

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Sutton Board of Selectmen (the Board) herewith submits their annual Town Report for 2008. The year began with the 2007 May Town election. The election resulted in the election of John Hebert to the Board. Mr. Hebert replaced Robert Kneeland who served the Town for 9 years as a member of the Board. The Board wishes to thank Mr. Kneeland for his dedication and service to the Town of Sutton.

Shortly after the election, the Board of Selectmen reorganized. Mr. Kevin Geraghty retained the position of Chairman and Mr. Ryan Fattman retained the position of Clerk. Mr. Michael Chizy was named Vice-Chairman for the Board.

In June of 2007, Town Administrator Joshua Handverger resigned after not being reappointed by the Board. Mr. Handverger served the Town for 13 months. Shortly after Mr. Handverger's resignation, Ms. Laura Rodgers, Town Clerk and Ms. Jennifer Hager, Town Planner were appointed acting Town Administrator and acting Asst. Town Administrator respectively.

Throughout the summer of 2007 the Board, in partnership with the Town Administrator Screening Committee chaired by Mr. Richard Hersom, worked to select a new Town Administrator. In August of 2007 the Board of Selectmen voted to appoint Mr. James Smith as the Town's 7th permanent Town Administrator. The Board wishes to thank Ms. Laura Rodgers and Ms. Jennifer Hager for their outstanding efforts in maintaining Town operations during the summer of 2007.

The Board held its first meeting with the new Town Administrator in August at a Saturday morning goals and planning meeting. At this meeting the Board laid out its goals for the upcoming year, many of which were accomplished.

During the months of October and November, the Board tackled the issue of plowing private roads. In 2005, to save money, the Board voted to discontinue the plowing of private roads and churches. At the Town meeting in May 2007, residents of the Town voted to have the Board reconsider their position on private roads. After careful study with the help of Town Administrator Smith, Highway Superintendent Brigham and Town Planner Hager, the Board agreed to create minimum criteria to have some private roads plowed. Approximately 10 of the Town's 70 private roads met these minimum criteria and were treated and plowed during the winter of 2007-2008.

Also in the fall of 2007 the Town closed on the purchase of the 135 acre Shaw Property. The Board looks forward to the planning and development of this property into a valuable Town asset. The Board wishes to thank Ms. Laura Rodgers, acting Town Administrator for all her work over the summer of 2007 to help make this purchase a reality.

In December of 2007, the Board proudly ratified the selection of Mr. Paul Maynard to the position of Fire Chief for the Town of Sutton. Chief Maynard has served the Town for 34 years in positions of Firefighter, Captain, Deputy Chief and now Chief. The Board wishes Chief Maynard all the best in his new role as Chief of the Department.

During the winter of 2007-2008 the Board worked with Town Administrator Smith to develop a comprehensive master plan for Marion's Camp. The 25 acre Marion's Camp was acquired in 1989 from the Central Massachusetts Camp Fire Council for **\$500,000**. Over the years the Town has had its ups and downs with maintaining this property and the Board decided to involve the community in a master plan process to set a clear direction for this community asset. The Town hired Gates, Leighton Associates and after a number of community meetings, the Town came to a consensus on the redevelopment of Marion's Camp as a passive community recreational center. In June of 2008 the first action was taken at the camp with the demolition of the dilapidated Marion's House. The Board looks forward to the continued transformation of this site as the Town Beach and summer recreation area.

During the winter of 2008 the Board represented by Chairman Geraghty worked closely with the Town Administrator and Planning Director Jennifer Hager to negotiate a new 25 year Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Millbury to send Sewerage from the Town of Sutton through the system in Millbury. After lengthy but productive negotiations with the Town of Millbury an agreement was reached that allows the Town to control its own destiny in regards to sewer growth for the foreseeable future. The Board wishes to thank all that were involved for their hard work.

In 2008 the Board was notified by the Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA) that Sutton had been selected to move forward for consideration of State reimbursement on a project to rehabilitate or construct a new Sutton Middle School/High School. Town Meeting supported article 13 at the 2008 Annual Town Meeting authorizing funds to conduct further study and to hire an Owners Project Manager that will assist the Town in coming up with a design option that MSBA would be willing to fund for at least 51% reimbursement. In addition to this process the Board continues to look at all options of providing water and sewer infrastructure to the school complex to resolve water quality issues and create additional space for possible school expansion.

The Board of Selectmen had a very productive year in 2008. The Board wishes to thank Town Administrator James Smith and all the Department Heads and Town Staff for their continued work on important projects in the Town of Sutton.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Geraghty, Chairman
Michael Chizy, Vice-chairman
Ryan Fattman, Clerk
Michael Frustaci
John Hebert

The Board of Selectmen met 24 times (from July 07 to June 30, 2008)

Selectman Kevin Geraghty attended 21/24
Selectman Michael Chizy attended 24/24
Selectman Ryan Fattman attended 22/24

Selectman Michael Frustaci attended 21/22
Selectman John Hebert attended 24/24
Selectman Richard Hersom attended 2/2

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the citizens of the Town of Sutton, I hereby submit my annual report as Town Clerk for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008.

Vital Statistics for fiscal year 2008:

Births	59
Deaths	46
Marriages	34
Population	9765
Registered Voters	6055

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dog Licenses	\$ 19,877.00
Miscellaneous Receipts (vitals, permits, pole locations, business certificates street lists, Bylaws, Parking Fines	5,848.00

Total Monies Collected	<hr/> \$ 25,725.00
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Respectfully submitted,
Laura J. Rodgers
Town Clerk

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING October 15, 2007

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the inhabitants of the Town of Sutton, qualified to vote in Town Elections and in Town affairs, met in the Simonian Center for Early Learning, Boston Road, Monday the Fifteenth day of October, 2007 at 7:30 o'clock in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

There were 62 voters and 17 non-voters in attendance. The counter was Donald Conlon.

ARTICLE 1

SPONSOR: H. Jacob Nunnemacher

Voted to adopt the provisions of Chapter 148, Section 26I relating to the installation of automatic sprinkler systems.

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee recommends no action and defers to the petitioner, 5-0-1.

ARTICLE 2**SPONSOR: Robert Nunnemacher**

Voted to take no action to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds in the treasury, or borrow a sum of money to purchase and equip a new Quint Fire Apparatus to replace a 1977 pumper fire apparatus; that to meet the appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow a sum of money under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; and that the Fire Truck Committee appointed by the Fire Chief, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project; provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect until the Town votes to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21C (proposition 2 ½) amounts required to pay the principal and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote.

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee does not recommend this article as presented, 6-0-0, (additional member arrived after discussion of article 1), Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee historically promotes public safety and the safety of our firefighters. There is a process in place for discussion/prioritization of funding for capital purchases and Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee anticipates that all petitioners will benefit by following the process.

ARTICLE 3**SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen**

Voted 40 in favor, 0 against to transfer from the following accounts to pay the following prior year invoices with funds available in the FY2008 Budget as voted in Article 6 of the May 14, 2007 Town meeting.

Account		
Transferred from	Amount	Prior Year Invoice
01422-55300 (highway)	\$ 101.50	Granger-Lynch Corp.
01210-53400 (police)	\$ 67.00	American Messaging
T6000441-59200 (sewer ent.)	\$8,999.00	Dewberry – Goodkind, Inc.

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee recommends this article be passed, 5-0-0.

ARTICLE 4**SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen**

Voted unanimously to transfer from the Overlay Reserve Fund the amount of \$22,400.00 to the Sewer Enterprise Fund for the purpose of funding an update to the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP).

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee did not recommend this article, 5-0-0, no funding source was identified at the time of the hearing.

ARTICLE 5**SPONSOR: Planning Board**

Voted unanimously to amend Section III.B.3. Table #2 Footnote #12 of the Zoning Bylaw by adding the following (additions are in bold):

12. Any principal use in a non residential district shall be at least one hundred (100) feet from any residential zoning district boundary as indicated on the Sutton Zoning Map. This buffer shall remain in its undisturbed state or may be upgraded. The area of said buffer may be counted toward the open space requirements on a lot. **For the purposes of applying this requirement, if 60% or more of a lot is zoned Business Highway (B-2) or Industrial (I), the entire lot shall be considered as located within B-2 or I.**

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee recommends this article be passed, 6-0-0.

