



The Town of Sudbury, Massachusetts
Town Manager's Weekly EMAIL – August 5, 2005

Town staff and committees are constantly working to improve the quality of life in Sudbury. The objective of this weekly email is to share information among our staff and committee members about the many programs and efforts that are going on.



All Board and Committees Invited to Learn about GIS Planning on Tuesday, August 16 at Selectmen's Meeting, 8 pm, Lower Town Hall

This summer the Town is moving forward with creating a Master Plan for our GIS (Geographic Information Systems) efforts. GIS uses geographic location to relate and layer together a variety of data the Town uses everyday to make decisions and provide service. It is an extremely powerful and valuable tool that can help nearly every office and committee of the Town. The Town's consultant will be making a ½ hour overview presentation to the Selectmen, followed by 15 minutes of question and answer time. Mark Thompson, the Town's Technology Administrator, is planning on asking all Town Boards and Committees to give input into how they could use GIS, so this is an important opportunity to learn more about what GIS is and how it can be used. *I urge at least one member of all committees, particularly those with land use responsibilities, to try to attend this meeting.* If you can't be there in person, please try to watch the Selectmen's meeting on Channel 8. You will be hearing more about this in the future, so try to find out more information now while we are still in the planning stages.



Grant for New COA Van Awarded

Council on Aging Director Kris Kiesel announced that the COA has been awarded a grant from the Executive Office of Transportation Mobility Assistance program to cover 80% of the cost of a fully accessible 8 – 11 passenger van. The remaining 20% will be covered by the Friends of Sudbury Seniors. The Senior Center's current van is showing its age and needs replacement, so Kris and the COA Directors applied for the funds for a replacement van. Great job, Kris!



Ducklings Rescued by DPW Workers!

Ken Anderson, Scott Taylor, Ken Anderson Jr. and Fred Cygan jumped into action last month, saving 9 ducklings trapped in a catch basin and returning them to their frantic mother. Summoned by Jeff and Patty Gogan (he is a retired Sudbury police officer), Ken jumped into the catch basin to scoop out the ducklings and hand them out to safety. Somehow the ducklings fell through the 2-inch holes in the grate and couldn't get out again without a help. Patty Gogan was quoted as saying "What a great example these guys set" and I agree. Well done.



Regional Efforts Pay Off

Jody Kablack, Town Planner, was chosen for a Regional Spirit Award by the MetroWest Regional Planning Committee. Each year the MetroWest Regional Planning Committee chooses people who strive to enhance regional approaches to planning and growth issues facing the Towns within the MetroWest area, and Jody was one of three recipients chosen for 2005. Congrats, Jody!



Grant Allows Fingerprinting to Go "Digital"!

Police Chief Peter Fadgen announced that the Police Department has been awarded an \$18,024 Community Policing Grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety. These funds will be used to purchase a Live Scan Digital Fingerprinting System which will replace the standard ink and paper method now used by the department. This system allows for record checks within ten minutes with State and Federal agencies on all fingerprints submitted into the system; presently using the ink card process these checks take up to a month.



Making Taxes Easier to Pay, Part II

Last week I wrote about the new option to pay your taxes on-line. This week, I can let you know about another effort by Treasurer-Collector Andrea Terkelsen (seen here to the left) and her staff to make paying taxes a little less onerous – a payment drop box has been installed in front of the Flynn Building! The collector's office asks that taxpayers using this new option enclose their payment in an envelope with copy of the bill or reference on check, for easier processing, but please NO CASH! This should be very helpful to the handicapped and others for whom it is easier to stay in their vehicle, and for after hours payment of tax bills.



Things You Probably Knew (but I Didn't)

One of the stars of the new movie *Fantastic Four* is from Sudbury, an L-S graduate, and he is interviewed in this month's *Improper Bostonian* magazine. Chris Evans, who plays the role of the Human Torch, was asked what he thought was the best thing about Sudbury. He is quoted "What's not to love about Sudbury? It's relatively cliché, it's your stereotypical, standard bedroom community, right out of the movies, but that's what makes it so fantastic". I had never heard of this magazine, and it appears it is targeted for the college student/young adult market (my 21 year old daughter showed me the article, then took the magazine away again!), but it's always good to hear about someone from Sudbury having success, and reflecting back positively on the home town.

*My thanks to all the staff and volunteers who work hard to make good things happen.
You make Sudbury great!*

Maureen Valente, Town Manager

