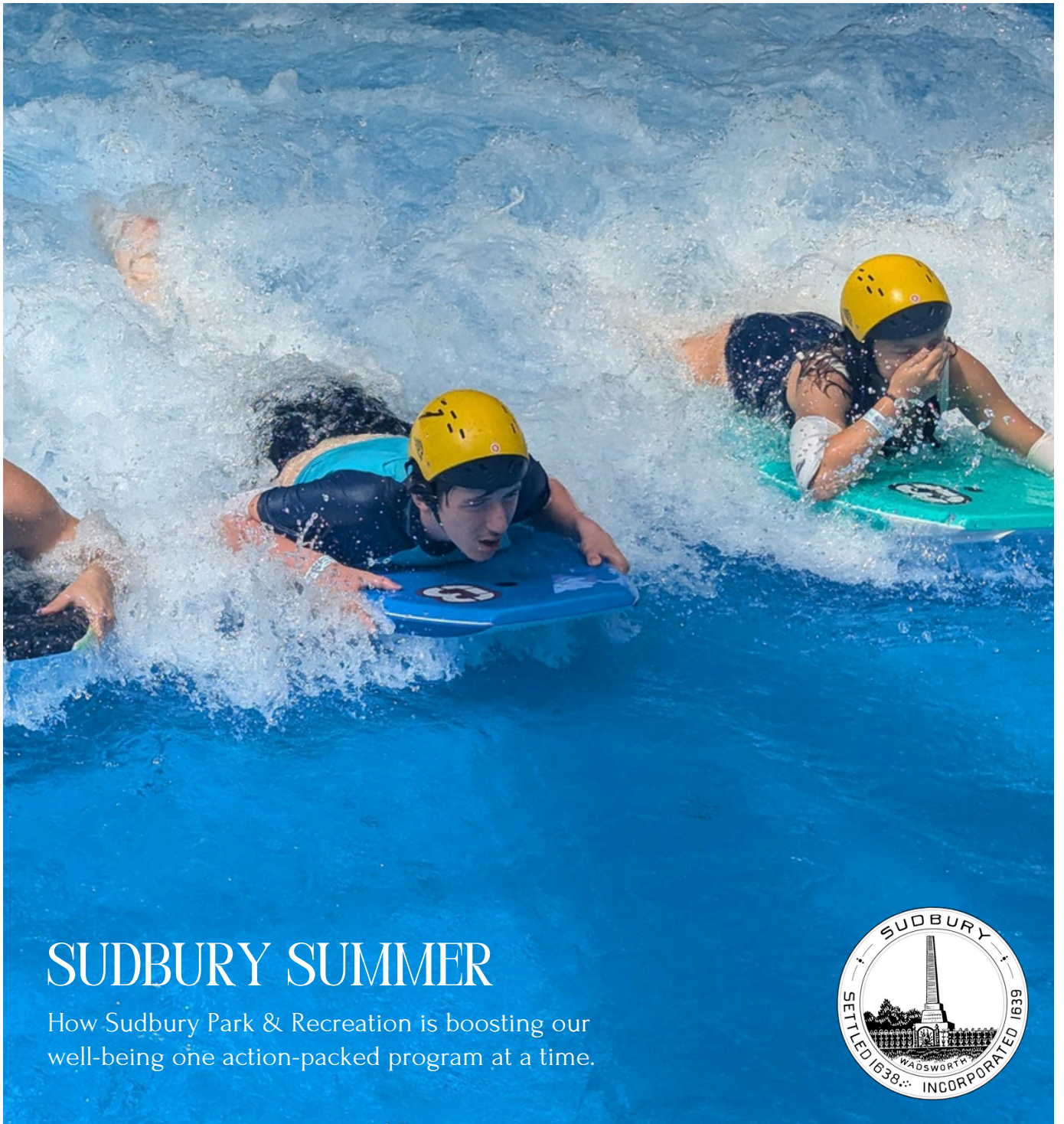


Summer 2025

Town of Sudbury

MUNICIPAL UPDATE

SUSTAINABILITY | PARK & REC | SUMMER BEHIND THE SCENES | SENIOR CENTER



SUDBURY SUMMER

How Sudbury Park & Recreation is boosting our well-being one action-packed program at a time.



