

# Municipal Update



Scenes from **Special Town Meeting**, which took place on Monday, October 23, 2023. Click [here](#) for vote results and information.

## The Year-End Calendar

Thank you to everyone who attended or watched the Town Forum on October 12, 2023. The topic was Residents Shaping Sudbury's Future. Along with a discussion of Town Meeting, we talked about volunteer opportunities for residents, particularly around serving on a committee. Conservation Commission chair Dave Henkels spoke about his decision to volunteer and offered a wonderful testimonial of what moves him to serve. We had a good turnout at Town Hall with additional people participating via Zoom. You can view the Town Forum at SudburyTV [here](#).

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## **FROM THE SELECT BOARD**

Sudbury Police Department  
*by Lisa Kouchakdjian*

New Planning Director Adam Burney  
*by Jennifer Roberts*

Body Cameras  
*by Charlie Russo*

# Calendar continued...

Thanks also to everyone who attended the Special Town Meeting on October 23, 2023. More than 250 registered voters were there that Monday night. Special Town Meetings are not too common in Sudbury and they tend to be limited in scope – this one was a little broader. You can find the vote results, as well as amendments and presentations, [here](#).

At the Town Forum and following the Special Town Meeting, we've received inquiries about [absentee voting](#). Mainly, voters wonder why absentee voting is available for elections but not for Town Meeting. This is because Sudbury has an Open Town Meeting form of government which does not allow absentee voting. This continues to be a frequent topic of conversation. We expect there will be sustained requests of the Massachusetts Legislature to amend the laws to allow some form of remote participation at Open Town Meetings.

With Special Town Meeting behind us, Town Staff turns our attention to the Annual Town Meeting. Next year's Annual Town Meeting convenes on May 6, 2024. As Town Meeting's most important duty is considering spending requests, including operating and capital budgets,

we must now dive headlong into our budget calendar. But, at the behest of a colleague, I will hold off taking you along on our deadline-heavy journey, and focus instead on what we're looking forward to later this fall and winter.

I'm thrilled to share that the Fairbank Community Center and the Fire Station #2 building on Route 20 are both slated to open their doors by December! Stay tuned for ribbon cutting festivities and the lineup of programs and activities being planned by the Senior Center and Park & Recreation.

In Town Center, we're very much looking forward to hosting Holiday Village on Saturday December 2 from 11AM - 2PM. Highlights will include a holiday gift market featuring local artists and crafters, live music from Rock Voices, Noteworthy Experiences, L-S Civic Orchestra and Sudbury Valley New Horizons, Goodnow story time and lots more. It's a very Sudbury way to enjoy some holiday cheer. We hope you'll add it to your calendar and join us!

**Andy Sheehan**  
Town Manager

## Town of Sudbury

# TOWN MANAGER OFFICE HOURS

**Andrew J. Sheehan**



Meet & Greet Sudbury's new Town Manager **Andy Sheehan**. Residents, business owners and community members are invited to stop by and say hello.

**Tues. November 21, 2023**

6:00 - 7:00 PM

Hybrid

In person: *Flynn Building, Silva Room*

Online: [Zoom](#)

<https://sudbury.ma.us/townmanager/?p=2535>



# Thanks giving

## TOWN OFFICE CLOSINGS

Wed, November 22, 2023: Noon close

Thurs, November 23, 2023: Closed

Fri, November 24, 2023: Closed



Merry  
Christmas



**TOWN  
OFFICES  
CLOSED**

12/25/23



Happy  
New Year

**TOWN  
OFFICES  
CLOSED**



1/1/24

# *Rail Trails in Sudbury: Bridging the Past to the Future*

**BY LORI CAPONE, CONSERVATION COORDINATOR**

The Mass Central and Bruce Freeman Rail Trail corridors over the last six months have progressed from demolition to resurrection.

Since my last article in the Spring, the most significant change within the Mass Central corridor was the bisection of the corridor with the removal of Bridge 127, shortly followed by Bridge 128. These bridges, both over Hop Brook, are two of the most beautiful locations within the corridor. Both removals were very different in scope. Bridge 127 was more degraded of the two bridges and dangerous to traverse. This structure was removed in its entirety in less than

half an hour. Following removal of Bridge 127, divers spent days hand removing underwater pieces. Alternately, Bridge 128, being more structurally sound, was only losing its rails, ties, and wooden footbridge that had been constructed atop. This took three hours to remove, but it was all in one piece.

In turn, the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail had quickly removed both the Hop Brook and Pantry Brook bridges in the spring. The reconnection of the Bruce Freeman corridor has commenced, with the reconstruction of the Hop Brook Bridge. The Pantry Brook Bridge has not yet commenced construction. The water elevation in Pantry Brook has significantly affected the ability to install the footings.

