

# Municipal Update

On December 14, 2021, winners and judges of the [Sudbury Sweater Throwdown](#) gathered for an outdoor Reception & Award Presentation, MC'ed by Town Manager Hayes. Thank you to all the participants and judges for sharing your creativity and good cheer with Sudbury! To see all the winning entries and more, please visit the [Sweater Throwdown](#) page.



## Prepare for Season Changes

**BY HENRY L. HAYES, JR.,  
TOWN MANAGER**

This winter, like all others, calls for purposeful preparation. Unfortunately and fortunately, this past December arrived in a more gentle way than what normally occurs. Think about it, December 2021 temperatures were not as low as they could have been and that has allowed some ...OK me... to be a little bit more relaxed in my preparation for winter.

*Continued on next page.*

## Inside:

Tax Exemptions

Rodenticide Dangers

Love.Give.Feed

Historic Preservation  
Plan

### From the Select Board

Sewataro/Liberty Ledge

Town Historian

Goodnow Library

Culverts

Town Meeting

## Prepare for Season Changes...

*continued*

Some of the things that we normally would do include, preparing the outside and inside for the harder parts of winter. If you haven't done so already, it's not too late.

While talking to a few people, I realize that I am not the only one who is still preparing for season change. In fact, some people are preparing for other types of seasons beyond going from fall to winter and winter to times of frozen solid earth and precipitation. Most households use a checklist to prepare their home for winter. Even if it is not a physical list, we all likely have some of these on our lists, but while we do that, let's examine season change in a different way:

- Check your home's heating and air conditioning system, ensure filters are changed, seal up the seams and drafty areas;
  - Are there temperature changes that occur for us emotionally in the harsher parts of winter? What can you do to prepare to mitigate that?
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors;
  - Are you attuned to the factors that should alert you? During times of scams and viruses, can you recognize them before being tricked?
- Make sure your attic doesn't become a winter palace for unwanted guests;
  - Guard your heart and mind from thoughts that invade and torment you. Use healthy distractions when memories of old, and other potentially disruptive thoughts creep in.
- Check your trees, some may be at risk of snapping or falling;
  - Do we know our breaking point? Are there too many items that would weigh you down? What needs to be trimmed away in order to keep things in the upright position?
- Prepare Your Vehicle; tires, Booster cables, flares, tire pump, and a bag of sand or cat litter (for traction);
  - Make sure you are ready for direction changes, you are equipped to give and receive energy transfers, and don't lose traction on your path forward.
- Food pantry evaluation: what is on the shelves, is it still good, enough of the right items, easy to prepare if power is out and won't spoil?
  - Plan for digesting the right materials and fuel for your mind.
- Outdoor clothing: wear a tightly woven, preferably wind-resistant coat or jacket; inner layers of light, warm clothing; mittens; hats; scarves; and waterproof boots;
  - Don't allow yourself to be overly exposed to the elements in social media and other venues that may call for some level of insulation. Remember, it's cold out there sometimes...
- Winter adjustments for pets, protect their paws from harmful ice melt treatments, ensure they cannot escape and get stranded outside, dry them thoroughly upon return inside the house.
  - The environment and additives, sometimes meant for safety of one entity may in fact be a hazard to another, think about unintended consequences of your actions
- Stay in contact with those that have special needs, physical and cognitive limitations may add challenges in the winter.
  - Ensure safety is extended beyond yourself, think about the impacts others may encounter, and provide safe haven when needed... someone may need a helping hand this season.

Thank you for taking time to consider the various aspect of preparing for season changes. Be careful and attentive this season.

For tips from the Sudbury Health Department, please visit: <https://sudbury.ma.us/nurse/?p=602>

# TOWN MANAGER OFFICE HOURS

Join Town Manager  
**Henry L. Hayes, Jr.** at  
the next virtual open  
office hours - an  
opportunity for  
residents to talk  
about issues of  
interest or concern.

**SATURDAY, FEB. 12**



[sudbury.ma.us/TMOH](https://sudbury.ma.us/TMOH)



Becoming a poll worker is a great way to step up for our community and enable more vulnerable or immunocompromised poll workers to stay home on Election Day. Plus, Sudbury poll workers are paid!

**LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP TO**

# BECOME A POLL WORKER

[sudbury.ma.us/clerk/?p=3310](https://sudbury.ma.us/clerk/?p=3310)





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# SUDBURY SWEATER THROWDOWN SPONSORS

Sudbury  
Historical  
Commission



THE WAYSIDE INN.  
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**THANK YOU, SPONSORS!**



**Most Sudbury**



**Most Retro**

# Tax Exemptions

BY CYNTHIA GERRY,  
DIRECTOR OF ASSESSING

The Fiscal Year 2022 Statutory Exemption filing season is well underway. Our Office is currently accepting applications for M.G.L. c 59 sec 5 exemptions and will continue to do so through April 1, 2022. The following exemption types are among the included categories: Disabled Veteran; Surviving Spouse/limited financial assets; Visually Impaired (legally blind); Certain Seniors over age 65/with limited income and assets.



In addition, the Community Preservation Surcharge Exemption filing season is also underway. The Community Preservation Act (CPA) which was adopted by Sudbury voters in March of 2002 establishes a funding source financed by surcharge revenues, and the Commonwealth of MA (with matching funds), for the purpose of open space, historical preservation and community housing projects and purchases. The amount of the surcharge applied to residential tax bills is just under 3% of the residential tax. One of the provisions of the CPA is an allowance for exemption of the charge for certain moderate-income seniors, and low-income non-seniors.

Applications and program brochures are available to on the [Assessor's Office webpage](#) by email request: [assessors@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:assessors@sudbury.ma.us) or telephone request: 978-639-3393

## What Is An Exemption?

As used in the context of real estate taxes, an exemption is a release from the obligation to pay all or a portion of the taxes assessed on certain real property. Exemptions are conferred by the state legislature (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5) on particular categories of persons or property. The categories of persons on whom exemptions are conferred are listed below, together with an explanation of the eligibility requirements for each. Exemptions are not abatements in that they do not affect the valuation of the property, but simply reduce the taxes owed. \*\*All exemptions are subject to domiciliary requirements.

# FY22 Exemptions *continued*

## **Applications**

Applications are available at the assessors' office on the first floor of the Flynn Building. An application must be filed with the assessors, each year on or before April 1st. Exemptions are processed once the actual bill is generated for the fiscal year. The filing of the exemption application does not stay the collection of the tax, which should be paid as assessed. An exemption, even if received in prior years, is not automatically conferred but must be specifically acted upon by the Board of Assessors. The Assessors' action is discretionary only insofar as they determine that an applicant, according to the documentation he or she provides, does or does not meet the eligibility requirements.

## **Documentation**

As exemptions are granted only for the primary residence, and as some exemptions are age dependent and/or means tested, an applicant must provide whatever information the assessors deem to be reasonably required to establish eligibility. The information that an applicant may be requested to furnish includes, but is not limited to: (1) birth certificates, (2) evidence of domicile and occupancy, (3) income tax, (4) bank statements.

## **EXEMPTION PROGRAMS**

### **Clause 17E - Surviving Spouse/Minor Child or Elderly Persons**

**FY 2022 Benefit:** \$330.59

**Eligibility:** As of July 1st of the tax year (7/1/2021), an individual must be either (1) a surviving spouse or surviving minor child who owns and occupies the property as his or her domicile; or (2) a person at least 70 years old who has owned and occupied the property as his or her domicile for at least the five preceding years.

**Income:** There are no income guidelines for Clause 17E.

**Whole Estate:** The applicant's whole estate (cash, bank balances, stocks, bonds, some types of personal property, etc.) excluding the value of the domicile cannot exceed \$63,339.

**Clause 22 - Veterans** (Minimum service connected disability rating of 10%) Chapters 260 & 310 of the Acts of 2006 expand the definition of eligible veterans and the benefit amounts.

**FY 2022 Benefit:** from \$400.00 to full exemption, depending on the nature and extent of disability.

**Eligibility:** As of July 1st of the tax year (7/1/2021), an individual must have lived in Massachusetts for at least 2 preceding years or must have been domiciled in Massachusetts for at least six months prior to entering the service and must be either (1) a veteran or spouse, or surviving spouse. The eligible veteran must have a war time service connected disability of at least ten percent (as verified by the Veterans Administration); or have been awarded the Purple Heart. The parent of a serviceperson who lost his or her life during war time is entitled to exemption.

**Income:** There are no income requirements for Clause 22.

**Whole Estate:** There are no whole estate requirements for Clause 22.

### **Clause 37A - Blind Persons**

**FY 2022 Benefit:** \$500.00

**Eligibility:** As of July 1st of the tax year (7/1/2021), applicants must own and occupy the property their primary domicile. A certificate of blindness from the Commission for the Blind must be provided annually with the application for exemption.

## EXEMPTION PROGRAMS *Continued*

**Income:** There are no income requirements for Clause 37A.

**Whole Estate:** There are no whole estate requirements for Clause 37A.

### Clause 41C - Elderly

**FY 2022 Benefit:** \$1,000.00

**Eligibility:** As of July 1st of the tax year (7/1/2021), applicants must be at least 65 years old, must have owned and occupied the property for at least the five preceding years, and must have been domiciled in Massachusetts for at least ten years.

**Income:** (Calendar Year 2020 Income) If single \$29,258, if married \$43,887. The income maximum is following a social security exclusion: of \$4,911 for a single tax filer; or \$7,367 for married couple.

**Whole Estate:** The applicant's whole estate, excluding the value of the domicile, cannot exceed \$ 58,519 if single; or \$ 80,462 if married.

### Clause 42

Exemption for surviving spouse of a police officer or firefighter killed in the line of duty.

### Clause 43

Exemption for minor children of a police officer or firefighter killed in the line of duty.

