembers, recognizes and appreciates all military personnel; those men and women who have served throughout our history and all who now serve in uniform, and their families, as well as those Americans who have given their lives in defense of the freedoms we all enjoy today. This month gives the nation a time and place on which to focus and draw attention to our many expressions of appreciation and recognition of our armed services via numerous venues and also to recall and learn about our vast American history.

#### **From the Police Department**

Currently, there are three vendors who have registered with the Police Department to solicit door-to-door within the Town. Anyone wishing to be added to the Town wide Non-Solicitation List can do so by sending an email to [Police@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:Police@sudbury.ma.us), listing their name and address. We will add them to the list, which is then handed to each vendor upon completion of a background check.

Further, the Sudbury Police Department would like to remind everyone that outdoor spring activities have begun and motor vehicle operators should be extra cautious in areas where such events take place.

#### **Office of Planning and Community Development (PCD)**

**Village Green:** (29 Hudson Road)

The Selectmen held a public hearing on the proposed Village Green project. The project has been met with overall positive response and as such, the Selectmen are poised to issue a decision at their hearing on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Johnson Farm:**

The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a hearing on the proposed project on April 30<sup>th</sup>, in the Town Hall at 7:30pm. The developer has recently reconfigured the project from 64 units of rental housing to a 60 unit town home style development.

**Planning Board Articles for 2012 Annual Town Meeting:**

***1. Amend Zoning Bylaw, Appendix A, to update definition of Agricultural Use:***

This article seeks to revise the Zoning Bylaw to conform to state law regarding exempt agricultural uses. In 2010 the state legislature amended M.G.L. c. 40A, section 3 to allow parcels smaller than 5 acres to enjoy the exemption provisions of this section so long as the parcel of land is at least 2 acres in size and produces income of at least \$1,000/acre. Prior to this amendment, a parcel of land needed to be at least 5 acres in size to be considered exempt from zoning provisions. As state law takes precedent over local bylaws, the Town must utilize the state definition.

***2. Amend Zoning Bylaw, section 2313 and Appendix A, to regulate raising of roosters:***

This article seeks to revise the Zoning Bylaw to address the emerging popularity of backyard chickens. Currently the Zoning Bylaw requires a special permit to raise any type of poultry. As backyard chickens have become more popular in Sudbury, and seem to meet with neighborhood approval in most cases, the need for a special permit seems onerous. This article deletes that requirement. However, roosters create more noise and this article seeks to create that regulation by requiring a special permit only for the raising of roosters. This article does not change any other provision related to farming and agriculture in Sudbury, which is a farm-friendly community.

***3. Amend Zoning Bylaw, section 5331, to revise the minimum tract size for Senior Residential Developments:***

This article seeks to expand the number of properties that a Senior Residential Community can be built on by decreasing the minimum tract size for the development. In decreasing the tract size from 20 acres to 10 acres, this article creates consistency with the other residential special permits in the Zoning Bylaw, including Cluster Developments, Flexible Developments and Incentive Senior Developments, which are all allowed on tracts of 10 acres or more. This change will allow an alternative type of development on more moderate sized parcels. Senior housing has been lauded in Sudbury as desirable for allowing older residents to remain in the community, as well as capturing unencumbered revenue by creating development that does not drain municipal and school services.

***4. Amend Article V(F), Stormwater Management Bylaw:***

This article seeks to refine the provisions of the Stormwater Management Bylaw adopted at the 2009 Annual Town Meeting. Over the past 2 years, the Planning Board has issued over 40 permits under the bylaw and desires to make the bylaw more useable and less onerous on applicants, who are predominantly single family house owners. The changes proposed increase the thresholds slightly in 2 key areas – development on grades greater than 20%, and development on commercial properties. The thresholds in the original bylaw were too low, requiring permits to be issued for several very small projects. The new thresholds are slightly higher and will adequately regulate development without compromising environmental quality. Other minor changes do not change the intent of the bylaw, but are meant to clarify provisions that have been brought to our attention.

## Fire Department

On Monday, March 26, 2012, a large diesel powered moving truck was making a turn from Peakham Road on to French Road. As the driver entered French Road, he struck a rock and punctured the right side aluminum fuel tank. Unaware of the leak, the truck continued west on French Road until he was stopped by a Sudbury Police Officer performing a detail at the corner of French and Dutton Roads.

The Sudbury Fire Department responded and upon realizing the extent of the spill, notified the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The Sudbury Department of Public Works and the Fire Department helped distribute sand on the roads and controlled the spread of fuel oil until the leak could be stopped. Along with the Sudbury Police, a member of the Massachusetts State Police Truck Team was notified and arranged to have the remaining fuel pumped from the truck.

