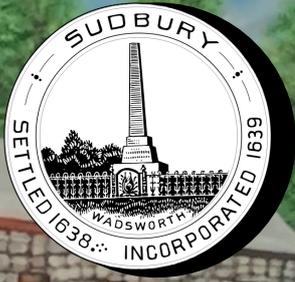


SUMMER 2022

TOWN OF SUDBURY



# Municipal Update



Thank you,  
Mr. Hayes

## *Inside:*

Drought - How to Help

Summer @ Goodnow

Monkeypox

BFRT Updates

Go Sudbury! Program

From the Select Board

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Henry L. Hayes Jr's last day as Sudbury Town Manager was Thursday, June 30. We miss him and wish him all the best. Assistant Town Manager Maryanne Bilodeau is filling in as Interim during the Town Manager search process.

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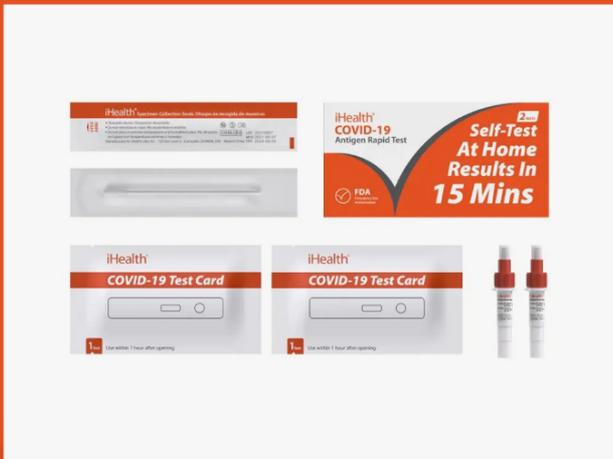
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*by Janie Dretler*

# FREE TEST KITS AVAILABLE



The Board of Health has received tests for distribution to Sudbury Residents. The tests are available at the locations listed below. Please check the office hours of the municipal building that you will be visiting.

- Board of Health – 275 Old Lancaster Rd
- Goodnow Library - 21 Concord Rd
- Select Board's Office – 278 Old Sudbury Rd (2nd Floor)
- Senior Center – 40 Fairbank Rd

Town offices in Town Hall & the Flynn Building will be following a summer schedule from July 11 through August 26, 2022.

**Mon, Wed & Thurs:** 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**Tues:** 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM

**Fri:** Closed

<https://sudbury.ma.us/selectboardsoffice/?p=2920>



Town of Sudbury  
Fairbank Community Center



# GROUND BREAKING

Monday, August 1  
3:30PM

Fairbank Community Center

Please join us as we celebrate the start of construction at the Fairbank Community Center!

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



COMING SOON...

# ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

2022 Town-Wide Roadway Paving & Preservation begins in late August. Roadwork Schedule and details are here:

<https://sudbury.ma.us/dpw/?p=1382>



# *It's a Bird, It's a Plane... No, It's the Spotted Lanternfly!*

**BY LORI CAPONE,  
CONSERVATION COORDINATOR**

The Spotted Lanternfly is a colorful species of moth indigenous to China. First released in the US in 2014, it was detected in the northeast US by 2020 and in 2022, this species was found right here in Sudbury.

What makes the Lanternfly an invasive species? To be invasive, a species must adapt to the new area easily, it must reproduce quickly, and it must harm property, the economy, or the native plants and animals of the region. The Spotted Lanternfly checks all of these boxes.

In their native China, the Spotted Lanternfly population is kept in check by predatory wasps. These insects don't have a lot of natural predators in the US, which is why they can multiply quickly, allowing their population to flourish. Furthermore, the bright red on this insect's hindwings serves as a warning signal to predators that it's potentially poisonous, protecting it from being eaten. However, there are a few predators that eat these insects including garden spiders, praying mantis, gray catbirds and yellowjackets.



The Spotted Lanternfly's life cycle centers around its preferred host, Chinese sumac or Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). Unfortunate, but fortuitous for the Lanternfly, Tree-of-Heaven is one of our more prevalent invasive plant species in Town, having been introduced to the US in 1784, and by 1840, was a common nursery plant.

What could be particularly devastating to us in the northeast is the fact that the Lanternfly can significantly affect our food production, impacting our fruit bearing species such as apple, cherry, peaches, plums, and grapes; and also forestry products like oak, walnut, and poplar. It has also been found on willow, maple, and sycamore trees. Now that it is here, early detection is imperative to controlling the spread of this species, and we need your help to do this. No sustained populations have yet been found in Sudbury but they are continuously introduced through landscape plants. Inspect existing and especially any new plantings for nymph or adult specimens. If you see them, collect them and report it immediately to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources at:

<https://massnrc.org/pests/slfreport.aspx>



Spotted Lanternfly take on many different forms throughout its lifecycle. They overwinter in egg masses laid on smooth bark, stone, and other vertical surfaces. Eggs hatch in spring or early summer and the nymphs navigate to host plants, feeding in large masses. The initial feeding may not impact the host, but honeydew that is excreted by the lanternfly attracts other insects, molds, and fungus that can then infest the trees through the wounds left behind by the Lanternfly. The early stage nymphs look like a black and white spotted weevil, while the late-stage nymph take on a red form with white spots, still black and white spotted on the underbelly and legs.

For those of you who have tried to tackle invasive species in your landscape, you know how hard it can be to eradicate them once they have taken hold, and that is generally dealing with plants that are not mobile. If you see egg masses, nymphs, or adult Lanternflies, collect and report them. If you have Tree-of-Heaven in the yard, remove it, with proper permitting if near wetlands. Plant native species in your landscape. The more ornamental, exotic species we bring in, the better environment we are creating for non-native, undesirable, and at times deeply impactful, invasive species.

## *Water, Water, Where Art Thou?*

Last summer we experienced deluge after deluge: it felt like the rain would never end. This year, we are experiencing drought conditions, currently under Level 3. As our weather conditions become more and more unpredictable, we must implement measures that can help us withstand the erratic nature of climate. Here are some ways that we can reduce water consumption to reduce stress on our local water supply systems and our natural habitats.

### **1. Restore Your Lawn with Native Species**

Lawns have many things working against them, as far as creating a sustainable environment. Lawns are not native, require supplements (whether chemical or organic), and require artificial watering. These are all symptoms of the fact that lawns are biological deserts. Lawns do not exhibit the symbiotic plant-animal

relationship that exists in nature. Any plant-animal interactions that do exist in lawn areas are generally resolved by more chemicals.

Review your landscape to see if there are areas you can convert back to native shrubs and trees. Alternatively, you can maintain that open landscape but convert your lawn to native grasses. These require less frequent mowing, allow more wildlife use, and help sustain our pollinator populations. Native plants have evolved in New England and so are more adept at withstanding its unpredictable climate, and generally require little to no artificial watering or fertilization. It also does not require herbicides or pesticides due to the assemblage of insects that will work in conjunction with each other to keep their populations in check.