### Clause 18

Persons who, by virtue of age, financial condition and physical infirmity, or activated military status, are facing unforeseen hardship in a given year, may seek tax relief from the Board of Assessors in the form of a Clause 18 exemption. The decision to grant a Clause 18 exemption is made solely at the discretion of the Assessors.

## TAX DEFERRAL PROGRAMS

Unlike exemptions which discharge a portion of a tax obligation, approved deferrals offer a mechanism to delay property tax payments. Deferred taxes ultimately must be paid to the community along with associated accrued interest. The initial application process requires multiple steps including submission of a tax deferral recovery agreement, signed not only by the applicant, but by co-owners, remaindermen and mortgagees. Upon receipt of the completed application and agreement, the Sudbury Board of Assessors, then prepares and records a lien at the Registry of deeds.

### Clause 41A - Senior Tax Deferral Program

**Amount:** Any or all of the fiscal year taxes assessed may be deferred, with interest, until such time as the property is sold or transferred, or until the demise of the owner, at which point the taxes and interest must be paid. The cumulative total of the taxes deferred cannot exceed fifty percent of the applicant's share of the assessed value of the property. Entry into tax deferral creates a lien on the property, which is recorded by the Town at the Registry of Deeds.

**Eligibility:** As of July 1 of the tax year, the applicant must be at least 60 years old.

**Income:** The applicant's gross receipts from all sources in calendar year 2020 cannot have exceeded \$92,000.

**Whole Estate:** There are no whole estate guidelines for Clause 41A.

Presently, deferred tax accumulates, with simple interest at 2%, as a lien on the property until it is sold. If the owner is deceased and the deferral is continued by the surviving spouse, repayment is not required during the lifetime of the surviving spouse. If the deferral is not continued by the surviving spouse, or if the property is sold, the deferred taxes plus interest at 16% shall be paid by the estate. No sale or transfer can be consummated during the lifetime of the taxpayer, unless the deferred taxes and interest due are paid in full.

### Clause 18A - Temporary Financial Hardship Tax Deferral Program

The temporary hardship deferral gives taxpayers the ability to defer up to 100% of their property taxes. To qualify, taxpayers, regardless of age, with a demonstrated financial hardship and lack the resources to pay the taxes because of unemployment, illness, change to active military status, or other reason may defer all or part of their property taxes for up to three consecutive years. The deferred taxes plus interest of 8% per annum must be paid with the first of up to five annual installments due two years after the last year of the deferral. If the property is sold or upon the passing of the applicant during the deferral period, taxes plus interest must be paid as well. Interest at an annual rate of 8% per annum is charged on the Clause 18A deferred taxes until the property is sold, or death of the applicant. The interest rate then increases to 16% per annum until the deferred taxes are paid.

# Where the Wild Things Are Wetland Creatures in Winter

BY LORI CAPONE,  
CONSERVATION COORDINATOR

During the spring, summer, and fall our conservation areas are teeming with life, from the smallest insect to the bobcat family that has been frequenting Sudbury this year. But as the cold sets in and ice forms on our wetlands, many of our birds fly south, our mammals hibernate, and a blanket of silence envelops our woodlands. But where do our wetland creatures go when their habitats turn to ice?

Many of the wetland's reptile and amphibian species go through a process called **brumation**. Brumation is a process that allows species to lower their heart rates, body temperature, metabolism, and activity which allows them to survive in suspended animation. Their energy needs are so reduced in this stage that they do not eat and barely breathe.



*Courtesy of Appalachianhistory.net*

As winter approaches, our aquatic turtles borrow into the mud and into the banks of our ponds. Terrestrial turtles burrow underground.

Fluctuations in water elevation, once these species find their overwintering grounds, can have devastating effects, causing them to suffocate if water levels rise or freeze from exposure if the water levels drop. Some turtles have even evolved to become freeze tolerant, meaning they can survive for some time even if their body fluids freeze. While others use a process called supercooling, where they can keep their body fluids from freezing, even when temperatures drop below the freezing point.

Frogs can overwinter under water, burying themselves in the sediment, and can exchange oxygen through their skin. When dissolved oxygen levels in the water column drops below critical levels, frog's survival becomes more challenging. In those instances, frogs will travel to colder water in order to further lower their metabolism which will result in increasing the amount of oxygen in their blood. Terrestrial frogs and toads will burrow under logs and leaf litter. But some species, such as the wood frog, actually tolerate freezing by using high concentrations of sugar to act as an antifreeze in their organs to keep them alive while other parts of their bodies become frozen. As temperatures warm up, their heartbeat and breathing return to normal and they spring back to life.

This is just one reason why the Conservation Commission protects wetlands as well as the uplands adjacent to wetlands in their natural state. Downed logs and leaf litter, while unsightly to some, are critical elements needed for the survival of many.



The insulation of a tree-trunk home allows wildlife to survive high summer and low winter temperature extremes. Tree cavities and loose bark are used by many animals to store their food supplies, while insects living inside the dead wood eat thousands of forest pests, which can harm living trees. Our deer even eat the lichen growing on the trunks.

## Snags to Riches

If you attend a Conservation Commission meeting you may hear them discuss snags. Where a project proponent may find an upright decaying tree, dead and unsightly, the Commission finds it teeming with life and a critical component of a healthy forest ecosystem. Wildlife use dead trees in nearly every stage of decay for one or more critical stages of their life. Many animals, including small mammals and birds, use tree cavities to create their homes. Thirty-five species of birds in the Northeast rely on snags to build their homes. As trees decay, they attract insects, mosses, and fungi to feast on their deadwoods, which in turn creates a bountiful banquet for wildlife to dine on. Tall snags serve as look-outs or "crow's nests" from which raptors scope out their next meal while the nooks and crannies provide their prey refuge to hide and/or a place to hide their food for a future meal. And if it served no other purpose, the slow decay returns vital nutrients back to the soil for future generations to sprout from. Hardwood trees tend to make better nesting habitats while softer wood is better for food foraging. In wetlands, a group of standing dead trees are quickly developed into double and triple decker housing for Great Blue Heron, called a rookery. Trees and branches that fall into a pond or river also create critical habitat for breeding, shelter, and feeding.

After a snag falls, and becomes a log, it encourages a new ecosystem to begin. It becomes home to fungi, earthworms, and firefly larvae and shelter for frogs, toads, and amphibians. Retaining snags has become an increasingly important part of maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Without these snags and downed logs, our forests would not be able to sustain the rich diversity of wildlife that they do.

So if you have a dead or dying tree, consider if it can be left to support wildlife. If you have room in your landscape, plan for at least one snag, even if a small one. Keep an old or damaged tree, as well as tall shrubs near it to provide wildlife habitat. You can also make roosting slits for bats by making a slit at least eight inches deep, an inch or more wide, 15 feet high, and angled upward on the south side of a snag. Dying or dead trees often can remain intact for many years. If you're unsure about the safety of a tree, consult with an arborist. Perhaps the tree is still sound, but merely weak branches need removing. When you take a tree or branches down, leave them nearby on the ground to rot and provide habitat, if possible. Then replace the lost nesting cavities with nesting boxes, appropriate for the species in your landscape. Watching the wildlife a snag can bring into your landscape, will enrich your life as well as the enhance species diversity in our forested landscape.



## ***Not a Creature Was Stirring*** **The Dangers of Rodenticide**

As we shutter our homes up to stave off the cold, other creatures find refuge in the warm environments we create. So what do we do when we see that cute field mouse scamper across the kitchen floor, we go to the closet and place poison where we know this mouse will venture. Problem solved, right?

Some may have some guilt thinking about what happened to that poor mouse, but just like the nursery rhyme, *There Once Was a Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*, that may not be the end of the story. Once the mouse has feasted, he ventures back to his nest, where perhaps an owl sees an easy midnight snack. The owl gets more than he bargained for with a belly full of rodenticide.

*There once was an owl, who swallowed a mouse;  
Swallowed the mouse, that came out of the house.*

*He swallowed the mouse, who swallowed some  
bait*

*Swallowed the bait, put down in hate*

*I don't know why he swallowed the bait...but now,  
what is their fate?*

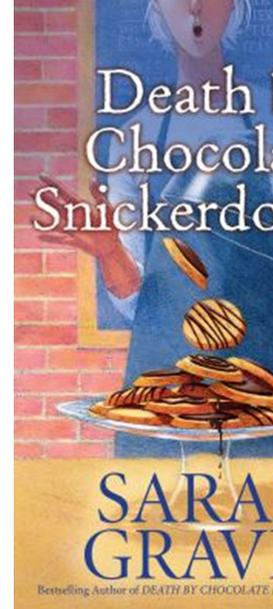
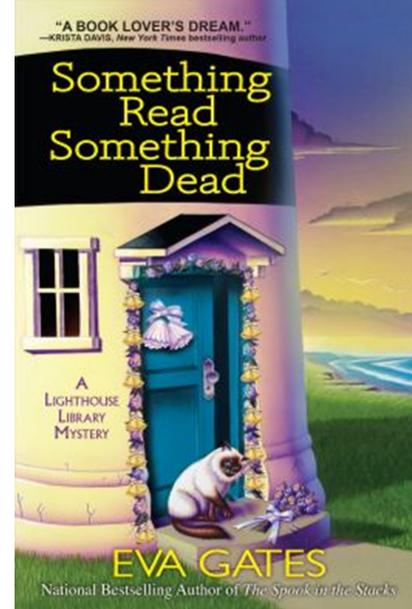
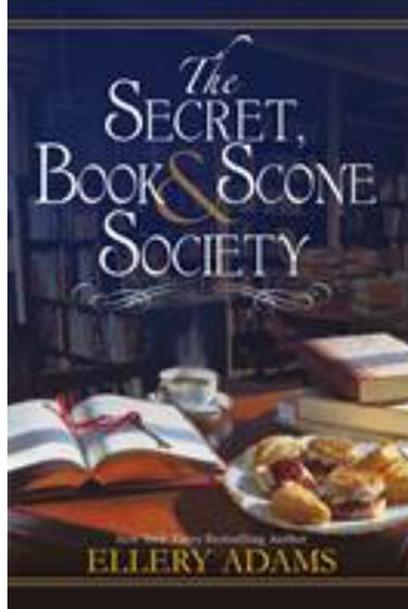
This nursery rhyme rings true for far too many of our avian friends, and continues up the food chain. And who can stop at just one mouse?