This summer's rains have certainly been challenging for both projects. This was most evident east of Boston Post Road where Hop Brook resembled the days of its glacial Lake Sudbury glory. On the rainiest of days, water from the wetlands flowed into the site, and a river formed down the corridor. In a segment further to the west, the rains led to the failure of a drainage structure under the rail bed. These conditions did not deter reconstruction of Bridge 127 where weeks were spent installing new footings for the bridge, while Hop Brook flowed a few feet away, fifteen feet above their heads.



*Site of Bridge 127*

# *Rail Trails in Sudbury*

The footing installation at Bridge 127 was an impressive feat given its location on narrow peninsulas surrounded by water. The existing bridge was half submerged in Hop Brook. Weeks were spent driving interlocking metal sheets into the ground to create a watertight box. Soil was then excavated and concrete footings installed. This required a substantial amount of dewatering, contained within the limit of work. The superstructure has not yet been installed. The decking on Bridge 128 will be installed in the next few weeks.

The initial round of invasive species removal has been completed on both trails. Between the two projects, over eight acres of invasive species have been removed from the corridors. The Mass Central project conducted all work by manual or mechanical means. One of the techniques being employed is to install black bags over the stumps of large buckthorn plants in order to kill them in place.

These have all been GPS located, so they can be monitored and will be removed from the site once the plant is dead.

At this time, all manholes and most of the conduit has been installed. The transmission line has been rerouted around the cattle crossing that was recently discovered west of Bridge 128. Care was taken during installation, using a vacuum to remove soil adjacent to the structure. Wetland replication areas are under construction on both projects.

But the most exciting advancement, what has truly brought to trail to life, has been the installation of binder asphalt on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. As we narrow in on one year of construction, we no longer need to wonder, we can see what these trails are going to bring to our community.



**PUBLIC NOTICE: These corridors are not currently open to the public, nor safe for passage. Please refrain from accessing these corridors until construction is complete and safe road crossings have been installed.**

# *Sudbury's New Conservation Land Manager: Joseph Miller*

Assuming the role of Sudbury's Conservation Land Manager has already proven to be an incredible experience. Since joining the team in August, I've received a warm welcome from the department staff and the entire town, and have already had the chance to dive right into some rewarding projects.

Before joining Sudbury, I served as the Land Steward and Ranger for the Lincoln Land Conservation Trust, just down the road. There, my work primarily revolved around enhancing open spaces through various fieldwork initiatives. These included clearing and improving trail networks for better public access to conservation land, identifying and removing invasive plant populations, creating pollinator gardens, and educating the public on how they can contribute to the preservation of our state's beautiful natural areas.

Along with a great team of staff, senior workers, scouts, hunters, and other volunteers, we've been hard at work bringing these efforts to Sudbury to make meaningful improvements to our conservation lands. If you've ventured out onto our trails recently, you may have already noticed some of these changes, from freshly-painted trailhead signs, to trails cleared of overgrowth, and even a few new trails. In the coming months, you can look forward to seeing updated trail guides at our kiosks, featuring new maps and narratives that delve into the intriguing and diverse histories of Sudbury's protected spaces.

Public engagement is essential to fulfilling the objectives of conservation. Invasive plants and insects pose a significant threat to our forests, fields, and wetlands, both on public and private



*Joe Miller pulling invasive garlic mustard.*

land, and protecting our native biodiversity demands a collective effort involving everyone in the community. If you're interested in joining this cause, you can get involved by volunteering, addressing invasives on your own property, and educating yourself on what to watch out for during outdoor activities. As part of this initiative, I've begun compiling a comprehensive list of invasive species found in Sudbury to provide a set of identification and management tips. Keep a look out for it soon on the [Conservation Department's website](#).

Thank you to the entire Sudbury community for such a warm welcome. It has been an exciting journey since August, and I am enthusiastic to see the positive impacts that we can make towards preserving our wild spaces with your help and involvement. Stay tuned for more updates and resources through our website, and get outside to enjoy the beautiful landscapes of this lovely town!

Town of Sudbury

# HOLIDAY VILLAGE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

11AM - 2PM

Town Hall Sudbury Museum Grange Hall

First Parish Presbyterian Church Town Common



LIVE MUSIC | WINTER GIFT MARKET  
FOOD & FUN | [SADBURY.MA.US/HOLIDAYVILLAGE](http://SADBURY.MA.US/HOLIDAYVILLAGE)