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The Select Board on the Town Hall steps. Pictured left to right: Select Board Members *Dan Carty*, *Lisa Kouchakdjian* (Chair), *Janie Dretler* (Vice-Chair), *Radha Gargeya*. Below: *Charlie Russo*.



**SELECT
BOARD**

OFFICE HOURS



Radha Gargeya



Janie Dretler

**Wednesday, SEPT 17
12 PM
via Zoom**

UPCOMING SELECT BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held Virtually or Hybrid.
Please see meeting agenda for details.



Tue, September 9, 2025 (7:00 pm)

Tue, September 30, 2025 (7:00 pm)

Tue, October 7, 2025 (7:00 pm)

Tue, October 21, 2025 (7:00 pm)

[https://sudbury.ma.us/selectboard/meetings/
agendas - supporting materials - minutes](https://sudbury.ma.us/selectboard/meetings/agendas-supporting-materials-minutes)

Keeping Sudbury Running

By Janie Dretler
Vice-Chair, Sudbury Select Board



Summer Work Behind the Scenes

While many residents enjoy vacations and summer fun, Sudbury's town staff are hard at work keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes. As we go about our summer routines, much of what we have come to expect from summer in Sudbury is the direct product of their work.



Roads and Safety

Summer is the peak season for road work. Crews are repaving roads, repairing sidewalks, clearing brush, and upgrading intersections, including a major Complete Streets project at Concord Road and Union Avenue to improve safety and accessibility. In addition to all our Police Department does to keep Sudbury safe, in the summer they also run a cherished and

impactful [Youth Academy](#) for our children.

Fields and Trails

The Parks & Grounds team is busy maintaining fields and parks for camps and recreation programs. The [Bruce Freeman Rail Trail](#) is almost complete, and the [Mass Central Rail Trail](#) is progressing towards a fully connected network.

Park and Recreation

The Park and Recreation Department runs an annual summer camp called [Sudbury Summer](#), which provides affordable summer camp programming for our youth. Programs include everything from sports and swimming to art and STEM activities.

Finance and Accounting

It may sound like “business as usual,” but the fiscal year turns over at the end of June. Our finance professionals must close out Fiscal Year 2025 and launch the Town into Fiscal Year 2026 without much fanfare. This is a big lift, requiring extreme precision to ensure we accurately close out the prior year, while simultaneously putting a new budget, and everything that Town Meeting approved back in May, into motion for residents.

Public Health

Our Health Department is tasked with monitoring the safety of public beaches, while also coordinating our regionalized mosquito control program, and monitoring for mosquito-borne diseases during the height of mosquito season. This is in addition to inspections related to septic systems and permitting for food service that continues throughout the year.

While residents may not see all this incredible work in action, consider taking a moment to thank the staff that you do encounter throughout town this summer. Their public service is the backbone of Sudbury's quality of life, and it makes Sudbury the special place we proudly call our home.



Sustainability in Sudbury

Introducing Sustainability Coordinator Eric Simms

By Charlie Russo
Sudbury Select Board

Eric Simms, Sudbury's Sustainability Coordinator.



It's exciting to present a Q&A with Sudbury's new Sustainability Coordinator, Eric Simms, in this edition of the Municipal Update newsletter. Eric joins Sudbury after several years in a similar role for neighboring Concord, Mass. He brings extensive experience in municipal sustainability efforts, project management, and educational roles to benefit the Sudbury community. His work will build on the Climate Emergency Declaration approved by Town Meeting in 2022 and related initiatives, such as the adoption of the Opt-In Specialized Stretch Energy Code and the establishment of an Electric Vehicle Revolving Fund at Town Meeting 2025.

Eric started in Sudbury in early June and reports to Town Manager Andy Sheehan.

How's your new role been going so far?

