

# The Road Ahead



## SUDBURY PUBLIC WORKS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER: SUMMER 2024

- [Highway Department](#)
- [Engineering Department](#)
- [Transfer Station/  
Recycling Center](#)
- [Parks & Grounds  
Department](#)
- [Tree and Cemetery  
Department](#)
- [Drainage Department](#)
- [Fleet Maintenance](#)

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Department Attains APWA Accreditation
- Dan Nason - Sudbury Public Works Employee Profile
- Project Spotlight: Phase 1/1A Sewer Project
- No Wipes in the Pipes!
- Mow Like a Pro!
- Sprinkler Tips
- Out and About
- Department Training: Precision Takes Practice
- Sudbury Connect – Be a Part of the Solution!
- Be Septic Smart
- Native Plants
- Do You Need to Report a Pothole?
- Stay Connected

## WE MADE IT!

After five years of hard work and dedication by the Department of Public Works team, we have officially become a nationally accredited organization as recognized by the American Public Works Association (APWA). The Department received the accreditation at the Town's Select Board Meeting on July 16, 2024.

This is a monumental achievement, and it makes Sudbury the third organization in Massachusetts to attain this goal and just number 208 in the Country. In order to reach this goal, everything that the Department touches, reviews, permits or looks at is outlined in its own chapter(almost 400 Chapters).

This makes for continuity and standardization across all divisions within the Department. In order to arrive at the finish line, the Accreditation Team met weekly to outline the individual chapters and put the procedures to paper. This alone sounds like a fairly simple task until you get into it and realize how many different tasks are required to achieve one practice.



APWA Regional Director Rich Benevento (Left) presented a speech to the Select Board and then presented DPW Director Dan Nason (Right) and team with the accreditation plaque.



# THE ROAD AHEAD

## SUDBURY PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE PROFILE:

### Daniel Nason, Department Director, Sudbury Department of Public Works



Dan came to the Town of Sudbury Department of Public Works on October 17, 2016. Having spent many years with private sector engineering firms, as well as several municipalities, Dan came to the table well-versed in the ways and methods of public works.

One of the largest initiatives Dan introduced at the Town of Sudbury was the elimination of the use of sand on the Town roadways for snow and ice treatment. Through education of DPW employees and the public and other town departments, Dan has proven that sand had limited benefits for traction assistance and has a major negative environmental impact. By equipping the Town's salt spreading trucks with ground speed controls as well as continued calibration of the equipment, road conditions during snowstorms improved and salt usage was reduced.

Dan also implemented the use of salt brine as an added tool in combatting snow and ice. Salt brine can be applied to the road surface several days ahead of an impending storm, thereby reducing overtime costs as the product can be applied during regular business hours. The use of brine also reduces the amount of salt that

is applied, as the brine does not bounce and scatter as rock salt has a habit of doing when being applied.

Another major achievement that Dan implemented was the building of the Storm Operations Center. This dedicated area allows for the foreman and the head of operations to be able to constantly monitor storm conditions, truck location and road surface conditions, all from one centralized location. It also allows for the police and fire departments to be in direct contact with Public Works staff, via phone or radio.

Dan also introduced another innovation to operations: turn-by-turn directions for plow and spreader routes to help direct new employees or employees unfamiliar with routes, providing the ability to cover any route in town by any employee. This was done with GPS and iPads mounted in the trucks. This technology has also been applied to the walkway plows. Clearing the walkways of snow is a monumental challenge in Sudbury because, as you know, the walkways do not follow the roads, and many of them run through woods and cross country!

Dan's equipment replacement and budgeting is second to none among other public works departments. Dan has implemented an equipment replacement program that keeps the department's fleet in top operational condition while minimizing the impact on Town finances. This allows the department to maintain a very modern and productive fleet while reducing down time and repairs.

The largest accomplishment that Dan has achieved during his tenure in Sudbury was to get the department nationally accredited through the American Public Works Association, as is noted above. This accomplishment took several years and countless hours, making Sudbury Department of Public Works the third in the State of Massachusetts to reach this goal and number 208, nationally. Again, a major accomplishment!

And, unfortunately for the Town of Sudbury, Dan has decided to move on, all while advancing his career. Dan has chosen to become the next town administrator for the Town of Harvard, Massachusetts. The imprint Dan has left on Sudbury is truly immeasurable. There is no doubt that Dan will do great things in his new role. He will be missed greatly by the Public Works team, as well as all by our other departments in town. Thank you for your hard work and dedication, Dan!

*"Fair Winds and Following Seas"*



## NO WIPES IN THE PIPES!



Many wipes that are labeled as 'flushable' may actually cause damage to your pipes, septic tank, and sewer line. Remember! Toilet paper should be the only thing you flush.

## MOW LIKE A PRO!



Cut off just one-third of the blade of grass each time you mow to maintain a healthy lawn that won't erode.

## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: Phase 1/1A Sewer Project



Sudbury has been exploring wastewater solutions for the Route 20 Business District for years. Septic systems continue to pose environmental risks near Hop Brook and the Town's Municipal Water Supply wells on Raymond Road, and they also limit business growth and relocation. The Town has been working to assess the long-term sustainability of existing septic systems to determine if off-site solutions better protect the environment, drinking water, and support economic development in designated areas.

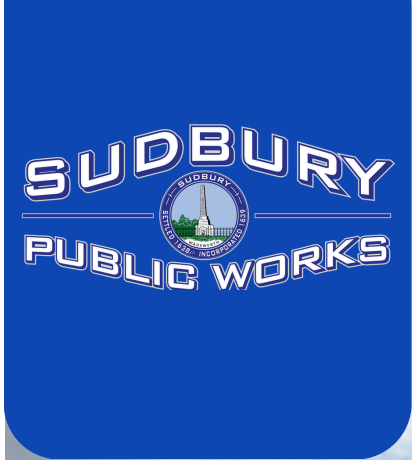
We encourage the community to visit the Phase 1/1A Project webpage to learn more: <https://sudbury.ma.us/cpw/phase-1-1a/> and view a video about the project at <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/Km9xCmAx6N1jW8ai/>.



### Did you know?

Running sprinklers at night reduces evaporation, allowing your lawn to absorb more water. Keep your lawn healthy and conserve water.

**SUDBURY**  
PUBLIC WORKS



# SUDBURY PUBLIC WORKS

## OUT AND ABOUT



### GOODNOW LIBRARY TOUCH-A-TRUCK

The Sudbury Department of Public Works participated in the July 10 Goodnow Library Touch-A-Truck event at Curtis Middle School. The event was held in the middle of a heat wave; however, it did not deter folks from attending. The kids (and Parents!) loved to climb into the cabs of the equipment and pretend to operate and drive the heavy equipment. The event was well attended not only by Sudbury residents, but also by residents of surrounding towns. Not only is this a fun event for the kids, but it also serves as an educational session for the residents, as we can explain what and how the equipment serves to make their town safer and a more desirable place to live and raise a family. Each piece of equipment was staffed by one of our Public Works employees to assist with access to the cab and to answer any questions. We are already looking forward to the next event, Public Safety Day, later in the Fall.

### SUDBURY'S FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

We participated in Sudbury's Fourth of July Parade with seven entries! We won first place with our Wadsworth replica monument! We had three team members walking the parade route handing out candy and water bottles to the most enthusiastic attendees. Along with our entries, the Towns of Wayland and Hudson as well as the City of Framingham DPW's were all well represented.





## 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.](#)



## DEPARTMENT TRAINING Precision Takes Practice

On Friday, July 12, the department held an in-house training session. This was not only an event to showcase some of the more talented operators, but it was also an opportunity for other members of our team to experience what it takes to operate with some degree of precision.

There were three events in total that required the use of different equipment. The “checkers” event required the backhoe operator to pick up tree sections that were 15 inches in diameter and place them in a 20-inch square and then move them back to their original spot. The event was timed and there were penalties awarded for placing the “round” on a line. The times ranged from 2 minutes and 27 seconds all the way up to 29 minutes and 59 seconds!

Another event required the use of our mini excavator. Operators were challenged to pick up 5 softballs from a 4-foot square sand box and place the balls in a container. The event was timed and the amount of sand that was placed with the balls was weighed. Penalties were assessed for any softballs that were dropped. The third event required the operator to use a skid steer and push a 6-foot log through a 10-foot “alley”. The “alley” was 50 feet long. At the end of the alley the operator had to turn the log around and push it back to its original starting point. The alley was marked off in 10-foot sections. Points were deducted each time the log touched the line in each section.

In all events the operator had to exercise proper safety protocols and sound the horn to start and stop the time. The day ended with a BBQ lunch and awards given to the top three in each class as well as a grand prize for the team member with the most points.





## Be Septic Smart!



## Native Plants



## DO YOU NEED TO REPAIR A POTHOLE?

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

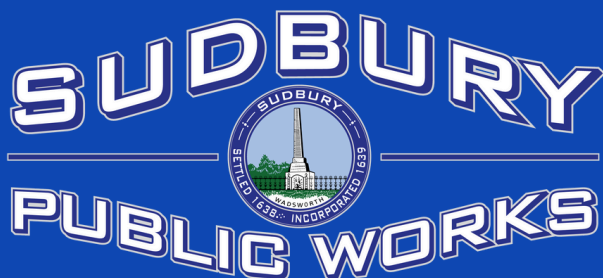
- Send, call or report the location by:
- E-mailing [DPW@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:DPW@sudbury.ma.us)
- Calling **(978) 440-5421**
- Reporting it through SeeClickFix at <https://sudbury.ma.us/sudburyconnect/>.

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.



## SUBSCRIBE TO DEPARTMENT UPDATES

[Department of Public Works Content Updates](#) » [Department of Public Works \(sudbury.ma.us\)](#)



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## STAY CONNECTED!



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