

# TOWN OF SUDBURY

## Town Manager Newsletter

### August 2016

### Message from the Town Manager

Dear Resident,

I'm proud to announce the arrival of our new Planning Director and our new Assistant Planning Director. Meagan Donoghue, the new Director of Planning, is joining us from the Town of Webster. Meagan served as the Director of Planning and Economic Development. She also worked at the City of Worcester and the City of Chicopee. Meagan is also a professor at Worcester State University, where she teaches historic preservation.

The Assistant Planning Director/Environmental Planner, Beth Suedmeyer, has joined us after a long career at the state, most recently at the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT).

On Thursday August 25 at 6 PM, the Town, with our Engineer VHB, will be holding a [design charrette](#). This will be a collaborative planning event where we will explore different options and visions for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

The Town is still looking for applicants to fill seats on the [Fairbank Task Force](#) and the [Conservation Commission](#). Those slots will be filled in early September. The [committee application form](#) can be found on the Town website, as well as more information about the committees.

Finally, I will be holding [office hours](#) on Tuesday at 5 PM in the Flynn Building. I hope you will come by and see me!

Best,  
*Melissa Murphy Rodrigues, Esq., Town Manager*

## Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Design Charrette

Thursday, August 25, 2016, Sudbury Town Hall  
6:00 - 8:00 pm ~ Drop in anytime!



### What is a CHARRETTE?

A charrette is an intensive, collaborative planning event where citizens, property owners, community organizations, business owners, employees, visitors, customers, planners, consultants and/or other stakeholders collaborate on a strategic plan or vision. The evening may include poster activities, surveys, Q&A, mapping exercises and more!

- *What vistas should be showcased by trail lookout areas?*
- *What amenities should be considered? Benches? Maps? Kiosks? Educational flora/fauna signage? Historical markers? Railroad artifacts? Where should they go?*
- *What are the best locations for parking areas?*
- *What connections points should be made for increased pedestrian/bicycle mobility throughout town?*

### We want to hear from you!

Come to the charrette with your ideas, comments and questions! Please join us on Thursday, August 25, 2016 at Town Hall. **DROP IN ANYTIME** between 6:00 - 8:00 pm to participate! Give us your input on this great resource.

Can't make it? Email your ideas to [community@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:community@sudbury.ma.us) in advance. Please put "BFRT" in the subject line of your email and include your name and address for the public record.



## From the Selectmen's Office

### July 26

The Board approved an electricity aggregation plan to be submitted to the Department of Public Utilities for approval. The plan will give Sudbury residents and businesses the option to save money and select renewable generation by buying power from an alternative supplier to Eversource. \$75,000 from the Wood-Davison House Fund was authorized to be used for the Sudbury History Museum which will be housed in the Loring Parsonage. The Town Manager received a performance evaluation, with the Board providing positive feedback, particularly in the area of communication.

### August 1

The Board met in Executive Session to discuss issues pertaining to the proposed [Eversource transmission line project](#).

*Please note: The above description reflects some of the agenda items discussed at recent Board meetings. They are not meant to be exhaustive of materials received by the Board or all comments on agenda items. For further meeting details, please go to [SudburyTV.org](http://SudburyTV.org) to replay the meeting or view the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes, found at: <https://sudbury.ma.us/boardofselectmen/meetings/>*

## Assessors' Office

### Fiscal Year 2017 Exemption Program Updates

The Fiscal Year 2017 Statutory Exemption Application period is now open for filing. We are currently accepting applications for the personal exemption programs. These long-established programs provide a measure of tax relief for some of our disabled veterans, certain surviving spouses (with limited assets), legally blind citizens, and certain income and asset restricted senior citizens. The programs briefly mentioned within this writing have been in place for many years, but may not be as well-known as Sudbury's popular new Means Tested Senior Exemption Program. We encourage you to get in touch with our office for further information on any of the programs, or to request application materials.

Basically, an exemption discharges the taxpayer from the legal obligation to pay a portion of the property tax. Unlike tax deferrals, exemptions do not have to be paid back. Exemptions are found in various clauses of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5 (M.G.L. c. 59, § 5). Some of the common personal exemptions conferred under M.G.L. c. 59, § 5

are available to certain Disabled Veterans; Seniors or

Surviving Spouses or Minor Children of a Deceased Parent; Legally Blind Persons; and Seniors (of limited means).

### **VETERANS (disabled) – Clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, PARAPLEGICS**

Clauses 22 etc. provide exemption to disabled veterans and spouses of qualifying disabled veterans. The minimum disability rating is 10%. You must provide the Assessors with whatever information is reasonably required to establish eligibility, including Certification of a service-connected disability from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or branch of U.S. military service from which discharged. The minimum base exemption amount for Clause 22 Veterans is \$400.00 per year (and may be higher with increased levels of disability). For information on the Massachusetts Disabled Veteran's Exemption Programs, please contact the Assessors' office.