# Town of Sudbury HOLIDAY VILLAGE

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

330 Concord Rd

Winter  
Concert



## TOWN HALL

322 Concord Rd

Artisan  
Gift  
Market



## SUDBURY HISTORY MUSEUM

288 Old Sudbury Rd

Festival of  
Wreaths



## GRANGE HALL

326 Concord Rd

Goodnow  
Story Time  
& Book Nook



## FIRST PARISH CHURCH

327 Concord Rd

Hearty  
Soup  
Lunch



Meetinghouse  
Tours  
11:15AM &  
1PM



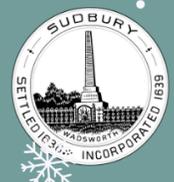
## TOWN CENTER COMMON

Touch-A-Truck



Volunteer!  
Email to sign up:  
[sbdadmin@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:sbdadmin@sudbury.ma.us)

SUDBURY TOWN CENTER | SAT. DECEMBER 2, 2023  
11AM - 2PM | [SUDBURY.MA.US/HOLIDAYVILLAGE](http://SUDBURY.MA.US/HOLIDAYVILLAGE)



# *On Black-tipped Wing*

**BY LUKE FAUST,  
CONSERVATION COMMISSIONER**

The iconic whooping crane stands as North America's tallest bird. Their striking, predominantly white plumage is complemented by a touch of black on the flight feathers and conspicuous red facial skin. Their range once extended vast distances across the continent, but in more recent times, they've bred exclusively in western Canada and wintered in Texas. From numbers in excess of 10,000, by 1941 the population had dwindled to a mere 15 individuals.

While this remarkable species is among our most endangered, it also embodies a remarkable conservation success, rebounding from near extinction to a population of nearly 1,000 today. Today, a reintroduced population migrates from Wisconsin to Florida. Conservation efforts have ingeniously employed crane puppets to instill whooping crane behaviors in young birds and used small aircraft to guide them along their migration routes.

Recently, my wife and I seized the opportunity to visit the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in hopes of sighting a whooping crane. The local community has wholeheartedly embraced these magnificent birds, evident in the numerous prominent signs in the town and the impressive modern Visitors Center. While a sighting after breeding season seemed unlikely, we headed to the nearest observation tower, ready to wait. The area teemed with hundreds of ducks and a few trumpeter swans, but there was no sign of a whooping crane. Then, my wife noticed a head poking up over the reeds, approximately half a mile away. It vanished as quickly as it had appeared, but we kept our binoculars trained on the spot. Eventually, a majestic white bird emerged, displaying a telltale red on its face—a whooping crane!



While whooping cranes are not known to visit Sudbury, their grey, slightly smaller cousins can sometimes be spotted. Approximately the size of a great blue heron, sandhill cranes are renowned for their spectacular migratory patterns, with notable sites in New Mexico and Nebraska. Common in other parts of the country, they are a rare in the Northeast, which hosts only a few breeding sites (none of which are in Middlesex County). Despite the slim odds, there have been a couple of sightings in Town, including one this past March near the Davis Farm Conservation Land.

Keep an eye out in early spring for migrating sandhill cranes, whether soaring high above or gracing farmland with their presence. Their distinctive bugling calls and characteristic cross-shaped flight are unmistakable, a privilege and wonder to behold.

Habitat diversity promotes species diversity. In addition to protecting the forests and wetlands of the Town's conservation lands, the [Sudbury Conservation Commission](#) also plays a pivotal role in preserving agricultural land in Sudbury, owning several properties that are leased to local farmers. These lands provide essential habitat for all manner of flora and fauna, including migratory birds like killdeer, sparrows, and of course, the occasional sandhill crane.

# SUDBURY CITIZENS EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



The Sudbury Citizens Emergency Response Team is looking for new members! The CERT Team in Sudbury focuses on the Town's Emergency Shelter Operations and provides additional support for public events. With the addition of a brand-new Community Center, the CERT Program will be expanding to provide support to the town in new and exciting ways.

## LEARN MORE

Check out what it's like to be a member and see the types of training provided by visiting [CERT online \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov).

## APPLY NOW!

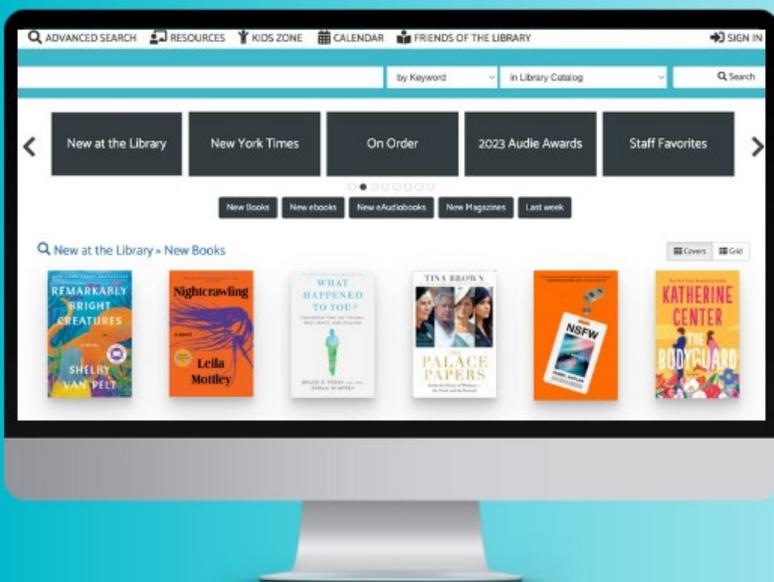
Complete an application for membership today at: <https://bit.ly/3FWWpxf>

# Goodnow Library

Meet your library's  
new catalog.