### **2. Reduce Impervious Surface**

Manage your landscape to maximize infiltration of rainwater. Reduce the amount of hardscape you introduced into your space and provide direct infiltration of runoff from the hardscapes you need, such as using pervious materials for patios and walkways and roof runoff areas.

### 3. Minimize Overall Water Use

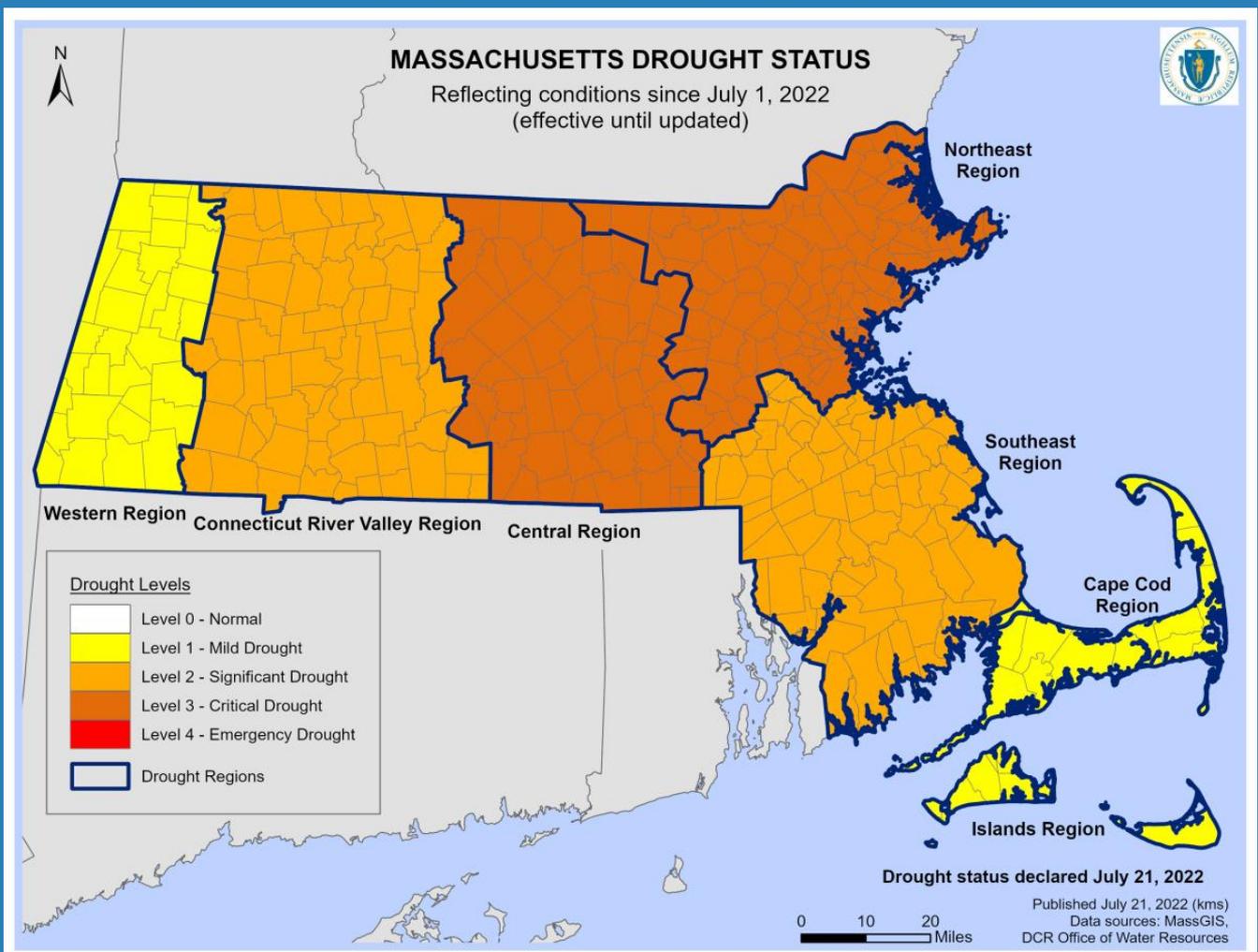
Here are just a few ways you can minimize water usage in your house.

- Check plumbing and repair any leaks.
- Install water saving shower heads.
- Reduce water consumption by taking shorter showers and turning off the water when washing dishes, shaving, or brushing teeth.
- Install a 1-liter bottle, filled with water and 1-2 inches of sand in your toilet tank. This can save 5 or more gallons of water every day without harming your toilet.
- Run your dishwasher and washing machine only when full.
- If you need to water your lawn, schedule your watering during the cooler parts of the day so that most of the water is not lost to evaporation. Check the weather: if it is going to rain, forego the watering. If the grass springs back up when you walk on it, it does not need to be watered.
- Collect your roof run-off in rain barrels and

use that water to water your plants and lawn, or direct your gutters into your gardens to water them naturally.

- If you do have sprinklers, install a rain sensor and orient your sprinkler heads so you are not watering pavement or hard surfaces.
- Use a broom instead of your hose to clean your decks and walkways.

Whether you receive your water from town wells or your own personal well, fresh water is truly a finite resource that every living organism needs to survive. This fact is especially evident in the west where the land is collapsing from depletion of the aquifers that can no longer support the earth above them. Water over usage impacts agricultural production, impacts habitat viability, and affects the long-term survivability of all species. We must all do our part to ensure the long-term resilience of our water resources, both quantity and quality. Not just in times of drought, but always.





## Summer Reading Kickoff

**BY ESMÉ GREEN,  
GOODNOW LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

On Thursday, June 23, the library hosted their Summer Reading Kick-off event at Camp Sewataro. Over 175 people turned out to enjoy a fun evening of lawn games, crafts and a "campfire" sing-a-long complete with songs, skits and snacks. Scouts from Sudbury Scouts BSA Troop 65 partnered with the library to run this event and their Banana Bandana skit was a hit!

### **Summer Reading is for Everyone!**

All are invited to Read Beyond the Beaten Path this summer at Camp Goodnow, the Goodnow Library's Summer Reading Program for 2022! Join us in person at the library for weekly programs for kids, teens and adults including book clubs, camp-themed crafts, special performers and more!

Read beyond the beaten path this summer with the Goodnow Library summer reading program. For more information visit [goodnowlibrary.org](http://goodnowlibrary.org).

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### **September is Library Card Signup Month**

With a library card you can discover new and exciting worlds! From borrowing audiobooks to streaming movies to taking virtual Do It Yourself classes, there is so much you can access with a library card. Pursue your passions and dreams through Goodnow's resources and programs. September is Library Card Sign-up Month, so visit [goodnowlibrary.org](http://goodnowlibrary.org) today.