The Planning Board voted 6 in favor, none opposed, to recommend that Town meeting approve this article.

ARTICLE 6

SPONSOR: Planning Board

Voted unanimously to amend Section IV.S.f. of the Zoning Bylaw as written in the warrant:

As written in the warrant:

(additions are in bold and deletions are struckthrough):

f. Any additions containing the apartment, in whole or in part, shall not increase the square footage of the original structure by more than ~~700~~ **1,200** square feet, nor shall space in an existing structure converted to an accessory apartment exceed ~~700~~ **1,200** square feet. **The 1,200 square feet is the total floor area of the accessory apartment with no area excluded other than unfinished basement space.**

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee recommends this article be passed, 6-0-0.

The Planning Board voted 6 in favor, none opposed, to recommend that Town meeting vote to approve this article.

ARTICLE 7

SPONSOR: Planning Board

Voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw Section III.B.3. Table 3 to increase the maximum building height in the Industrial (I) and Business Highway (B-2) Districts from 30 to 35'.

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee recommends this article be passed, 6-0-0.

The Board voted 6 in favor, none opposed, to recommend that Town Meeting approve this article.

ARTICLE 8

SPONSOR: Planning Board

Voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaw by eliminating the definition of Parking Space in Section I. B. – Definitions.

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee recommends this article be passed, 6-0-0.

The Board voted 6 in favor, none opposed, to recommend that Town Meeting approve this article.

ARTICLE 9

SPONSOR: Planning Board

Voted unanimously to amend the Zoning Bylaws Section III.A.4. Table #1 – Table of Use: E. Retail, Trade and Service Uses, to add Small Wind Turbines as a Special Permit use granted by the Planning Board in all Zoning Districts except for the Village (V) District and add the following Special Permit regulations for Small Wind Turbines as Section IV.T., as printed in the warrant.

As printed in the warrant:

T. Small Wind Turbines

Purpose: It is the purpose of this regulation to promote the safe, effective and efficient use of small wind energy systems installed to reduce the on-site consumption of utility supplied electricity.

Additionally the purpose of the regulation is to promote alternative energy sources, reduce peak power demands in existing utility power grids, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and provide choices to property owners that have possible cost savings and positive environmental impacts.

Definitions:

Small Wind Turbine – A wind energy conversion system consisting of a wind turbine, a tower, and associated control or conversion electronics, which has a rated capacity of not more than 20 kW and which is intended to provide power primarily for on site uses as opposed to generation for sale to the commercial power grid.

Tower Height - The height above grade of the fixed portion of the tower, excluding the wind turbine itself.

Submission Requirements: The applicant shall provide thirteen (13) copies of each of the following to the Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA):

1. A completed application form with a review fee as required by Section IV.D.5.b.
2. Existing conditions site plan prepared by a Professional Engineer and Professional Registered Land Surveyor drawn in sufficient detail to show the following:
 - a. Property lines, dimensions, landowners, acreage, and contours at two-foot intervals of the subject property and properties within three hundred (300') of the small wind turbine.
 - b. Location and dimensions of all existing buildings, accessory structures and uses, public and private roads, driveways, easements, stone walls, and fence lines within 300 feet of the system.
 - c. Height of any structures over 35 feet, and the location and average height of trees on the subject property and adjacent properties, within 300 feet of the proposed small wind turbine.

3. Proposed conditions site plan prepared by a Professional Engineer and Professional Registered Land Surveyor drawn in sufficient detail to show the following:
 - a. The location of the proposed small wind turbine and any appurtenances and equipment. Indicate property boundaries and distances to the base(s) of the wind turbine(s) and to the nearest corners of each of the appurtenant structures and equipment.
 - b. Limits of areas where vegetation is to be cleared or altered and justification for any such clearing or alteration.
 - c. Detailed storm water management plans and plans to control erosion and sedimentation both during construction and as a permanent measure.
 - d. Plans indicating locations and specifics of proposed screening, landscaping, ground cover, fencing, exterior lighting or signs.
 - e. Plans of proposed access driveway or roadway and parking area at the small wind turbine whether temporary or permanent; include grading, drainage, and traveled width. Include a cross section of the access drive indicating the width, depth of gravel, paving or surface material.
 - f. Location of access easements or rights-of-way, if any, needed for access to the small wind turbine from a street.
4. Standard drawings of the structural components of the small wind turbine, including structures, tower, base and footings. Said drawings, and any necessary calculations shall be certified by a registered engineer that the system complies with the State Building Code.
5. A technical report from a qualified individual that the site is feasible for wind power, that documents wind speed at the proposed site, that anticipates energy that will be created from the small wind turbine unit, and that estimates the amount of energy necessary to serve the on site uses.
6. Post construction simulation views of the site from at least four locations where the small wind turbine will be visible from as determined by the Planning Board through means of sketches or computer simulations.
7. A proposed maintenance schedule for the small wind turbine and related equipment.

Design and Siting Requirements:

1. **Setbacks:** A small wind turbine shall not be located closer to a property line than the height of the tower plus the height of the blade in its vertical position. It is recommended that the setback areas be kept free of all habitable structures while the small wind turbine is in place.
2. **Noise:** The small wind turbine and associated equipment shall conform to Massachusetts noise regulations (310 CMR 7.10). In no case shall the sound created by said facility exceed 70 decibels (dba) at the nearest property line.

3. Height: The small wind turbine shall not exceed 120' in height, and must comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Regulations.
4. Visual Impact: Installation of the small wind turbine will not create a substantially adverse visual impact. The small wind turbine shall have a non-reflective finish of an unobtrusive color. The SPGA may require the structure to be painted or otherwise camouflaged to minimize visual impact.
5. Electromagnetic Interference: The small wind turbine shall cause no disrupting electromagnetic interference. If it is determined that a small wind turbine is causing interference, the operator shall take the necessary corrective action to eliminate this interference, subject to the approval of the Building Commissioner.

Approval:

In acting on the special permit application, the SPGA shall proceed in accordance with the procedures and timelines for special permits in Chapter 40A Section 9 of MGL as well as Section V.A.2. of this bylaw. As authorized by Section IV.D.5.b., the SPGA may hire professional consultants at the expense of the applicant to assist it in evaluating the proposed small wind turbine and the impacts on the community.

Said Special Permit approval will run with the property and shall not be specific to a particular owner unless otherwise noted.

Maintenance Requirements:

1. At all times the applicant shall maintain the small wind turbine and related equipment in good working condition and perform regular maintenance in accordance with the approved maintenance schedule. A record shall be kept of all maintenance performed, and said record must be provided to Town officials whenever requested to verify maintenance.
2. Should the turbine fall into disrepair and/or experience a situation where it is producing unusual noise or other emissions, the applicant shall have no more than 24 hours to implement actions to correct the situation.
3. Failure to properly maintain the small wind turbine or correct other issues may result in revocation of the Special Permit.

Removal Requirements:

1. A small wind turbine that is not used for twelve (12) successive months shall be deemed abandoned and shall be dismantled and removed from the property at the expense of the small wind turbine owner. Removal of the system shall include the structure, foundation, transmission equipment, fencing and other appurtenances. The site shall be re-vegetated to prevent erosion.

2. The owner of the small wind turbine shall submit a letter to the Planning Board in December of each year confirming the turbine is still in use and verifying compliance with standards of the bylaw and the special permit that was granted.

Waiver Provisions:

The Board may waive strict compliance with any provision of this bylaw if it deems it in the public interest and determines that the intent of the bylaw has been maintained. Written record must be kept of such waivers including the reasons for them.

*The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee recommends this article be passed, 6-0-0.
The Planning Board voted 6 in favor, none opposed, to recommend that Town Meeting approve this article.*

ARTICLE 10

**SPONSOR: Planning Board,
Historical Commission, Board of
Selectmen**

Voted unanimously to adopt the Right to Farm By-law as part of the General Bylaw as printed in the warrant.

As printed in the warrant:

TOWN OF SUTTON RIGHT TO FARM BY-LAW

Section 1 Legislative Purpose and Intent

The purpose and intent of this By-law is to state with emphasis the Right to Farm accorded to all citizens of the Commonwealth under Article 97 of the Articles of Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution, and all state statutes and regulations there under, including but not limited to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 3, Paragraph 1; Chapter 90, Section 9; Chapter 111, Section 125A; and Chapter 128, Section 1A. We the citizens of Sutton restate and republish these rights pursuant to the Town's authority conferred by Article 89 of the Articles of Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution, ("Home Rule Amendment").

