

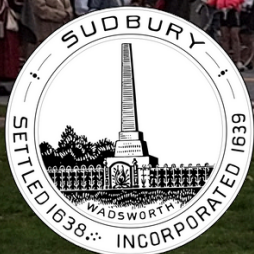
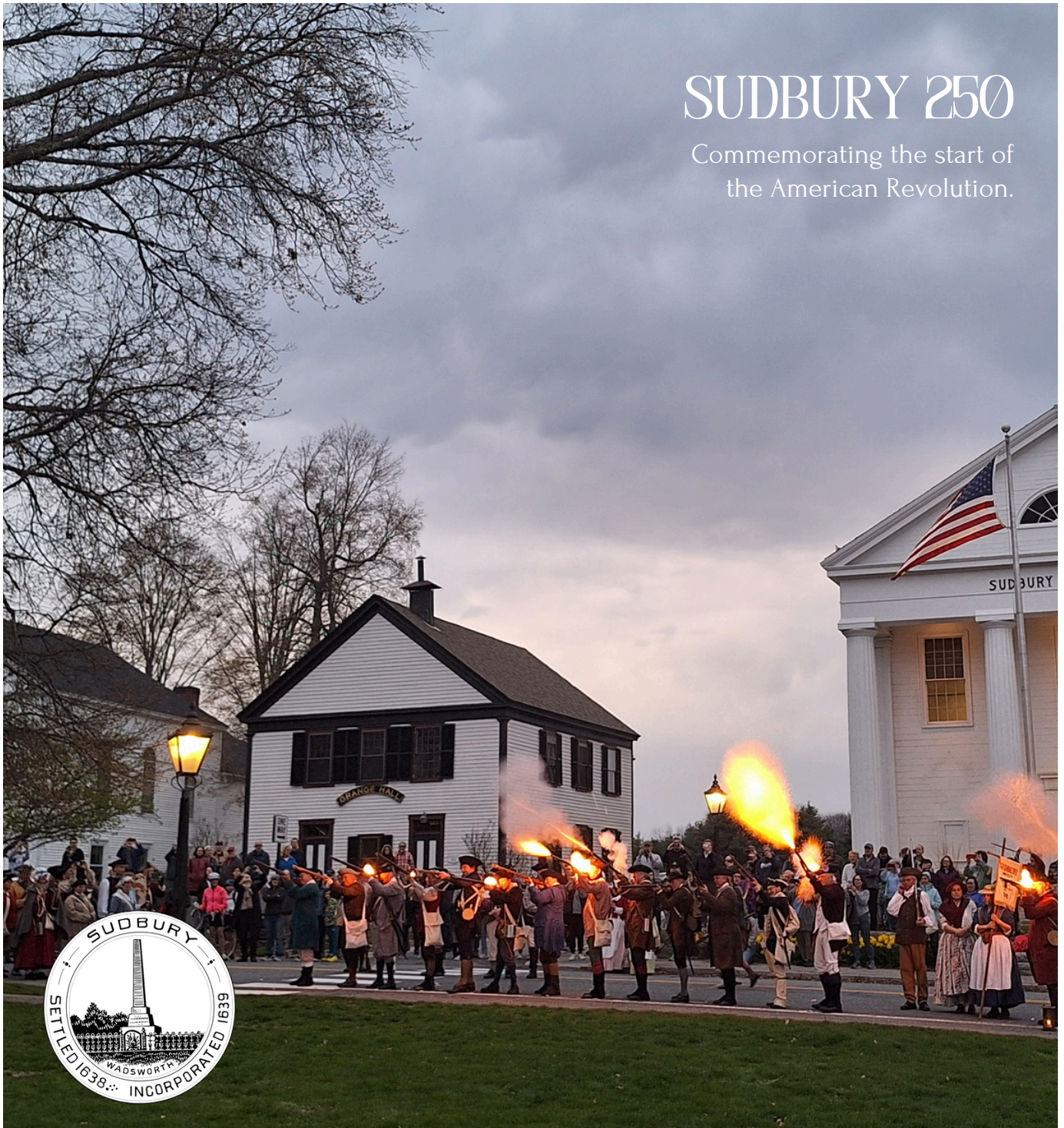
Spring 2025

Town of Sudbury

MUNICIPAL UPDATE

SUDBURY 250

Commemorating the start of
the American Revolution.