It's great to be in Sudbury - a community that values sustainability. I've been getting up to speed and meeting with local stakeholders, including Town Departments, the Energy and Sustainability Committee, and Sustainable Sudbury. Sudbury already has some policies in place to support sustainability and combat climate change, and I'll look forward to reviewing those and considering what additional policies can best support the community. While policies are important, I'll also work to provide residents, property

Fantasy Herb Garden workshop at the Locally Grown fair held in May 2025. Locally Grown is a Sustainability Coordinator project made possible by a grant from the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program.



owners, and other stakeholders with information and resources they can use to take voluntary actions. As a community, we'll need both smart policies and informed decision-making to achieve the goals outlined in the Climate Mobilization Action Plan.

What sustainability initiatives should residents be aware of?

We have a number of ongoing initiatives and efforts underway. We're currently working on developing a Climate Vulnerability Risk Assessment with contractor Weston & Sampson. This will be a valuable tool for the Town to identify the vulnerabilities we face in terms of climate impacts. The data and models used will provide not just a general sense to help us see where the risks are, but will also help us inform our policies and invest strategically in light of future climate change as a community.

There's also overlap between the Climate Vulnerability Risk Assessment and the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), so we will be updating the HMP in parallel with creating the Risk Assessment. This will be an efficient use of resources because the efforts and the stakeholders are similar, and we're due to update the HMP anyway.

Completing these efforts will position us to pursue further funding from the state, including through the Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP). We currently have two MVP-funded initiatives in progress. Our MVP Action Grant is focused on the Locally Grown Sudbury initiative, which intends to provide programming and resources to build climate resilience and food security in the community, especially for climate vulnerable households. We had a successful Locally Grown Sudbury Fair and Farmer's Market in late May and we're slated to organize another one in early September. Our other project, MVP 2.0, is a required program that is focused on building social resilience in the face of climate change - how can a community build social

networks and support systems as well as resilient infrastructure?

What might MVP 2.0 look like?

The project is focused on developing stakeholder engagement and community capacity building. We have received \$50,000 to conduct a pilot project to explore developing a Community Climate Corps, which would be a trained group of residents who would help residents and property owners understand what they can do to make their buildings and operations more energy efficient, climate friendly, and resilient.

That's a lot to be working on.

It is, but there's a lot to be done. We're also pursuing Climate Leaders Community certification from the MA Green Communities' program – we have already met most of the requirements but still have a few to complete. We need to develop a municipal electric vehicle (EV)-first fleet policy, which would require that when the town needs to replace a vehicle we would first consider an EV as a replacement. If that's not feasible, a hybrid vehicle would be considered, followed by the most efficient fossil fuel vehicle. We also need to develop a municipal decarbonization roadmap for the Town that would examine how we can strategically plan ahead to make the town buildings and town fleet more efficient and electrified. We have applied to the state for free technical assistance to complete the roadmap with the help of a consultant. Our intent is to have these efforts completed in time to apply for certification by end of this year, which will make Sudbury eligible for significantly more Green Communities funding.

Our Combined Facilities Department, led by Sandra Duran, is also working on developing additional municipal solar arrays in several Town-owned locations. We're looking carefully at the timeline of when various federal solar incentives are expected to expire (which has recently accelerated) with the hope that we can make a commitment to at least some of the projects under consideration to take advantage of the generous financial incentives.

What effect will these sustainability efforts have on Sudbury residents?

I view integrated sustainability efforts as having positive impacts for all residents, whether at the municipal level or personally. I like to look at sustainability as an investment - an investment in the values, quality of life, financial integrity, and the near- and long-term health and resiliency of the Town. Creating a Climate Mobilization Action Plan (in 2023), declaring a Climate Emergency (in 2022), completing a greenhouse gas emission inventory, and supporting a Sustainability staff position reflect the values that have been demonstrated by the town. We know climate change is happening and are seeing increasing impacts, so as a community we need to be smart about sustainability as an investment. We need to think about policies and operations and how climate is going to be impacting all of that - what does it mean for us to invest in that now, and what is the near- and long-term payback?



What types of climate risks might Sudbury face?

Extended periods of higher heat and the impacts of heat stress will impact our energy consumption and utility bills, and will impact the health and comfort of individuals, especially vulnerable members of the population without air conditioning.