This General By-law encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities, and protects farmlands within the Town of Sutton by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function with minimal conflict with abutters and Town agencies. This By-law shall apply to all jurisdictional areas within the Town.

Section 2 Definitions

The word "farm" shall include any parcel or contiguous parcels of land, or water bodies used for the primary purpose of agriculture, or accessory thereto.

The words "farming" or "agriculture" or their derivatives shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- farming in all its branches and the cultivation and tillage of the soil;
- dairying;

- production, cultivation, growing, and harvesting of any agricultural, aquacultural, floricultural, viticultural, or horticultural commodities;
- growing and harvesting of forest products upon forest land;
- raising of livestock including horses;
- keeping of horses as a commercial enterprise; and keeping and raising of poultry, swine, cattle, ratites (such as emus, ostriches and rheas) and camelids (such as llamas and camels), and other domesticated animals for food and other agricultural purposes, including bees and fur-bearing animals.

"Farming" shall encompass activities including, but not limited to, the following:

- operation and transportation of slow-moving farm equipment over roads within the town;
- control of pests, including, but not limited to, insects, weeds, predators and disease organism of plants and animals;
- application of manure, fertilizers and pesticides;
- conducting agriculture-related educational and farm-based recreational activities, including agri-tourism, provided that the activities are related to marketing the agricultural output or services of the farm;
- processing and packaging of the agricultural output of the farm and the operation of a farmer's market or farm stand including signage thereto;
- maintenance, repair, or storage of seasonal equipment, or apparatus owned or leased by the farm owner or manager used expressly for the purpose of propagation, processing, management, or sale of the agricultural products; and
- on- farm relocation of earth and the clearing of ground for farming operations.

Section 3 Right To Farm Declaration

The Right to Farm is hereby recognized to exist within the Town of Sutton. The above-described agricultural activities may occur on holidays, weekdays, and weekends by night or day and shall include the attendant incidental noise, odors, dust, and fumes associated with normally accepted agricultural practices. It is hereby determined that whatever impact may be caused to others through the normal practice of agriculture is more than offset by the benefits of farming to the neighborhood, community, and society in general. The benefits and protections of this By-law are intended to apply exclusively to those commercial agricultural and farming operations and activities conducted in accordance with generally accepted agricultural practices. Nothing in this Right To Farm By-law shall be deemed as acquiring or authorizing the acquisition of any interest in land, or as imposing any land use regulation which is properly the subject of state statute, regulation, or local zoning law, or as superseding any otherwise applicable statute, regulation, bylaw, or other law.

Section 4 Disclosure Notification

It is the policy of this community to conserve, protect and encourage the maintenance and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products, and also for its natural and ecological value. This disclosure notification is to inform buyers or occupants that the property they are about to acquire or occupy lies within a town where farming activities occur. Such farming activities may include, but

are not limited to, activities that cause noise, dust and odors. Buyers or occupants are also informed that the location of property within the Town may be impacted by commercial agricultural operations including the ability to access water services for such property under certain circumstances."

A copy of this disclosure notification shall be posted by the Town to residents and property owners each fiscal year in one or more of the following forms: annual report, official Town website, transfer station, or library.

Section 5 Resolution of Disputes

Any person who seeks to complain about the operation of a farm may, notwithstanding pursuing any other available remedy, file a grievance with the Board of Selectmen, the Building Commissioner, or the Board of Health, depending upon the nature of the grievance, which shall review and facilitate the resolution of the grievance within thirty (30) days of receipt. The filing of the grievance does not suspend the time within which to pursue any other available remedies that the aggrieved may have.

Section 6 Severability Clause

If any part of this By-law is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remainder of this By-law. The Town of Sutton hereby declares the provisions of this By-law to be severable.

*The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee recommends this article be passed, 6-0-0.
The Planning Board voted 6 in favor, none opposed, to recommend that Town Meeting approve this article.*

ARTICLE 11

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen

Voted unanimously to accept John Road as a public town way laid out by the Board of Selectmen in accordance with a plan entitled: "Burnap Industrial Park, Plan to Show Proposed Subdivision in Sutton & Millbury, Mass., Owner/Applicant Burnap LTD, Builders & Developers, Sutton, Mass. " dated February 26, 1987, last rev. 3/21/88, prepared by Lavallee Brothers, Inc., and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 597, as Plan 106, a copy of said plan having been filed with the Town Clerk; and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, eminent domain, or any other lawful manner, property interests in said way, and in those two areas shown on the plan as "right of way", sufficient to use the way and those areas for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Sutton, and to acquire an easement for emergency access purposes in that area shown on the plan as "emergency vehicle right of way", or act or do anything in relation thereto.

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee recommends this article as written, 6-0-0.

ARTICLE 12

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen

Voted unanimously to accept Deborah Drive as a public town way laid out by the Board of Selectmen in accordance with a plan entitled: "Burnap Industrial Park, Plan to Show Proposed Subdivision in Sutton & Millbury, Mass., Owner/Applicant Burnap LTD, Builders & Developers, Sutton, Mass." dated February 26, 1987, last rev. 3/21/88, prepared by Lavallee

Brothers, Inc., and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 597, as Plan 106, a copy of said plan having been filed with the Town Clerk; and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, eminent domain, or any other lawful manner, property interests in said way, and in those two areas shown on the plan as “right of way”, sufficient to use the way and those areas for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Sutton, and to acquire an easement for emergency access purposes in that area shown on the plan as “emergency vehicle right of way.

The Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee recommends this article as written, 6-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura J. Rodgers

Presidential Primary Election
February 5, 2008

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant the inhabitants of the Town of Sutton who are qualified to vote in elections and town affairs met in their respective precincts on Tuesday, the fifth day in February, 2008, to bring in their votes for the following offices:

Precinct One

	<u>7 am to 2 pm</u>	<u>2 pm to 8 pm</u>
Warden	Christine Fant	Christine Fant
Clerk	Debra Jacques	Debra Jacques
Checker	Nancy Johnson	Patricia Morse
	Francis Roncone	Carolyn Shannon
	William Reed	Mary Lou Peterson
	Martha Reed	Francis Roncone
Officer	Christopher Green	

Precinct Two

	<u>7 am to 2 pm</u>	<u>2 pm to 8 pm</u>
Warden	Patricia Nedoroscik	Barbara Bessette
Clerk	Carolyn Amaral	Joan Richard
Checker	Gerard Senecal	Patricia Bassette
	Bernice Plante	Patricia Lane
	Shirley Senecal	Carolyn Porcaro
		Gloria Michelson
Officers	Christopher Cowen, Peter Greeno	

Precinct Three

	<u>7 am to 2 pm</u>	<u>2 pm to 8 pm</u>
Warden	Bruce Davis	Bruce Davis
Clerk	Donna Davis	Donna Davis
Checker	Dorothy Gravison	Gale Graves
	Alta Eaton	Barbara Concaugh
	Robert Faulkner	Ruby Olson
		David Kiley
Officers	Joseph Fortunato, Kevin Richards, Ryan Montiverdi, William Jacques	

Democrat Ballot	Precinct One	Precinct Two	Precinct Three	TOTAL
Presidential Pref				
Blanks	0	0	1	1
Edwards	8	10	12	30
Clinton	278	324	316	918
Biden	1	3	1	5
Dodd	1	0	0	1
Gravel	0	0	0	0
Obama	223	178	177	578
Kucinich	1	1	0	2
Richardson	1	0	0	1
No Pref	3	3	6	12
Write-Ins	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	516	520	513	1549

State Comm Man				
Blanks	199	185	175	559
Cullen	316	331	337	984
Write-Ins	1	4	1	6
TOTAL	516	520	513	1549

State Comm Woman				
Blanks	189	183	174	546
Kokocinski	327	335	338	1000
Write-Ins	0	2	1	3

TOTAL	516	520	513	1549
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**Town
Committee**