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Pictured left to right:
Select Board Members
Janie Dretler (Vice-
Chair), *Radha*
Gargeya, *Lisa*
Kouchakdjian (Chair)
and *Dan Carty* at
Sudbury's Heritage
Park. Not pictured:
Charlie Russo.





SUDBURY
CHAMBER
OF
COMMERCE
01776

4th of July

INDEPENDENCE DAY
THE SUDBURY WAY!

IS THE PARADE RAIN OR SHINE?

Yes, the parade is rain or shine. However, if there is thunder or lightning, we will have to cancel for the safety of spectators and participants.

WHERE DOES THE PARADE TAKE PLACE?

The parade kicks off from Chiswick Park, follows Union Ave to Route 20 to Concord Road, and ends at Town Hall.

<https://www.sudbury.org/4th-of-july-parade>

STATE OF THE TOWN

By Jennifer Roberts
Former Chair, Sudbury Select Board

As Select Board Chair, Jennifer Roberts delivered this State of Town Address on the first night of Annual Town Meeting on May 5, 2025.

As I reflect on where we are today, I feel a strong sense of momentum—Sudbury is moving forward with purpose and energy. And it is especially meaningful that this progress coincides with a historic year: the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Sudbury played an incredible role in those early days of our nation's fight for independence, sending more men to the Battle of Concord than any other town. Today, our dedicated 250 Committee is doing an outstanding job commemorating the courage and sacrifice of those early residents. I encourage everyone to participate in the many events taking place here and across neighboring communities as we honor this legacy.

Good evening. My name is Jennifer Roberts, and I've had the honor of serving as Chair of the Sudbury Select Board this year. I'm proud to stand before you tonight to deliver this year's State of the Town address.

I want to say thank you to the Town Moderator, BSA Scouts, public safety officials, SudburyTV, and all staff and volunteers who have helped make this important meeting happen.



Turning to the present, one of our proudest recent achievements is the long-awaited completion of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. Soon, the Massachusetts Central Rail Trail will join it, linking us to communities east and west. These intersecting trails near Route 20 will be treasured community assets, offering recreational space, promoting environmental sustainability, and spurring local economic activity. None of this would have been possible without the vision and financial commitment of Town Meeting, and the crucial funding support

provided by the Community Preservation Act.

Another milestone in recent years has been the completion of the Fairbank Community Center. After years of uncertainty and planning, we now have a vibrant facility that serves as a hub for residents of all ages. It houses our valued Senior Center, Park and Recreation Department, and Sudbury Public School administration. It has also become the core location for our elections, efficiently bringing together voters and election workers in one optimal location. Also, if needed, it stands

ready to serve as our community emergency shelter. Seeing the Center filled with activity is a powerful reminder of what our community can achieve together.

Sudbury's positive momentum is also evident in the way we plan for the future. Our Master Plan which was adopted in 2021 has laid the groundwork for Sudbury in key areas for the next decade and beyond. This plan has ignited other important studies like the Housing Production Plan, the Open Space and Recreation Plan, and the Route 20 Economic Development Study.

Thanks to the dedication of our staff and volunteers, Sudbury is developing plans that reflect our values and priorities—and that ensure a resilient, thoughtful path forward.

We've also made meaningful strides in our commitment to sustainability. In 2022, this legislative body declared a climate emergency, leading to the development of Sudbury's first sustainability employee role. This year, the Energy and Sustainability Committee is presenting an article to adopt the Massachusetts Specialized Stretch Energy Code—a key action in helping the state meet its Net-Zero emissions goals by 2050. These efforts reflect the urgency and importance of safeguarding our environment for generations to come.