## Strategic Planning Underway

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) has long espoused the value of strategic planning as a management tool for libraries of all types and sizes, and requires an active plan on file in order to be eligible to apply for any direct grants from the MBLC under the federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) or any state-funded grants.



**GOODNOW FOCUS GROUPS**



Join us for an online (Zoom) or in-person session to tell us what you think the future of Goodnow should be!

Beyond eligibility requirements, our new strategic plan will serve as a management tool, a living document that ultimately strengthens the relationship between the library and the community. Together, we will create a blueprint for growth, structure, consistency and accountability that strengthens our foundation for future success.

But we can't do it without YOU. We would love (and need) your thoughts! As the Library works on its strategic plan, we are gathering community input about what the future of Goodnow might look like. As we all know, libraries are so much more than just books. They are places to gather, learn, craft, study, work, and more. What would you like to see at Goodnow?

Your opinions matter and we appreciate feedback! Thank you!



## *The Return of Truck Day!*

After a two year hiatus, Truck Day returned to the library. More than 600 kids of all ages had a great time viewing and climbing on a variety of vehicles generously provided by the Fire, Highway and Police departments. The town's public nurses were also present, distributing free COVID-19 test kits. CERT provided a misting station, and the trackless train, ice cream truck and school bus were as popular as ever!

REGISTER AT  
[GOODNOWLIBRARY.ORG/EVENTS](https://goodnowlibrary.org/events)

## Indoor Growing

September 22 @ 7PM  
In-person Program

**CAMP GOODNOW**

**LIBRARY CAMP-IN**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12  
5:30 - 7:30 PM

GOODNOW LIBRARY

Celebrate the end of our 2022 Summer Reading Program with a special Family Camp-In event at the library after hours!

All participants of the program will be rewarded for their countless hours of reading with a family pizza party, ice cream, and fun "Camping" activities!

Please visit [goodnowlibrary.org/calendar](https://goodnowlibrary.org/calendar) for registration to ensure enough pizza and ice cream for all!

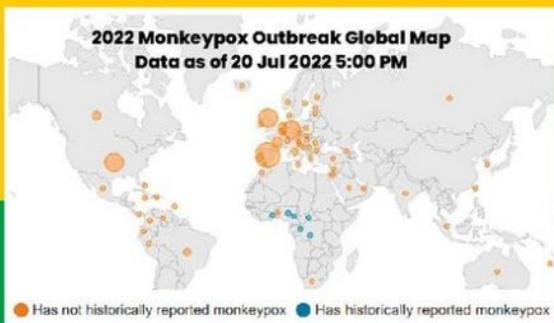
**READ BEYOND THE BEACH PARTY**

# EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MONKEYPOX



## What is happening?

Monkeypox is a rare disease part of the same family as smallpox and currently spreading across several countries that don't normally report monkeypox, including the United States.



## How is monkeypox spread?

Monkeypox virus can spread person-to-person through:

- Direct skin-to-skin contact with someone who has monkeypox rash, scabs or through their bodily fluids
- Touching objects, fabrics (clothing, bedding, or towels), and surfaces that have been used by someone with monkeypox
- Respiratory droplets (less common)

## What are the symptoms?

### Initial



**Fever/Headache**



**Muscle aches & backache**

### 1-4 Days Later (Lasting 2-4 weeks)



*Photo Credit: NHS England High Consequence Infectious Diseases Network*

**Pimple/blister-like rash that appears on face, inside of mouth and other body parts (e.g. hands, feet, chest)**

Monkeypox begins with flu-like symptoms (fever, headache, muscle aches, and fatigue), with a rash developing 1-4 days later, typically on the face and spreading to many areas of the body.

Monkeypox can spread once symptoms begin until the rash has completely healed and a new layer of skin has formed. The disease is self-limited (resolves spontaneously with or without treatment) & symptoms typically lasting 2-4 weeks.

## Am I at risk?

### Anyone can get monkeypox!

However, transmission is primarily occurring among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men through their social and sexual networks.

You may be at higher risk of infection if you have had:

- A sexual partner who was diagnosed with monkeypox in the past 14 days
- 2 or more sexual partners in the past 14 days



<https://www.cdc.gov/monkeypox>

## What are my options?

### Prevention

Take the following steps to prevent getting monkeypox:

- Avoid skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox
  - Do not touch the rash, kiss, cuddle or have sex with anyone who has monkeypox
- Do not touch bedding, towels, clothes or share utensils of anyone with monkeypox



### Vaccination

Vaccination is currently available to individuals who live or work in MA & meet CDC's eligibility criteria, prioritizing those who are most at risk, including:

- Known contacts to monkeypox
- Presumed contacts who:
  - had a sexual partner in the past 14 days diagnosed with monkeypox
  - had 2 or more sexual partners in the past 14 days

# MONKEYPOX

KEEP UP TO DATE

<https://www.mass.gov/monkeypox>

CHECK VACCINE ELIGIBILITY &  
CLINIC LOCATION

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/monkeypox-vaccination>

JRI Health offers an ongoing clinic in Framingham.

TOWN OF SUDBURY

# Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

## Full Steam Ahead

Updated 7/20/22



Sudbury's BFRT will be a paved path from just north of Route 20 to north of Route 117 (near the Concord town line) for bicyclists, joggers and other pedestrians to enjoy. Offering a new, car-free way to get around town and connect to neighboring communities, the finished path will invite people of all ages and abilities to enjoy a stroll, run or bike ride along a safe and scenic route. **The design is complete and construction is expected to begin as early as Fall 2022.**

### WHAT IS A RAIL TRAIL?

Rail Trails offer a number of benefits to their community:

- > Path for runners, bicycles, scooters, skiers and more
- > Safe for children and pet-friendly (no cars!)
- > Connection to points of interest & neighboring towns



### COMPLETED

It's been a long journey getting to this point in the process!

**\$12+ million** in state and federal funds are committed to the project thanks to work completed to date, which includes:

- Preliminary Design
- Land Survey & Data Collection
- Project Approved by MassDOT
- Project Construction Funds Committed by Boston MPO
- Wetlands ID & Approval
- Bridge Redesign (Pantry Brook & Hop Brook)
- 25% Design
- MassDOT Public Hearing
- 75% Design
- Environmental Permit Prep
- Construction Cost Estimates
- 100% Design
- Finalizing ROW Process
- Lease Agreement
- Environmental Permitting
- Final Plans, Specs & Estimates



### NEXT STEPS

**August 2022** is the next major milestone.

- Contractors invited to submit proposals for building Sudbury's BFRT
- MassDOT hires a team to complete the project construction
- Preliminary data collection & design to extend the BFRT south on the former CSX-owned corridor (*acquired by Sudbury in 2020*)

**The BFRT will be shovel-ready in Fall 2022 and user-ready after construction (estimated to take 2 years).**

### GET INVOLVED

Spread the word to friends and neighbors and stay up to date with the latest developments on this project. Sign up for updates at <https://sudbury.ma.us/email-lists/bfirt/>.