### **SENIORS or SURVIVING SPOUSES or MINOR CHILD (of deceased parent) - Clauses 17C/17D**



Clauses 17C/ 17D provide exemption to (1) seniors, (2) surviving spouses, and (3) minor children with a deceased parent, who meet specific ownership, occupancy and asset requirements. Seniors 70 or older may, alternatively, qualify for an exemption under Clause 41C, which provides a higher benefit, but has stricter eligibility requirements. Clause 17 is the basic exemption for the three categories of taxpayers. The base exemption amount for this program is \$296.00 per year. For information on the Clause 17 programs, please contact the Assessors' office.

**LEGALLY BLIND PERSONS - Clause 37A**  
Clause 37A provides exemption for legally blind persons who meet specific occupancy and ownership requirements. The base exemption amount is \$500.00 per year. For information on the Clause 37A program, please contact the Assessors' office.

**SENIORS (over age 65/ limited financial means) - Clause 41C**

Clause 41C provides exemption for those qualifying seniors over the age 65 with limited income and assets. Please contact the Assessor's Office for program details. The base amount of this exemption is \$1,000.00.

To qualify for the above mentioned programs, an applicant must own and occupy the property. All eligibility requirements must be met as of July 1 of the tax year (fiscal year of cities and towns begins July 1 and ends the following June 30). An application must be filed annually. Fiscal year 2017 applications may be filed on or

after July 1, 2016, and not later than March 31, 2017. Filing on time is required. By law, the Assessors may not waive this filing deadline, nor act on a late application, for any reason.

The Commonwealth provides partial reimbursement to municipalities for each of the above mentioned programs. For tax year 2016 Sudbury received \$32,106 in reimbursement from the State.

**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION SURCHARGE EXEMPTION PROGRAM**

The Community Preservation Surcharge Program is a valuable resource for the Town. The Community Preservation Fund has financed numerous historic preservation projects, open space preservation, and community housing initiatives. As many know, the Community Preservation Surcharge is a 3%-line item applied to residential property tax bills, for which Sudbury receives matching funds annually from the State.

There is a provision in place to lessen the tax burden of some moderate income seniors and some low income non-seniors by exempting the Community Preservation Surcharge. The exemption program is income based.

For more information, guidelines and application material please contact the Assessor's Office at 978-639-3395 or email [gerryc@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:gerryc@sudbury.ma.us)

*Submitted by: Cynthia Gerry, Director of Assessing*

## Building Department

The Building Department would like to wish Kathy Plante best wishes as she has transferred full time to the Facilities Department. Kathy has been working in both departments for over 14 years and has been the backbone of this department's office. She has our sincere thanks for all her hard work and dedication.

I want to welcome and congratulate Krista Butler, the new Department Assistant. Krista has been the Building Department's clerk for over 3 years, bringing a wealth of experience in working with the public to her new role.

Activity generally slows down in the summer, but not this year. Whole Foods Market has submitted their permit application for a new



grocery store on Route 20. We have also received a few building permit applications for new houses on Old Sudbury Road and Field Road. At 29 Hudson Road, a new furniture store, physician's office and convenience store should be opening soon. 40B reviews continue as The Coolidge has proposed an expansion of units.

The Building Department will be conducting annual inspections on public and private schools to issue certificates of inspection before they open.

*Submitted by: Mark Herweck, Building Inspector*

## Goodnow Library

What a blast we have been having at the library so far this summer!

### **Congratulations to all our Summer Reading Olympians!**

Baby animals, magicians, hula-hoopers, and fire trucks were just some of the special visitors at Goodnow Library this summer. The Children's Department had great fun with special programming for Summer Reading. Not only did we do special programming, but kids at

Goodnow also did a lot of reading! This year we signed a record 661 kids up for Summer Reading at Goodnow Library. When they signed up, kids were invited to choose a chain necklace or keychain. All summer kids exchanged the minutes they read for different kinds of beads to put on their necklaces or keychains. We've seen some pretty awesome-looking necklaces this summer and some pretty fantastic readers. So far, participants have logged over 4,000 hours of reading. WOW! Our special summer programming is over, but we will be accepting

minutes and giving out beads and prizes until August 30th. Congratulations to all our Reading Olympians!