Jen Roberts receiving a commendation for her six years of service on Sudbury's Select Board from State Representative Carmine Gentile at 2025 Annual Town Meeting.



In recent years, we have strengthened our financial foundations. In 2022, the Select Board approved new financial policies to support sound, principle-based planning and decision-making. And with the recent completion of the Town's Facilities Conditions Assessment and Use Study, we now have a stronger roadmap for long-term capital planning.

Of course, we face real challenges. Like many communities in Massachusetts, we are navigating a high-cost environment. Inflation, supply chain disruptions, and increasing fixed costs—especially in insurance and benefits—puts pressure on our budget. Aging infrastructure, such as the Atkinson Pool, requires attention and investment to remain a valuable resource for our residents.

Yet I remain confident in our ability to meet these challenges. Sudbury is fortunate to have a team of talented and dedicated employees and volunteers who care deeply about this town. I know many of you here tonight serve in these roles, and I want to take a moment to recognize and thank you.

The work of public service is deeply rewarding—but not without its challenges. It requires long hours, resilience, and the willingness to serve under public scrutiny. It draws people with open minds, big hearts, and a commitment to improving their communities. It is your work, your ideas, and your collaboration that make Sudbury a truly special place.

As we embark on another Town Meeting, let us embrace this unique exercise in direct democracy. I look forward to the discussion, the learning, and the decisions we will make together. Thank you for taking the time to be here tonight—and for bringing your thoughtful, engaged voices to the conversation.

Jennifer S. Roberts
SELECT BOARD MEMBER EMERITUS

Sudbury *Volunteers*

*Dedicated
Volunteers at the
Senior Center
Make Our
Community a
Better Place.*

By Lisa Kouchakdjian
Chair, Sudbury Select Board

Senior Center volunteer Bob Ellsworth
delivering baked goods.



Sudbury runs on volunteers. Nowhere is that expression more appropriate than at our Sudbury Senior Center. I recently had the opportunity to sit down with the new Council on Aging (COA) Chair, Paul Marotta. The COA is comprised of nine appointed members. Paul shared information about the COA and the importance and value of the Sudbury Senior Center.

Paul stressed the vital role volunteers play at the Senior Center. The COA is primarily a policy generating body that helps to guide the overall direction of the Senior Center and the services it provides. The COA's role is to identify the needs of its community members, educate the community and enlist support from the community to provide needed programs and services. The COA helps to design, promote and implement those services and programs.

Volunteers play a vital role in helping to support the programs and services at the Senior Center. In addition to speaking with Paul, I had the opportunity to communicate with Sarah Green Vaswani, the Coordinator of Volunteer Programs at the Senior Center. Sarah shared that over the last year volunteers have provided over 5,700 hours of service to the community. The approximate 151 volunteers serve the community in a variety of different ways, including but not limited to, supporting seniors in their homes by delivering groceries, helping with home repairs, providing companionship, returning, and delivering library books, and technical support for the use of electronics. Volunteers also help to support events at the Senior Center by delivering baked goods, facilitating, teaching, and moderating programs, setting up and running special events including concerts, parties, lectures, and lunches. Volunteers also welcome visitors to the Senior Center and give tours.

Volunteers at the Senior Center give of themselves selflessly to improve and enhance the lives of others. While some senior residents benefit from that support, Sarah importantly stressed that volunteering at the Senior Center is mutually beneficial. These types of relationships build and strengthen our community. At a time when our world is so divided and hatred so prevalent, opportunities like these to promote love, respect, care, and dignity of everyone, are incredibly important.

On May 20th, the Senior Center hosted an event to benefit and recognize the service of its volunteers. Volunteers were thanked for their invaluable, selfless service and honored with a buffet breakfast, certificates of appreciation, and a small gift. The positive, joyful atmosphere in the multi-purpose room was electric. This wonderful event highlighted the instrumental role volunteers play at the Senior Center to build a better, stronger Sudbury.