Mass DEP notified the owner of the trucking company and arranged to have New England Disposal Technologies begin the cleanup. Also dispatched by DEP was a Licensed Environmental Engineer to supervise the remediation and removal of the fuel and affected soil. Mass DEP monitored the operations into the following day until the process was completed to the satisfaction of the Sudbury Board of Health and the Sudbury Conservation Commission. The Sudbury Fire Department is grateful for the cooperation of the above mentioned entities to quickly and effectively mitigate a potentially hazardous situation.

On Wednesday, March 28, the Fire Department responded to a report of a smoking electrical outlet near the Children's Circulation Desk at the Goodnow Library. Upon arrival, firefighters found an overheated outlet and were able to locate and shut off the circuit breaker to the affected circuit. A ventilation fan was set up to clear a light smoke condition from the area. Wiring Inspector Art Richards also responded to the scene. After replacement of the outlet, Library patrons were allowed back into the Children's area.

On the afternoon of Wednesday April 4, the Sudbury Fire Department received a phone call from a passing motorist reporting a fire at Fairbank Farm, 135 Old Sudbury Road. Two Sudbury Engines and a Ladder Truck responded. Arriving units found heavy fire involving two adjacent greenhouse style structures. Three attack lines were initially applied to knock down the blaze. Assistant Fire Chief John Whalen called additional apparatus to the scene from Wayland, Maynard, and Concord to assist in protecting a large wooden barn on the property. Damage was limited to the two greenhouses that were initially involved.

During the fire, apparatus from Framingham, Hudson, and Lincoln covered Sudbury's three fire stations. The cause of the fire is under investigation. There were no injuries and no estimates of damage are yet available.

On Easter Sunday we received a call for a kitchen fire in one of the Frost Farm units at 150 North Road. Arriving Sudbury Fire Department units found a fire on the stove that had extended to the kitchen curtains. The fire was quickly extinguished; damage was limited to the area of origin. There were no injuries. Engines from Maynard, Framingham, and Wayland covered Sudbury's three stations while our apparatus was operating on North Road.

## Library

### A Call to Young Artists

The Young Adult room will be displaying art from artists ages 12-18, who are interested in sharing their creative talent in the form of an art / craft exhibition. Displays of art and crafts by local individuals, groups of friends, private and public art class students in the community are encouraged. Young Adult Exhibit Guidelines and Request Forms are available at the second floor reference desk. Any questions?

Please contact Krista Armstrong-Moon, [karmstrong-moon@minlib.net](mailto:karmstrong-moon@minlib.net) or Cathleen "CB" Bradley at [studioceb@comcast.net](mailto:studioceb@comcast.net)

#### Dedication of Flagpole and Flag Installation Ceremony

A ceremony commemorating HOPEsudbury's 10 year anniversary will be held at the Goodnow Public Library on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. A plaque will also be presented to the Town by HOPEsudbury. The Flagpole is a gift from HOPEsudbury in recognition of their 10-year anniversary of its founding. The flag has been donated by the SMSN (Sudbury Military Support Network) and a plaque will also be presented to the Town by HOPEsudbury.

#### Technology Department

The Town Clerk's Office wanted to use our Connect 5 Emergency/Community Outreach notification system to alert unlicensed dog owners that the deadline to license their dog without being charged a \$25.00 late fee was April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Information Technology (IT) Department created a script which exported all unlicensed dogs from the Dog Licensing program and imported the dog owner's contact information into the Connect CTY software. The IT Department worked with the Town Clerk's Office to email a reminder to 543 unlicensed dog owners on March 30<sup>th</sup> with the Connect 5 notification system. On April 2<sup>nd</sup> a notification call was made to the 441 Dog Owners who didn't respond to the email notification. The message stated that the Town Clerk's Office would extend its hours until 8:00 pm to give the unlicensed dog owners a chance to license their dog before the deadline. The notification alerts resulted in 299 dogs being licensed over the two business day period. Many residents were happy to get the reminders and avoiding the \$25.00 late fee.

#### Public Works Department

The Public Works Department continues street sweeping and building berms. There has been a job posting in the Department for a Light Equipment Operator.

#### Sudbury Senior Center

During April, the Bridges Intergenerational Program participants are visiting the Senior Center for a reunion. We have hosted several 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes from the Noyes School along with the seniors who work in their classrooms. The students and seniors meet in the classrooms for 6 one-hour sessions supervised by the classroom teachers. A month later they reunite at the Senior Center for a final visit with each other, a last lesson and a tour of the Senior Center.