Blanks	18044	18191	17951	54186
Write-Ins	16	9	4	29

Republican Ballot Presidential Pref	Precinct One	Precinct Two	Precinct Three	TOTAL
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Blanks	0	0	0	0
McCain	181	142	140	463
Thompson	0	0	0	0
Tancredo	0	0	0	0
Hunter	0	0	0	0
Huckabee	9	8	17	34
Romney	235	229	203	667
Paul	12	7	8	27
Giuliani	1	3	3	7
No Pref	0	2	0	2
Write-Ins	2	0	0	2
TOTAL	440	391	371	1202

State Comm Man	Precinct One	Precinct Two	Precinct Three	TOTAL
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Blanks	399	360	347	1106
Write-Ins	41	31	24	96
TOTAL	440	391	371	1202

**State
Comm
Woman**

Blanks	406	364	351	1121
Write-Ins	34	27	20	81
TOTAL	440	391	371	1202

Group

Blanks	317	278	267	862
Group 1	123	113	104	340
	440	391	371	1202

**Town
Committee**

Blanks	11335	10149	9720	31204
Copeland, A	149	140	130	419
Copeland, C	150	137	126	413
Fattman	225	179	180	584
Frustaci	143	128	126	397
Kotseas	146	128	113	387
Hutchinson	170	142	132	444
Sampson	160	134	123	417
Andrews	144	126	116	386
Stockwell, B	154	130	116	400
Stockwell, R	159	135	118	412
Campbell	153	127	124	404
Shepherd, Ry	151	124	116	391
Shepherd, Ra	146	123	112	381
Shepherd, C	144	124	112	380
L'Esperance	148	134	124	406
Greenwood, J	135	122	113	370
Greenwood, H	140	122	113	375
Brown, K	135	123	113	371
Newton	161	135	116	412
Sinacola	179	150	128	457
Creamer	141	120	116	377
Brown, E	131	120	111	362
Lavoie	153	129	114	396
Roy	130	122	121	373
King	144	137	126	407
Higley, Ja	134	122	112	368
Higley, Jo	134	122	112	368
Write-Ins	6	1	2	9
TOTAL	15400	13685	12985	42070

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
May 12, 2008

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the inhabitants of the Town of Sutton, qualified to vote in Town Elections and in Town affairs, met in the Simonian Center for Early Learning, Boston

Road, Monday the Twelfth day of May, 2008 at 7:30 o'clock in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

The meeting was convened in the Simonian Center for Early Learning, Boston Road at 7:30 P.M. and recessed to reconvene in the High School Gymnasium at 8:00 P.M.

There were 471 voters and 25 non-voters in attendance.

The tellers were Kenneth Stuart, Howard Kramer, Michael Jerz and James Horan.

ARTICLE 1

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen

Voted unanimously to receive the reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

ARTICLE 2

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen

Voted unanimously to transfer the sum of \$167.10 from account 01210-53400 as voted in Article 6 of the May 14, 2007 Annual Town Meeting to pay prior year invoices received from Nextel for May and June, 2007.

<u>Account</u> <u>transferred from</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Prior Year Invoice</u>
01210-53400	\$167.10	May & June 2007
Nextel Bill		

(Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted to recommend this article be passed 7-0)

ARTICLE 3

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen

Voted unanimously to amend the vote taken under Article 6 of the May 14, 2007 Town Meeting by transferring sums from the following line items:

Unemployment	\$ 20,000
Highway Department	\$ 20,000
Town Counsel	\$ 26,941
Casualty Insurance	\$ 20,000
Street Lighting	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
Total	\$ 96,941

To the following line items:

Veterans Agent Salary	\$ 1,000
Veterans Benefits	\$ 24,000
Snow & Ice Removal	<u>\$ 71,941</u>

Total \$ 96,941

(Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted to recommend this article be passed 7-0)

ARTICLE 4

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen

Voted by a 2/3 vote to transfer the sum of \$5000.00 from the Waterways Improvement Fund (T1106422) duly collected as the dedicated portion of the Massachusetts Boat Excise Tax due the Town of Sutton, for the purpose of controlling Eurasian Watermilfoil, Fanwort or algae in Lake Singletary.

(Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted to recommend this article be passed 7-0)

ARTICLE 5

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen

Voted unanimously to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow and issue bonds of notes thereof under Chapter 44 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or any other enabling authority, in the amount of \$509,250; with any unexpended funds from each project to be used to offset the principle on the required borrowing:

Fire	Turnout gear	\$10,000
Planning	Shaw Farm Master Plan/Site plan	\$40,000
Schools	Continue technology replacement program	\$80,000
Police	Police radio	\$3,000
Schools	Replace roof at ELC	\$75,000
Schools	Purchase/ replace Textbooks	\$80,000
Fire	Upgrade AED units	\$5,000
Schools	Tile ELC classrooms	\$8,000
Schools	Tile ELE hallways	\$15,000
Police	Vehicle Replacement program	\$55,000
Fire	Vehicle Support system and extrication tools	\$15,000
Police	Cruiser rifles	\$3,000
Police	Computer Upgrades	\$4,000
Recreation	Recreational equipment/Marion's camp facilities	\$20,000
Schools	Replacement of Furniture and Fixtures	\$10,000
Police	Computer Upgrades	\$3,000
Fire	Firefighter Pagers	\$11,250
Fire	LDH Fire hose and valves replacement	\$15,000
Library	Carpet Replacement	\$30,000
Schools	Install air conditioning	\$7,500

Highway	Air Compressor	\$15,000
MIS	Replace Server 1	\$4,500

(Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted to recommend this article be passed 7-0)

ARTICLE 6

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen

Voted unanimously to appropriate the following sums for the operating budget for the fiscal year 2009:

General Government	\$ 1,284,507.00
Public Safety	\$ 2,052,531.00
Education	\$ 14,163,198.00
Public Works	\$ 827,222.00
Human Services	\$ 282,448.00
Culture and Recreation	\$ 199,716.00
Debt and Interest	\$ 3,716,168.00
Transfer to Capital Stabilization	\$ 486,875.00
Assessments and Fringe Benefits	\$ 2,780,648.00
For a total of:	\$ 25,793,313.00

And as funding therefor, that the Town vote to raise and appropriate and transfer the following sums:

Raise and Appropriate	\$ 24,314,727.00
A transfer from the Overlay Reserves	\$ 100,000.00
A transfer from Free Cash	\$ 544,674.00
A transfer from Sewer Enterprise Fund	\$ 89,164.00
A transfer from Transfer Station Enterprise Fund	\$ 23,936.00
A transfer from Debt Service Fund	\$ 133,565.00
A transfer from Stabilization Fund	\$ 75,000.00
A transfer from Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 445,130.00
A transfer from unspent borrowing under Article 5 Annual Town Meeting June 14th 2007	\$ 64,325.00
A transfer from Title 5 reserve	\$ 2,792.00
For a total of:	\$ 25,793,313.00

(Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted to recommend this article be passed 7-0)

ARTICLE 7

Sponsor: Board of Selectmen

Voted unanimously to appropriate the following sums for the operation of the Sewer Department for the fiscal year 2009:

Salary and Wages	\$ 205,993
Operation and Maintenance	\$ 397,237
For a total of	\$ 603,230

And as funding therefor, that the Town vote to raise the \$603,230 as follows:

User Fees and Connection Fees	\$ 550,354
Transfer from Retained Earnings	\$ 52,876
For a total of	\$ 603,230

(Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted to recommend this article be passed 7-0)

ARTICLE 8

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen

Voted unanimously to appropriate the following sums for the operation of the Transfer Station for the fiscal year 2009:

Salary and Wages	\$ 46,200
Operation and Maintenance	\$ 98,100
For a total of	\$ 144,300

And as funding therefor, that the Town vote to raise the \$144,300 as follows:

User Fees	\$ 144,300
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(Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted to recommend this article be passed 7-0)

ARTICLE 9

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen

Voted unanimously to authorize the following revolving fund accounts under M.G.L. Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, as printed in the warrant.

(Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted to recommend this article be passed 7-0)

ARTICLE 10

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen

Voted unanimously to authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to borrow in anticipation of the revenue for the twelve month period beginning July 1, 2008 in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, §4 and Acts and Amendments thereof and including in addition to Chapter 849 of 1969 as amended, as period of less than one year in accordance with M.G.L c 44, §17.

(Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted to recommend this article be passed 7-0)

ARTICLE 11

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen

Voted unanimously to authorize the Cemetery Commissioners to employ themselves in the work of the several cemeteries and to fix the compensation to be paid from appropriations for said department.

(Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted to recommend this article be passed 7-0)

ARTICLE 12

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen

I move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Health to employ themselves in the performance of their work necessary to maintain health standards set by their department, and to fix the compensation to be paid from appropriations for said department.

(Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted to recommend this article be passed 7-0)

ARTICLE 13

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen

Voted by a 2/3 vote to appropriate the sum of \$695,000.00 for a Feasibility Study of the Sutton Middle and High School buildings and grounds located on Boston Road, said sum to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee, and to meet said appropriation authorize the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow said sum under MGL Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority, provided that the Town acknowledges that the Massachusetts School Building Authority's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town and further provided that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this motion shall be reduced by any amounts received or expected to be received from the MSBA.

(Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted to recommend this article be passed 7-0)

ARTICLE 14

SPONSOR: Planning Board

Voted to accept the provisions of chapter 43D of the MA General Laws as amended pursuant to Section 11 of chapter 205 of the acts of 2006, and to approve the filing of an application with the Interagency Permitting Board for the designation of land described in the warrant as Priority Development Sites.

(as described in the warrant)

Beginning at a point at the northwest corner of land of the Town of Sutton at the intersection of the Easterly line of Hough Road and the Southerly line of Whitins Road;
THENCE Easterly about 403' by Whitins Road to a point;
THENCE Southerly about 155' by land of Macintyre to a point;
THENCE Easterly about 329' by land of Macintyre to a point;
THENCE Northerly about 151' by land of Macintyre to a point on the Southerly line of Whitins Road;
THENCE Easterly about 268' by Whitins Road to the Sutton/Northbridge Town Line;
THENCE Southwesterly about 39' by the Sutton/Northbridge Town Line to a point;
THENCE Easterly about 568' by the Sutton/Northbridge Town Line and Main Street to a point on the Westerly line of the Worcester-Providence Turnpike;
THENCE Southerly by the Worcester-Providence Turnpike about 2634' to a point on the Sutton/Douglas Town Line;
THENCE Southwesterly about 2592' by the Sutton/Douglas Town Line to a point;
THENCE Northwesterly about 302' by land of Duclos to a point;
THENCE Southwesterly about 435' by land of Duclos to a point on the Easterly line of Hough Road;
THENCE Northerly about 102' by Hough Road to a point;
THENCE Northeasterly about 523' by land of Fitzpatrick to a point;
THENCE Northerly about 664' by land of Garcelon to a point;
THENCE Westerly about 551' by land of Garcelon to a point on the Easterly line of Hough Road;
THENCE Northerly about 17' by Hough Road to a point;
THENCE Easterly about 471' by land of the Town of Sutton cemetery to a point;
THENCE Northerly about 355' by land of the Town of Sutton cemetery to a point;
THENCE Westerly about 482' by land of the Town of Sutton cemetery to a point on the Easterly line of Hough Road;
THENCE Northerly about 291' by Hough Road to a point;
THENCE Easterly about 200' by land of Saucier to a point;
THENCE Northerly about 180' by land of Saucier to a point;
THENCE Westerly about 200' by land of Saucier to a point on the Easterly line of Hough Road;
THENCE Northerly about 660' by Hough Road to the point of beginning.

(Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted to recommend this article be passed 7-0)

(Planning Board voted to recommend this article be passed 5-0)

ARTICLE 15

SPONSOR: Planning Board

Voted by a 2/3 vote to amend the Zoning Bylaw Section IV.D.5.b. - Reasonable Fees as printed in the warrant:

(as printed in the warrant)

to insert the underlined language, delete the crossed-out language and to insert a table of fees, as follows:

b. Reasonable Fees

A filing fee of \$2.00 ~~4.50~~ per \$1,000 of construction value, as reported by the proponent and approved by the Board, with a minimum of \$200, will be required at the time of submission. The applicant must also submit a check covering the cost of the legal ad and the certified mailings at the time of submission.

For all developments requiring site plan review, the applicant will be responsible for all reasonable fees or costs incurred in reviewing such plans. The Planning Board is authorized to retain a registered professional engineer, architect, landscape architect, attorney, or other professional consultant to review and advise the Board on any or all aspects of the site plan.

~~Two hundred dollars~~ A charge as noted below will be deducted from the filing fee to cover costs for administration and staff review of the site plan, all billings received from the Town's consultants will be deducted from the filing fee. If the billings exceed the amount of the filing fee, the Town will bill the applicant for the difference. All bills must be paid prior to issuance of approval. If monies are left after all fees and billings are paid, any excess funds will be returned to the applicant.

<i>Project Size/Type</i>	<i>Staff Review Fee</i>	<i>Administration Fee</i>
<i>New – under 30,000 s.f.</i>	<i>\$200</i>	<i>\$25</i>
<i>New – 30,000-100,000 s.f.</i>	<i>\$350</i>	<i>\$40</i>
<i>New – 100,000+</i>	<i>\$500</i>	<i>\$60</i>
<i>Existing – change of use/redevelopment</i>	<i>\$200</i>	<i>\$25</i>

*(Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted to recommend this article be passed 7-0)
(Planning Board voted to recommend this article be passed 6-0)*

ARTICLE 16

SPONSOR: William Connor

Voted on an amended motion **NOT** to amend the Zoning Bylaws/Map by adding the Village Center (VC) Zoning District at the intersection of Boston Road, Uxbridge Road and Singletary Avenue as shown on the Map entitled Village Center Zoning District – Sutton center dated 2/25/08, bounded and described in the Warrant.

*(Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted to recommend this article be passed 6-0-1)
(The Planning Board voted to recommend this article be approved with a reduced area 6-0)*

ARTICLES 17-24

SPONSOR: William Connor

Voted unanimously to take no action on these articles. (Article 16 failed and Articles 17-24 were directly related to adding a new district, Village Center (VC))

ARTICLE 25

SPONSOR: Bill Babin

Voted unanimously on an amended motion to discontinue only the portion of the “bridle way”, also known as Old Mill Road, running north/south a distance of approximately 1,300', and contained within the property of Atlas Box LLC recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds at Book 41415 Page 42, said “bridle way” as described and discontinued as a public way in Article 4 of the Annual Town Meeting of May 17, 1873.

(Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted to recommend this article be passed 7-0)

ARTICLE 26

SPONSOR: Board of Selectmen

Voted by a majority vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court to allow the Aquarion Water Company, Inc. to acquire and hold, by lease, purchase or otherwise, waters, lands, and rights therein, within that area of the Town as written in the warrant, for the purpose of supplying water to said area, and to construct and maintain improvements within and upon such waters and lands, including within the ways of the Town, for such purpose, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into such agreements as it deems necessary to allow for such purpose, provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court; and provided further that the Board of Selectmen is hereby authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.

(as written in the warrant)

Beginning at a point on the Millbury/Sutton town line at the centerline of Burbank Road;
THENCE southerly 10,910 feet by the centerline of Burbank Road to the centerline of Boston Road;
THENCE easterly 110 feet by the centerline of Boston Road to the centerline of Armsby Road;
THENCE southerly 5,490 feet by the centerline of Armsby Road to the centerline of Burnap Road;
THENCE southerly 2,070 feet by the centerline of Burnap Road to the centerline of Central Turnpike;
THENCE southerly perpendicular to the centerline of Central Turnpike 700 feet to a point;

THENCE westerly parallel to the centerline of Central Turnpike 24,350 feet to the Oxford town line;
THENCE northerly 9,200 feet along the Oxford town line to a town line corner;
THENCE westerly 3,440 feet along the Oxford town line to a town line corner;
THENCE northerly 5,280 feet along the Oxford town line to a town line corner;
THENCE easterly 750 feet along the Oxford town line to a town line corner;
THENCE easterly 19,790 feet along the Millbury town line to the point of beginning.
Said area contains 7,098 acres more or less.