In the worst of cases, rodenticides which are anticoagulants, can cause animals to bleed to death internally. Sub-lethal impacts include suppression of the immune system, reduced overall health, and changes in behavior that can negatively impact their survivability.

Ok I get it, the mouse must go, but how can you protect to home without causing harm others? Firstly, prevent easy access to your house by sealing entrances or holes in your foundation. Seal all potential entrances with wire mesh, steel wool, or expanding foam. Secondly, eliminate the food source. Clean up after yourselves, don't leave those dirty dishes in the sink till morning. Also clean up after your pets or make sure the left over bird seed in the closet is sealed. Thirdly, let the food chain work for you. Install an owl box in your yard to naturally keep your rodent population in check. If you find trapping is still necessary, use other forms of traps, such as snap or glue traps.

As humans, we are uniquely capable of problem solving. Have a heart...Out smart!





# Goodnow Library: Home Away From Home

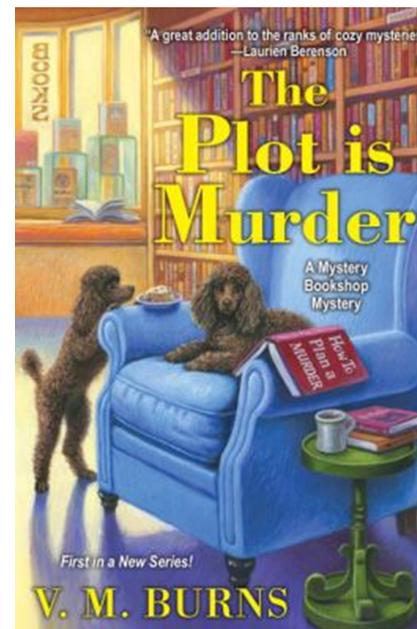
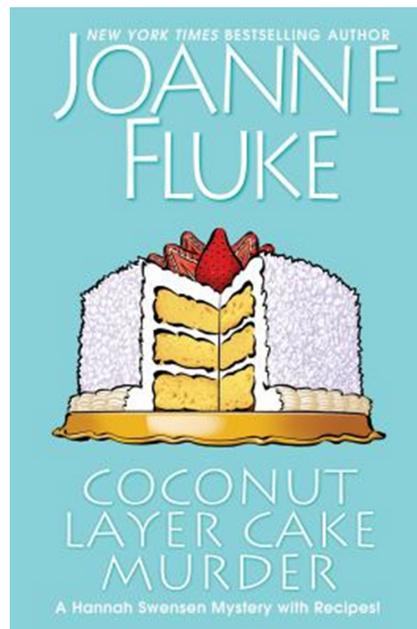
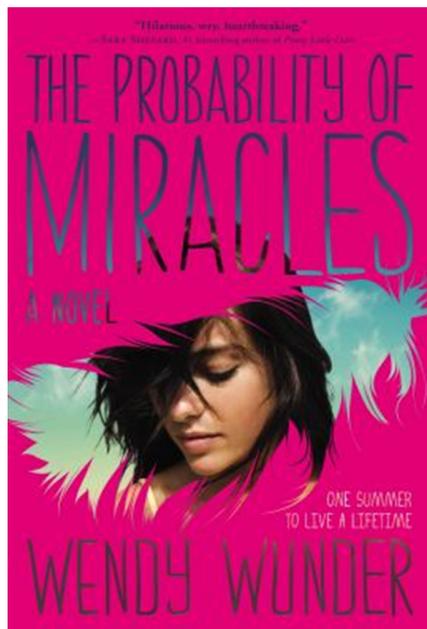
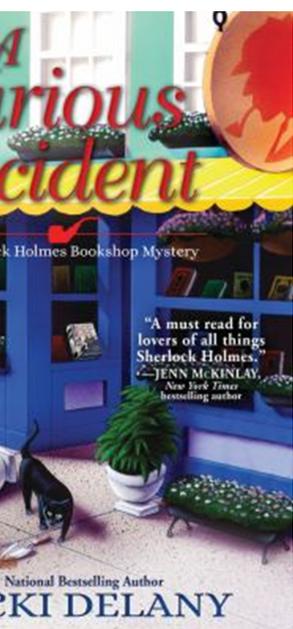
**BY ESMÉ GREEN,  
GOODNOW LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

Had enough of being home? Looking for a comfortable alternative? Try coming to the library and reading a magazine, finding a distraction-free, inspirational setting to “work from home.” The library has everything you need: free Wi-Fi, quiet work space, comfortable seating, and of course, plenty of reading material.

Not only do we have books for every age and interest, there is so much you can access without ever coming into the building. We have many [digital resources](#), where you can download an [e-book](#), [an audiobook](#) or a [magazine](#). You can even stream [movies](#), [TV](#) and [music](#). And as always, everything is free.

Perhaps you need some reading inspiration or encouragement. See these lists for [Cozy Mysteries](#), [Mental Health & Well-Being](#) for teens, and [Social and Emotional picture books](#) for little ones.

**~WE ARE HERE FOR YOU~**





## LOVE.GIVE.FEED

Neighborhood Restaurant Gift Card Drive

### *Supporting Our Sudbury Neighbors*

**BY BETHANY HADVAB, LICSW  
TOWN SOCIAL WORKER**

#### Love.Give.Feed Sudbury Restaurant Gift Card Drive

Sudbury resident, Gabrielle Henken, is running the community's third **Love.Give.Feed** Sudbury restaurant gift card drive, sharing:

*The pandemic continues to take a toll on our friends and neighbors. Our local restaurants are struggling as customers stay home and staff and supply shortages impact their ability to do business. At the same time, too many of our neighbors continue to suffer from food insecurity.*

*Thanks to the kindness of our friends in and around Sudbury, the **Love.Give.Feed** program raised over \$70,000 to help feed those in need while supporting our local restaurants. By participating in this program, the donations made will be used to purchase gift cards to local restaurants and businesses to be provided to and used by community members in need (allocated by Bethany Hadvab, the Sudbury Town Social Worker). We once again ask for your support of this truly difference-making program.*

To donate, please follow the [Love.Give.Feed Facebook page](#) where detailed information will be provided shortly. If you are not on Facebook and would like information and updates, please email [Gabrielle.Henken@gmail.com](mailto:Gabrielle.Henken@gmail.com).

Since 2020, the Social Work Office, with the help of HOPEsudbury, has connected Sudbury residents with tens of thousands of dollars of restaurant gift cards. These cards have not only helped to address food insecurity, but have also been a source of self care. Residents have reported that the gift cards have given them something to look forward to, allowed them to try new things during the pandemic, made them feel connected and cared for by the community during a time of isolation, and reduced the stressor of meal prep for busy families and individuals.

The majority of gift cards have been distributed, and the need is still significant. Additionally, the food stamps/SNAP program is soon set to reduce monthly benefits that were part of an emergency package during the pandemic.

If you or a resident you know in Sudbury or in the Sudbury Metco Program would benefit from free restaurant gift cards, please email: [socialworker@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:socialworker@sudbury.ma.us) or call 978-440-5476.

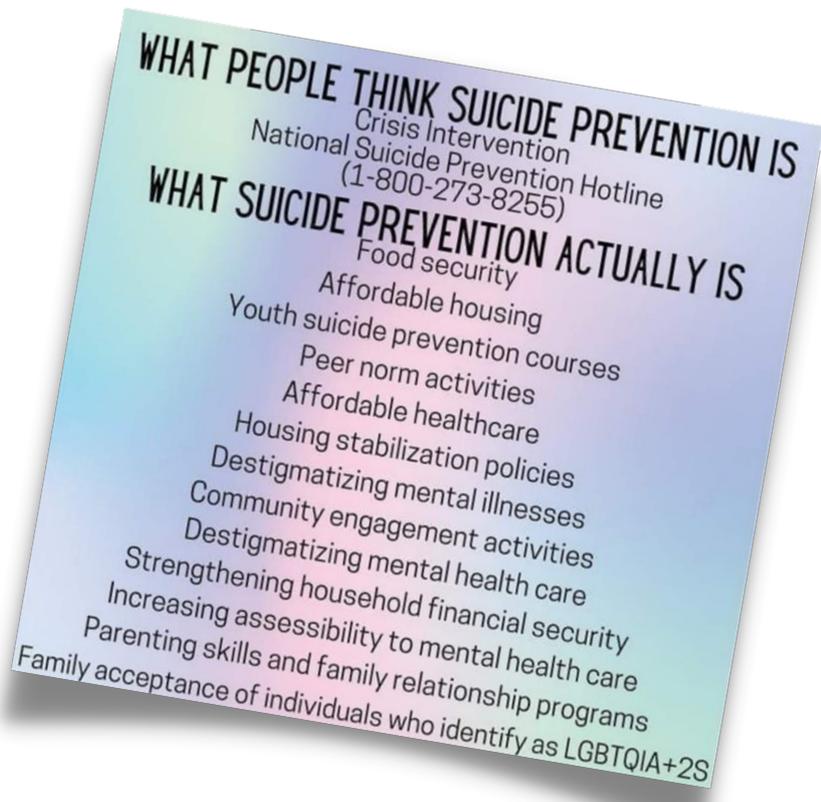
#### Sudbury CARE Pantry

The pantry provides personal care, laundry, and cleaning items to residents in need. The Pantry has seen an increase in the number of requests over the past few months, and is currently in need of many items. Donations can be dropped off at the front entrance of St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church (1 Morse Road, Sudbury,) or ordered from their [Amazon Wish List](#).