More info on Sudbury's BFRT:  
[sudbury.ma.us/bfirt](https://sudbury.ma.us/bfirt)



# GO SUDBURY Low Cost Transportation

	Van	Uber	Taxi
<b>RIDER</b>	<b>SUDBURY RESIDENT</b> 18 YRS + W DISABILITY 60 YEARS +	<b>SUDBURY RESIDENT</b> 18 YEARS + FINANCIAL NEED ACTIVE MILITARY OR VET	<b>HAVE A STUDENT AT SPS OR L-SRHS</b> <b>EMPLOYED IN SUDBURY</b> 18 YRS + W DISABILITY 60 + YRS
<b>DESTINATION</b>	<b>COMMUNITY EVENTS/PROGRAMS</b> 🚗	<b>SHOPPING</b> 🚗	
	<b>ERRANDS</b> 🚗	<b>WORK</b> 🚗	
<b>DISTANCE</b>	<b>WITHIN SUDBURY</b>	<b>CONCORD, WAYLAND, FRAMINGHAM OR MARLBOROUGH</b>	<b>WITHIN 25 MILE RADIUS OF SUDBURY</b>

## *Go Sudbury! Program: Low Cost Transportation*

We are pleased to announce the Go Sudbury! Pilot Program is now the Go Sudbury! Transportation Program. Thanks to funding approved at Town Meeting as well as grants and other funding sources, the low cost transportation program is here to stay. Applications will be accepted starting August 1, 2022.

Please note, those who participated in the Pilot Program will need to re-register with a new application form. In addition, the Uber and Taxi programs have increased from 50 to 60 years of age for some of their participants.

To learn more and sign up, please visit <https://sudbury.ma.us/gosudbury>

# Senior Center News

**BY DEBRA GALLOWAY,  
SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR**

The Sudbury Senior Center had a fabulous couple of months! We started the month of June with a wonderful intergenerational program with Lincoln-Sudbury High School seniors participating in a Dementia Friendly program with participants from the Better Day Adult Day program in Marlborough. Our Summer BBQ lunch on June 7 had us welcoming a crowd to our well-ventilated gym for lunch and the sonorous sounds of the one and only Robert Black as Elvis! Finley, the adventure dog, of Sudbury Town Crier fame, held court on our patio with his human, Sherry Fendell on June 8. Dietician Traci Robidoux of BayPath Elder Services shared the latest info on the Mediterranean diet and brought samples to share on June 15. And finally, Julie Nowak helped us celebrate Gay Pride Month with a rousing game of Rainbow Jeopardy, sharing with us the who's who of Pride history.

July kicked off the beginning of the construction of the new Community Center! For now, the main changes have been to parking. Park and Recreation and Atkinson Pool participants are parking at Haskell Field parking lot across the street; those who need handicapped parking spots or to be closer to the entrance are parking near the Senior Center. A new entrance for Park and Recreation participants will open soon. We hope to maintain our normal programming during construction but we will all need to be flexible knowing that sometimes plans change. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to a Senior Center staff person.



Ellen and John Fraize at the Senior Center's Summer BBQ, which featured a 1950's theme, complete with Elvis performer.

The Senior Center continues to offer many programs both in-person and virtually. We are not rushing to bring back some of the programs to in-person as we are cognizant of the continuing pandemic ups and downs, and we are also monitoring parking availability.

Looking to August, watch for "Sailing Towards My Father" a special dramatic performance by Actor Stephen Collins, about the life of Herman Melville, on August 23 at 1:00 PM. We also have a talk on "How the Cape was Formed" by local historian Andy Mitzavitch on August 17.

There are many ways you can be a part of our community from attending a special event, to participating in a class (in-person or virtually) or group, or volunteering for one of our many volunteer opportunities. Please check out our newsletter at our website: [www.sudburyseniorcenter.org](http://www.sudburyseniorcenter.org) or sign up to receive it via email by going to "Email Lists" at the Town of Sudbury website: [www.sudbury.ma.us](http://www.sudbury.ma.us), and you can always call us at 978-443-3055.

## Sudbury Council on Aging

The Sudbury Council on Aging worked with former COA member and retired Market Researcher Sandy Lasky on a focus group project in the spring. Ms. Lasky sought feedback from older adults in Sudbury on Sudbury Senior Center communications, ideas and programs for the new Community Center, perceptions of the Senior Center, and thoughts about naming of the Senior Center. Valuable input was received from 42 different individuals. Important insights included the need for more effective publicity, a possible need to change the name of the Senior Center, a desire for programs that are more active, and for additional intergenerational and arts/dance programs. Findings will be discussed by both staff and COA members and will be incorporated into planning for the new Community Center.

## Volunteer Services

**Technology Support:** Volunteers offer one-on-one assistance with issues relating to laptops, tablets, or cell phones. Please note that all seniors receiving technology help must have accounts and passwords set up by a family member or friend prior to the Senior Center volunteer working with them. Technology Help volunteers are not permitted to set up accounts or passwords for a senior.

**Lockbox:** What is a LOCKBOX and how do I get one installed? A lockbox is a small key safe with the owner's house key inside. The lockbox is installed on the outside of the home for emergency access by the Fire Department. Sponsored by the Sudbury Firefighters IAFF, Local 2023.

To learn more or sign up, please contact Janet Lipkin, Volunteer Program Coordinator, at 978-639-3223 or [LipkinJ@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:LipkinJ@sudbury.ma.us).

## Dementia Friendly Sudbury

The Dementia Friendly Sudbury Action Team's mission is to promote awareness and provide support to individuals living with dementia and their caregivers. The Dementia Friendly Sudbury Action team has several members who are "Dementia Champions", trained to offer Dementia Friend Information sessions to people in the community. The team will be offering new Dementia Friend information sessions this fall.

The Dementia Friendly Sudbury Action Team is also encouraging Sudbury residents to learn more about dementia and become a Dementia Champion. Champions provide Dementia Friend Info Sessions to community members to help raise awareness of what dementia is, how the different dementias might affect their neighbors and friends, and best ways to help and interact with persons living with dementia and their caregivers. The Dementia Friendly Sudbury Action Team has several trained Dementia Champions who can assist new Champions in offering their first Info Sessions.

If you would like to be a part of this special and worthwhile effort, please contact Ana Cristina Oliveira, Outreach Specialist, Sudbury Senior Center, at [oliveiraa@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:oliveiraa@sudbury.ma.us) or Debra Galloway, Director, Sudbury Senior Center, at [gallowayd@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:gallowayd@sudbury.ma.us) or 978-443-3055.



# Sudbury Lived Experiences

Do you have a story to tell?

Sudbury Lived Experiences is storytelling for change.

Do you live, learn, work or travel through Sudbury?

The Sudbury Lived Experiences Project, led by a subcommittee of the Sudbury Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Commission, is collecting anonymous stories to document identity-based experiences, including racism and prejudice in Sudbury.

