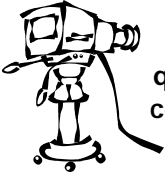




The Town of Sudbury, Massachusetts
Town Manager's EMAIL Newsletter – March 20, 2007

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.

Selectmen Launch New Cable Show



On March 9th, the Board of Selectmen taped the first show in their new cable program "*Town Hall Matters*". They devoted this first "episode" to the three questions that are on the March 26th Town Election ballot – an operating override question in connection with the FY08 Budget, a capital exclusion question to temporarily raise taxes for just FY08 to purchase a new fire engine to replace a 1986 model that has reached the end of its front line (15 years) AND reserve (5 years) duty schedule, and a question to approve exempting the debt service for the bonds for design and construction of a new police station from the limits of Proposition 2 1/2. With a debt exemption question, taxes are authorized to be raised only for the life of the debt and as the debt is paid down, the associated property taxes go down as well. The Board explained in their show that because taxes are going down for older projects that are being paid down or paid off by about \$149 for the average residential tax bill, the estimated cost of this new debt (\$141/average tax bill) can actually be covered by the savings, beginning July 1, 2008.

This new cable show began airing on Monday, March 19th – check the cable listings (featured on the Town's web site, www.sudbury.ma.us or in the *Town Crier*) for dates and times of the program, along with the schedule for other community programs found on Sudbury's cable channel 8. The Board plans to tape and air these cable discussion programs on a monthly basis, and will focus on policy issues and important projects facing the Town, in an effort to provide even more information to residents. They will be inviting guests to join them for these discussions. If you have a topic/suggestion for the show, the Board invites you to email them at selectmen@town.sudbury.ma.us.

Awards, Certifications and Major Milestones

Several members of our Sudbury community have received recognition in recent months and I'd like to share this "good news" with you.



- **Town Web Site is Recognized.** The Town of Sudbury is one of only 41 cities and towns praised by the Massachusetts Campaign for Open Government, a project of the non-partisan group Common Cause. The achievement is based on the Town's posting of essential information which allows local government and its residents to interact with increasing frequency and effectiveness. The six areas of criteria are: Governing Body's Agenda, Minutes, Town Budget, General Bylaws, Town Warrant Articles and Town Meeting/Election Results. Technology Director Mark Thompson, Assistant Town Clerk Judie Newton, and my Administrative Assistant Mary McCormack were at the State House this week to receive recognition of this achievement.

- **Conservation Commission:** ConCom member John Sklenak has been certified by the MA Association of Conservation Commissions. This eight-unit course for Conservation Commissioners and staff covers areas such as Commissions' responsibilities and operations, open space planning, protection and management, and wetlands and wetlands permitting. This was a big commitment of time for John, and obtaining the certification is a major accomplishment! And Conservation Commission member Dick Bell and his wife Virginia reached their 50th wedding anniversary on January 25th, 2007. Now that is commitment!
- **Local Emergency Planning Committee achieves start-up certification.** The Town was notified of this last fall, and I'm sorry I am just now mentioning it. Resident Richard Simon volunteered to be the Coordinator for this new committee and he has taken on a challenging task. But just getting our start-up certification under Richard's efforts is an accomplishment that deserves a special thank you.
- **League of Women Voters is 50 years old!** The Sudbury LWV held a celebratory tea on March 4th at the Fairbank Center to recognize this major milestone in their history. Congratulations to the LWV, especially their hard working co-presidents Nancy Brumback and Anita Simon. Anita is married to Richard Simon (see LEPC note above) so this is a family that truly believes in community involvement.
- **Town Budget receives National Award.** Sudbury was one of a handful of communities in Massachusetts to receive the prestigious *Distinguished Budget Award* from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). According to the GFOA, this award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting. The award signifies that the budget document is a policy document, an operating guide, a financial plan and a communications device. The Board of Selectmen were presented with an award plaque at their meeting on January 30th, 2007.

Time to reprogram your speed dials! A new phone system using VOIP technology has been installed in the Flynn Building and Fairbank Community Center. Mark Thompson has been overseeing this project, which was approved by Town Meeting as a Capital Project in 2005. This included choosing the right options for Town buildings, interviewing various system providers, visiting other entities using the different phone systems, and then overseeing the implementation of the new system and training staff on using the phone systems. New phone numbers have been issued for staff in these two buildings and are available on the Town's website, and through information. The Town's primary phone number 978-443-8891 is still a good number for getting to offices in the Flynn Building, but new extensions have been set up to reach departments and staff – generally you can just add a "3" in front of the 3 digits extension you had been using before this new phone system was installed, so for example the Selectmen's office main extension is now 3381. Or you can use the new direct dial numbers for all the offices. The direct dial number for the Selectmen/Town Manager's office is now 978-639-3381.



Besides a huge improvement in reliability (our main reason to obtain a new system was the repeated failure of the very old system we had), the new system offers many productivity improvements. For example, Mark can reprogram phone options and numbers from his computer rather than calling in someone from the outside. Thanks to Mark and Brian for all their hard work on this project.

My thanks to all the staff and volunteers who work hard to make these things happen. You make Sudbury such a special place. Maureen Valente, Town Manager