If you or someone you know could benefit from the CARE pantry, or if you would like to contact them by email: [pantry@st-elizabeths.org](mailto:pantry@st-elizabeths.org).

## American Rescue Plan Act

The American Rescue Plan Act provided federal funding to municipalities in Massachusetts. The primary intention of the Act is to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic. Among its goals is to “fight the pandemic and support families and businesses struggling with its public health and economic impacts,” and “to begin building a strong and equitable recovery.” More information can be found [here](#). The Board of Health has compiled local and timely data about the impacts of the pandemic, and has made recommendations for the uses of ARPA Funding. We strongly encourage residents to read the proposal and accompanying research to better understand the breadth of needs in our community. The full proposal with accompanying research can be accessed [here](#).



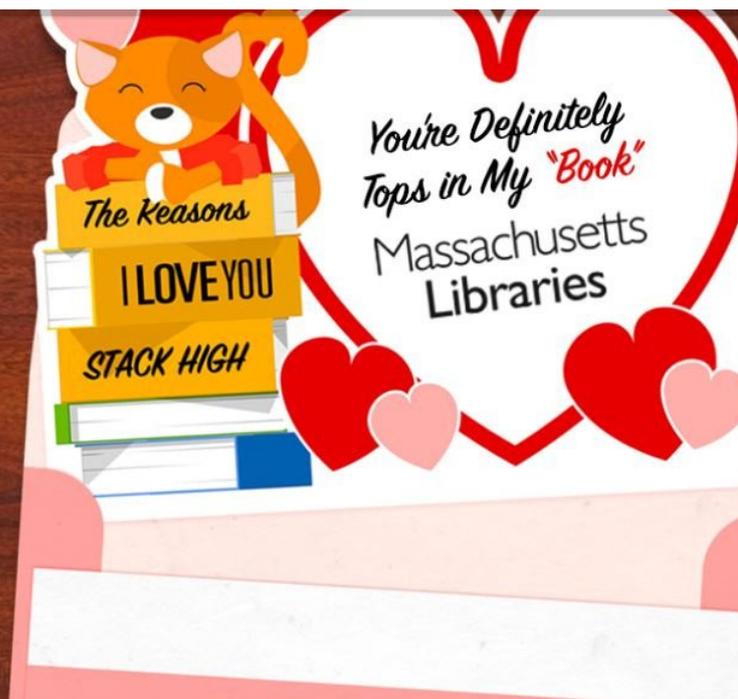
BOH Social Work Office Outputs		
	Pandemic	2019
Referrals (average per month)	426.38	200.25
Community Meetings to Collaborate and Share Resources (average per month)	16.29	8.08
Trainings (average per month)	6.76	1.34
Total # of people served (average per month)	150.9	121

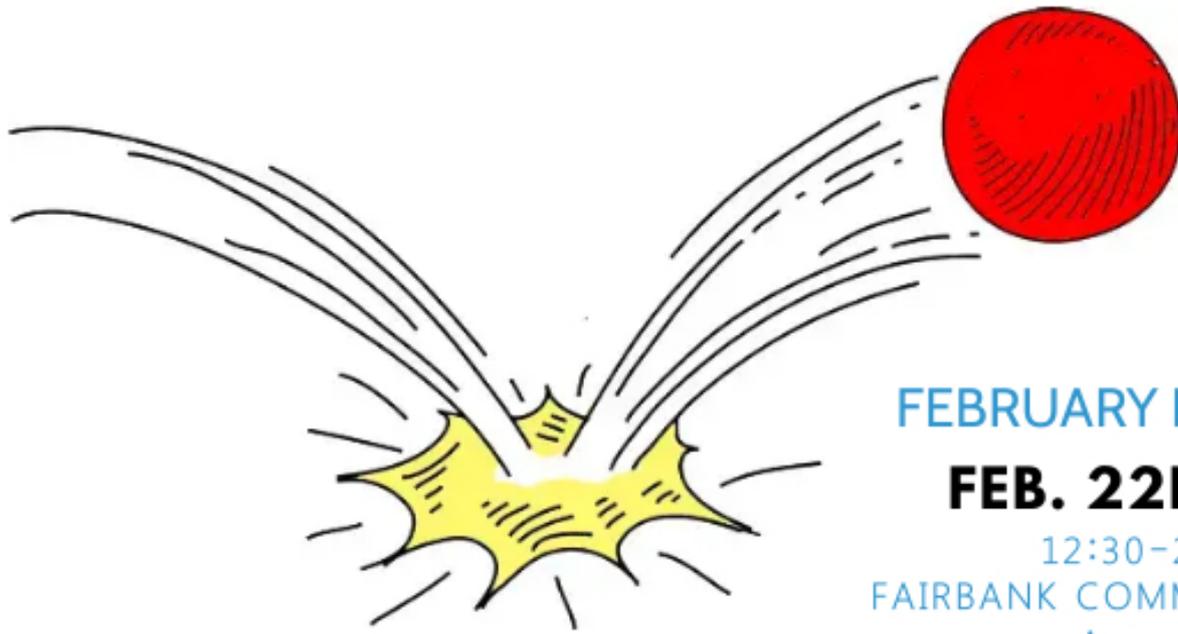
Excerpt from the [ARPA Funds Social Work Department Proposal](#).

## LOVE LETTERS FOR THE LIBRARY

Here in Massachusetts, we LOVE our Libraries. Massachusetts Libraries play a vital role in ensuring all residents have equal access to information. Libraries are meeting places, community centers, and resources for everyone. During our busy everyday lives, we don't always get a chance to let our libraries know how much we care about them. But, in recognition of Valentine's Day, residents from across the Commonwealth have come together to show libraries some love. Here, you'll find a showcase of images and videos, featuring all the things to love about local libraries.

[UPLOAD YOUR VALENTINE](#)





FEBRUARY BREAK WEEK

**FEB. 22ND-25TH**

12:30-2:00PM

FAIRBANK COMMUNITY CENTER

Ages 7-11

\$100

# TRICK SHOTS

# FOR KIDS!

**EACH DAY PRESENTS A NEW SET OF  
TRICK SHOT CHALLENGES!**

Kids will try trick shots using water bottles, basketballs, ping pong balls and all manner of crazy items to see if they can master these trick shot challenges!

Contact Christine Sturniolo at [sturnioloc@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:sturnioloc@sudbury.ma.us) or visit [www.sudburyrec.com](http://www.sudburyrec.com) for more details and to register!

# Planning Department News

ADAM DUCHESNEAU, AICP  
PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

## Communitywide Historic Preservation Plan

Sudbury is currently in the process of preparing a Communitywide Historic Preservation Plan under the leadership of the Historical Commission and the Historic Districts Commission, with support from the Planning and Community Development Department. The Historic Preservation Plan is an implementation action called for in the 2021 Sudbury Master Plan and is funded through a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission matched with some of the Town's Community Preservation Act funds.

Goals of the Historic Preservation Plan are recognition of the role that historic buildings and landscape resources play in Sudbury's identity, character, and quality of life, and identification of ways in which the Town's historic character can be preserved and enhanced through cooperative action.



Over the past few months, background information has been collected on historic resources and various preservation planning topics in Sudbury. Currently, the Town's preservation planning consultant, Heritage Strategies, LLC, is reaching out to local stakeholders for input on historic preservation issues and interests. Stakeholders include Town boards, commissions, and committees; local non-profit organizations; and Town staff.

On Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 7:00 PM, the Town will conduct a public forum on the Historic Preservation Plan via Zoom as part of the planning process to engage interested residents, provide information, and gather input. Also in February, an online survey will be posted to gather information on the interests and preferences of residents. We invite your participation in these events and other future processes. It is anticipated draft recommendations for the plan will be prepared in March and April of 2022, and additional outreach and a second public forum will be held to review them. The final plan is expected to be completed by the end of June of 2022.

Please keep an eye out for more information on the Historic Preservation Plan in the coming months. Feel free to reach out to members of the Historical Commission or the Planning and Community Development Department as well. Thank you!

# Progress on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Design

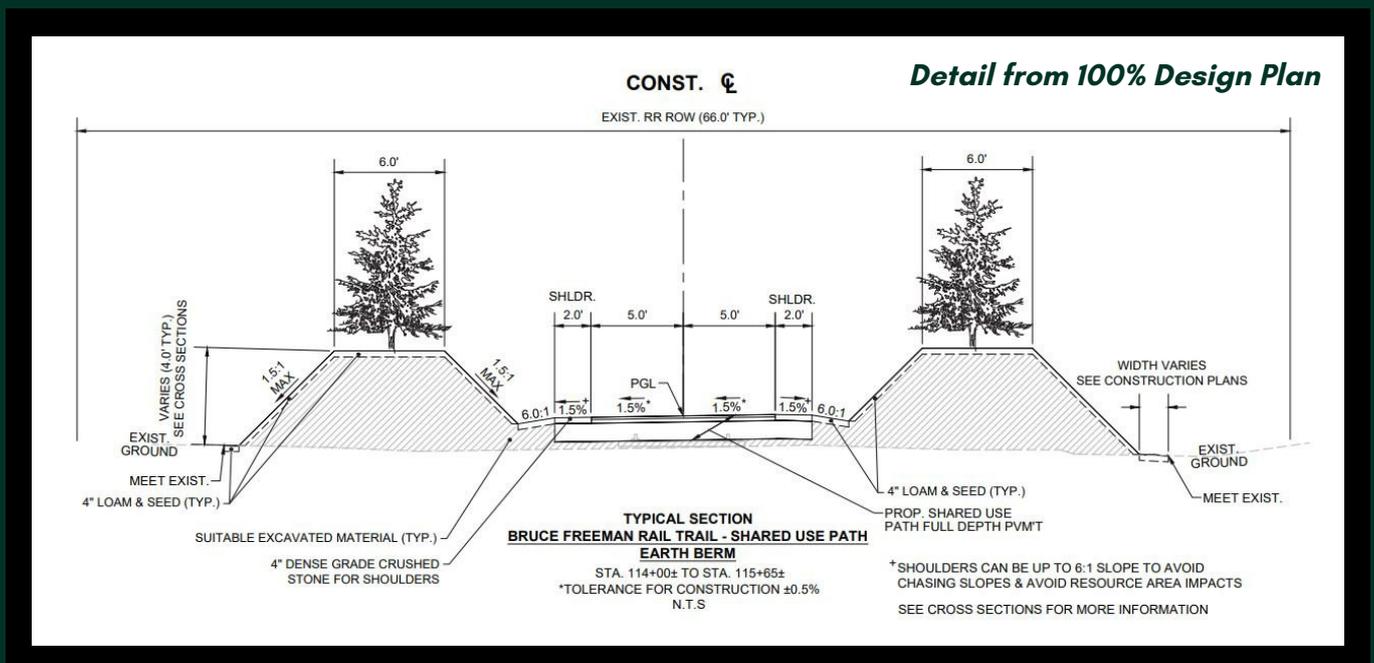
Additional significant progress continues to be made to advance the final design of the BFRT Project. The following milestones have been achieved and the project is on track for design completion in June of 2022 and construction contract advertising later in 2022.



