

TOWN OF SUDBURY

Town Manager Newsletter

April/May 2018

Message from the Town Manager

Dear Neighbor,

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the residents, staff and officials who made Town Meeting such a success. The debate was informative, thoughtful and most importantly, respectful. It made me proud to represent this amazing town.

The last few months have been incredibly busy here. The Town has received two important designations from the state. We received the [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant](#), which will help us prepare for the many impacts of climate change. We also were designated as a [Housing Choice](#) Community, an important designation recognizing the work the town has done for affordable housing access. This designation will allow us to be eligible for more grants and give us extra points for certain grants. The Town also received notification that the Landham Road intersection has received funding from the state. This has been a long-awaited and much needed project, and we are looking forward to a safer intersection with better pedestrian access.

Over the summer, the Town will be busy working on preparing for our next town meeting, implementing our new budget and closing out the fiscal year.

The bag and bottle bylaws will be going into effect at the beginning of July, and the Board of Health Department has been working to ready the business community. Also at the Board of Health, our Public Health Nurse Phyllis Schilp was recognized by the Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses for her dedication and excellence in the field of public health nursing.

Finally, tomorrow June 12 is our [Town Election](#). I encourage all residents to become familiar with the ballot questions and come out to cast their vote at the polls tomorrow.

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



Town-wide removal of debris resulting from the winter storms that battered Sudbury this winter has wrapped up. Pictured above is the chipping of the debris that took place at the Melone property on Route 117.

From the Selectmen's Office

April 2 and 25

The Town Manager Contract Renewal Subcommittee met to draft an updated agreement with the Town Manager.

April 10

The Board approved the application of Oak Barrel Tavern (a restaurant coming soon to Meadow Walk) for outdoor seating. They discussed and took positions on Town Meeting articles. They also proclaimed May to be Military Appreciation Month.

April 11

The Board met in Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to union negotiations and the Frost Farm property as well as Sudbury Station and opiate litigation.

April 24

The Board met with Senator Jamie Eldridge to discuss legislative matters of priority for Sudbury. The Fairbank Task Force presented their recommendations to the Board. The Board voted to endorse the Town's application for [Hosing Choice Initiative Designation](#) and discussed the Police Department's entry into the Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council. The Board also continued to discuss Town Meeting articles and approved the [Spring Board of Selectmen Newsletter](#).

May 1

The Board met with Representative Carmine Gentile and Senator Mike Barrett to discuss legislative matters of priority for Sudbury. They discussed the appointment of a subcommittee to review the [Selectmen Policies and Procedures](#). Following open session, the Board discussed Varsity Wireless lease litigation in Executive Session.

May 7

During their brief meeting prior to Town Meeting, the Board discussed the proposed Safe Community Policy and took positions on Town Meeting articles. They also submitted ballot questions for the June 2018 [Special Town Election](#) to the Town Clerk.

May 15

The Board re-elected Bob Haarde as Chair and elected Dan Carty to be Vice-Chair. They voted to support the recommendations of the Fairbank Task Force, to disband the committee and thank them for their work.

Please note: The above description reflects some of the agenda items discussed at recent Board meetings. For further meeting details, please go to SudburyTV.org to replay the meeting or view the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes, found at: <https://sudbury.ma.us/boardofselectmen/meetings/>



The Park & Recreation Department is auctioning off **ARCADE GAMES** DANCE DANCE REVOLUTION, OFF ROAD, CHALLENGER, PAC MAN AND MORE. Sold in "as is" condition. Auctions are on **MUNICIPID:** <https://municibid.com/Browse?FullTextQuery=sudbury>

Annual Town Meeting

2018 Annual Town Meeting took place over two nights – Monday, May 7 and Tuesday, May 8. Over 300 residents attended each night. Babysitting was available during the first night. This was the second Town Meeting presided over by newly elected Town Moderator Elizabeth Quirk.



Accent A Capella lead the hall in the National Anthem on the first night of Town Meeting. Seated on the stage behind the singers are Assistant Town Clerk Rose Miranda, Town Clerk Rosemary Harvell, Town Moderator Beth Quirk, Town Counsel Jonathan Silverstein, and Town Manager Melissa Murphy-Rodrigues.