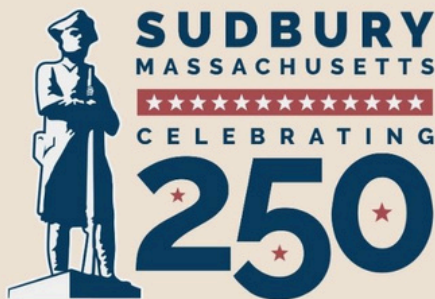
We're already seeing increased intensity and frequency of precipitation events, so there is higher risk for flooding and negative impacts on infrastructure. The flip side is having to consider shifting patterns of drought and what that means for the future availability and quality of drinking water, as well as impacts to wildlife and ecosystem integrity.

Flooding, drought, heat stress, intense storm events - all of these factors can impact Town operations now and increasingly in the future. For example, how will we prepare for significant flooding events? Will we be at greater risk for wildfires in a forested community?

How will we plan to deal with temperatures staying hotter longer into the fall and warming up sooner in the spring when it comes to keeping students comfortable in our schools?

With municipal budgets so tight, why should residents devote taxpayer money to sustainability efforts?

As I mentioned, we're seeing the impacts of climate change already, and unfortunately, it's not going to get any better in the foreseeable future. The good news is that we can make smart and informed choices as a community that can pay dividends both now and in the future. If we're not thinking about how to invest now, then we'll only find ourselves at a much greater disadvantage later on. Some of that investment includes some necessary upfront costs, especially for things like infrastructure, and we'll do our best to offset those costs wherever we can through strategic external grants, incentives, and partnership opportunities.



PERFORMANCE ART CONTEST

ENTRY DEADLINE
August 30, 2025

CONTEST CATEGORIES

- SPOKEN WORD
- DRAMA/PLAY
- MUSIC
- DANCE

EXAMINE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING IDEAS FOR THE AMERICAN STORY:

1

Consider and reflect upon the events culminating in the April 19, 1775 Minutemen March, the ensuing battles, and the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

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?

ENTER NOW!



[SUDBURY.MA.US/SUDBURY250](https://Sudbury.MA.US/Sudbury250)

Happenings at PARK & REC

By Radha Gargeya
Sudbury Select Board

Serving the recreational needs of the
community with joy and care.



Are you a parent with school-age children? A teenager in school or college? A resident of any age interested in being active? Do you want to listen to live music performances in the open? Want to mingle and enjoy community-wide events? Like to move a leg or an arm in pursuit of pickleball or dodgeball? Want to learn or practice swimming? Or enjoy the playgrounds in town?



Then, our own Park and Recreation Department is working hard with activities and plans that cater to all the above needs and wants. They are busy now with summer programs for children. They are planning events and activities for people of all ages for Fall, Winter, and Spring. They are looking ahead to the next few years with new ideas and refining current programs.

Summer

Summer is a busy time for Park & Rec and Atkinson Pool. Kids 3 to 4 years young are enjoying a six-week half-day program for preschoolers at the new Fairbank Community Center. A handful of teenagers, assisted and guided by the excellent staff, engage in various fun and play activities with the kids.

If you are a 5- to 10-year-old (and, of course, you are reading this summer municipal update), you might be in one of the three 2-week sessions of the Sudbury Summer programs and you get to hone your swimming talents with some time set aside for free swim and then for swim skills. If you are a teenager, you could be a summer camp CIT (counselor-in-training), a counselor, a swim instructor, or a lifeguard. Park & Rec has increased enrollment for this summer with a capacity for a few more children. They are hoping for a relatively rain-free summer, so the kids won't traipse over each other indoors.

During the summer, the Atkinson Pool is closed to the public from 11AM to 2PM for camper use.

If you are a kid who is 11- to 14-year-old who perhaps has participated in the above two programs, you can then explore new places as part of the Sudbury Teen Adventure program where you go on bus trips every day for activities such as indoor skydiving, paintball, go-carts, or water sports or travel to the beaches.

Park & Rec kicked off Summer '25 with a 'Disco Lemonade' concert at Fairbank Community Center Grass Field. People of all ages enjoyed the concert with an opening act by Nina Lokshin. A food truck from Lalos offered Mexican favorites and an ice cream truck from Juniper Farms provided a welcome treat.