- The 100% design package was submitted to MassDOT on January 18, 2022. The [100% Plans](#) are available on the project webpage.
- The NOI was submitted to the Conservation Commission and the hearing opened on December 10, 2021 and will be continued on February 7, 2022. The application documents may be found on the associated Conservation Commission Meeting Pages, in Supporting Materials.
- The Select Board approved the warrant articles associated with the proposed Town Meeting votes for the ROW process and Town easements/ agreements.

- The Community Preservation Committee approved the warrant articles associated with additional funding for the completion of the BFRT, phase 2D and advancement for extension of the BFRT to the newly acquired former CSX-owned corridor. Town Meeting will consider these funding requests.
- The Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs issued the MEPA Certificate and determined the ENF has adequately described and analyzed the project and its alternatives, assessed its potential environmental impacts, and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is not required.

More information is available on the project webpage: <https://sudbury.ma.us/bfrr>.





## *Santa Tour 2021*

**BY SCOTT NIX,  
CHIEF OF POLICE**

On December 22nd, the Sudbury Police provided mutual aid to our friends from the North Pole, as we had an opportunity to provide Santa safe passage through the streets of Sudbury. Though a few decades may be a recent memory for Santa, it felt a bit longer for many of those residents who grew up in town.

We were so glad to see all the smiling faces as Santa made his way past so many of our friends and families. This is an event we hope to continue and improve upon for many years to come.

We wanted to thank all of the residents and businesses who were able to make this a very special event!

# Senior Center News

BY DEBRA GALLOWAY,  
SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR

## Tax Return Preparation Assistance

The Sudbury Senior Center is offering AARP Sponsored Tax Return Preparation Assistance again this year beginning in March 2022. Our volunteer facilitator Emil Ragonis will be joined by Fred Taylor and Dave Calder. All are AARP trained and certified volunteer Tax preparers. Appointments can be scheduled as of Friday, February 4 at 9:00 AM. Please contact Chery Finley or Tia Kelly at 978-443-3055 or [finleyc@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:finleyc@sudbury.ma.us) or [kellyv@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:kellyv@sudbury.ma.us).



For people who do not have brokerage accounts, help starts Monday, March 7. For those with brokerage accounts, (including people with stocks), appointments will begin on Monday, March 21.

Be sure to bring the year-end tax documents you got in the mail from banks, pension plans, brokerage accounts, and other sources of income, and a copy of your last year's tax return. Also, bring IRS issued Letter 6475 or Notice 1444-C (to be mailed in early 2022) which indicated the amount of your Third Economic Impact Payment that you received earlier this year.

Plan to arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment time for preregistration.

## Programs and Services

The Sudbury Senior Center continues to offer a variety classes, programs and services. Smaller programs are slowly moving back to in-person at the Senior Center, while some larger classes, and certain groups, continue to meet virtually on Zoom to maximize safety and access. We are looking forward to the continuing decrease in COVID and hope that will result in the ability to bring more programming back to in-person at the Senior Center. In the meantime, we hope you will continue to stop in; everyone is wearing masks and keeping a safe distance. Social contact is so important for all of us!

## Keep in Touch!

Our monthly newsletter is available via postal mail, our Senior Center website, via email and for pickup at the Senior Center. In addition, we deliver newsletters to local town offices, the library and many other locations around town. Residents can receive a paper copy in the mail for no cost (if you would like to receive one, please let us know). Out-of-town individuals can send us a check for \$12.00 (for the year) to receive the newsletter via postal mail. Visit the [Sudbury Email Groups](#) web page to sign up. You will begin to receive the Senior Center monthly newsletters as they are emailed out near the beginning of each month, as well as any Updates that are shared.



## COVID-19 and Flu

Older adults continue to be at higher risk for complications from both COVID-19 and the influenza virus. The Sudbury Board of Health is recommending that older residents get a booster (and flu shot if you haven't already), and follow appropriate CDC guidelines for COVID vaccinations and vaccine boosters. Those who missed the clinics who still need a flu shot can contact the Sudbury Board of Health to learn more at 978-440-5479 or [health@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:health@sudbury.ma.us).

## Emergency Preparation and Planning

Being prepared for emergency situations is important year-round, but certainly autumn is a great time to be ready for the typical issues that may arise during the winter. The Senior Center offers a few services that may assist you in being prepared.

### Severe Weather Preparation

Consider creating a "Go bag" with emergency provisions, extra medications, snacks and water, along with any pet provisions, so that if you need to leave your home due to a weather or other emergency, you will have the basics with you. In addition, having a flashlight, charged cell phone, some emergency non-perishable food and water, emergency phone numbers, and list of medications, as well as copy of your photo ID and other important documents available so that you are ready to shelter in place or move out of your house in

an emergency or power outage. As we get older we are more sensitive to both cold and heat, as well as dehydration. Being prepared can keep you safe.

### Sand Bucket Delivery

Our volunteer Sand Bucket Brigade is getting all geared up! This is a collaborative effort of the Wayside Inn (which donates the empty buckets), the Department of Public Works (which fills the empty buckets with sand), and our Senior Center volunteers who make the deliveries to seniors that request sand. The sand can then be applied by the homeowner to the walkways and driveways to help prevent slips and falls. A huge thank you to all for helping to keep seniors safe.



# Outreach and Information

Ana Cristina Oliveira, Outreach and Information Specialist, provides consultation and assistance to individuals aged 60 and over in the areas of caregiving, food, utilities assistance, housing availability, and information and referral on a variety of other services. She is also available to offer information to family members of older adult residents.



The following are some of the services and resources available:

- SHINE Counseling (Serving the Health Information Needs of Everyone on Medicare)
- Assistance in Applying for SNAP (Food Stamps)
- Used Furniture Assistance
- Legal Assistance/Referral
- Low- Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- BayPath Elder Services Referral
- Transportation Application Assistance
- Caregiver Support
- Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund
- Home Services Referral
- Assisted Living Referral

## Senior Center Volunteers

A huge thank you to all the individuals and groups that continue to make homemade cards for our seniors. These cards bring cheer to the recipients, and help with the isolation many are experiencing through the pandemic. Thank you, thank you!!

Our Senior Center volunteers continue to be a busy group, helping out in so many, many ways. Here are just a few:

### Tech Support

One-on-one technology support is offered to learn how to use Zoom and Facetime. Our volunteers will provide the support via phone call, Zoom, or if possible, in-person at the Senior Center. To request a Tech Support appointment, call Janet Lipkin at 978-639-3223.

### Grocery Shopping

Volunteers do weekly grocery shopping for homebound seniors. Please note that the senior does not accompany the volunteer to the supermarket.

### Goodnow to Go

Goodnow to Go is a collaboration with the Sudbury Senior Center to supply library materials to Sudbury residents (of any age) unable to travel to the Library. A Senior Center volunteer is matched with the patron and will deliver the library materials to the patron's residence, then return them to the library when the circulation period expires. For more information, contact Goodnow's Michael Briody, [mbriody@minlib.net](mailto:mbriody@minlib.net), 978-440-5535.

### Loan Closet

Durable medical equipment is available, on a non-urgent basis, for loan at no cost. Inventory changes all the time but generally includes walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs, tub transfer benches, crutches, knee scooters, transport chairs, canes, plus more! Requests should be made to Janet Lipkin, 978-639-3223. Pick-up & returns/donations of equipment by appointment only.

To learn more about volunteering at the Senior Center, please contact Janet Lipkin at [LipkinJ@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:LipkinJ@sudbury.ma.us) or visit the [Senior Center Website](#).

# Valentine's Day Flash Sale

Kits are  
\$15



January 31st - Februray 7th!

Say "I LOVE YOU" in a unique way!

Whether it is for someone with a green thumb or a gift from/for a child, these one-of-a-kind plants are a great way to surprise someone special!

Just add water and watch your "I LOVE YOU" message grow on the plant! Should grow within 10 days.

Order your "I LOVE YOU" Plant Kits Today!  
Limited Quantities Available!

To reserve your kit, visit [www.sudburyrec.com](http://www.sudburyrec.com)

# FROM THE SELECT BOARD

*Winter 2022*

*Town of Sudbury*

## *Sewataro - Liberty Ledge Update*

**BY BILL SCHINELLER, SELECT BOARD**

In June 2019, Sudbury residents voted to acquire the 44-acre Liberty Ledge (aka 'Sewataro') property near Haynes School, along with profitable Camp Sewataro assets, for the land's assessed value of \$11.27M. Prior to taking ownership in October 2019, the Town conducted a competitive RFP process for a Camp Operator / Property Manager.

