



The Town of Sudbury, Massachusetts  
Town Manager's EMAIL Newsletter – March 15, 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.*

Selectman Larry O'Brien calls it "Sudbury After Dark" – referring to the impressive number of Sudbury residents who bundle up after dinner (or maybe even skip dinner) to make their way to Town buildings to serve on various Town boards, committees and task forces, seeking only to make the Town they live in a better and healthier place. For this edition of my newsletter, I am mentioning five of the volunteer committees whose work I happened to have directly interacted with in the past several months– I know there are more putting in lots of time and dedication! So a collective "tip of the hat" for all the hours you dedicate.



#### **Rail Trail Conversion Advisory Committee (RTCAC) Produces an RFP**

This committee has been meeting monthly since the committee was first created over a year ago. They have developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) for engineering and environmental studies and presented it to the Selectmen, who approved it and I have now issued it. In 2005, Town Meeting voted \$25,000 in Community Preservation funds for this study for converting the unused railroad right of way in Sudbury that is owned and controlled by the state Executive Office of Transportation and Construction. DPW Director Bill Place is an appointed member of this committee and has been providing technical assistance as the RFP was developed. Let me extend a tip of the hat to all the members of this committee for their hard work and diligent efforts over the past year, under the able leadership of co-chairs Pat Brown and Dick Williamson. The committee has also posted a number of documents to their website. For more information, go to the Town's home page, <http://sudbury.ma.us/> then choose the Committees button, to look for the Rail Trail Conversion Advisory Committee section.

#### **The Sudbury Center Improvement Advisory Committee (SCIAC) Finds a Consultant**

This group got underway in September of 2005, following a goal set by the Board of Selectmen to provide a mechanism for the Board to be advised on plans to upgrade/restore/improve the functionality of the Historic Town Centre. The group developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) for engineering and design services, and the Town went out to bid in December, with proposals due on January 24. The SCIAC reviewed the 14 proposals submitted, held several meetings and finally unanimously voted to recommend the firm of the Cecil Group to the Selectmen for award of this contract. This project is being funded through a combination of a grant from The Sudbury Foundation and funds committed by the Community Preservation Committee. Town Planner Jody Kablack worked many hours with this nine member group, and I know the Board and I appreciate all the extra hours they have committed to this project. For more information, please see this committee's home page on the Town's website.

### **The Cable Advisory Committee**

The Cable Advisory Committee is presently assisting the Board of Selectmen by working on an application from Verizon to begin providing cable television services in Sudbury. The Cable Advisory Committee, under Chairman Jeff Winston, has developed a draft license, which the Selectmen approved at a recent meeting. Verizon is entering the field of providing cable television services in Massachusetts, having just signed licenses with the Town of Reading and City of Woburn, but they are applying for licenses in many more towns, including Sudbury. Verizon is currently wiring Sudbury with fiber-to-the-home (called FIOS by Verizon). This provides each home with a very high speed (Gb/s) communication pipe. The first service Verizon will offer is high-speed internet, probably before the end of the year. If all is successful in negotiations with Verizon, Sudbury residents will have a choice in cable television providers between Comcast and Verizon. For additional information, visit the Town's website and look at the Cable Television Committee's page, where you can find a schedule for upcoming programming on Channel 8, and a link for emailing any questions you might have directly to the Cable Committee.

### **Town Report Committee**

The Town Report and Warrant for Annual Town Meeting is being distributed over two weekends (March 11-12 and March 18-19) by the Boy Scouts. I hope all of you take the time to really look at these two documents, and then think for a minute what it takes to produce them. Our hardworking Town Report committee puts in countless hours (usually on weekends and late evenings) here at Town computers, where they take the raw materials (the reports submitted by staff and committees, some on time, some pretty late) and edit, organize, layout, paginate, integrate student art, tables and charts, and submitted pictures, to create a useful and beautiful finished product for the rest of us to keep and consult for many years to come. This is a wonderful tool for looking back at "a year in the life of a town government". My thanks to committee members Beth Farrell, Margaret Castoldi, Anne Hollows, and Polly Gavin, and to Mary McCormack, Rosemary Harvell and Mark Thompson on Town staff, who worked hard in partnership with the Committee to get this report to the printer by the due date. Great job everyone. Incredible cover, once again.

### **Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Gets Underway**

February 2, 2006 marked the first meeting of Sudbury's newest committee, known as the LEPC, but the behind the scenes work has been ongoing for several months leading up to this date. Each town and city is required by Federal law to have an LEPC, whose responsibilities are to identify, monitor and assess the risk of hazardous materials in or moving through the community and then develop a plan to respond to potential spills of these materials. LEPC work is meant to complement and coordinate with our other emergency planning efforts, but it has two notable special characteristics – to make sure that residents have an opportunity to know what hazardous materials are being stored and used in their town, and for the Town to work in partnership with the businesses and industries to deal with incidents that may involve a hazardous material. My thanks to Fire Chief Ken MacLean and to resident Richard Simon, LEPC Coordinator, who have been busy getting this project underway. There is a lot of work to get the Town to full certification, and we appreciate everyone who has agreed to be on this important committee.

*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*