Fall, Winter, Spring

The work continues round the year for Park & Rec. If Pickleball or dodgeball is your fitness vibe, they have it covered with newer courts.

For school-going children there are a variety programs such as Lego Club and STEM activities for early release days, for after-school hours, and during school vacation weeks.

Special Events

Park & Rec also offers a variety of events that bring the community together. For Halloween, the Truck or Treat event is very popular with music and games.



POOL CLOSING

For Repairs

The Pool will be CLOSED
For Repairs:

**Saturday, August 16 -
Monday, December 1**

*Reopening date subject to
change.*

Pool members will not be
charged during this time.

Thank you for your patience
as we conduct repairs!

Earlier this year, on 5/31/2025, the Locally Grown Fair and Farmer's Market was a huge success. The event was organized by Leila Frank from the Office of the Town Manager and the Select Board. Park & Rec helped with this event. It was at the Fairbank Community Center with stalls for fresh vegetables and fruits, baked goods, cooking and gardening workshops, and a host of community organizations. There were baby farm animals outside that thrilled the many children who were there. Just as the days were getting warmer, it was a great occasion for the town to gather in communal place and celebrate.

The annual Holiday Village event is being planned for this year at the Fairbank Community Center. Park & Rec staff is working closely with the office of the Town Manager and the Select Board to organize this festive event.

Current Projects

Park & Rec does not stay still. The department is always making sure that all the fields and facilities are well maintained or upgraded when necessary.

Haskell playgrounds have been refreshed. Phase II of Feeley fields will start next summer which will address drainage issue on Feeley Fields 1 and 2.

Facilities

Park & Rec facilities include:

~Atkinson Pool which offers aquatic recreation and training for all ages and is essential for our high school swim teams
~Davis, Featherland, Feeley & Haskell Fields.
>Fields at Broadacres coming soon.

>Parkinson field

>Feeley phase 2 will be bid in Fall/Winter of this year, with construction slated for summer of 2026.

Finances

Now, a bit about finances. The activities are managed and financed through three separate accounts and funding mechanisms. First, Recreation is run by a revolving fund, a fund that raises

revenues from Recreation and uses those revenues to support the Recreation activities.

Atkinson Pool and the Fields are budgeted through two separate Enterprise Funds which raise money through facility usage. The Park & Rec Field Enterprise Fund supports half the salaries and benefits for four of five parks personnel, who do a great job of maintaining the fields by seeding, irrigating, lining and cleaning.

A description of the various financial terms and types of accounts is available in this [Glossary of Common Municipal Financial Terms](#).

Future

Just as Park & Rec is taking good care of the current facilities, they are responding to the community needs and planning for the future. Some of the projects are:

- Redevelopment of a second basketball court
- A gazebo and an outdoor pavilion for holding events, movie nights
- Splash pads for kids, and kids at heart, to play and cool down
- Rearing to go with full year plans once the Atkinson pool and roof work is done

Park and Rec Staff

These are some of the folks that keep the Park & Rec department running. They work collaboratively with the Department of Public Works under the leadership of Tina Rivard, and the Town with the guidance of Victor Garofalo, Assistant Town Manager and Finance Director.

- Dennis Mannone, Park & Recreation and Atkinson Pool Director
- Brent DeBraga, Program Coord
- Christine Sturniolo, Program Coord
- Pat Haberstroh, Office Admin
- Lynne Ziffer, Aquatics
- Patrick Morse, Aquatics

Park and Recreation Commission

The department works closely and is guided by the policies of the Park and Recreation Commission, which is a policy-making board responsible to the town for providing year-round high quality indoor and outdoor recreation activities for children and adults. The five elected members of the Commission are:

- Mara Huston, Chair
- William Atkeson
- Robert Beagan
- Benjamin Carmel
- Laurie Eliason
-

Committed to the Community

Why do people move to Sudbury and stay there? There are many reasons, and chief among them are: the quality of life, schools, recreation opportunities, a community that takes good care of one another.