The Select Board selected Scott Brody, Board Chair of the American Camp Association, to manage & maintain the property year-round, continue the day camp on summer weekdays, facilitate public access during non-camp hours, and provide revenue to the Town (as opposed to the Town paying for services). Well into the third year, all requirements of the contract have been met or exceeded, with plans for expanded access, including public outdoor swimming. The Select Board and the Property Manager now decide whether to exercise the next term (5 years) of this partnership and expand public access.



The arrangement has proven beneficial to Sudbury, generating \$582,076 in revenue to the Town in its first two years, even while operating through the COVID-19 pandemic. Unlike a housing development, Sewataro's current use does not increase Sudbury's student population, and thus doesn't impact our school budget. Under the current arrangement, the Town incurs zero operating costs, as Sewataro LLC insures, maintains, and makes improvements to the property year-round. For comparison, revenue from the low impact Sewataro small business exceeds the \$144K commercial tax revenue from Sudbury Farms plaza in 2021. Due to the unique public-private partnership, and unlike other recent Town property acquisitions (Johnson Farm, Broadacres, Town Center parcels), Sewataro was opened to the public upon acquisition, and generates significant revenue without impacting the Town's operating budget.

The public now has access to the property's park setting year-round, with the exception of the area used by the camp during summer day camp season. The Property Manager has proposed facilitating public outdoor swimming starting in 2022, along with more access enhancements, and is currently undertaking the necessary permitting.

Sewataro LLC runs the day camp under a special permit granted by the Town to operate the camp as a business on the residentially zoned land as it has for past decades. In 2020, the Town increased the allowed number of camper slots by 50 per session, which the operator offers as scholarships to Sudbury families in need through the Town Social Worker. Over 200 Sudbury families send their children to Camp Sewataro, and with 650 campers allowed per session, tuition from campers outside Sudbury drives revenues.

Sewataro LLC's community liaison has facilitated two large town-wide events each year, free use of facilities by over 30 groups, including scouts, HOPE Sudbury fundraisers and Food Pantry drives. LS Adult Education classes and several local businesses have used the property for outdoor performances and classes at no charge, with the Town's permission. A public calendar of Sewataro reservations is maintained on the Town website. The Town is considering a nominal fee schedule for facility reservations going forward, to keep in line with Park and Recreation fees.

The Day Camp Operator and Management of Real Property contract covered an initial 3-year term from Fall 2019 through September 2022, with option for two 5-year renewals. The Town and the Operator must notify each other of agreement to renew by June 30, 2022.

Renewing the existing contract for the next 5-year term would mean that Sewataro LLC would continue to manage the property and the Town budget would not incur operating costs in upcoming Fiscal Year 2023 and through September 2027.

An early decision to renew for the next 5 years would give lead time to Sewataro LLC to make investments in the property to facilitate enhanced public access in 2022 as outlined in their proposal. The Select Board makes the decision to renew the contract.

As of this writing, the Select Board has not yet voted to renew the contract for the next 5 years. A majority of the Board has not indicated support for public outdoor swimming at Sewataro in 2022 due to pending water quality review underway. A citizens' group has put forth a Town Meeting article for May 2022 to fund a land use consultant to study best use of the property. The Select Board has put forth a similar article. The Board's proposed \$100K study focused on Sewataro would be above and beyond the Planning Department's funded effort to update the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. Select Board Vice Chair Charlie Russo has been chosen by the Board to negotiate possible amendments to the contract with the Property Manager and report back to the Board as soon as possible.

In case the Board does not renew the contract, another Town Meeting article has been put forth to set aside \$155K of Town funds for basic operating costs to maintain the property itself for one year. Select Board Vice-Chair Russo has stated he hopes it won't come to that.

The Select Board has an opportunity to choose to shape a win-win arrangement for Sudbury. Stay tuned!

# *Sudbury's Town Historian*

**BY JANIE DRETHER, SELECT BOARD**

Each year the Sudbury Select Board appoints a Town Historian. Jan C. Hardenbergh was appointed to be Sudbury's Town Historian in August 2021. Jan graciously agreed to respond to a few questions about his role.

## **Tell me a little about yourself and why you are interested in serving Sudbury?**

I was born and raised in Minnesota, as was my wife Gail. I came to Boston to attend Brandeis and never left. After college I got a job with Computervision working in 3D visualization and stayed in that field for 40 years. I recently cut my hours to 20 hours per week so I could have more time for history and other projects. Gail and I moved to Sudbury in 1984 because of the schools. We sent two kids through the schools and they finished L.S. with amazing educations. We also raised our kids in the First Parish congregation and remain longtime members. We have received so much from the community and the Town of Sudbury. Gratitude is one motivation. The other is that Sudbury has always had a government of the people, by the people, for the people, which means we all need to participate. Being Town Historian is a good fit for me now.

## **What is the role of the Town Historian?**

The formal role is to "provide authoritative information, as needed or required, based on accurate data and objective evaluation and interpretation, of Sudbury's history to Town officials, boards, committees, and staff." There are also occasional queries from the general public to respond at [historian@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:historian@sudbury.ma.us). In speaking with previous Town Historians, the demands can be fairly light, or heavy in an anniversary year such as the 375th in 2014. Given Sudbury's place in history it is humbling to be in the role, but it is also a deep honor.

## **What is Sudbury's place in history?**

Sudbury has a rich history featuring one of the oldest direct democracies in the world. That is a fancy way of saying there are only six other towns in the state that were incorporated before 1639



*Sudbury Town Historian, Jan Hardenbergh*

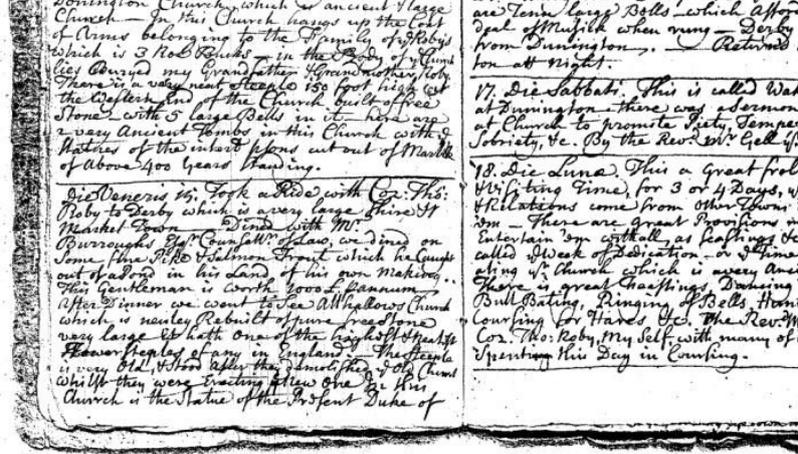
and that are still governed by "open town meetings". Sudbury was the site of a major battle in King Philip's War. There is a complicated story of the war, the colonial period and the interactions with the Native Americans that we have just begun to unpack in a broader context. Another significant story involves the splitting of the town, which is not unique, but the details of how we split introduce unique wrinkles in the separation of church and state. So many stories seem rather mundane, but they make Sudbury a small microcosm of the American experiment. Since our town records were never burned up, Sudbury is the example used in the Pulitzer Prize winning book "A Puritan Village". These are what I think of as the major stories but there are dozens of others, as well.

## **What historic resources are available to Sudbury residents?**

The first that I would recommend everyone look at is the Sudbury Archives website: ([archives.sudbury.ma.us](http://archives.sudbury.ma.us)) The next stops are the Goodnow Library, the Sudbury Historical Society, the Town's Historical Commission, the Historic Districts Commission and the Clerk's office which all provide a wealth of information. There are several books about the history of Sudbury, with Hudson's 1889 History of Sudbury being the best sources for early history. And of course we have the actual places and buildings, including the whole town center, the Wayside Inn and other national monuments that we can experience today due to the preservation efforts of the towns people throughout history.

**How will the COVID pandemic's impact in Sudbury be recorded for future residents?**

That is the exact question that the Town Manager, Henry Hayes, and I have tried to articulate. The first draft of history consists of the stories and documents written at the time. I volunteered to capture as much as I could in the short term by creating a document of the highlights and archiving the submissions for future research. The call for material is being done on the website [jch.com/covid](http://jch.com/covid) so that the submissions do not immediately become public records. The overview will be posted on the Town Historian webpage: [sudbury.ma.us/historian](http://sudbury.ma.us/historian) and the archive will be passed on to all interested parties.

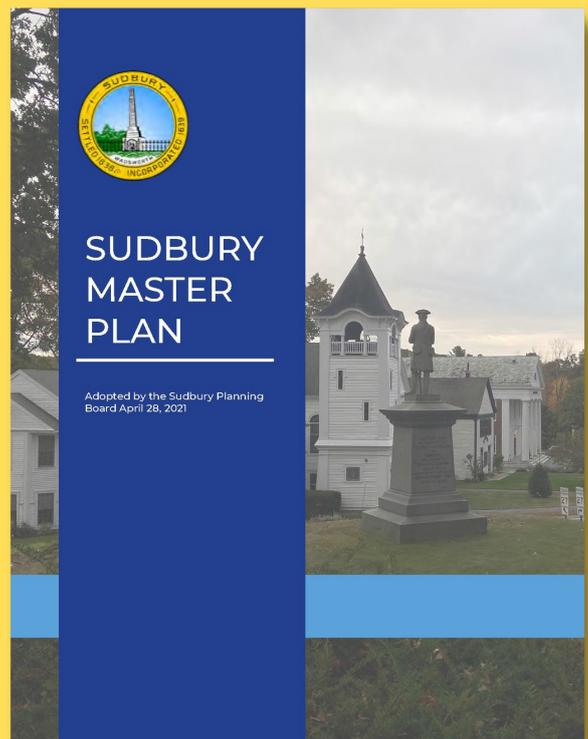


Thank you to Jan and Adam for graciously responding to my questions. I hope this will pique your interest in learning more about Sudbury's rich history.