Results

Details about the articles presented at

Town Meeting as well as the vote results can be found here:

https://sudbury.ma.us/townmeeting/tmarticles/?twn_mtng=TM-2018

From Town Meeting to Town Election

Three of the articles that were voted at Town Meeting require approval through a Special Town Election in order to be enacted. This is because they are funded through debt exclusions. The 3 ballot questions are:

1. Should the Town purchase DPW Equipment and Rolling Stock?

- a. The DPW seeks to replace and upgrade vehicles which will improve safety, performance and reliability of equipment used for construction, emergency response (such as flood, snow, road closure) and other crucial needs.

- b. The Town Meeting presentation details the DPW vehicle needs:

<https://bit.ly/2IGK3tN>

- c. This equipment would cost the average Sudbury taxpayer roughly \$32 per year for 5 years (the amount would decrease by about \$1 each year).

2. Should the Town replace the DPW Fuel Storage System?

- a. The DPW fuel storage system, which provides unleaded and diesel fuel to the Town's fleets (including police, fire and school departments) is over 25 years old and experiences frequent malfunctions.
- b. Any leaks in the underground fuel storage tanks would result in an environmental concern, and replacement parts and service for the fuel management and tracking system may soon cease to be available. Either case would put the Town in a crisis situation

- where it would not be able to support critical town services.
- c. The Town Meeting presentation highlights issues with the fuel island and illustrates costs associated with the project: <https://bit.ly/2GFNm2G>
 - d. This project would cost the average Sudbury taxpayer roughly \$32 per year for 10 years (the amount would decrease by about \$1 each year).
3. Should the Town repair Stearns Mill Pond Dam & replace Dutton Road Bridge?
- a. A Notice of Noncompliance was issued by the Mass DCR Office of Dam Safety after inspection of the Stearns Mill Pond Dam.
 - b. A recent inspection of Dutton Road Bridge revealed a number of significant issues.
 - c. The Town Meeting presentation highlights present conditions at the Dam and Bridge: <https://bit.ly/2s6VtRt>
 - d. The repairs and updates would cost the average Sudbury taxpayer roughly \$32 per year for 10 years (the amount would decrease by about \$1 each year).

The [Special Town Election](#) is scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, 2018.

Marijuana Zoning

Passage of this article on the first night of Town Meeting has amended the Town's Zoning Bylaw Definitions and Use Table to prohibit commercial marijuana cultivation, manufacturing or sale of any marijuana product, including retail establishments or commercial sales of marijuana products in any zoning district throughout town. This follows Sudbury's overall vote not to support the statewide ballot question (Question #4) on recreational marijuana during the November 2016 election. Following the November 2016 election, the May 2017

Annual Town Meeting voted to impose a temporary moratorium on marijuana establishments, which is set to expire on July of 2018.

The Planning Board members discussed at a series of public meetings their desire to have the town "opt-out" of the State's recreational marijuana initiative and worked with the Sudbury Police Chief and Town Counsel to develop the zoning bylaw amendment.

It is important to note this zoning amendment only pertains to commercial sales, cultivation and establishments and does not prohibit personal use or at-home cultivation.

The presentation for the article has more details about the bylaw change: <https://bit.ly/2wYQ8jM>

Submitted by: Meagen Donoghue, Director of Planning & Community Development

Senior Tax Exemption Program

Thanks to the support extended by voters during the first night of Sudbury's 2018 Annual Town Meeting, the "Sudbury Means Tested Senior Exemption Program" has been continued for another three years.

Brief Program Summary

This real estate tax exemption reduces real property taxes for some low to moderate-income seniors through a redistribution of the property tax burden within the residential class. This program offers tax relief to qualifying seniors who are long time Sudbury residents.

Qualifications

Seniors over the age of 65 who meet the eligibility criteria as defined in 1-5 below may be candidates for some property tax relief according to this program.

1. Own and occupy the property (10-year residency requirement).
2. Co-owners (other than a spouse) must be at least 60 years of age.
3. Assessed value of home not to exceed \$799,600.
4. Calendar year 2017 Massachusetts Income must not exceed:
\$57,000 for a single individual (non-head of household filer).
\$86,000 for married couples filing a joint return.
\$72,000 for a head of household.
5. Applicant must not own “excessive assets” that place him/her outside of the intended recipients of the senior exemption.