Park & Rec touches upon all these aspects. It is led by its staff and the Park and Recreation Commission who are full of heart and energy to bring our community together, keep our children active, offer numerous recreational opportunities for all of us, and develop goodwill and good cheer for residents of all ages. They get to do a lot with limited staff and funding. If you have suggestions or feedback for Park & Rec, please do so at recreation@sudbury.ma.us.

Next time when we enjoy any of the myriad activities listed above, let us just say thanks to these committed and hardworking folks.

PLEASE NOTE: I wrote this after interviewing Dennis Mannone, Park & Recreation and Atkinson Pool Director. I am very grateful to Dennis for his time in answering questions and patiently explaining. Errors of commission and omission are mine.



Our new Senior Center Director

Nickole Boardman

In Her Own Words

By Lisa Kouchakdjian
Chair, Sudbury Select Board



One of the newest members of the Town of Sudbury family is our Senior Center Director, Nickole Boardman. Nickole began her role on April 30, 2025. Ordinarily for a Select Board newsletter article I would interview someone and then write the article based upon our communication. Nickole's responses to my questions were so heartfelt, open, honest, and thorough that I decide to simply copy and paste her statement. I could not have written the article more eloquently. Sudbury is lucky to have a new Director of our Senior Center with Nickole's background and experience. The future is bright at the Senior Center under Nickole's leadership! Welcome to Sudbury Nickole!

I am thrilled to join the Sudbury community as the new Director of the Sudbury Senior Center. With nearly 15 years of experience in senior centers, this marks my fourth center—and my most exciting chapter yet. Over the years, I've had the opportunity to serve in many different roles within the senior center community, including Outreach Coordinator, Administrative Assistant, Van Dispatch, and Interim Director.

Each position taught me something valuable and deepened my passion for working with older adults.

Helping people has always been a driving force in my life, and this role aligns perfectly with that passion. Having held so many positions within senior centers, I understand how each role contributes to the bigger picture. That perspective helps me lead with empathy, purpose, and a strong belief that I can truly make a difference.

The Sudbury community has already been incredibly warm and welcoming. I've been especially impressed by the team here at the Senior Center. They are collaborative, dedicated, and always willing to roll up their sleeves—whether it's planning programs, managing paperwork, or brainstorming fresh ideas to better serve our senior population. Together, we're working to build a strong, supportive environment that combats isolation and promotes both emotional and mental well-being.

The seniors I've met so far have been equally welcoming. Their enthusiasm and warmth have made my transition into this role both easy and rewarding. One of the most beautiful parts of this job is the chance to connect with older

adults who are eager to share their life stories, wisdom, and unique perspectives. These conversations enrich my life in countless ways and remind me daily of the importance of this work.

As I settle into the new building and this vibrant community, my short-term goals include learning how to best utilize the space for programs and events, bringing some new programs in, while also getting to know the residents and staff both at the center and throughout the town. Every senior center is unique, and I'm excited to learn what works best here in Sudbury. My past experiences have taught me that while every role and center is different, each brings insights that help shape a stronger future.



July brought *Waffle cone Wednesdays* to the Sudbury Senior Center. Coming in August: *Wacky Watermelon Wednesdays*.



Long-term, one of my key goals is to enhance our meal programs. Shared meals offer so much more than nutrition—they create opportunities for connection, joy, and community. Many older adults face isolation, and a simple lunch shared with others can make a world of difference. Although our beautiful new building doesn't yet have a fully functional kitchen, I'm actively working on making that a reality. I look forward to the day we can offer regular meals to bring people together.

Before working in senior center community, I was a licensed social worker and an investigator with the Department of Children and Families. While I found that work meaningful, it could also be emotionally demanding. I took a ten-year break to raise my own children and, upon returning to the workforce, I found my calling in senior services. I haven't looked back since.

It's deeply fulfilling work, and even as I've moved on from different communities, I've remained in touch with many older adults I've connected with over the years—some of whom I now consider lifelong friends.

I'm honored to serve as Sudbury's Senior Center Director and look forward to growing alongside this community. Together, I know we can create a space where older adults feel valued, connected, and supported every step of the way.

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