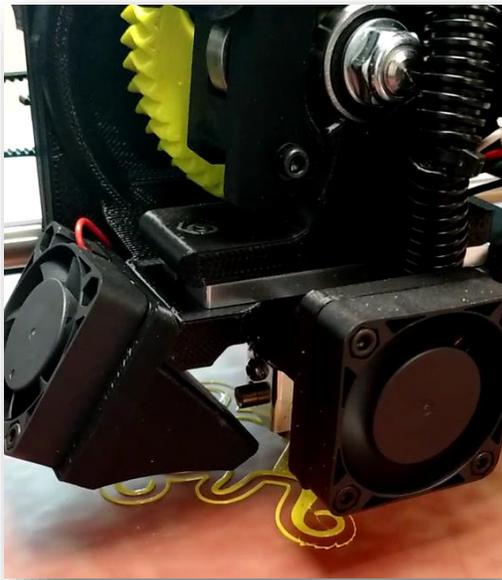


*Champion Readers Show Off Their Super Reading Skills at the Library's Read-a-thon!*



### 3D Printing Comes to Goodnow

One of the cornerstones of our makerspace is in place—our new 3D printer has arrived! Right after it was unboxed, it was put to work printing robot parts for a future workshop. Plans are underway to offer classes in its use this fall. A huge thank you goes to the Goodnow Foundation for providing the funds to make all of this possible.



*Click the image above to view the Goodnow's 3D Printer lulzbot in action.*

### Have You Met Our New Teen Librarian?

Robert is our new technology mastermind and all around excellent Teen Librarian—and he is looking for volunteers to help him! If you are interested, you can reach him at [rcarter@minlib.net](mailto:rcarter@minlib.net), or just stop by! To learn more about Robert, check out this [Boston Globe article](#).

### Assistive Technology Center

Last year, we told you about an LSTA grant we had been awarded to improve service to people with disabilities. Recently, Ellen Hall and Joann Becker from [Perkins Solutions](#) came in to help us install several assistive technology purchases which will be of interest to people who are blind

or have low vision. These are available for use in the library, and they're a great chance to "try before you buy" if you're thinking of investing in technology for your home.

The new equipment includes an **iSee**, a high definition video magnifier. In the photo below, we've used an atlas for demonstration purposes, but you can use it to read a book or magazine, or to get a better look at photos of your grandchildren. Because it uses video technology, you could use it to write a letter or even to untangle a knot in your knitting! It allows you to change magnification, contrast and brightness or color to get the best possible image for you.



*The iSee magnifies everything from photos to knitting knots in high definition clarity.*

Another new device is an **iReader**. With this, you can place any printed material on the surface and the iReader will read it to you. Headphones are provided or bring your own!

We've also added two new computers. One has Kurzweil K1000, the award-winning text to



*The iReader reads documents out loud, so headphones are needed to use it in the library.*



speech software that makes printed or electronic text readily available to people who are blind or visually impaired. Whether you're surfing the net or using the attached scanner to access books, magazine or other printed documents, Kurzweil software combines accessibility, communication and productivity tools to ease and enhance your reading, writing and learning experience.

A second computer will have ZoomText Fusion, a magnifier which brings a variety of size, contrast, brightness, and color settings to the computer screen. Like iSee, you will be able to adjust the settings so they're right for you. In addition, ZoomText includes a screen reader, and a large-print keyboard with shortcuts to ZoomText's many features.

If you are interested in learning more about these devices, please contact Karen Tobin by phone or email at [TobinK@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:TobinK@sudbury.ma.us) or 978-440-5525. Please stay tuned for announcements about our open house by signing up for our [newsletter](#).

LSTA is administered on the federal level by the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#) and in the Commonwealth by the MBLC. More information about LSTA can found at [www.mass.gov/mblc](http://www.mass.gov/mblc).

### **Reduce Your Stress with Adult Coloring**

Feel free to stop by any time to relax, color and hang out with friends of all ages. Our coloring mural is located on the second floor across from the Reference Desk.

*Submitted by: Esmé Green, Library Director*



*Coloring is fun at any age. Add to the Goodnow's coloring mural and see for yourself.*



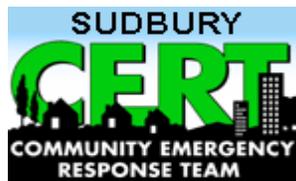
## Board of Health

### September is National Preparedness Month

During National Preparedness Month, the Board of Health would like to recognize and bring attention to two volunteer groups in town who

work to help keep our town safe and prepared. The [Medical Reserve Corps \(MRC\)](#) is a group of volunteer citizens. Members draw on their individual skills to provide health care services in multiple situations. MRC members help with flu clinics, preparedness activities, town events, shelter staffing and would operate and run an Emergency Dispensing Site if there was a national or local epidemic. The [Sudbury Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\)](#) volunteer program educates and trains citizens to respond to emergency situations in the community. CERT members can be deployed at the direction of the Fire Chief to provide critical support to first responders, open and staff the town shelter, organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site and volunteer at many community wide-events. If you are interested in volunteering for either group, please contact:

- MRC- Phyllis Schilp, Board of Health Nurse, [schilpp@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:schilpp@sudbury.ma.us) (978) 440-5477
- CERT Marie Royea, Chair, [cert@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:cert@sudbury.ma.us) (978) 443-2239



Please stop by the Goodnow Library to see our display and get information on preparedness in September. Make your emergency supply kits now. Be Ready Be Prepared!

