

The Road Ahead



SUDBURY PUBLIC WORKS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER: SPRING 2024

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- Engineering Department
- Transfer Station/
Recycling Center
- Parks & Grounds
Department
- Tree and Cemetery
Department
- Drainage Department
- Fleet Maintenance

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THE ROAD AHEAD LOOKS GREAT

Welcome to The Road Ahead, the official newsletter of the Town of Sudbury Public Works Department. This is the very first edition of **The Road Ahead**, which will be published on a quarterly basis.

The newsletter will serve as a “lane” of our outreach to inform and connect with you, our community, about the important work we’re doing for the community. We look forward to connecting with you and building trust through our commitment to transparent communication.

We know that information is crucial to the community, especially when it comes to the impact of public works. Whether it’s snowstorms and flooding, culvert maintenance and repair, stormwater maintenance and mitigation, tree maintenance or long-term projects and repairs, Public Works is key to many basic functions within our community. Our staff is committed to prompt and courteous service to our community members. Public safety is also a primary concern of the Public Works Department through many of its individual tasks. We make every effort to maximize the efficient, effective use of our resources in the support, maintenance and upkeep of the infrastructure, public lands and programs. The Department of Public Works is a professional team dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Sudbury and supporting the Town’s core values.

It’s no coincidence that we are kicking off this newsletter in the month of May. National Public Works Week runs from Sunday, May 19, through Friday, May 24, and we are celebrating early with an Open House.

PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE

The Sudbury Public Works Open House will be on May 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., located at 275 Old Lancaster Road, in Sudbury.

The Open House will feature family friendly activities for attendees of all ages including these fun activities:

SUDBURY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Open House
Saturday, May 18th, 2024 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
(rain or shine) 275 Old Lancaster Road
Sudbury, MA 01776

- Food Drive
Please bring a non-perishable food item to benefit local food banks
- Fun Interactive Games for Kids (Adults too!)
- Touch a Truck
- Educational Displays
- Refreshments

Meet your Public Works team!

SUDBURY PUBLIC WORKS

<https://sudbury.ma.us/dpw/>

Touch-a-Truck · “Fill-a-Truck” Non-Perishable Food Drive · Games · Tons of Equipment · Meet Your Public Works Staff · Free Steamed Hot Dogs, Chips & Water

We hope to see you at our Open House on May 18, and we hope you will continue to follow us through this newsletter. We want you to know about the important work Sudbury Public Works does for you and we want you to know the people behind the work.

THE ROAD AHEAD

GRASS CLIPPINGS ARE GOOD FOR YOUR LAWN, NOT YOUR STORM DRAIN

Keep Grass Clippings and Yard Debris Away from Storm Drains!



Your Actions Make a Difference! You have a direct impact on the health of our streams, lakes, ponds, groundwater, and reservoirs.

In the spring and summer, phosphorus can be one of the most troublesome pollutants in stormwater runoff and it is considered the primary cause of water quality problems in our lakes, ponds and streams.

Grass clippings contribute nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, which cause unwanted and uncontrolled growth of algae and aquatic weeds in the waterways. Increased algae growth is observed as green algae blooms or "scums" on lakes and ponds. Too much algae is harmful to lake systems. It blocks sunlight and prevents other plants from growing. When it dies and decays, it also takes much needed oxygen away from fish. Limiting phosphorus reduces algae blooms.

When mowing your yard, make certain that you do not blow grass clippings into the street!

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: ONGOING DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS



Drainage Department staff work on an improvement project along Lincoln Road.

The Drainage Department has been continually repairing, replacing and upgrading the stormwater collection system for many years. This has become increasingly challenging as the infrastructure ages and more of the system is failing. When the systems were originally installed, the materials used—although thought to be good at the time—proved to have a life span of only 25 to 30 years.

Today, we use precast concrete structures in place of the old barrel blocks, which were found to erode rather quickly causing failure. Additionally, the corrugated steel and, sometimes, aluminum pipe that was quite popular for a period time is also now failing and creating sink holes in some road surfaces. Along with the mechanics of system replacement, there are many more laws and restrictions on how stormwater is managed and treated which creates many challenges.

The Department of Public Works is uniquely aware of the amount of upgrading that will be required in the upcoming years and we are taking steps to mitigate the impact on the Town's budget by keeping as much of the repairs in-house as possible. There are times however that using an outside contractor is required for larger repairs or complete storm water collection system replacement, as was done on Goodman's Hill Road and Pratts Mill Road in recent years.

The dedicated Drainage Department's staff have more than 50 years of experience at work to maintain the stormwater collection system as well as meet the requirements of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit (MS4) requirement of MassDEP.

To learn more about drainage improvement projects, along with other Department of Public Works project, visit [**Department of Public Works » Sudbury, MA.**](#)



SUDBURY CONNECT – BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION!

Did you know that you can report non-emergency problems to the Town of Sudbury from your smartphone, tablet or computer? Thanks to our new partnership with Commonwealth Connect, powered by SeeClickFix, you can!

Use Sudbury Connect to report quality of life concerns such as potholes and street or traffic light outages. You can also view where current requests are underway by visiting

[HTTPS://SUDBURY.MA.US/SUDBURYCONNECT.](https://SUDBURY.MA.US/SUDBURYCONNECT)

Sign up for an account!

[HTTPS://SEECCLICKFIX.COM/REGISTRATION/NEW](https://SEECCLICKFIX.COM/REGISTRATION/NEW)

Get the app!