**Historic and Cultural Identity was highlighted on the Action Plan Matrix in the recently updated Master Plan. I asked Adam Duchesneau, AICP, Director of Planning & Community Development, how the Planning Board anticipates this being addressed in the short term and the long term.**

Over the last few months, the Planning Board has been discussing the various short-term Action Items listed in the Action Plan Matrix of the Master Plan. As part of these discussions, the Planning Board has recently identified two Action Items under the Historic and Cultural Identity category as part of the top five short-term action items to push forward 2022. Action Item A.1 under this category calls for the creation of a historic and archaeological working group to be formed to advance the protection, preservation, and development of historical archaeological resources and town character. The other short-term Action Item prioritized from the Historic and Cultural Identity category was A.3 (which includes A.3.a, A.3.b, and A.3.c), which calls for the re-evaluation of the purpose, scope, and adequacy of regulatory tools to protect Sudbury's historical and cultural resources. With the Planning Board identifying these two actions as some of the most important, they will receive the most immediate attention from the Board and those working on them. Each of these items is significant, and their prioritization and identification as Action Items to

be advanced in 2022 is a testament to how important the Planning Board views them for the immediate future of the community. In fact, all but one of the Action Items in the Historic and Cultural Identity category of the Action Plan Matrix are short-term or ongoing items, which calls for them to be addressed in the next five years. As such, on the whole, this category in the Action Plan Matrix will likely receive the most attention in the first five years of the Master Plan's implementation.



# Happenings at the Goodnow Library

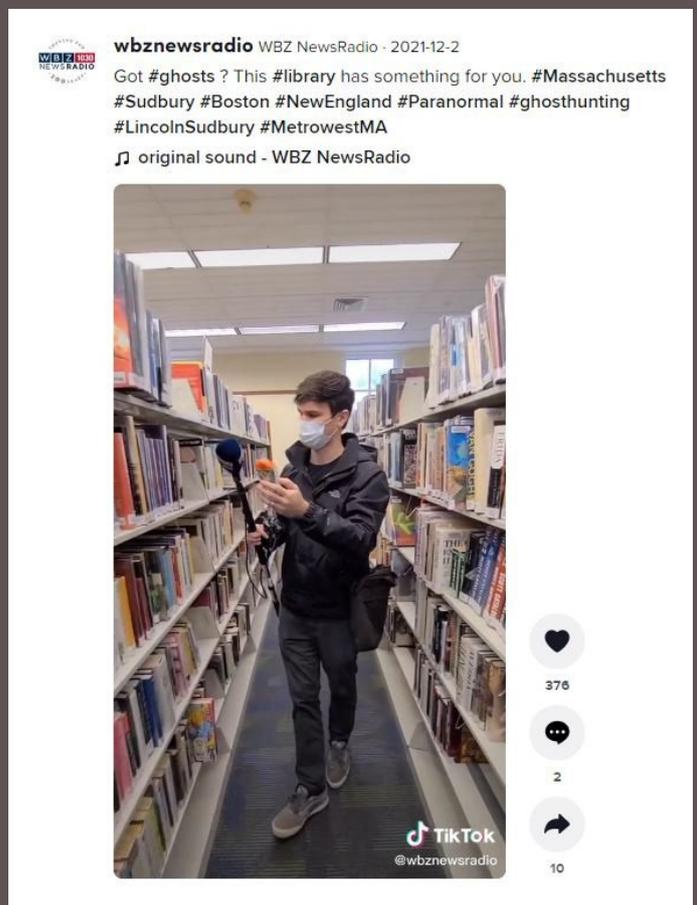
BY DAN CARTY, SELECT BOARD

Recently I had the opportunity to talk to Esmé Green, Director of the Goodnow Library. I wanted to know how things were going, and in particular what types of services were available to Sudbury residents during COVID-19.

She started by telling me about the new "Library of Things". The Library of Things is a collection of non-traditional items, or at least not what people may typically expect to be available at a library. Esme elaborated "Free public libraries aim to level the playing field for all citizens. I remember when my hometown library bought its first VHS movies. Some people objected to libraries starting movie collections, but now they are considered a core component of the collection. These types of "things" collections are the newest form of public library evolution and are comprised of items that patrons may want to investigate before purchasing or may have a need for one-time use only. The collection currently is small, about 25 items, and includes things like a pop-up tent, a portable projector, an oculus headset, and a chess set." She added that thus far it has been very popular and well received. One item in the collection has drawn much attention, including from WBZ News Radio; a ghost meter! Follow this link to learn more about the Ghost Meter <https://www.tiktok.com/@wbznewsradio/video/7037100155182517509> and this one for more information on the Library of Things <https://goodnowlibrary.org/services/library-of-things/>.

I told her that recently my high schooler had spent time at the Goodnow as Lincoln-Sudbury was heading towards semester final exams and was excited that "Study Week" was happening again. Esmé agreed, saying that her staff was able to serve local students again in this capacity, the first time since COVID-19 started.

Our conversation pivoted to what was and was not available and Esmé reported that shortly after New Years the Library halted some programming for a couple of weeks, but now that numbers related to the Omicron variant are coming back down, they are generally opened back up for business without issue. There is a mix of virtual and in-person programming with limited capacity happening. Conference rooms are available for the public to use, the Goodnow To Go program, in partnership with the Senior Center is up and running, and they have even begun processing U.S. Passports. She added that the NOW Lab makerspace programming, museum pass programs, and The Book Nook, an ongoing and open 24/7 book sale, are all thriving and possible through a partnership with the Goodnow Library Foundation. And new in 2022, in an effort to encourage library usage and remove barriers to all, the library has gone fine free.



When I asked her about what was next, Esmé replied “We are going to create a new strategic plan and of course we want to know how best to serve Sudbury. So be on the lookout for forthcoming surveys and focus groups”. She added that they were in the middle of redesigning their website, and that they were in discussions about adding electric car charging stations to the parking lot. “We are well-situated to provide this service to the community. Not only do we have a nice, large parking lot, but we have a wonderful, comfortable facility that is open to the public 7 days a week and 4 nights. This would be a way in which the library could participate in sustainability efforts that are so important to our community.

We are also aware that there are not many places in town where residents can charge their vehicles. Providing access to all is a core value of ours, as is leveling the playing field for everyone. If you can’t afford to purchase the charging equipment at your home or live in a building where this service isn’t available, the library could help. This is an exciting opportunity for us.”

For more information on all this and more visit <https://goodnowlibrary.org/>. Or stop on by. They are open for business!

## *Hidden Infrastructure: Culverts*

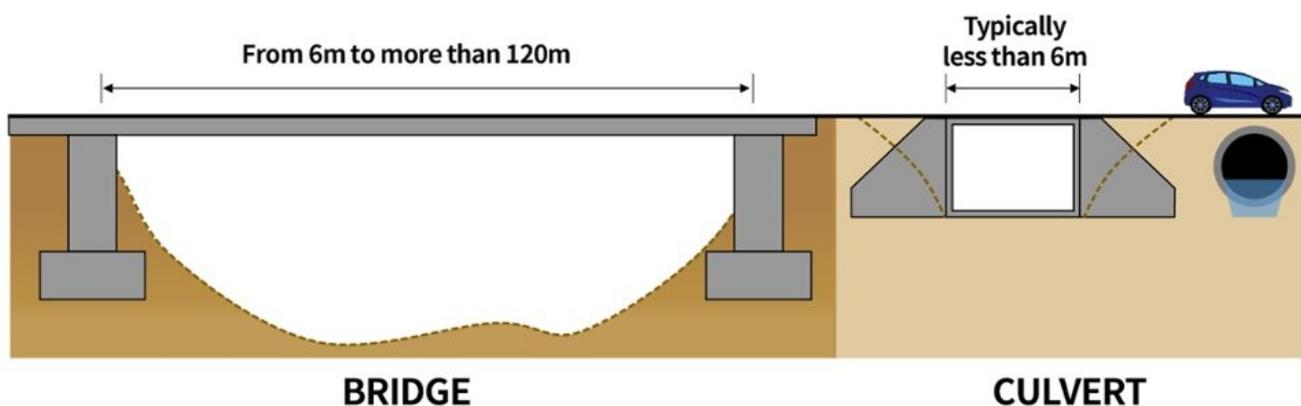
**BY CHARLIE RUSSO, SELECT BOARD VICE-CHAIR**

### **Culverts are not exciting.**

Yet among the various infrastructure owned and operated by Sudbury, culverts are among the most critical. Especially in a town like Sudbury, with so many water and wetland features, culverts are essential to public safety, transportation, and quality of life.

### **What exactly is a culvert?**

At the most basic, a culvert is a pipe that travels under a roadway, allowing water to flow under the road from one side to the other. Formally, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) defines a culvert as a structure, less than ten feet wide, that supports a roadway or other access way over a water body. Culverts differ from bridges mainly by being smaller in size.



*Difference between culvert and bridge (according to FHWA). Image courtesy of Midas Bridge.*

### **Why are culverts important?**

A well-designed culvert can provide important transportation access, flood protection, and environmental resource protection. During a storm, a poorly designed, under-sized, or deteriorated culvert could lead to road flooding or even a road collapse.

“Culverts are a very important aspect of infrastructure,” said Public Works Director Dan Nason. “Sudbury is a low-lying community, and culverts provide a conveyance under our roadways. If they fail, it affects people commuting to work, EMS response, kids going to school, and more.” Beyond flood protection and stormwater management, culverts provide environmental benefits by often connecting two resource areas and providing a travel path for fish and other small animals.

In Massachusetts, with many old roads and aging infrastructure, undersized and/or degraded culverts at risk of failure have been identified as a statewide problem. Compounding this issue is the trend toward more frequent and severe storms due to climate change.