Aspen  
Discovery



- View, manage, and check out ebooks all in one place
- Virtually browse and see titles by format
- Discover new titles through recommendations
- Manage your account
- Create and view lists

**... and more!**

Starting on November 20, your new Minuteman catalog is

**[sudbury.minlib.net](https://sudbury.minlib.net)**

**Try it today!**

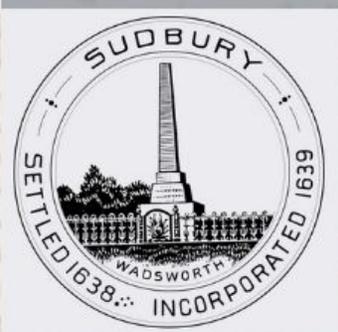
# GET INVOLVED WITH SUDBURY'S 2023 HOUSING PRODUCTION PLAN!

We need your help this fall collecting feedback for our Housing Production Plan Take the survey here: [https://tinyurl.com/sudburyHPP!](https://tinyurl.com/sudburyHPP)

We will also be hosting a Community Visioning forum, on Wednesday, December 13th at 7pm at Town Hall.

Have questions? Email Community Preservation Coordinator, Ryan Poteat at [PoteatR@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:PoteatR@sudbury.ma.us)

Visit our website at  
[www.sudbury.ma.us/](http://www.sudbury.ma.us/)  
for updates and important information



# Senior Center News

**BY DEBRA GALLOWAY,  
SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR**

## **New Community Center**

We are excited to continue our preparations for the new Senior Center space in the new Community Center. It's been thrilling to see the flagpole and flag lifted, the young trees planted and some of the finishing touches being added to the building façade.

We are thankful for residents' support of the new Community Center and are working hard to ensure that it will be an integrated, thriving community space for both older adult residents as well as the many adults, families and children who will utilize the Atkinson Pool and participate in Recreation department programs.

Although such a large and complicated endeavor is bound to have some initial bugs, we look forward to inviting you to visit us and learn more about the new Center. The current dates for the move to the new building are December 11-28 (subject to change due to construction issues).

Just after our move, the Senior Center and Sudbury Public Schools spaces will be fully open, but due to the phased construction, part of the Sudbury Park and Recreation spaces will continue to be under construction for a couple of months. This will be while the old building is cleared of any remaining asbestos, and demolished; and the refurbished pool lobby and new entrance to Park and Recreation department is constructed.

*The new Fairbank Community Center façade near Hudson Road.*



# Senior Center, Continued

## Senior Center Schedule Note

Due to the changing construction dates, the Senior Center schedule has been a bit bumpy! We have had to be quite flexible and change dates, and postpone or reschedule events. Once the move dates are finalized, we hope to have a more stable schedule. We appreciate your patience!

## Transportation

The Sudbury Senior Center continues to play an integral role in the Sudbury Transportation Committee. The Senior Center manages the Sudbury Connection Van service, and staffs the registration and management of the GoSudbury Uber and GoSudbury Taxi services. We are pleased to be able to offer this range of services to the Sudbury community. The van service is available to residents 60 and over, and residents 18 and over who have a disability. The GoSudbury services has broader eligibility: Sudbury residents who are 60+, Sudbury residents who are 18+ with a disability that limits driving, Sudbury residents who have financial need, as well as Sudbury residents who are veterans or active duty military.

The GoSudbury Taxi and Uber services are funded through a combination of town funds and grants. The GoSudbury Uber program also receives support from rider copays. These services are well utilized and the Transportation Committee continues to seek ways to support these and other services so that residents have options. Additional grant applications are in process and we hope for additional funding support. For information

about Transportation Services, please contact the Sudbury Senior Center at 978-443-3055 or [senior@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:senior@sudbury.ma.us). For information about the Sudbury Transportation Committee, please see the Transportation Committee webpage at [www.sudbury.ma.us/transportation/](http://www.sudbury.ma.us/transportation/).

## Tech Savvy

The Sudbury Senior Center was awarded the “Enhancing Digital Literacy for Older Adults” grant through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs recently. Funds from the grant will support free technical workshops, technical one to one tutoring and hardware such as laptops, tablets, and their accessories. Check the Sudbury Senior Center newsletter for upcoming Tech workshops!