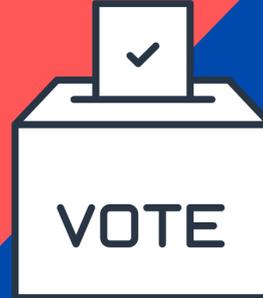
By understanding the experiences of individuals in our community, we can raise community awareness and collaborate with local advocacy groups and our Select Board to affect change.



The Lived Experience Project can be accessed through the QR code above, by visiting [sudburylivedexperiences.org](http://sudburylivedexperiences.org) or the SudburyLivedExperiences page on FB. If you have questions, need help accessing the survey, or need an accommodation, please email us at [sudburylivedexperiences@gmail.com](mailto:sudburylivedexperiences@gmail.com).

Survey closes on August 31, 2022

# State Primary Election



TUESDAY  
SEPT. 6  
2022

Offices on the State Primary Ballot Include:

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Attorney General
- Secretary of State

Vote by Mail is available.  
Apply by August 29, 2022.

Polls will be open 7AM - 8PM on Sept 6.  
Please check your precinct to verify polling place.

July - September, 2022

# ROAD WORK AHEAD

Pratt's Mill Road  
From Peakham Road to Dutton Road

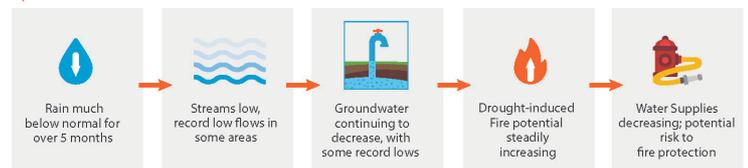
## Drainage System Improvements

Repair and replacement of aging drain pipes, catch basin structures, and manholes.

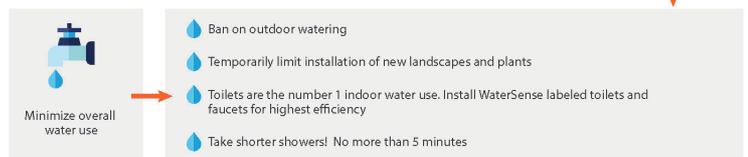
## LEVEL 3 – CRITICAL DROUGHT



### What does this mean?



### What you can do!



Learn more at [www.mass.gov/ma-drought-management](http://www.mass.gov/ma-drought-management)

## *Electronic Voting at Town Meeting*

**BY CHARLIE RUSSO, SELECT BOARD**

The next time Sudbury gathers for Town Meeting things will look a little different, with residents casting their votes using electronic handheld devices, rather than the colorful paper slips used in recent years.

The upcoming transition to electronic voting is the result of two votes approved at the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting: first, to change Town bylaws to allow the switch, and; second, to purchase the handsets and other equipment required to implement electronic voting.

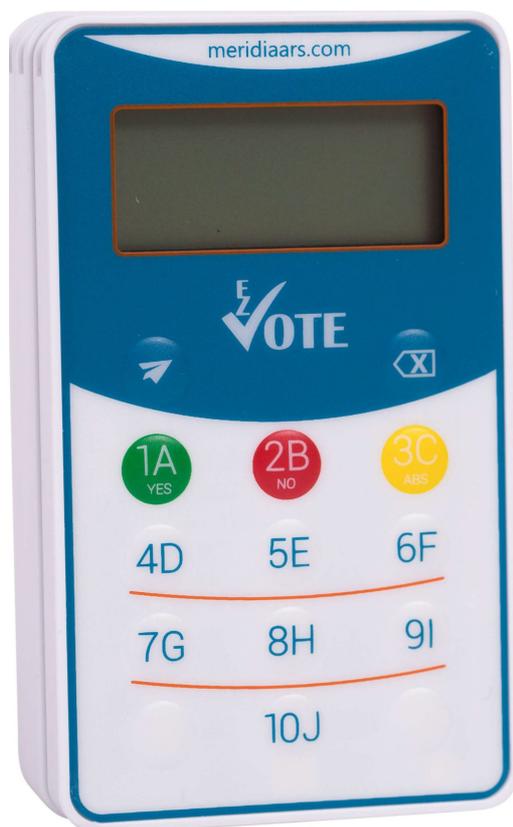
Town Clerk Beth Klein said she expects electronic voting to be used for Annual Town Meeting in May 2023.

### **The Bylaw**

The new bylaw allows the Town Moderator, with permission from the Hall, to use electronic voting as the default method of for future Town Meetings. "Electronic Voting Technology" is defined as any electronic voting system that allows for the counting of votes using a wireless or mobile device, including handheld clickers, mobile phone application, or similar systems.

The electronic voting system will be a secure and private system, and is expected to be a faster and more accurate system than the current one. Voters will be able to see an exact count immediately after each vote, which can be displayed on the large screen used during Town Meeting.

The specific device and company that will be used to provide the system is still to be determined, Klein said. She is currently developing a request for proposals for firms to provide the equipment and services needed for electronic voting.



For many of the most commonly-used electronic voting systems, the process would be much the same as with the paper cards Sudbury Town Meeting voters are accustomed to using. Before the start of Town Meeting, voters will receive handsets at check in, use them during the meeting, and return them at the end of the night.

The new bylaw also provides a process to remedy errors if an individual voter records their vote incorrectly - for example, pressing the wrong button - and in case a group of voters doubt the overall results of the vote. Potential remedies available to the Moderator include updating the record of the vote to adjust for individual errors, or re-voting and/or using another method of voting in case of concerns about the accuracy of the overall vote.

#### **The Devices**

In addition to approving the bylaw change, Town Meeting voters approved the expenditure of \$22,845 of free cash to purchase handsets to implement the process. This funding is expected to purchase about 800 electronic voting handsets, with expected service lives of 8-10 years.

The handsets will replace hand, voice, and paper voting. In addition, Klein said, she hopes the electronic voting will help boost voter confidence in the voting process.

"It can help people to realize that every vote counts," Klein said. "When it's a 2/3 vote or 3/4 vote requirement, that's a bit abstract for some people. But if 500 people are there, and 498 vote in favor of something, that tells you something."

#### **Not a New Process in the State**

A number of state laws govern how Town Meetings may be conducted, including a requirement for in-person voting. Virtual/remote Town Meetings are not currently allowed by state law.

Klein noted that electronic voting may be new to Sudbury, but has been in use by more than 90 Massachusetts communities. Massachusetts communities that use electronic voting for Town Meeting include Arlington, Brookline, Framingham, Chelmsford, Lexington, and Billerica, among others, including in Wayland for more than a decade.

## VIRTUAL SELECT BOARD'S OFFICE HOURS



Janie Dretler



Dan Carty

#### **Join On-Line**

[us02web.zoom.us/j/82788884457](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82788884457)

#### **Join By Phone**

978-639-3366

Meeting ID: 827 8888 4457

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022**  
**12 PM – 1 PM**  
**ZOOM MEETING**



## *Vocational Education for Sudbury*

**BY LISA KOUCHAKDJIAN, SELECT BOARD**

Sudbury has always been, and continues to be, a community whose residents and taxpayers understand the importance of investing in education and value our excellent schools. This is one of the major reasons people continue to move to Sudbury.