Application Process

The Assessor’s Office will have application packets available the last week in May. This year’s filing deadline will be August 31, 2018. To request an application packet please contact the Assessor’s office. Please get in touch by either phone or email. 978-639-3395 or gerryc@sudbury.ma.us

Required Documentation

The following documentation is necessary to submit in conjunction with the completed application:

Copy of 2017 Massachusetts State Income Tax Schedule CB

Copy of 2017 Federal income Tax Form 1040 Pages 1 & 2.

Submitted by: Cynthia Gerry, Director of Assessing



SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION

Tuesday, June 12, 2018 ~ Polls open 7AM – 8PM

1. Should the Town purchase **DPW Equipment and Rolling Stock?**
2. Should the Town replace the **DPW Fuel Storage System?**
3. Should the Town **repair Stearns Mill Pond Dam & replace Dutton Road Bridge?**

Find WHERE TO VOTE, view the WARRANT and get more ELECTION DETAILS here:

<https://sudbury.ma.us/clerk/?p=1527>

Building Department

Building Safety Month

May is Building Safety Month! This campaign of the International Code Council is intended to raise awareness of what goes into creating safe and sustainable structures. Your building inspectors train for inspecting code compliance as well as catastrophe, natural and unnatural disasters and other safety concerns. Learn more at <https://www.iccsafe.org/about-icc/building-safety-month/2018-building-safety-month/>.

Projects and Inspections

We continue to be very busy with the Raytheon redevelopment along with other building projects in town. Summer camps and semi-public pools will be due for annual inspections this May.

Meadow Walk Update

AvalonBay has its first tenants moving in this month. Building T-2, T-3 and The Club House have their Certificates of Occupancy. Work continues at a quick pace as they hope to be on target for having all their structures erected by August 2018.

Make Way for Ducklings

Prospective tenants of the feathered variety have been checking out the pond between High Crest and Avalon Bay. A mother mallard duck escorts her seven ducklings carefully as they pass through the construction site.



A family of ducks touring the Meadow Walk construction site.

Making a Difference for the Environment

There is much government legislation geared towards preventing waste and encouraging recycling, but some environmentally-minded Sudbury residents are going the extra mile to reduce and reuse. We recently issued a permit to demolish a house at 109 New Bridge Road. The house was carefully dismantled for the lumber and other construction materials for future use. This process lessens landfill use and saves trees.

Submitted by: Mark Herweck, Building Inspector



Above left and right: Eco-friendly demolition at New Bridge Road.

Conservation Office

Tree Removal

The Sudbury Conservation Commission has been handling many inquiries regarding trimming fallen branches, clearing fallen trees, or cutting trees down. Our jurisdiction is only specific to Wetlands areas which may be on someone's property. Please refer to the [Sudbury Wetlands Bylaw Regulations](#) for clarification on tree removal (sited below):

7.14 Tree Removal Performance Standards
Property owners often approach the Commission for approval to remove trees in the wetland or upland resource area of their lot for safety reasons. These safety reasons may be perceived hazards or documented hazards. Heavy rains and more severe storms in the past several years have resulted in a significant increase in tree removal requests.

A property owner may submit a report from a state licensed arborist to show that the tree(s) are documented health or safety hazards (diseased, struck by lightning, causing serious mold or mildew within the dwelling, etc.). Based on the functions of the trees, the Commission, at its discretion and based on wetland function, may or may not require replanting of other native plant species to preserve wetland values and functions.

Property owners wishing to remove trees that are not imminent threats and show no signs of being compromised will be required to submit a restoration-planting plan to preserve and enhance the wetland and adjacent upland values and functions.

Property owners may trim tree branches directly overhanging dwellings without a permit.

Reminder!

Turtles and Salamanders are hatching and crossing the roadways. Please exercise caution when driving near ponds, streams, and any waterways. You may not be able to see them at night, but when safe to do so, please avoid running these creatures over. Also, visit our webpage for information regarding siting of Bears in our and surrounding communities and what to do in the unlikely event you do happen to see one. Also, when walking out on Conservation Lands, please keep in mind to use Tick/Mosquito precautions. The Conservation Commission is working on information regarding tick/mosquito pesticide applications – stay tuned.