## Sand Buckets for Winter

Our volunteer Sand Bucket Brigade is 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 the homes of 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, in advance, to our Sand Bucket Brigade, for helping to keep our seniors safe. If you are a Sudbury senior in need of a sand bucket for the winter, please call Janet Lipkin at 978-639-3223, and we will have a volunteer deliver it to your residence within a few days of the request made.



# Senior Center, Continued

## What's Happening at the Sudbury Senior Center?

A wide range of offerings continue at the Sudbury Senior Center, including: Lifelong learning academic classes, support groups, art classes, social and discussion groups, fitness classes, informational talks, movies, cards and games... there's something for everyone at the Senior Center. See recent photo of our Drums Alive class taken by MetroWest Daily News/Wicked Local photographer Art Illman. New class session with Instructor Yachun Lin will start in January in the new Center. We recently hosted a talk by local author Suzanne Parry, who talked about her new book "Lost Souls of Leningrad".

While the Sudbury Senior Center is known for the many activities we offer, we also provide supports and services for Sudbury residents and their families. There are support groups for caregivers, people living with low vision, and bereavement, as well as services such as Phone Buddies, help with shopping, hearing assessments, and SHINE Medicare counseling.



Lively music and vigorous drumming with instructor Yachun Lin, at the "Drums Alive" class at the Sudbury Senior Center. Photo by Wicked Local Photographer Art Illman.

Our newsletter provides a wealth of information about our programs, if you don't already receive our newsletter, please contact us at 978-443-3055, or sign up for the emailed newsletter at the town website, [www.sudbury.ma.us](http://www.sudbury.ma.us) by clicking on the "Email Lists" tab.