Most students follow a traditional educational course through our elementary schools and Curtis Middle School, and complete their primary education at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. For some students, however, a different path may be more appropriate for them to follow.

By state statute in Massachusetts, all towns are to provide vocational education for their students. Vocational education is defined specifically as:

*organized education programs offering sequences of courses designed to educate and prepare students for both employment and continuing academic and occupational*

*preparation. Such programs shall integrate academic and vocational education and shall include competency based applied learning which contributes to an individual's academic knowledge, higher order reasoning, and problem solving skills, work attitudes, general employability skills and the occupational-specific skills necessary for economic independence as a productive and contributing member of society. Vocational-technical education shall also include applied technology education to be taught by personnel certified in technology education.*  
-Massachusetts General Laws ch. 74 § 1.

In recent years, the Town of Sudbury was a member of a vocational school: Minuteman High School (Minuteman). On February 9, 2016 at a Special Town Meeting, the Town of Sudbury withdrew from Minuteman. At that time, the intention was for the Town of Sudbury to become a member of Assabet Regional Vocational High School (Assabet). The Town of Sudbury has not yet become a member of Assabet or any other vocational school.

Since that time, Sudbury students have had increased challenges associated with attending vocational schools as out-of-district students. When Sudbury withdrew, one basis for withdrawing was an expectation that Sudbury students would have flexibility in choosing which vocational school to attend. Unfortunately, students have not had that type of flexibility.

Today we are seeing a significant increase in demand for vocational education across the Commonwealth. This has caused a reduction in available placements for Sudbury students. Typically, students who are sent from a member school district would have an admissions advantage based upon the fact that their town is a member. Due to the increased demand for vocational education, even students coming from member school districts are being waitlisted. For this reason, and since Sudbury is not a member of any vocational school, our students are at an increased disadvantage today.

Addressing the issues surrounding vocational education in Sudbury is a high-level goal for the Select Board. Addressing this issue expeditiously is important as it fulfills the commitment made to our community to become a member of a vocational school and reinforces Sudbury's enduring commitment to meet the needs of all our students.

The Select Board is currently researching options available to Sudbury. By consensus, the Select Board has agreed to consider four schools, Nashoba Valley Technical High School, Keefe Regional Technical School, Assabet and Minuteman. Proximity to Sudbury is one of the factors the Select Board considered in determining which schools to consider.

The Select Board will make every effort to determine membership options available to the Town of Sudbury. The Select Board values and appreciates the work being done by teachers and administrators in our schools, as well as Town staff, to support our Sudbury students who desire vocational education. Please follow the Select Board meetings for further updates on this topic.

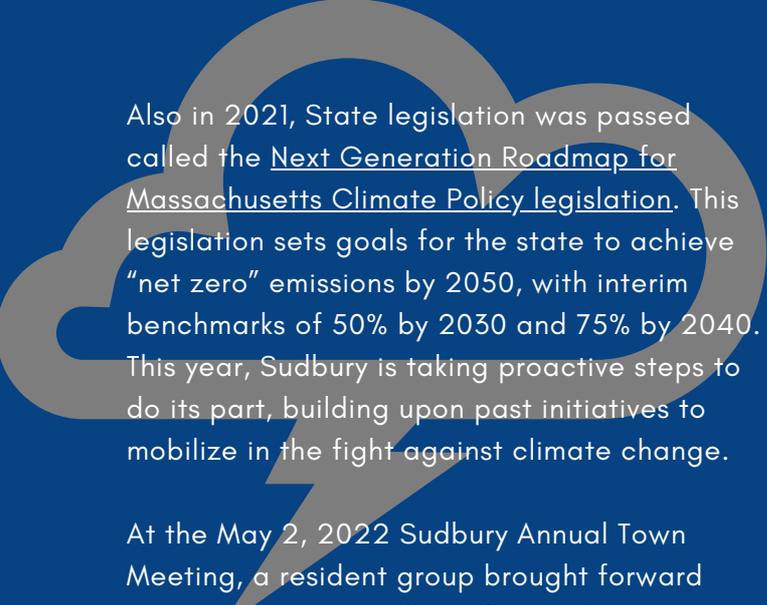


## *Climate Change & Sustainability Initiatives: A Pivotal Year in Sudbury*

**BY JENNIFER ROBERTS, SELECT BOARD**

It has been an important year in Sudbury in taking steps to fight climate change and foster sustainability.

The timing is critical as it is coming on the heels of concerning and eye-opening reports in 2021 and 2022 by the United Nations [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#), which warned of the impacts of climate change and called for action by leaders and communities across the globe.



Also in 2021, State legislation was passed called the [Next Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy legislation](#). This legislation sets goals for the state to achieve “net zero” emissions by 2050, with interim benchmarks of 50% by 2030 and 75% by 2040. This year, Sudbury is taking proactive steps to do its part, building upon past initiatives to mobilize in the fight against climate change.

At the May 2, 2022 Sudbury Annual Town Meeting, a resident group brought forward Citizen Petition [Article 58](#) focused on combatting climate change that passed by well more than the majority of the hall. Details of the petition article are:

- Declares Climate Emergency.
- Calls for the hiring of a Sustainability Director and appropriation of \$130K from Free Cash or other sources for salary/benefits.
- Calls for community-wide greenhouse gas emissions reductions as soon as possible, but no slower than state benchmarks as signed into law.
- Organize 90-day stakeholder meeting to educate about climate emergency risks and Town's plans to address them.
- Convene advisory team led by Sustainability Director to research and develop a Climate Mobilization Action Plan (CMAP).
- Provide annual status report to Town Meeting on progress towards meeting communitywide greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Also, in Fall 2021, the Select Board set as a top goal “Climate Change & Sustainability Initiatives” with [deliverables further mapped out in 2022](#), including key aspects of the citizen petition. During this time, Sudbury’s own [Energy and Sustainability Committee](#) continued to advance important measures, including a plan to put solar on the Town’s Department of Public Works building and consultations to enhance the energy efficiency of the new Fairbank Community Center.

Recently, on July 14th the Select Board held its [Annual Town Forum](#) with the topic of Climate Change & Sustainability. This also met the citizen petition request for a 90-day stakeholder meeting. The Forum brought together an impressive and informative list of external panelists, including Senators Jamie Eldridge and Mike Barret, Representative Carmine Gentile, Winchester Sustainability Director Ken Pruitt, and OARS Executive Director Alison Field-Juma. The Select Board was also fortunate to have Town leadership from the Interim Town Manager, Planning, Health, Conservation, Fire, DPW, and Facilities Departments and our Energy and Sustainability Committee, who were able to share their views on how climate change is affecting Sudbury and past and future actions our community can take. For individuals who were unable to see the Forum live, it is currently available for viewing on [SudburyTV](#).