In recent years, design standards have been updated to meet these challenges by requiring new culvert designs to meet both engineering and environmental standards.

Sudbury has 165 miles of roadway and approximately 160 roadway crossings. In 2018, the Town of Sudbury teamed with the consulting firm Tighe & Bond to create a Crossing (Culvert & Bridge) Management Program. The Crossing Management Program was developed to identify the location of all culverts and crossings in town, evaluate their condition, and begin an asset management plan so that the culverts and crossing in town continue to function and remain compliant with current and future regulations.

The Crossing Management Program estimated the total cost for replacement and repairs of Sudbury’s culverts and road crossing to be \$4 to \$4.5 Million (in 2018 dollars). A number of funding options are available to offset some of these costs, including Chapter 90, MassDOT Bridge grants, DER Culvert Replacement grants, and MVP Action grants. In the meantime, Sudbury’s Department of Public Works has been planning and implementing the recommendations of the Culvert Management Plan, including completing maintenance and reinspection of numerous locations, replacing the Dutton Road bridge, replacing the Concord Road culvert, and planning for replacement and repairs to overlap with roadway projects in order to save taxpayer money and protect public safety and the environment.

## *Sudbury’s 2022 Annual Town Meeting*

**BY JENNIFER ROBERTS,  
SELECT BOARD CHAIR**

Sudbury’s 2022 Annual Town Meeting is scheduled to begin on Monday, May 2, 2022, at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. Our annual Town Meeting is a vestige of colonial times when there was an effort to organize settlements into communities and create mechanisms for

leadership and decision-making. Serving as the legislative body of our town, Town Meeting is comprised of registered voters who have authority to appropriate funds, approve the Town budget, enact bylaws, and other measures. The ability to participate in Town Meeting is a privilege that we enjoy in Sudbury, where one’s vote can have a direct impact on the municipal management of our community.

The season leading to Annual Town Meeting is a busy time for Town officials. Planning for the budget and other Town Meeting articles starts in the Fall and results in the creation of a Town Meeting warrant. All articles, whether from Town staff, commissions, committees, boards, or citizen petitions must be provided to the Select Board office by January 31st of each year. From February to April, many Town entities learn about the submitted articles, engage in back-and-forth dialogue, and take official positions on the measures to be presented at Town meeting. Town Meeting warrants are sent to resident households in the April preceding the Annual Town Meeting. Please be on the lookout for yours!

### **Town Meeting During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The Covid-19 pandemic has posed a challenge for holding Annual Town Meetings, but Sudbury has risen to this challenge. During a time, when the gathering of large groups has been a public health concern, two Sudbury Town Meetings have been transitioned outdoors, with socially distanced seating, wearing of face coverings, sanitation, and measures to maintain ADA accessibility. It has not yet been finalized how the 2022 Annual Town Meeting will be held in light of the ongoing pandemic which will be monitored in upcoming months.

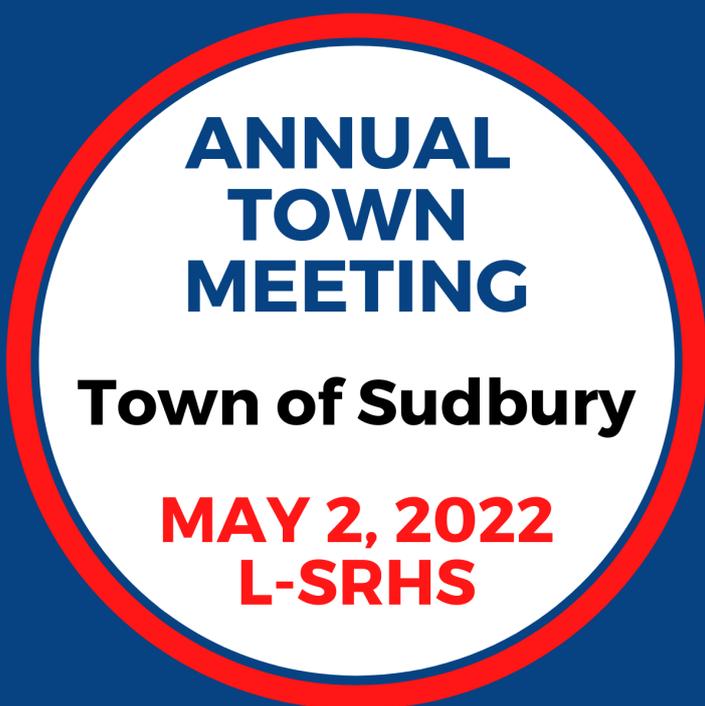
### **Topics for 2022 Annual Town Meeting**

Articles for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting are being finalized and like many years will include a wide variety of proposals for our community. The Select Board will be sponsoring a number of articles including an appropriation for enhanced audio-visual capabilities at the new Fairbank Community Center, funds to support our Go Sudbury! Taxi and Uber program, a land-use consultant for the Liberty Ledge/Sewataro property, and a fund transfer to our Town's Capital Stabilization Fund. Also included in the Select Board's submissions are articles to advance the much-anticipated Bruce Freeman Rail Trail which is in final stages of design and development.

Articles through the Community Preservation Committee include appropriations to: rehabilitate our Town Clock located at the First Parish Church in Town Center, develop a new Open Space and Recreation Plan, support affordable housing needs through an annual membership to the Regional Housing Services Office (RHSO) and allocation to the Sudbury Housing Authority, and fund elements of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 2D and beyond.

More information will come on Town sponsored articles, the annual budget, and citizen petitions. Stay tuned!

To learn more about Sudbury's Annual Town Meeting you can click [here](#). On this page are links to past Town Meetings (dating back to 1950!) with information on proceedings, warrants, and corresponding presentations. I encourage you to consider attending this year's Annual Town Meeting and experience the privilege and excitement of participating as the legislative body of our community.



# ATTENTION REGISTERED VOTERS

## Precinct & Polling Place Changes

Precinct boundaries in Sudbury have changed as a result of the 2020 Federal Census.

VOTERS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY MAIL IF THEIR PRECINCT OR POLLING PLACE HAS CHANGED.

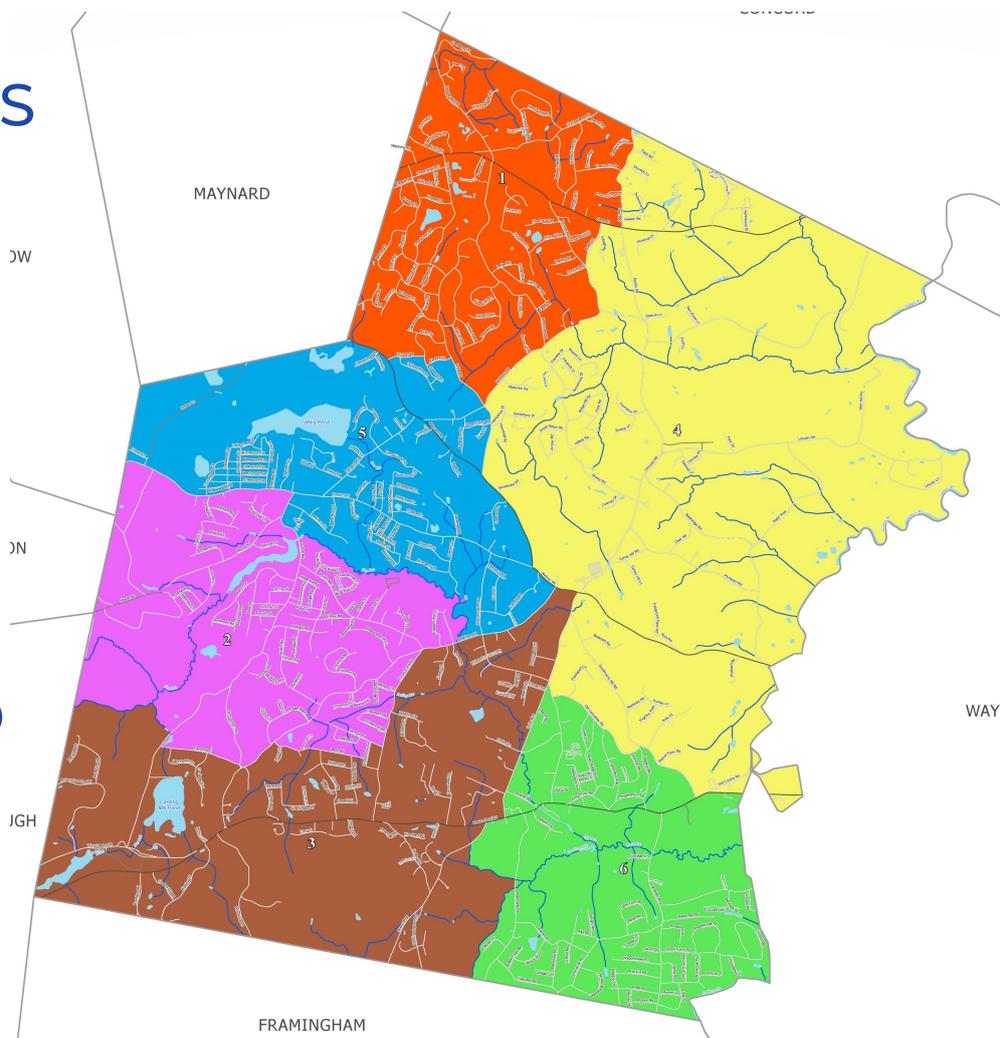
### VOTING LOCATIONS

Fairbank:  
Pct 1, 2, 3 & 5

Town Hall:  
Pct 4 & 6

### NEW

- Pct 6 ADDED
- Pct 1A ELIMINATED
- **ALL PRECINCTS ARE AFFECTED BY THE CHANGE**



Please visit [sudbury.ma.us/precincts](https://sudbury.ma.us/precincts) for details.