Commissioner Richard Morse with a box turtle.

Hearings & Projects

The Department has held several Eversource hearings as well as resident applications, which required the addition of an extra meeting in May due to the number of wetland permit applications currently before the Commission.



Eversource site work preparation.

Meadow Walk project is progressing with the Commission staying up to date on any Wetland issues.

Spring Walks

Our Spring Walks held in conjunction with L/S were well attended, with many expressing an interest in adding Fall Walks to our schedule.



Spring Walk 2018 participants.

Conservation Land

Finally, motor vehicle use of any kind, is strictly prohibited on Conservation Land. The issue is one of Public Safety as well as wildlife protection. Fines will be administered to those choosing to ignore the law.

*Submitted by: Kirsten Roopenian for
Conservation Department*

Fire Department

226 Goodman Hill Road

On Wednesday, May 2 at 3:56 PM, the Sudbury 911 Communications Center received a call for smoke coming from 226 Goodman's Hill Road. The Fire Department responded with Engines 2 and 3, Ladder 1, Ambulance 6, and Cars 1, 2 and 3. Police Sargent Hagglund arrived on scene and reported a large amount of smoke pouring from the home. Fire Car 2 arrived on the scene with Assistant Chief Choate who found a 1 ½ story Cape Cod style home with heavy smoke

coming from the attic and eve areas. A "working fire" assignment and a Box Alarm was then transmitted.





This upgraded response brought a Wayland Engine, Framingham Engine, and Framingham Ambulance to the fire location.

Once the interior fire attack began, the fire conditions on the second floor intensified and, due to this change in conditions, a second alarm was requested, bringing a Marlborough Engine, Maynard Engine and the Department of Fire Service Rehab Unit. The members of Engine 2 ascended Ladder 1 to provide a vent in the roof area to assist in reducing the heat conditions on the second floor.

At the time of the fire, no residents were home, a dog and cat were eventually located by fire personnel, no injuries occurred during fire operations.

Once the roof vent was completed, heat conditions lifted slightly on the second floor.



The fire quickly self-vented through the center section of the roof when it collapsed and all units were withdrawn from the building to knock down the fire with Ladder 1's master steam.

The following YouTube Link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KV8z9fXGbfw> provides a good overview of how fire operations proceeded during the event.

Department Achievements

The Fire Department promoted a number of employees since the beginning of the year, Captain Tim Choate was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief, Lieutenant Kevin Cutler was promoted to Captain and Firefighter / Paramedic William Francis was promoted to Lieutenant. Firefighter / Paramedic Brian Patterson graduated the ten-week Massachusetts Fire Academy on March 30th, Brian received the Richard N. Bangs award given to the top student in the class. This award is given to the student

with the highest academic average and the least amount of deficiency points.

*Photos by: Hal Cutler
Submitted by: Fire Chief Whalen*

Goodnow Library

Reimagining the Second Floor-update

We spent most of March working on finishing this exciting project. New carpet and paint have replaced material that has been in use for 18 years. We also reorganized the collections, and centralized our computers and technology. Work on the NOW Lab has been going on simultaneously. The work was fully complete by the time of the Library's Annual Foundation Gala on April 28.

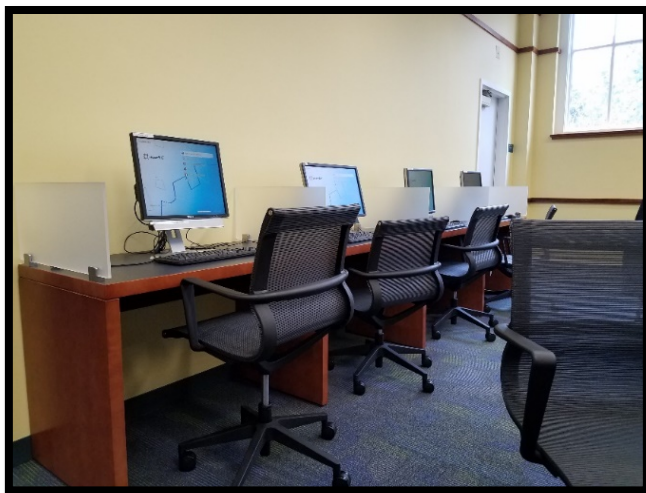


Above: Tons of shelves and books had to be moved in order to install the new carpet and formulate the new layout.