(Finance and Warrant Advisory Committee voted to recommend this article be passed 7-0)

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura J, Rodgers
Town Clerk

**Annual Town Election
May 27, 2008**

Precinct One:

Warden	Christine Fant	Christine Fant
Clerk	Diane Massey	Debra Jacques
Checker	Francis Roncone	Patricia Morse
	David Kiley	Carolyn Shannon
	Nancy Johnson	Mary Lou Peterson
		David Kiley

Precinct Two:

Warden	Patricia Nedoroscik	Barbara Bessette
Clerk	Carolyn Amaral	Joan Richard
Checker	Gerard Senecal	Mary Plante
	Shirley Senecal	Patricia Bassette
	Bernice Plante	Patricia Lane
		Gloria Michelson

Precinct Three:

Warden	Bruce Davis	Bruce Davis
Clerk	Donna Davis	Donna Davis
Checker	Robert Faulkner	Barbara Concaugh
	Alta Eaton	Louise Whitney

Dorothy Gravison

Gale Graves

	Precinct One	Precinct Two	Precinct Three	TOTAL
BD. OF SELECTMEN				
Blanks	23	50	29	102
Kevin M. Geraghty*	91	63	64	218
Richard S. Hersom*	84	81	63	228
Write-Ins	2	0	2	4
TOTAL	200	194	158	552

**The Town Clerk declared Kevin M. Geraghty and Richard S. Hersom elected.*

SCHOOL
COMMITTEE

Blanks	13	28	12	53
Tracey Zuliani*	86	69	66	221
Write-Ins	1	0	1	2
TOTAL	100	97	79	276

**The Town Clerk declared Tracey Zuliani elected.*

	Precinct One	Precinct Two	Precinct Three	TOTAL
PLANNING BOARD				
Blanks	3	17	10	30
Robert S. Largess, Jr.*	97	80	69	246
Write-Ins	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	100	97	79	276

**The Town Clerk declared Robert S. Largess, Jr. elected.*

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

Blanks	93	91	77	261
Rachel A. Tufts*	4	4	0	8
Write-Ins	3	2	2	7
TOTAL	100	97	79	276

**The Town Clerk declared Rachel A. Tufts elected.*

HOUSING
AUTHORITY

Blanks	12	20	17	49
Richard C.				

Lindstrom*

Write-Ins	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	100	97	79	276

**The Town Clerk declared Richard C. Lindstrom elected.*

Report of the Sutton Board of Assessors

The Sutton Board of Assessors hereby submits its annual report for Fiscal Year 2008, the period ending June 30, 2008.

The sales that occurred in calendar year 2006 were used for fiscal 2008. The tax rate for all real estate and personal property is \$ 11.25. The Wilkinsonville Water District tax rate is \$.35. The next Town-wide mandated cyclical update of values will be conducted for Fiscal Year 2009.

Please visit us at our new web site: www.suttonma.org Our office has provided extensive information for taxpayers on issues handled through our department. These include, Worcester deeds, supplemental taxes, motor vehicle excise, boat excise, exemptions, and classified land.

The town of Sutton offers with the Council on Aging, the Senior Work-off Program. The program is an opportunity for the town to take advantage of the talents and skills of many of its citizens while offering a reduction in the property taxes for the participants.

For the past year our new secretary is Donna Brown. Donna moved to our office from the Town Clerks office. Her hard work and efforts are appreciated.

Fiscal 2008 Recapitulation Sheet:

Appropriations:

Town Meetings	\$ 25,477,742.00
Cherry Sheet Offsets	\$ 343,132.00
State and County Charges	\$ 226,851.00
Overlay	\$ 192,965.46
Total Appropriations	\$ 26,240,690.46

Revenue sources other than taxation:

Cherry Sheet Receipts	\$ 6,840,781.00
Other Revenue	\$ 1,146,388.00
Local Receipts	\$ 2,004,934.00
Enterprise Funds	\$ 787,506.00
Other Available Funds	\$ 682,345.00
Free cash	\$ 573,311.00
Total Revenue	\$ 12,035,265.00

Total Town Value	\$ 1,269,811,507.00
Residential Class Value	\$ 1,150,916,648.00

Commercial Class Value	\$ 52,705,502.00
Includes classified land values	
Industrial Class Value	\$ 35,345,200.00
Personal Property Value	\$ 30,844,157.00
Tax Rate for all Classes	\$ 11.25

Respectfully submitted, Robert Nunnemacher, Chairman
Joyce Sardagnola, Principal Assessor

Supplemental Tax:

The Town of Sutton accepted Section 2D of Chapter 59 of Massachusetts General Laws. The Town can value certain improvements on parcels pro-rata and /or pro-forma. New construction or improvements that have increased the assessed value of the parcel by over 50 percent and an occupancy permit has been issued will receive a supplemental tax bill. This assessment is in addition to the regular property tax that is assessed on the property based on its January 1st status.

Information on Exemptions:

You may be eligible to reduce a portion of the taxes assessed to your domicile if you meet the qualifications for one of the personal exemptions allowed under Massachusetts law.

Qualifications vary, but generally relate to age, ownership, residency, disability, and income or assets.

You may be eligible for an exemption if you fall into any of these categories:

Blind (registered with the Commission of the Blind)

Veterans (with a war-related disability of at least 10%)

Surviving Spouse

Minor Child of Deceased Parent

Senior Citizen Age 70 or older

You may file an application if you meet all of the qualifications for a personal exemption as of July first. You may also apply if you are the administrator or executor of the estate of a person who qualified for a personal exemption on July first.

Your application must be filed with the Board of Assessors by December 15th or three months after the actual tax bills were mailed for the fiscal year, whichever is later. This deadline cannot be waived or extended by the Assessors for any reason.

Application forms and specific requirements for all types of exemptions are available at the Assessor's Office. Please contact the office for additional information.

Classified Land:

Land may be classified under the following clauses detailed fully in Massachusetts General Law: Chapter 61: Forestry (must be at least ten acres that is the subject of an approved forestry plan); Chapter 61A: Agricultural/Horticultural (must be at least five acres actively devoted to an agricultural/horticultural purpose);

Chapter 61B: Recreation/Open Space (must be at least five years actively devoted to a specific recreational use or five acres kept in an open or natural condition).

Chapter 61 is a ten-year filing; Chapters 61A and 61B are annual filings. Once a parcel is accepted as classified land a lien is placed on the property at the Worcester District Registry of Deeds. This lien protects the town's interests because the property is then taxed at a reduced value. Specific details on the requirements of each are available at the Assessor's Office.

Motor Vehicle Excise Information:

Under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 60A, all Massachusetts residents who own and register a motor vehicle must annually pay a motor vehicle excise.

The Registry of Motor Vehicles prepares excise bills according to the information on the motor vehicle registration. They are then sent to the city or town assessors who commit them to the local tax collectors for mailing and collection of payments. An excise rate of \$ 25.00 per one thousand dollars of valuation is levied on each motor vehicle. Different sources provide the Registry with the valuation figures depending on whether or not the motor vehicle is an automobile, truck, motorcycle, or trailer. For example, automobile valuations are derived from figures published in the NADA guide.

Figures are the manufacturers' list price for vehicles in their year of manufacture. Present market value, price paid, or condition are not considered for excise tax purposes. The formula for valuation for state tax purposes is as follows:

In the year preceding the designated year of Manufacture (brand new car released before model year)	50%
In the designated year of manufacture	90%
In the second year	60%
In the third year	40%
In the fourth year	25%
In the fifth and all succeeding years	10%

Owners of vehicles older than five years should have a fixed bill for succeeding years of ownership. Even though an owner may have applied for an abatement which may reduce an excise tax bill, no excise shall be less than \$ 5.00.

Payment of the motor vehicle excise tax bill is due 30 days from the date of issue. A person who does not receive a bill is still liable for the excise plus any interest charges that accrue. Therefore, it is important to keep the Registry of Motor Vehicles, local assessors, and the post office informed of any changes in your mailing address so that excise bills can be delivered promptly.

In certain instances, such as vehicles owned by certain disabled persons and veterans, MGL Chapter 60A, Section 1 allows for exemptions of the motor vehicle excise amount. Please contact the Assessor Office for information on these exemptions.

Abatements may be granted if the owner believes the valuation is incorrect, if the vehicle was sold during the year in which it is being taxed and the registration was properly cancelled or

transferred, or if the owner moved, registered the vehicle in another state, and cancelled the registration in Massachusetts.

Unless a bill is abated in full, no abatement can reduce a tax to less than \$ 5.00 and no abatement of less than \$ 5.00 can be granted. If you apply for abatement please be prepared to provide proof of the transaction: a plate return receipt from the Registry of Motor Vehicles, the registration for the vehicle that the license plate was transferred to, or proof of residency if you have moved. If you have a question about the type of information needed to apply for the abatement, please contact the Assessor's Office.