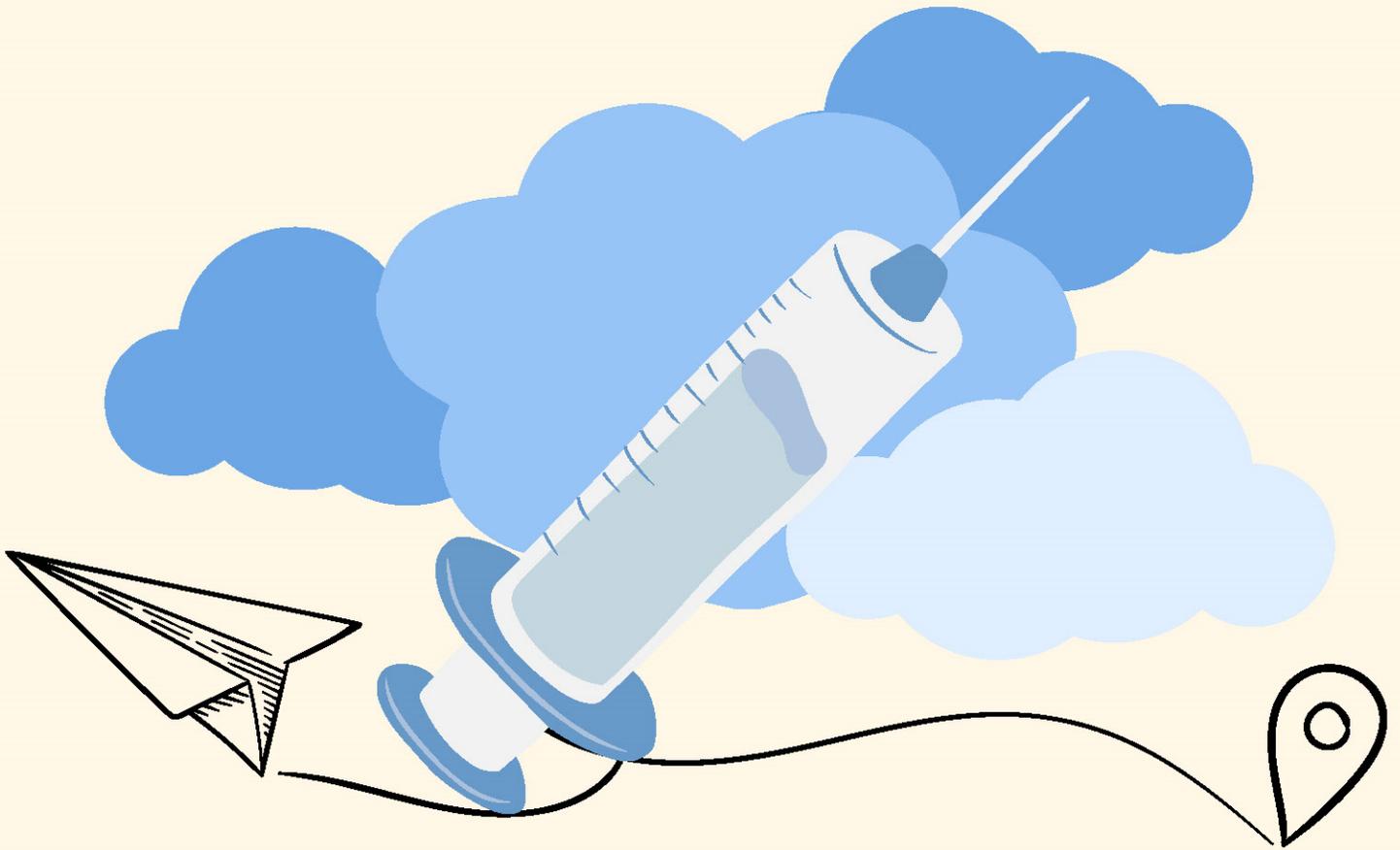
## Instructors and Leaders

With the new larger space in the new Community Center, the Senior Center will be able to offer more programming. If you are or know someone who is interested in working or volunteering at the new Community Center, please let us know. We are adding more social or special interest groups, as well as more arts, fitness and educational programs. Please reach out by contacting us at 978-443-3055 or [senior@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:senior@sudbury.ma.us).

Guests at a talk pose with Author Suzanne Parry with her new book "Lost Souls of Leningrad" at the Sudbury Senior Center. Photo by Senior Center Program Coordinator Sharon Wilkes.



# *Traveling for the Holidays? Get Vaccinated*



November Tuesday flu clinics available  
at the Sudbury Health Department

Where: 275 Old Lancaster Road  
High Dose available (for 65+)

Register: <https://shorturl.at/mq369>

Questions? Contact us  
978-440-5479  
[health@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:health@sudbury.ma.us)



# FROM THE SELECT BOARD

Fall 2023

Town of Sudbury

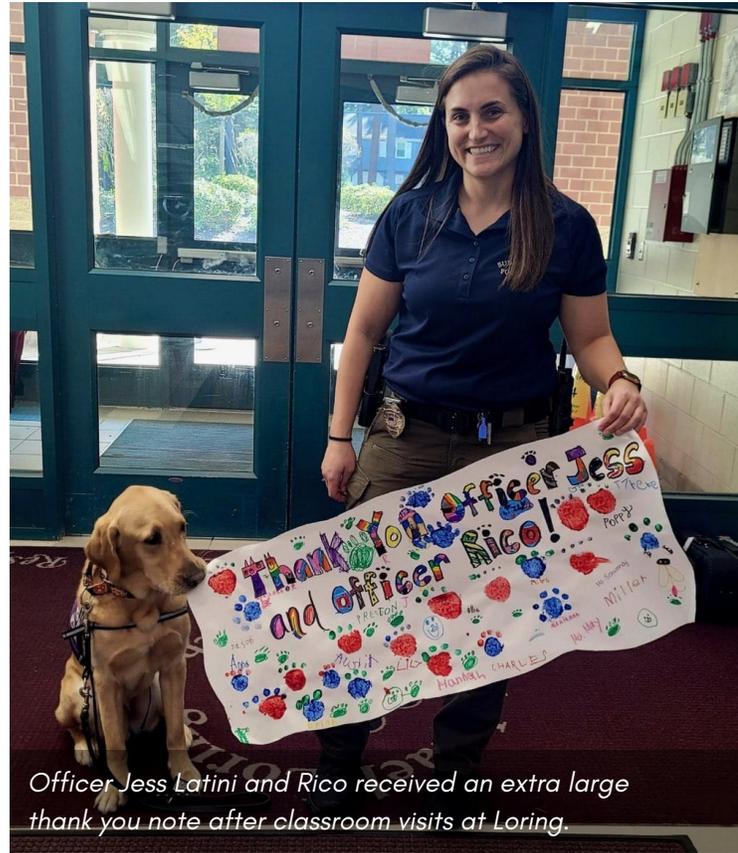
## Keeping us Safe - Every Day

BY LISA KOUCHAKDJIAN,  
SELECT BOARD

Our Sudbury Police Department keeps us safe every day and plays a vital role in all aspects of our community. When one thinks about the role of our police, generally our minds go to traffic stops, car accidents and responding to different situations. Policing today is so much more, and that fact could not be more evident here in Sudbury. In addition to the traditional public safety role that our Sudbury Police Department provides for our community, our Sudbury Police are actively engaged in community activities and constantly working to build trusting relationships with our community members.

Our Chief of Police, Scott Nix, has lived most of his life in Sudbury. He began his career with the Sudbury Police as a dispatcher in 1993, became a patrolman in 1996 and worked his way to becoming the 8th Chief of Police in 2013. Since that time, Chief Nix, as part of the Sudbury Police Department Team, has done a phenomenal job making improvements to policing in Sudbury and advancing the police department's positive impacts across the community.