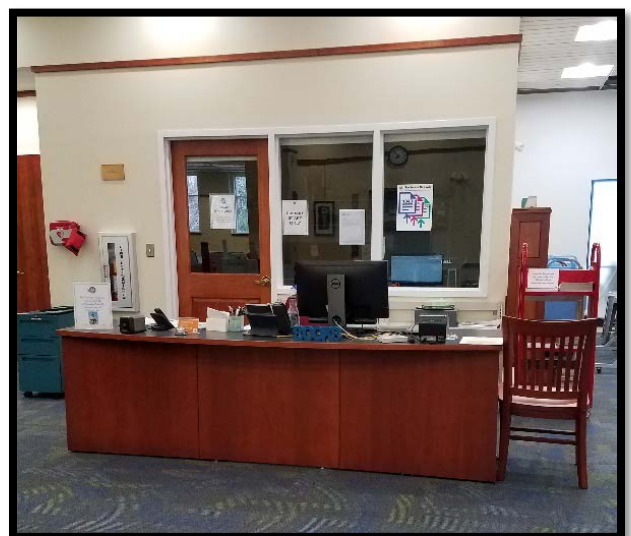
Left: With the stacks removed, the old carpet really shows its age. In the background, painters brighten up the walls.



A View to the Non-Fiction stacks and the Newspaper Reading Room.



A view of the new Computers & Technology Area.



The new Reference Desk is much more welcoming!

NOW Lab

While the Second Floor was closed for paint and carpeting, work on the Sara Sherman NOW Lab continued. The highly anticipated glass and steel wall arrived and was installed. See this time lapse video for a peek of what it was like:



We expect work on the Lab to be complete in late April, and open to the public shortly thereafter. Please stay tuned for more information!

Sara Sherman NOW Lab

WANTED

Makerspace Volunteers

Special Program for Children: Mama Ballroom

Have a new baby and looking for ways to get out and do something? Join Mama Ballroom!

Learn fun basics of ballroom in



waltz, merengue, foxtrot and more! No prior dance experience necessary, this class is for beginners. Classes run most Tuesdays from 11:30 AM to 12:15 PM. We will also enjoy some mama circle time and talk health and safe babywearing. What you'll need for class: Athletic wear, Sneakers or jazz/ballet flats and a baby carrier. Questions or want to know more? Check out <http://mamaballroom.com/>. Class is limited to 15 mama/baby pairs and registration can be completed through our online calendar.

Exciting news: construction on the NOW Lab, Goodnow's new makerspace, is nearing completion and we hope to open soon!

We're looking for volunteers to help run the NOW Lab—to assist others with operating equipment and to share your valuable skills with other makers. And while you're volunteering, we encourage you to use the equipment and space to work on your own projects. High School students also earn Community Volunteer credits.

The NOW Lab is not just about making *things*—it's about making a *community*.

You can submit an online NOW Lab volunteer application here:

bit.ly/nowlabhelp

Submitted by: Esmé Green, Goodnow Library Director

Board of Health

Medical Reserve Corps Tick Borne Illness Outreach

Disease resulting from ticks is becoming more prevalent in Sudbury. Every year tick borne illness is the #1 reported infectious disease in Sudbury. The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) spring outreach includes health educational information on ticks at town buildings, schools, and conservation trails. MRC members fulfill an important role in providing services for those in need during large-scale public health emergencies. Members are instrumental in staffing health clinics, shelters, doing community outreach and responding to disasters in medical and non-medical roles. We are always looking for new members. Come join our team!



MRC member Marie Royea stocking tick info at conservation trails.

To sign up for the MRC, please contact: Phyllis Schilp, RN, Sudbury Board of Health nurse at: schilpp@sudbury.ma.us

978-440-5477

The Board of Health wants to remind all Sudbury residents of some important precautions to help guard against tick-borne disease.