REPORT OF THE BUILDING COMMISSIONER

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of the Town of Sutton:

Fiscal year 2008 had a continued drop in housing permits with an increase in remodeling. The commercial permits are down slightly from 2007. With a rise in oil prices there has been an increase in pellet and wood stoves as well as remodels to upgrade the energy efficiency of the structures. In 2008 we also saw the full implementation of the Seventh Edition of the One and Two Family Code.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve this community and if you have any questions about construction or zoning please give us a call.

John M. Couture Building, Building Commissioner / Zoning Enforcement
Larry Hope, Local Building Inspector
Lynn Dahlin, Secretary

The Building Department issued 296 Building Permits during Fiscal Year 2008 to permit the following:

Additions/Remodels (51)	Pool (20)
Commercial Additions (3)	Siding/Roof/Window (76)
Commercial: New Construction (2)	Sign (8)
Commercial Renovation (10)	Single Family Home (13)
Condominiums(8)	Stoves (Wood, Pellet, Gas) (38)
Decks / Porches (22)	Temporary Mobile Home (2)
Demolition (7)	Wind Turbine (1)
Garage/Barn/Shed (32)	Wireless Communications equipment (3)
In-Law Apartment (1)	106 Inspections (12)
Miscellaneous (9)	304 Inspections (6)