Use our free smartphone app to submit & track your requests.

[Get the Android app](#)

[Get the iOS app for Apple devices.](#)

SUDBURY PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Paul Spinetto, Assistant Mechanic, Fleet Maintenance



Assistant mechanic, Paul Spinetto, has been with Sudbury Public Works in the Fleet Maintenance department for a year, and with the Town for 10 years. Paul's position as the assistant mechanic puts him right in the middle of all things maintenance related. It's his role to maintain all equipment utilized by the entire Public Works Department.

By keeping trucks and equipment in top form, Paul's work allows crews to perform their jobs with reliable and safe equipment in a timely and efficient manner, thereby reducing costs to the taxpayer.

Paul stepped into the maintenance role as a novice and has done an exceptional job learning the position and bringing new and fresh ideas to the Fleet Maintenance Department.

Paul has also been instrumental in advocating for new and updated equipment, aiding the department to function in a more efficient manner.

He also heads the Department of Public Works Safety Committee as well as trains the entire Department on CPR and the use of the department's AED device to be ready for any health emergencies that may arise.

In addition, Paul has spearheaded our new Fleet Maintenance tracking software. This will allow much easier tracking of vehicle expenses and more informed decision-making about when vehicle replacement is required.

Paul also recently participated in an air brake service training program. This program is required to become certified to repair air brake systems on heavy trucks. Additionally Paul has gone through National Incident Management System training that will allow him to better communicate with other first responder agencies in the event of a disaster.

Paul also has plans for the future that include staying with the Town of Sudbury. He aspires to become the Head Mechanic when the opportunity presents itself once the present Head Mechanic retires.

Paul has a very positive attitude and is very approachable by the department's newly hired employees when advice or assistance is sought after. Paul also has a great deal of experience operating heavy equipment and is always willing to lend a hand to other divisions.

Paul enjoys spending time with his wife and son when not working as well as playing the guitar. Paul also participates in many paintball competitions!

Sudbury Public Works commends Paul on his exceptional work ethic and all he contributes to the department's success. Thank you, Paul!



SUDBURY PUBLIC WORKS

THE ROAD AHEAD



TRAFFIC INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING KEEPS PUBLIC FIRST RESPONDERS SAFE

Recently, field employees with Sudbury Department of Public Works attended a Traffic Incident Management Training alongside Sudbury Police Department and Sudbury Fire Department given by MassDOT and Massachusetts State Police. Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Training consists of a planned and coordinated multidisciplinary process to detect, respond to, and clear traffic incidents so that traffic flow may be restored as safely and quickly as possible. The program also improves responding personnel safety through mutual support and communication. Sudbury Public Works wants to thank the Sudbury Police for the use of the training room and the Mass TIM Training Task Force for providing this important training.



THE PUT & TAKE IS NOW OPEN FOR THE SEASON

The Put & Take is Sudbury's recycling swap shop. Hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Any items brought to the Put & Take must be in clean and reusable condition. Items that are not accepted include bedding, upholstered furniture, televisions or computers. If you have any questions, please call **(978) 440-5421**.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN, STREET SWEEPING IS BACK

Street sweeping has begun for the season. The Sweepers will begin in the north part of town and make their way south. Check out our [Facebook page](#) for updates on the sweeping schedule.



DO YOU NEED TO REPAIR A POTHOLE?

Did you know you can report potholes to the Department of Public Works?

- Send, call or report the location by:
- E-mailing DPW@sudbury.ma.us
- Calling **(978) 440-5421**
- Reporting it through SeeClickFix at <https://sudbury.ma.us/sudburyconnect/>.

When calling, if it is after business hours, leave a detailed message about where the pothole is located. The DPW will repair the pothole as soon as possible.





DISCONNECT YOUR DOWNSPOUTS

Redirecting your downspout keeps roof runoff on your property, preventing it from carrying pollutants downstream. Luckily, rainwater collected from rooftops is free from most contaminants and can be great for your garden. Another reason to redirect those downspouts!

Here's how to maintain a downspout draining to a lawn area:

- ✔ Regular maintenance, like mowing, keeps the area looking neat.
- ✔ Check for bare spots and reseed if necessary.
- ✔ Use splash guards or rocks to slow down water flow and prevent erosion.
- ✔ Consider directing the downspout to a rain garden for extra environmental benefits!

Disconnect Your Downspouts!

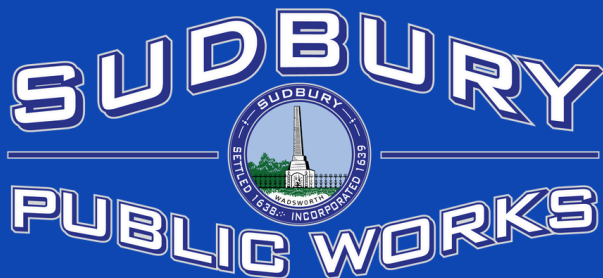
Rainwater collected from rooftops is free from most contaminants and is great for your garden.



CONNECTED DOWNSPOUT



DISCONNECTED DOWNSPOUT



Sudbury Department of Public Works HQ
275 Old Lancaster Road, Sudbury, MA – 01776

STAY CONNECTED!



[Sudbury.ma.us/dpw](https://www.sudbury.ma.us/dpw)



dpw@sudbury.ma.us



[\(978\) 440-5421](tel:(978)440-5421)



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