What climate risks to Sudbury have you identified through your work? What has your department already done to plan for and address risks?

*Director of Planning & Community Development  
Adam Duchesneau responding to a kickoff question at the  
Sudbury Town Forum: Climate Change & Sustainability .*



Among the topics discussed in the Forum were plans developed by the Town of Sudbury in recent years, including the [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan \(MVP\)](#) in 2019 and the [Hazard Mitigation Plan \(HMP\)](#) in 2020. The MVP focuses on community planning for climate change resiliency and implementing key climate change adaptation actions for resiliency. The HMP will help guide Sudbury in future mitigation activities and decisions resulting from natural hazards, such as floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes. Also, the 2021 Sudbury Master Plan Action Plan recognized that Sudbury is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and that action must be taken to be more resilient and reduce the community's carbon footprint.

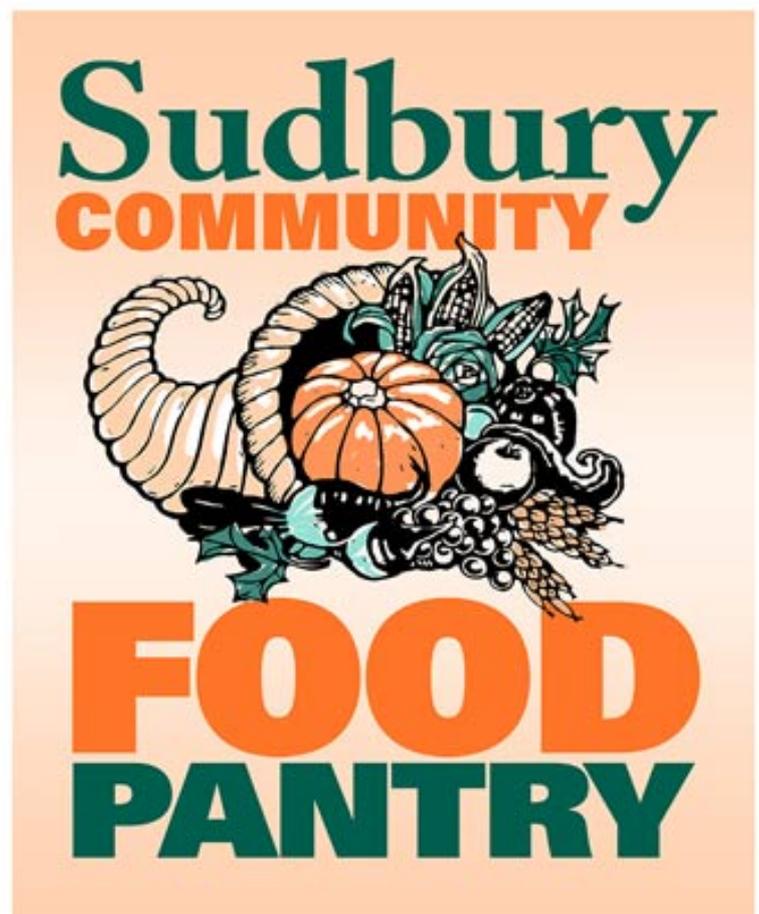
In the Annual Town Forum, Town leaders highlighted current work as well as the need for more staff time and resources to implement the goals of these key plans. Considerable discussion also took place about ongoing efforts to seek grants and State funding to enable necessary action.

Coming off the momentum of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting and Town Forum, the Select Board and Interim Town Manager are actively planning steps to achieve existing goal milestones and the mission of the 2022 Climate Emergency Declaration citizen petition. As this work evolves, the Select Board and Town staff will continue to share updates with the community. Thank you to Sudbury residents, Town staff, businesses, and volunteers for supporting important initiatives to foster sustainability and fight climate change in our community.

## *Sudbury Food Pantry*

**BY DAN CARTY, SELECT BOARD**

Sudbury is considered one of the more affluent towns in Massachusetts as we are generally towards the top of the list when household and median incomes are considered. What many residents may not realize is we also have a very active Food Pantry serving Sudbury families as well as those from neighboring towns. Curious to learn more, I had the pleasure of talking with Laura Howrey who educated me on the history and current status of the Pantry.



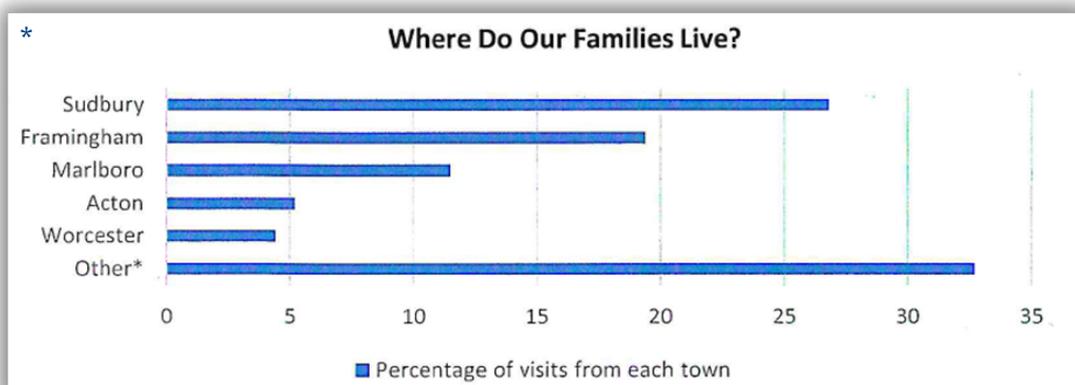
Per Laura, the Pantry started in 1990 at Our Lady of Fatima Church (now Ascension Parish), where it continues today, as a “food shelf.” Over time it turned into more of a full pantry, and currently is staffed fully by volunteers – about one hundred in total – and assists up to eighty families per week. These volunteers unload trucks, collect donations, stock shelves, fill shopping bags, and may also function as “personal shoppers” for those unable to visit the Pantry themselves. The Pantry liaises with the Town of Sudbury via Town Social Worker Bethany Hadvab who helps direct clients. A registered 501(c) (3) organization, the purpose of the Pantry is to help any family or individual, and anyone seeking assistance. While volunteers ask clients a few questions on their first visit, no photo ID or proof of need is asked for, and no one has ever been turned away. Which is important, as while the challenges facing the Pantry are rising, so is the need.