A basic **emergency supply kit** could include the following recommended items:

- [Water](#), one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- [Food](#), at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to [shelter-in-place](#)
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to [turn off utilities](#)
- Manual can opener for food
- Local maps
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger

For more information, please visit <https://www.ready.gov/>

*Submitted by: Phyllis Schilp, Board of Health Nurse*

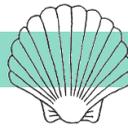
## Police Department

### Find us on Facebook

The Sudbury Police Department now maintains a Facebook page as well as a Twitter account to better keep our residents informed.

### Officers Receive ALICE Training

Officers Owen Griffin and Owen Boyle recently completed a five-day curriculum provided by the



ALICE Training Institute hosted by the Maynard Police Department. As listed on their website, “The RAIDER Training program exposes first-on-scene responders to the tactical skills necessary to operate successfully in the unique tensions of an active shooter setting – a hostile environment, populated by large numbers of civilians, with an active shooter attempting to achieve the highest body count possible in the shortest amount of time. This is not a normal event, nor is the response.” Unfortunately, such

events keep transcending society. Hopefully, these skills will not be necessary, but we must continually train and prepare in facilitating the best response possible for our students, residents, teachers or any civilian thrust into a hostile environment. This was a train-the-trainer course. Officers Griffin and Boyle will disseminate the skills learned to other officers in the department.

*Submitted by: Police Chief Nix*

## Town Clerk

### Assistant Town Clerk

We are very pleased to announce that Monday, August 8th, we welcomed Rose M. Miranda as our Assistant Town Clerk, coming to us from the Town Clerk’s Office in Ashland. In addition to several years of experience, she brings with her excellent organizational skills and a warm, caring personality. A perfect fit for the Town Clerk’s Office. Rose has already been very busy helping us prepare for another busy election season!

The **State Primary Election** is Thursday September 8, 2016. Precincts 1, 1A, 2, & 5 vote at the Fairbank Community Center, 40 Fairbank Road, and Precincts 3 & 4 vote at the Town Hall, 322 Concord Road. The polls will be open from 7AM - 8PM.

Click to find your: [polling location and precinct](#)

Click on your precinct below to view the **specimen ballots**:

[Precinct 1](#)

[Precincts 1A, 4 and 5](#)

[Precincts 2 and 3](#)

Click for information on: [Absentee Ballots](#).

August 19 is the deadline to register to vote or for registered voters to change their party enrollment for the Primary. The Town Clerk’s Office is open 9 AM until 5 PM for voter registration on August 19.

Click to check your: [voter registration status](#)

Click for additional voter registration information, including online voter registration: [Voter Registration](#)

### Minuteman Regional Vocational School

**District Election** is Tuesday, September 20, 2016. Precincts 1, 1A, 2, 3, 4 & 5 will all be voting at the Town Hall, 322 Concord Road. The polls will be open for 8 hours only, NOON - 8PM.

The **State (Presidential) Election** is Tuesday, November 8, 2016. Precincts 1, 1A, 2, & 5 vote at the Fairbank Community Center, 40 Fairbank Road, and Precincts 3 & 4 vote at the Town Hall, 322 Concord Road. The polls will be open from 7AM - 8PM.



**2016 Voter Registration Deadlines:**

<b>Election Type</b>	<b>Election Date</b>	<b>Voter Registration Deadline</b>
State Primary	9/8/2016	08/19/2016
Minuteman Dist. Election	9/20/2016	08/31/2016
Presidential Election	11/8/2016	10/19/2016

*Submitted by: Rosemary B. Harvell, Town Clerk*

**Help BUILD UP Your Community!**

Volunteers are sought for the below committees. Please click on the committee name to find out more about its work and to apply for a position.

- [Community Emergency Response Team \(C.E.R.T.\)](#)
- [Conservation Commission](#)
- [Council on Aging](#)
- [Commission on Disability](#)
- [Earth Removal Board](#)
- [Fairbank Community Center Study Task Force](#)
- [Medical Reserve Corps Executive Committee](#)
- [Memorial Day Committee](#)
- [Permanent Building Committee](#)
- [Ponds and Waterways Committee](#)
- [September 11 Memorial Garden Oversight Committee](#)
- [Vocation Educational Guidance Committee](#)

