



The Town of Sudbury, Massachusetts
Town Manager's EMAIL Newsletter – February 3, 2006

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.

FY07 Operating Budget Update – No Override!



It's done! The Finance Committee has voted an operating budget to present to Town Meeting for the upcoming fiscal year. In meeting with the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, January 31, the Finance Committee explained that by working with the various cost centers both individually and collaboratively, they were able to arrive at a proposed FY07 budget plan that is balanced within available revenues. Further, this budget plan would enable the Town Departments, the Sudbury Public Schools and the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School to have sufficient resources to be able to keep close to the level of services that is currently being provided in FY06. All parties have worked at an exhausting pace since the beginning of January, and needed to finish up their deliberations and votes by this week in order to put the budget article into the Town Meeting warrant.

The Finance Committee is hoping to host a Town Wide Forum on March 20 to explain the budget plan to residents. Details are still being worked out, but the general idea at this time is for something similar to the Budget Forum held last year, where residents had the opportunity to ask questions of the Finance Committee and Town and School leaders. I will give details about this when they become available.

Taxpayers Treated with Extra Care



A tip of the hat to our outstanding Tax Collector and Tax Assessor's offices for the extra lengths they went to for the taxpayers on Tax Due date, February 1. This is the day that the payments for the 3rd quarter real estate and personal property taxes are due in the Collector's office, as well as applications for abatements in the Assessor's office. These offices stay open until 7pm on this day (as well as on May 1, August 1 and November 1, the other quarterly due dates) to allow extra time for residents to make it in. And when taxpayers arrived, they found the Collector's office staff had donated hot coffee and snacks for them, just to show extra appreciation for our taxpayers. Here is one taxpayer who enjoyed the refreshments provided.

Who You Gonna Call?

Who would you call if you came home from a meeting late at night and found a squirrel had gotten into your house and would not leave, no matter what you tried?



Sue Petersen, Finance Director, is singing the praises of Dave Poirer, who for many years has worked under a contract with the Sudbury Board of Health on animal related issues. Dave helped Sue get the stubborn squirrel out of the house through a window. Several years ago, Dave removed a family of skunks who had taken up residence in the basement of the Loring Parsonage,

thus ending a scary and smelly time for those of us who were working there. The skunks kept hanging around outside after dark, and there were several times I just ran from the front door to my car trying to avoid a confrontation with one of the family. Sue is grateful to Dave, and his wily knowledge of how to get rid of unwanted visitors. Great job Dave!



Rita Farrell's Retirement Party

Familiar faces keep leaving our offices as they retire after long careers. This week we said farewell and congratulations to Rita Farrell, after a 29 year career with the Lincoln-Sudbury Credit Union. At the party, Cindy Gerry, Assistant Assessor, recounted a great story of working with Rita to take out a credit union loan years ago to purchase her first car - a Fiat convertible - and feeling that the car helped her budding romance with her boyfriend, now her husband. Many of the major landmarks in our lives are associated with purchasing a house, a car, a major project, putting a child through college, etc. and Sudbury employees are fortunate we have the credit union to look to and work with us along the way. Rita and the credit union have always been there to help with every major charitable effort employees have been involved in as well. We will miss Rita's smile and her stories and wish her all the best for a long and healthy retirement.



Public Safety Departments Offer Assistance with Child Safety Seat Installation

The Sudbury Fire Department now offers, on a limited basis, child car seat inspection and installation by appointment. Parents and caregivers are invited to have their car seats installed or inspected and learn what makes for safe transport of children in automobiles. Last September three members of the Sudbury Fire Department attended a 40 hour Child Safety Seat class in Barnstable, conducted by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety. This class, produced by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, trains participants in the proper selection, sizing, and installation of child safety seats in motor vehicles. It may seem that 40 hours is a long time spent learning how to properly install a car seat, but learning the laws, vehicle types, seat types, and many variables that go into proper car seat selection for a nearly infinite variety of children left everyone aware of why this training is so important. Interested residents can call the Fire Department to set up an appointment to make sure you are correctly using the child safety seat for the children you are carrying in your vehicle.

Boston Globe Spotlights Town Couple

The January 26th edition of the Boston Globe West Regional section had a lengthy feature story about Sudbury residents and town officials Steve Meyer (member of several committees) and his wife Debbie Dineen (Conservation Coordinator for the Town) and how they have been dealing with Steve's two year battle with advanced cancer. The story recounts Steve's impressive careers in public service and higher education and how he has been using his time and energies since the grim prognosis. I urge you to read the article. Steve and Debbie are important members of the Sudbury community and I know we are all keeping them in our thoughts and prayers.

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