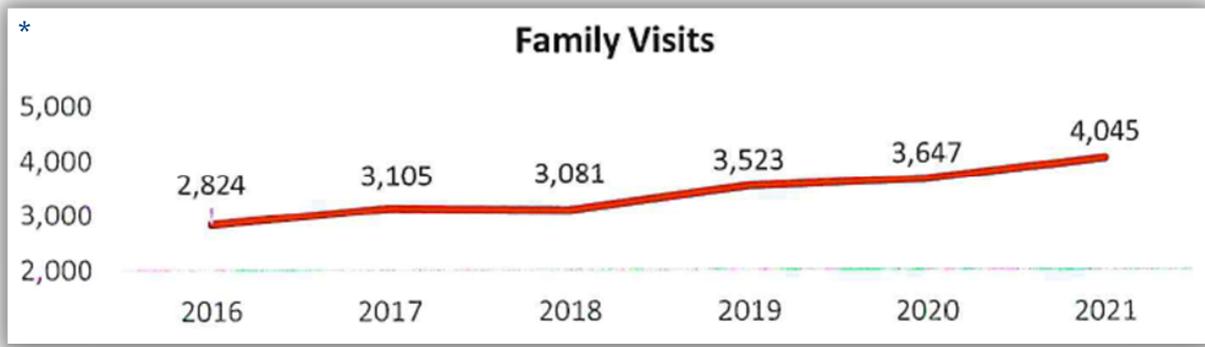
2021 was the busiest year yet for the Pantry. Visits rose 11% as compared to 2020, up to 4,045 in total. 23,706 bags of food were distributed to 763 unique families, including 284 new in 2021. Older and younger demographic groups generally are the most vulnerable to food insecurity, and the numbers show Sudbury and the surrounding area is no different. While families from seventy-three different cities and towns visited the Pantry in 2021, the vast majority have come from Sudbury and the Metrowest area. Nearly 10% of the Food Pantry clients in 2021 were over the age of 64 and 31% were under 18. Over 40 Veterans are also served.

I asked Laura about the challenges facing the Food Pantry, and she mentioned not only the rising need, due in part to general inflation, the rising cost of gas, and that of housing, but also simple physical space. A notable example she gave me had to do with their partnership with the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB).

The pantry purchases roughly 61% of its supplies from the GBFB at low or no cost. But due to recent supply chain and staffing issues, they can only get meat from the GBFB if they order in full pallet quantities. A pallet of meat is roughly 3,500 pounds, and apart from the challenge of unloading pallets, the Pantry has inadequate freezer space for storage. Thankfully, a partnership with Sudbury Farms has helped alleviate this as they donate freezer space to the Pantry, and similarly freezers and shelf space at Camp Sewataro are also utilized. The Food Pantry is certainly grateful for Ascension Parish, but it has to work around the church’s schedule of events and its usage of the space. The Pantry operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12 noon through 2:15PM, while volunteers work to stock shelves Monday through Thursday, and trucks deliveries need to be scheduled. Meanwhile the church has their own activities, like vacation Bible school, which cannot be impacted. More space is being sought as the Food Pantry is collaborating with local realtors on options, but real estate in Sudbury is expensive.

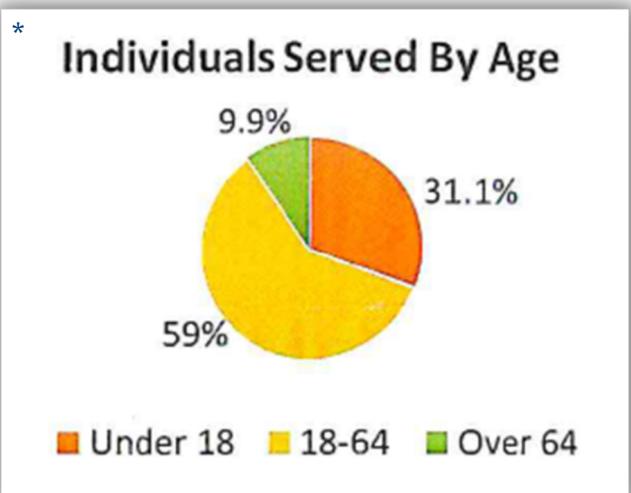
*\*Graphics courtesy of the Sudbury Community Food Pantry 2021 Gratitude Report.*





When asked about where the food comes from in addition to the GBFB, Laura told me that there are a number of sources. Lovin' Spoonfuls collects food from grocery stores that is no longer sellable but still usable and delivers to the Pantry twice a week. Last year, they accounted for 85,736 pounds of food with a retail value of \$143,275. Gaining Ground and Saltbox Farms, both in Concord, provided 3,831 and 2,214 pounds of fresh produce in 2021. Hope & Comfort and Dignity Matters are partner organizations that supply personal care and feminine hygiene products, and the Sudbury Public Schools provide a sizable portion of the shelf stable food via their monthly food drives at all four elementary schools. Numerous other local farmers, shops, restaurants and local food drives help to supplement shelf stable products. Many more partners exist, and rather than run the risk of forgetting any, I submit the Pantry's list: <https://sudburyfoodpantry.org/partners/>.

When I asked about what happens when there are not enough donations, Laura told me that gaps are filled by the Pantry purchasing from local grocery stores. For example, the GBFB was unable to supply many staples, like canned tuna and breakfast cereal, for several months. Generally available for free through GBFB, they had to purchase these at retail, costing \$1,501 and \$1,118 per month. The Pantry is grateful to the individuals, businesses, foundations, and congregations that provide financial support. 2021 also saw a rise in first-time donors, as well as increased efforts to apply for grants and to leverage Pandemic-related funds. State Representative Carmine Gentile has been of particular assistance in this area. The Pantry also recently received a \$100,000 allocation of ARPA funds from the Town of Sudbury. This marks the first time any Town money has gone directly to the Food Pantry, and this money will be used to fill the aforementioned gaps when food is unavailable from the GBFB or donations.



I enjoyed my conversation with Laura and learning about the Food Pantry, but one passage from her summed up for me the Pantry and its mission: "At the Food Pantry clients are treated with kindness, dignity, and respect. Our goal is to provide them with food of both good quality and substantial quantity. And all of the volunteers would probably agree that we do it because we can."

Thank you to Laura Howrey and all of the volunteers and partners at the Sudbury Food Pantry.

# Important Update: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

BY JANIE DRETHER, SELECT BOARD

Great news! On July 12, the Select Board approved and signed the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) Lease with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT).

The Board also signed several other documents related to the BFRT including a Traffic Control Agreement with MassDOT for a signal at Hudson and Peakham Roads as well as approval of temporary construction access, temporary easement payments, and acceptance of donations of temporary easements. The anticipated MassDOT advertising date for construction bids is August 6, 2022.

The Select Board also received notice of a MassTrail Grant award for the BFRT Extension to the CSX corridor. This award is for \$240,000 for the advancement of the feasibility study, conceptual design, and first 1/4 mile design of the BFRT on the former CSX corridor.

For more information about the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail project in Sudbury, go to <https://sudbury.ma.us/pcd/?p=354>. If you are interested in receiving project updates about the Sudbury BFRT, please sign up for email notification at: <https://sudbury.ma.us/email-lists/bfrr/>.

The Town will provide more information about the construction timeline later this summer/early fall, so please stay tuned!