One of the greatest impacts Chief Nix has made during his tenure is the police department's support of our schools and students.



*Officer Jess Latini and Rico received an extra large thank you note after classroom visits at Loring.*

Over the years, our Sudbury Police Department has generously funded resource officers out of its own budget. As a direct result of the proactive supports from our police department, we now have three actively engaged resource officers, one for the elementary schools, one for the middle school and one for Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. These resource officers play a vital role in bringing down barriers that may exist between the community and our police department. Resource officers also participate in different school activities and events. Most importantly, our resource officers engage with our young people in a positive way building trusting relationships. From the addition of the police department's service dog, Officer Rico, to the Sudbury Police Youth Academy, and everything else in between, our Sudbury Police Department supports and promotes our young people and our schools.

# FROM THE SELECT BOARD

## *Keeping us Safe, Continued*

Our broader Sudbury community also benefits from the great work of our police department. Initiatives to improve engagement with the Sudbury community are a priority, including programs like the Citizen's Police Academy, the Department's Outreach Group and Coffee with a Cop, and community training programs like the Rape Aggression Defense System, a national program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques.

Our Sudbury Police Department is proactively engaged in protecting the entire community, especially those persons who are more vulnerable. As mental health issues amongst community members increased over the years, our Sudbury Police Department procured the support of a mental health clinician who responds to calls involving persons who are having a mental health issue. This clinician possesses the experience and knowledge to support those having mental health challenges, as well as the police officers responding to the situation. It is important now, more than ever, to have the appropriate public safety supports in place to meet the needs of our community.



As our more tenured population grows in Sudbury, our Police Department recognizes the risks posed to our residents who may have dementia, Alzheimer's Disease, mental health issues or physical disabilities that may impact safety. Sudbury PD's Team has recognized these needs over the years and has actively promoted professional development for staff and training to respond to these situations.

Department members understand that communication with the community is two ways. In a recent conversation, Chief Nix shared resources that are available to all Sudbury residents, including reverse 911. Reverse 911 is the primary method of communication to residents in the event of an emergent situation. He recommends all residents register for reverse 911. Residents can go to the home page of the Town of Sudbury website and click on the red button entitled "Emergency Notifications" to register. <https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=SudburyMa>

For tenured residents who require assistance registering for this notification, residents may contact the Sudbury Senior Center for support.

We are blessed in Sudbury to have an informed, committed and devoted police department that is actively engaged with our community. For more information regarding the Sudbury Police Department, please visit its website at <https://sudbury.ma.us/police/>. You can also follow the Sudbury Police Department on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SudburyMAPolice> and on X (formerly Twitter) at [https://twitter.com/sudbury\\_police](https://twitter.com/sudbury_police).

# FROM THE SELECT BOARD

## *Welcome Adam Burney*

## Sudbury's New Director of Planning & Community Development

BY JENNIFER ROBERTS, SELECT BOARD

Please welcome Adam Burney, Sudbury's new Director of Planning and Community Development, to Sudbury! Adam was recently hired after an extensive search to fill this important role. Adam joins at an exciting time for the Planning Department and all of Sudbury, as many exciting Planning initiatives are underway! These include:

- Execution of the newly created Master Plan
- Open Space and Recreation Plan
- Housing Production Plan
- MBTA Communities Initiative
- Development of two community Rail Trails
- Multiple historic surveys
- and more!

I had a chance to meet with Adam, and I was very impressed by his knowledge of Municipal Planning and initial insights about Sudbury's future. He was gracious to answer the following questions to share with the community.

### **Can you share information about your background and what brought you to Sudbury?**

I have a degree in planning and have worked in municipal government for more than 20 years, starting as an intern before graduating college.

The majority of my experience comes from working in a variety of communities from the South Shore to Central Massachusetts, with a short stint at a Regional Planning Commission. Most recently I worked for the Town of Lunenburg for 9 years and was ready for a new challenge. Over the summer I saw the ad for the position in Sudbury and, after a bit of research, I felt that this was a nice community with a lot of interesting programs and initiatives.

### **Sudbury has a lot of exciting initiatives right now for the Planning Department and Planning Board. What initiatives particularly interest you and why?**

Of the current initiatives, I'm most excited about the Housing Production Plan (HPP) update. While Sudbury has done an admirable job creating housing that meets the Commonwealth's definition of affordable, I think that continuing to evaluate the Town's housing stock and assessing the unmet needs is critical in helping Sudbury continue to thrive.



*Adam Burney,  
Sudbury's new  
Director of Planning  
and Community  
Development*

# FROM THE SELECT BOARD

## *Adam Burney, Continued*

Housing that is affordable to young professionals, the workforce, and aging populations on a fixed income aids in creating a vibrant community. Additionally, the various Historic Preservation studies (Hosmer House, Historic Resource Survey, Indigenous Peoples Cultural Landscape) are very exciting. The more we know about the Town's history the more connected we are to preservation, which hopefully leads to involvement and civic pride.