The Men's Breakfast will be on Wednesday, April 25 from 9:00-10:00 AM (postponed from April 11<sup>th</sup>). Chef volunteers, Joe Bausk and Barry David, serve up freshly made pancakes, sausage, fruit and coffee. We are looking forward to our new Basic Drawing class starting on April 25<sup>th</sup>, and Sudbury Police will hold a talk on Home Safety on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Sudbury Council on Aging met on Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Discussed at the meeting was the Property Tax Relief bill for low income seniors. The Town Manager has asked an *Ad Hoc* committee to come together to examine the bill. (See Town Manager highlights)

The Senior Center/Lincoln-Sudbury High School collaboration continues to move forward with a plan for three seniors to provide advice on small business startup and operation.

### **Board of Health**

Although there were mosquitoes biting residents during the warm weather in March, the current abnormally dry conditions mean that the spring mosquito population is not likely to be a significant problem. For the first time since April 1987, the aerial Bti application by helicopters to wetland areas in mid-April has been cancelled. Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*) is a group of bacteria used as biological control agents for mosquito larvae stages. Limited wetland areas will be monitored by the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project and treated with Bti as needed by ground sprayers.

### **Finance Department**

Several members of the Finance Department will be staffing the H.3435 review committee that has been created by the Board of Selectmen to look at the current language of the Special Act and also report on the feasibility of the underlying exemption mechanism(s) that may be used to implement the new program for Senior Tax Relief.

The Finance Director along with the Town Accountant and the audit firm of Sullivan, Rogers & Co. will be presenting Sudbury's Fiscal Year 2011 audited financial results to the Board of Selectmen on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Each year the Town is required to undergo an extensive independent audit of all Town and School operations which culminates in the issuance of basic financial statements and required supplementary information in accordance with all audit and accounting standards. Additionally, the Town is required to undergo a compliance audit with respect to all major Federal programs awarded every year. Starting in fiscal year 2012, the Town will also be working with its audit firm to enhance reporting capabilities from generally accepted Basic Financial Statements to Comprehensive Annual Financial Reporting (CAFR) that meet or exceed the requirements of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the US and Canada whose mission is to enhance and promote the professional management of governments for the public benefit by identifying and developing financial policies and best practices and promoting their use through education, training, facilitation of member networking, and leadership.

### **Park and Recreation Department**

The Park and Recreation Department is busy accepting registrations for its spring and summer programs. We are also putting together our summer concert series and are looking for sponsors and performers. If you are interested in the summer concerts, please contact Amber Comeau at [comeau@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:comeau@sudbury.ma.us). Finally, in May, we will be hosting the F.I.R.M. Spring Sprint Triathlon. Our kids triathlon will be held on Saturday May 5th and the adult triathlon on Sunday May 6th. Check out the Town website under **recreation** for more details.

We are seeking volunteers to help during the Tri Sprouts kid's race on Saturday, May 5th, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and the Sudbury Sprint Triathlon on Sunday, May 6th, 7am-12pm. Volunteering at the race is a great way to give back to the pool that you enjoy so much! Proceeds from the race company help fund our scholarship program.

There are a variety of volunteer roles at a race including checking athletes in at the registration table, directing athletes on the race course, and handing water to athletes at aid stations and at the finish line. For your energy and enthusiasm, you will receive a race t-shirt and the satisfaction of knowing you helped hundreds of people in their quest to complete a triathlon that day. If you are interested in volunteering, sign up at the front desk at the pool or send Tim Goulding an email at [gouldingt@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:gouldingt@sudbury.ma.us)

### **From the Town Clerk's Office**

Annual Town Meeting (May 7, 2012) is just weeks away, but there's still time to register to vote or change party enrollment before the meeting. The deadline for Town Meeting voter registration is Tuesday, April 17, 2012, and the Town Clerk's office will be open till 8:00 p.m. to accommodate residents' schedules. Residents may also take advantage of the extended hours if they need to license dogs or require other services the Town Clerk's Office provides.

This year at Town Meeting, the Town Clerk's Office will again be presenting a Community Preservation Committee (CPC) article seeking funding for Historic Documents conservation and digitization. The Town of Sudbury stewards records dating back to 1638 which include the recording of the Declaration of Independence into the Town records in July of 1776, a Justice to Keep the Peace certificate signed by John Hancock, and birth, death and marriage records of Sudbury's founding families. Many priceless documents have already been protected and made accessible to the public. This Town Meeting article will make it possible to preserve other historic records currently in a delicate condition. High resolution images of preserved volumes are available for viewing at the Goodnow Library. To learn more about the records or the program, please contact the Town Clerk's office at 978-639-3351.