Sarah Green Vaswani, Senior Center Volunteer Coordinator, at the 2025 Volunteer Appreciation Brunch. Held on May 20, the theme for the event was *"Thank you for BEE-ing you!"*





Sudbury Senior Director Nickole Boardman.

There is a lot to look forward to at the Sudbury Senior Center as members of the community and staff enjoy the new facility. The Senior Center has welcomed hundreds of new community members excited to participate in programs and services. There are a variety of new and expanded programs, including very popular fitness classes, Zumba classes, a Strength and Balance class and a Drums Alive class. The Senior Center also provides special

programs like Lunch and Learns, luncheons with live music, a Mother's Day Gift n' Go, Father's Day Lunch and Learn, and a Summer Barbecue.

The Senior Center offers the community a variety of educational workshops as well. For those who may want to socialize with quiet drop-in activities, the Senior Center offers recreation, cards and games, and arts and crafts. In addition to all these wonderful activities, Seniors can also take advantage of

once-a-week blood pressure check clinics, monthly hearing clinics, a low vision support group and a memory café. The Senior Center also offers financial well-being sessions with an emphasis on Scams.

Senior Center staff are learning how best to use their space. Staff are hoping to add more fitness and arts classes, and other programs and events this year. At the COA meeting on May 12th, members welcomed the newly hired Senior Center Director, Nickole Boardman.

Nickole replaces long-time Director Deborah Galloway who retired earlier this year.

Please visit the Sudbury Senior Center website for a complete list of all programs and services offered.

<https://sudburyseniorecenter.org/>

To learn about volunteering opportunities, visit <https://sudburyseniorecenter.org/about-us/get-involved/>

America's History:

SUDBURY CELEBRATES 250

By Dan Carty
Sudbury Select Board



*Deirdre Sweeney and Al Petty
perform at the Colonial Music
Celebration held at Martha
Mary Chapel on May 19, 2025.*

In preparation for the 250th anniversary of the commencement of the American Revolution, the Select Board created, in December of 2023, the Sudbury 250 Committee. The charge of the committee is to evaluate and make recommendations on how the Town should manage the commemoration of this historic event, to sponsor activities that celebrate Sudbury's place in the history of our nation, and to ensure all events are designed to involve all residents of Sudbury. I had the opportunity to meet with Radha Gargeya, Chair of the Committee, and recently elected to the Sudbury Select Board, to check in on how the committee is progressing.

In speaking of the mission of the committee, Radha told me that their activities "are an opportunity to pause and reflect on what in Sudbury led up to the Revolution and what it meant to the people then and now." He educated me on many things, including that Sudbury in 1776 consisted of what we now know as Sudbury, Wayland, and Maynard, that what we now know as The Wayside Inn at that time was known as the Red Horse Tavern, and that Sudbury sent more fighters to the Battles of Lexington and Concord than either Lexington or Concord.



Our conversation then pivoted to a more philosophical discussion. Said Radha, "It is very interesting to reflect back on what happened to make local Sudburians make a huge pivot to change allegiance from Britain to self-rule. Crispus Atticus and the Boston Massacre certainly was a catalyst, but at a higher level, people simply did not have

control over their own affairs." With that in mind, the 250 Committee has hosted, and will continue to host, a number of events to educate and involve today's Sudburians. During "Patriot's Week" in April, the Committee hosted a number of events including "Eve of the American Revolution: What Were They Thinking??" where Peter Abair, local author

of “Each Hath a Hand”, discussed the historical events leading up to people in our region making that pivotal decision and the impacts it had on their families. Hundreds of people also turned out early in the morning of April 19th to watch the recreation of the Sudbury Muster and Minuteman March, the 250th anniversary of the actual event.

Those are but a few examples of the events the Committee has coordinated. More recently, they hosted a presentation about Deborah Sampson, a hero of the American Revolution who disguised herself as a man, joined the Patriot forces, and served in the Continental Army.