**Sudbury recently completed a new Master Plan, and there is plenty to execute on for many groups in upcoming years. How have you found Master Plans to be useful guides in other communities?**

Master Plans, to me, are a record of consensus. This is a wide-ranging public process that is meant to create a roadmap for the Town's decision makers to use in policy development and project execution. The Goals outlined in a Master Plan should be the community's ideal vision for the future and are often amorphous concepts that may never be able to be fully realized, while the objectives are tangible actions that when completed bring the community closer to achieving its goal. The beauty of Master Plans is that they are living documents which aren't meant to be a mandate to action, rather they are meant as a collection of reminders about the things that the majority of people agreed were important. Each Master Planning Cycle is an opportunity to assess where the Town is in that moment and determine if the guidance from the previous Plan is still relevant, including how and why it may need to be adjusted.

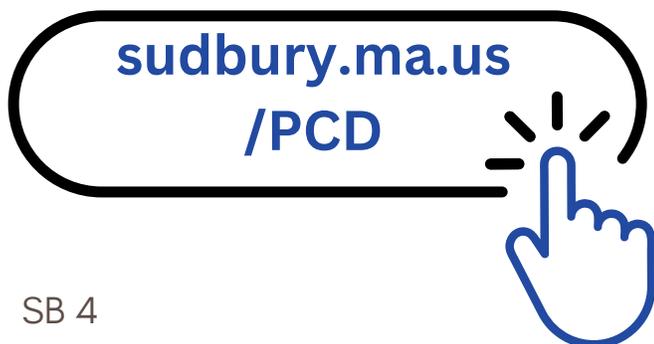
**Many people are interested in the future Open Space and Recreation Plan. What do you view as the next steps to get this started? How do you think this plan will benefit Sudbury?**

Starting the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) will likely begin with a conversation between myself and the Director of Parks & Recreation to determine what funding may be in place and the status of the existing OSRP. From there it will likely move toward soliciting proposals from vendors and selecting an appropriate firm to do the work. As for the OSRP itself, normally the first steps are gathering information and receiving public input. The data collection is fairly straight forward and often involves Census research, GIS review, and speaking with Town staff and officials. The public input would likely come in the form of a survey and a public forum or forums. Having an approved OSRP is important to the Town as it will open up funding opportunities for park and recreation projects. These funding opportunities paired with CPA funds can have a real impact on moving projects forward. Perhaps more important than funding opportunities, the OSRP documents the state of the Towns recreation facilities, potential future needs, and an action plan for meeting these needs.

**Is there anything else you would like to share with the Sudbury community?**

I'm excited to be here, and I look forward to working with staff and Town Officials to achieve the Town's goals.

Thank you to Adam for joining Sudbury's talented staff, and we wish him luck as he dives into the many exciting projects ahead of him and the community!



# FROM THE SELECT BOARD

## *Police Department Body and Cruiser Cameras*

**BY CHARLIE RUSSO, SELECT BOARD**

By early 2024, all members of the Sudbury Police Department are expected to be equipped with body-worn and cruiser cameras to record public interactions.

The cameras and supporting equipment have all been ordered and are in the process of being delivered and set up, said Police Chief Scott Nix. The costs for the cameras were paid for using a combination of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and state grant funding. Policy requirements and contract agreements around the cameras have been fine tuned and approved. The equipment is expected to be up and running in January or February of 2024.

"We are looking forward to initiating the program to increase transparency and show the great work that the officers do every day," Nix said. "The goal is to promote transparency, accountability, and help build and maintain positive relationships with the public." Body-worn cameras have been promoted in recent years as a means of providing an objective recording during any police

interaction. Nix is confident the cameras will showcase the excellent work of his officers and build trust with the community.

Nix noted that the cameras won't serve as "the end all be all" in each case, as the cameras won't capture all the context or detail of any given encounter, but they will serve as a positive tool for both evidentiary and relationship-building purposes.

The same public records laws that apply to standard police reports also apply to the recordings of police cameras, which may affect the department's workload. The systems to connect the cameras and store the recordings are being installed, Nix said.

"This is the latest of numerous initiatives we've undertaken," Nix said. "For example, we've had mental health clinicians in place for 5.5 years and the positive impacts for our residents and officers from that is immeasurable. These types of initiatives will always be reassessed and further initiatives sought and vetted to see what is best for all."

Thursday, December 14

12 PM

*With Jennifer Roberts and Dan Carty*



Jennifer Roberts



Dan Carty

## Select Board Office Hours

### Zoom Meeting

**Join On-Line:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82788884457>

**Join By Phone:** 978-639-3366 or 470-250-9358

**Meeting ID:** 827 8888 4457