- Be aware of wooded areas with high grasses or leaf piling (where ticks hide)
- Walk in the center of trails
- Wear tick repellent containing DEET or clothes treated with permethrin
- When returning home after having been outdoors, bathe or shower as soon as possible to wash off or find ticks crawling on you
- Do a tick check after spending time outdoors (don't forget your pets)
- Test your Tick at: <https://www.tickreport.com/>

Please contact the Board of Health with any questions (978)-440-5479.

Check out this on-line resource from the State Health Department for more information: <http://blog.mass.gov/blog/health/the-importance-of-protecting-your-home-and-family-against-ticks-and-mosquitoes/>.



Actual size of a deer tick

Submitted by: Phyllis Schilp, Board of Health Nurse

Mental Health Awareness Month

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. First started in 1949 by the Mental Health America organization, a toolkit of mental health resources is released each year based on a new theme. This year's theme, Fitness #4Mind4Body, can be found here. Included in this year's focus is information on diet and nutrition, exercise, the gut-brain connection, sleep and stress.



The theme, to learn more about what we can do as individuals to be holistically fit in our own futures, is in line with a new program offered by the Board of Health's Social Work Department in collaboration with The Sudbury Senior Center and the Marlborough Community Development Corporation. The program, Well and Wise, is an 8-week senior wellbeing series that focuses on topics such as finances, health and fitness, social connectedness and more. For example, during the first workshop in May a health fair was offered to seniors. This fair included

contributions by the Town Social Worker and Nurse to answer resident questions and provide resources. In addition, depression and memory screenings were offered. Each week the program focuses on a different wellbeing topic and includes guest speakers.

To learn more about local community resources, and to access links and articles related to mental health awareness, please visit the town social work web

page: <https://sudbury.ma.us/socialworker/>. The CRANE website (<http://cranehelp.org/>) is another great resource. CRANE is a unique collaboration between the towns of Sudbury and Lincoln to share timely resources around mental health, health and wellbeing needs for youth and families. For additional information or resources, please call the social work office at 978-440-5476.

Submitted by: Laura Michelson, Board of Health Social Work Intern

Town Clerk's Office

Annual Town Election

The Annual Town Election was held on Monday, March 26, there were 2524 votes cast, representing about 20% of the Town's 12548 registered voters. Please see our website for the [results](#).

Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Monday May 7 and 8. Four hundred and eighty-seven voters attended one or both nights of the Annual Town Meeting. The 2018 Annual Town Meeting [Results](#) are available on our website.

Census & Dogs

If you have not returned your census form, we encourage you to do so either by mail or by hand-delivering it to one of the drop-off boxes located at Town Hall (322 Concord Road). For information on how to license a dog, including associated fees, please see our website.

Are you registered to vote in Sudbury?

The deadline to register or to make changes to an existing voter registration is twenty days before an election or the annual town meeting and ten days before a special town meeting. A Special Voter Registration Session will be held at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 322

Concord Road, from 8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. on each of the registration deadlines.

Special Town Election

A Special Town Election has been called for June 12, 2018.

<u>Voter Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Election Date</u>
Wednesday, May 23, 2018	Tuesday, June 12, 2018: Special Town Election

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

You also have the option of downloading a printable mail-in voter registration form from our [website](#). As always, you are very welcome to swing by the Town Clerk’s Office in Town Hall during our business hours and complete the form with us.

[Absentee Ballot Information](#)

For further voter information, please visit our website.

Submitted by: Rose M. Miranda, Asst. Town Clerk

Committee Spotlight: Sudbury Housing Trust

The Sudbury Housing Trust is tasked with supporting the creation and preservation of affordable housing in the Town of Sudbury for the benefit of low and moderate income households.

Recent Projects: Properties on Maynard Road (<https://sudbury.ma.us/housingtrust/?p=1194>)

Meeting Frequency: Once per month

Website: <https://sudbury.ma.us/housingtrust/>

Interested in serving on the Trust?

Applications are now being accepted for a vacancy that became available in April. To apply, submit an [Appointment Application](#) to the Selectmen’s Office.