They are hosting an art and essay content where entrants are asked to:

1. Consider and reflect upon the events culminating in the April 19, 1775 Minutemen march and the ensuing battles, and the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 from the then Sudbury perspective and involvement and the prevailing national perspective.
2. What does 250 years of American Independence mean to you, the nation, and the world today? How do you envisage the future 50 or 100 years from now?

The ideas can be approached through several forms, including but not limited to the following ideas:

- Essay (800 words or less)
- Spoken word
- Drama/Play
- Music
- Dance
- Debate the pros and cons of joining the American Revolution as were argued by Loyalists and Revolutionaries (Patriots)

More highlights to come include the Sudbury 4th of July Parade, in September the presentation and firing of a cannon to commemorate the passage through Sudbury by Henry Knox

and the Ticonderoga cannon as well as a Colonial Faire, in October the reenactment of the Battle of Red Horse Tavern, and many more leading up to the marquis event in May, “Sudbury 250 Day”, a community celebration featuring period music, crafts, food, and performances.

For more information about upcoming events, and to purchase Sudbury 250 merchandise, visit <https://sudbury.ma.us/sudbury250/>.

My thanks to Radha for taking the time to discuss Sudbury 250 with me.



Thank You, Town Meeting Next Steps for Sudbury's Atkinson Pool

By Janie Dretler
Vice-Chair, Sudbury Select Board



Thank you to Sudbury Town Meeting for voting to approve added funding for repairs to the pool at the Fairbank Community Center. Your support is an essential step toward addressing long-standing maintenance issues and planning for the future of this vital community resource.

The pool serves hundreds of residents year-round—from children learning to swim, to seniors taking part in fitness classes, to

high school athletes training and competing. Despite its heavy use, the pool has not undergone significant capital improvements since it was built. Persistent issues like leaks and ventilation problems have made clear that repairs are no longer optional—they are necessary.

Some initial fixes have already been made, and with Town Meeting's latest vote, the Town can now move forward with essential

improvements to keep the pool functional, safe, and accessible. This process will also inform broader planning to ensure long-term sustainability.

The Select Board and Town staff are committed to a transparent, strategic approach to capital projects, including public engagement and project oversight. Just as with the Fairbank Community Center construction, we want to ensure the Town plans

ahead—before minor repairs turn into major expenses.

We will continue to provide updates as the process moves forward and encourage residents to stay engaged by attending public meetings and following official Town communications.

Thank you again to Town Meeting for helping us preserve and strengthen one of Sudbury's most important recreational assets.



2025 GRANTEES & EVENTS

LINCOLN-SUDBURY CIVIC ORCHESTRA WINTER
CONCERT JUVENTAS NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE JAZZ
LUNCHEONS AT SUDBURY SENIOR CENTER
RUDDIGORE OR THE WITCH'S CURSE PRESENTED BY
SUDBURY SAVOYARDS HENRY THE JUGGLER
PERFORMANCE ARTSPACE MAYNARD ART WALK:
TRANSFORMING DOWNTOWN INTO AN OPEN AIR
GALLERY WOMEN SINGERS OF THE BRITISH INVASION
WITH DAVID POLATIN LI HABIBI: AN ANDALUSI SINGING
WORKSHOP WITH LAURA ELKESLASSY PRESENTED BY
CONGREGATION BETH EL ZARZUELA IN SUDBURY - A
HISPANIC LYRIC MUSIC CELEBRATION NEWTON
BAROQUE 2025 CONCERT SEASON SUDBURY'S
CHANGING LANDSCAPE "PHASE 2" AT THE SUDBURY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY JEWELRY MAKING AND DESIGN
WITH SUSAN UNDERWOOD SONG OF THE JOURNEY BY
WG PROJECTS WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR:
COMMUNITY COLLAGE WITH BETHANY SHAW
INSPIRING THE SILK VITALITY: THE TIMELESS BEAUTY OF
ROAD ART WITH HUDSON CHEN

SUDBURY
CULTURAL
COUNCIL



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