Building Permit Fees Collected: \$52,416.48

~~~~~

Wiring Inspector : Larry Morris  
Alternate: Stuart Anderson

|                     |                   |                       |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Permits Issued:     | 230               | Fees Collected:       | \$12,624.00       |
| Plumbing Inspector: | Michael McQuiston |                       |                   |
| Alternate:          | Dana Gravison     |                       |                   |
| Permits Issued:     | 101               | Fees Collected:       | \$8,304.00        |
| Gas Inspector:      | Dana Gravison     | Fees Collected:       | <u>\$3,832.00</u> |
| Permits Issued:     | 61                |                       |                   |
|                     |                   | Total Fees Collected: | \$77,176.48       |

## REPORT OF THE SUTTON COMMUNITY TELEVISION BOARD

To The Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Sutton:

The Sutton Community Television Board serves local Public, Education and Government television needs by informing and educating the residents of Sutton by:

- recording and broadcast of local government meetings
- fostering the production of local events of special interest
- developing and enforcing cable licenses in the best interest of the community
- making available video production technology and training to the public
- providing cable broadcast access to every Sutton resident

The past year has been a year of transition as well as growth and expansion. Many of the functions of the PEG stations were maintained on a volunteer basis until a new Coordinator was hired in late November 2007. As a former board member, Pam Nichols, has brought hands-on experience of the day-to-day maintenance and function as well as strong background in communications.

Over the course of the year, more than 300 public service announcements have been broadcast on behalf of the public, education and government communities.

In addition, much time and effort has been spent on upgrading the existing recording and playback equipment at the town hall in the Wally Johnson meeting room as well as the SCTV office. This has improved the quality of the regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen and School Committee meetings. In addition, recording equipment was installed in another meeting room to allow for the recording and broadcast of even more public meetings from the town hall including the Conservation Commission and Planning Board.

The town also began a move towards bringing competition into the cable arena and began contract negotiations with Verizon, New England. An Issuing Authority Report was presented to the Board of Selectmen in April and logistics and relevant building schematics were reviewed in great detail in preparation for the signing of a future contract.

Local events of special interest such as the Sutton Memorial High School Graduation and Annual Baseball parade were also produced locally. The public aspect of our mission is an area that we are very interested in expanding and we would greatly appreciate your support. Please explore opportunities to get involved and volunteer as a board member, producer, camera person or local talent!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sutton Community Television Board

## REPORT OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the citizens of Town of Sutton.

The cemetery commission consists of three commissioners and a clerk. Due to budgets cuts, the commission no longer has two seasonal employees. The commission is responsible for the care and maintenance of seventeen cemeteries, the Dudley Gendron triangles at rt. 146 and Central Turnpike, the Rufus Putnam memorial triangle, the Manchaug boat ramp, Mateychuk common, the playgrounds in Manchaug, South Sutton, and Wilkinsonville, the senior center, the town common and municipal building grounds, and the pump station in Manchaug. This involves cutting and trimming of grass and brush, pick up and removal of leaves and grass.

The commission is also responsible for the sale and recording of gravesites, the preparation and burial for all funerals, both regular vault burials and cremations. During the fiscal year 2008, there were a total of 27 funerals.

The following fees were collected:

Grave openings: \$11,800.00.

Foundations: \$385.00.

Sale of lots: \$11,275.00.

Total fees collected: \$23,460.00.

The cemetery commissioners would like to acknowledge and thank Edward Domey and his crew for assistance with burials.

Respectfully submitted:  
James Johnson, Chairman  
Francis Mateer  
James Renaud

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of the Town of Sutton:

The Council on Aging submits the following report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008.

It is the mission of the COA is to identify the needs of the elderly residents aged 60 and over, inform and educate the community, public officials and enlist support and participation of the residents to serve those needs. We design, promote and implement services to fill those needs. We identify, coordinate and offer additional elder services available within and beyond Sutton. Finally, we are responsible for the activities and well being of the Senior Center.

The Council on Aging office is open Monday through Friday 8AM to 4PM with special evening programs during the summer. The staff has been busy with programs, outreach, information and referral for the community's seniors and their families. You are welcome to call the Senior Center at 508-234-0703 at anytime. We will be happy to assist you.

We would like to thank the citizens, businesses and community organizations that support the Senior Center. The Senior Center continues to be the home of the Sutton Food Pantry. The Food Pantry assists on average, 8 families per week. This year the Food Pantry provided 90 holiday meals for families in Sutton.

We continue to get wonderful services from S.C.M Elderbus who provide transportation for seniors and those who are handicapped enabling them to attend meals, medical appointments, shopping trips and to participate at the center. If you need elder transportation please call Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243.

Tri-Valley Elder Services and Nancy Perry continue to bring us hot nutritious meals at noon time. Meals are \$2.00 per person over age 60 and you must give a call 48 hours in advance to reserve a lunch. Call the Senior Center and ask for Nancy if you know of an elder in need of meal services at 508-234-0703.

Again, none of our programs would be successful without the continued support of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the Friend's of Sutton Elders, and the Town of Sutton. The fund raising efforts by our Friends of Sutton Elders Group make it possible for us to provide the level service that you have come to expect from the Council on Aging.

### **Staff Members**

Michelle Edelstein-Director  
Alberta Dearborn-Clerk  
Fritzi Petrie-Outreach  
Paul Raymond-Maintenance

### **Council on Aging Board**

Rosemarie DeGaetano- President  
Carolyn Amaral  
Barbara Bessette  
Morton Carter  
Mike Chizy  
Gale Graves  
Dorothy Gravison



Richard Haskins  
Genevieve Vaundell

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Edelstein, Director

**Annual Activities Report**

Nutrition Congregate meals: 5,100

Congregate participants: 1,004

Home Deliveries: 7945

**Support Services**

Friendly Visiting: 160 hours

Telephone Reassurance: 65

Medical Equipment Loans: 40

Intergenerational: 740

**Transportation**

Ambulatory: 3,330

Non ambulatory: 1,270

Under 60: 130

**Newsletters:** 12,144

**Volunteers:** 60

**Wellness**

Blood Pressure: 1082

Podiatry: 65

Flu Clinic: 100

Fitness: 978

**Recreational/Socialization**

Bingo: 1,300

Bridge: 147

Chorus: 544

Computer class: 667

Chatterbox: 110

Tai Chi: 182

Yoga: 156

Chair Exercise: 182

Dance Class: 288

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the citizens of the Town of Sutton.

The following is a breakdown of all monies collected and turned over to the Treasurer for

fiscal 2008, beginning July 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008.

| <b>Real Estate Tax</b>                                        |      | <b>Amount Collected</b> |                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------------------------|----------------------|
|                                                               | 2008 | \$                      | 13,561,968.13        |
|                                                               | 2007 | \$                      | 191,628.49           |
|                                                               | 2006 | \$                      | 14.72                |
|                                                               | 2004 | \$                      | 0.05                 |
|                                                               |      | <b>\$</b>               | <b>13,753,611.39</b> |
| <br>                                                          |      |                         |                      |
| <b>2008 Supplemental Tax</b>                                  |      | \$                      | 4,675.51             |
| <b>2007 Supplemental Tax</b>                                  |      | \$                      | 41,991.96            |
| <b>2006 Supplemental Tax</b>                                  |      | \$                      | 6,792.82             |
| <b>2005 Supplemental Tax</b>                                  |      | \$                      | 476.67               |
| <br>                                                          |      |                         |                      |
| <b>Personal Property Tax</b>                                  |      | <b>Amount Collected</b> |                      |
|                                                               | 2008 | \$                      | 340,672.83           |
|                                                               | 2007 | \$                      | 5,110.55             |
|                                                               | 2006 | \$                      | 15.25                |
|                                                               | 2001 | \$                      | 32.74                |
|                                                               | 2000 | \$                      | 131.35               |
|                                                               |      | <b>\$</b>               | <b>345,962.72</b>    |
| <br>                                                          |      |                         |                      |
| <b>Motor Vehicle Excise Tax</b>                               |      | <b>Amount Collected</b> |                      |
|                                                               | 2008 | \$                      | 1,073,812.75         |
|                                                               | 2007 | \$                      | 264,663.46           |
|                                                               | 2006 | \$                      | 50,526.42            |
|                                                               | 2005 | \$                      | 6,697.85             |
|                                                               | 2004 | \$                      | 1,057.30             |
|                                                               | 2003 | \$                      | 119.17               |
|                                                               | 2002 | \$                      | 1,113.85             |
|                                                               | 2001 | \$                      | 348.75               |
|                                                               | 2000 | \$                      | 124.38               |
|                                                               | 1999 | \$                      | 7.81                 |
|                                                               |      | <b>\$</b>               | <b>1,398,471.74</b>  |
| <br>                                                          |      |                         |                      |
| <b>Personal Property &amp; Real Estate Water District Tax</b> |      | <b>Amount Collected</b> |                      |
|                                                               | 2008 | \$                      | 114,377.80           |
|                                                               | 2007 | \$                      | 1,459.47             |

\$ 115,837.27

**Sewer Liens with  
Interest**

**Amount Collected**

|      |    |                 |
|------|----|-----------------|
| 2008 | \$ | 26,314.99       |
| 2007 | \$ | 2,218.77        |
|      | \$ | <u>2,218.77</u> |

**Sewer Usage  
Includes Int. &  
Penalty**

**Amount Collected**

\*

\$ 531,231.16

**Miscellaneous  
Revenues**

**Amount Collected**

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Scholarship        |              |
| Donations          | \$ 1,360.19  |
| Municipal Lien     |              |
| Certificates       | \$ 9,300.00  |
| Boat Excise Tax    | \$ 2,925.12  |
| Animal Excise Tax  | \$ 560.64    |
| Interest           | \$ 52,946.53 |
| Return Check Fees  | \$ 550.00    |
| Demand Fees        | \$ 10,005.00 |
| Motor Vehicle Mark |              |
| Fees               | \$ 6,040.00  |
|                    | <hr/>        |
|                    | \$ 83,687.48 |

**Tax Title Collections**

\$ 126,842.27

Respectfully  
Submitted by:

Cheryl J. Ouillette, Treasurer/Collector

Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of the Town of Sutton:

The following is a recap of the Town of Sutton's financial report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2008:

|                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
|                                 | \$                 |
|                                 | 6,296,783.2        |
| <b>Balance June 30, 2007</b>    | 9                  |
|                                 | \$                 |
| <b>Add Treasurer's Receipts</b> | <b>35,187,765.</b> |

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
|                              | 18                 |
|                              | \$                 |
|                              | (34,656,981.       |
| <b>Less Warrants Paid</b>    | 51)                |
|                              | \$                 |
|                              | <b>6,827,566.9</b> |
| <b>Balance June 30, 2008</b> | <b>6</b>           |

**As of June 30, 2008 cash consisted of the following balances:**

|                                              |                    |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|
|                                              | \$                 |
| Unibank School Lunch                         | 73,954.08          |
|                                              | \$                 |
|                                              | 1,956,985.3        |
| Unibank General Fund                         | 0                  |
|                                              | \$                 |
| Unibank Now Account                          | 927,071.29         |
|                                              | \$                 |
| Unibank Vendor Account                       | 55.25              |
|                                              | \$                 |
| Unibank Payroll Account                      | 1,757.60           |
|                                              | \$                 |
| Unibank Accounts Payable                     | 475.76             |
|                                              | \$                 |
| UniBank Tri-Cenntennial Park                 | 55,639.59          |
|                                              | \$                 |
| UniBank Bond Account                         | 1,260.25           |
|                                              | \$                 |
|                                              | 2,125,300.5        |
| Millbury Savings Bank                        | 8                  |
|                                              | \$                 |
| Millbury National Bank Elementary School     | 31,363.45          |
|                                              | \$                 |
| Millbury National Bank Early Learning Center | 9,525.26           |
|                                              | \$                 |
| Millbury National Bank Middle School         | 11,594.66          |
|                                              | \$                 |
| Millbury National Bank Memorial High School  | 64,232.92          |
|                                              | \$                 |
| Unibank Cultural Account                     | 9,946.17           |
|                                              | \$                 |
| Century Bank                                 | 36.80              |
|                                              | \$                 |
| Flagship Bank                                | 126.31             |
|                                              | \$                 |
| Unibank Band Stand Account                   | 4,841.15           |
|                                              | \$                 |
| Eastern Bank Money Market                    | 1,584.86           |
|                                              | \$                 |
| Reliance Trust Company                       | 1.54               |
|                                              | \$                 |
|                                              | 1,551,814.1        |
| Fidelity Bank Money Market                   | 4                  |
|                                              | <hr/>              |
|                                              | \$                 |
| <b>Total Cash</b>                            | <b>6,827,566.9</b> |

|             |             |                          |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|
|             | 6           |                          |
|             | \$          |                          |
|             | 2,418,312.9 |                          |
| Trust Funds | 2           | **Includes Stabilization |

**Outstanding Debt June 30, 2008**  
**Long Term Debt-Inside Debt Limit**

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
|                  | \$               |
| Buildings        | 22,666.00        |
|                  | \$               |
| Solid Waste      | 1,022.00         |
|                  | \$               |
| Revaluation      | 600.00           |
|                  | \$               |
| School Buses     | 6,126.00         |
|                  | <hr/>            |
|                  | \$               |
| <b>Sub Total</b> | <b>30,414.00</b> |

**Long Term Debt Outside Debt Limit**

|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
|                             | \$                  |
| Keown Land Purchasse        | 5,250.00            |
|                             | \$                  |
| School Contrusction         | 692,070.00          |
|                             | \$                  |
| Equipment                   | 5,850.00            |
|                             | \$                  |
| Transfer Station            | 2,250.00            |
|                             | \$                  |
| Fire Trucks                 | 6,750.00            |
|                             | \$                  |
| Sewer Treatment Plant       | 24,900.00           |
|                             | \$                  |
| Sewer Treatment Plant       | 206,626.00          |
|                             | \$                  |
| Sewer                       | 39,300.00           |
|                             | \$                  |
| Capital Plan                | 31,238.00           |
|                             | \$                  |
| Shaw Land Purchase          | 142,597.00          |
|                             | <hr/>               |
|                             | \$                  |
|                             | 1,156,831.0         |
| <b>Sub Total</b>            | <b>0</b>            |
|                             | <hr/>               |
|                             | \$                  |
| <b>Total Long Term Debt</b> | <b>1,187,245.00</b> |

Respectfully Submitted  
 by:  
 Cheryl J. Ouillette,  
 Treasurer/Collector

## REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Board Members: Mark Briggs, Chair, Joyce Smith, Co-Chair, Francis Gatto, Daniel Rice, and Jack Sheehan.

The Conservation Commission would like to say welcome to Daniel Rice to this Commission for the Town of Sutton.

The Conservation Commission respectfully submits this report to the Board of Selectmen and the citizens of the Town of Sutton.

The Conservation Commission has completed the following units of business this year:

- 3 - Enforcement Orders
- 1 - Emergency Certificates
- 5 - Determinations of Applicability
- 1 - Positive Determinations to File a Notice of Intent
- 2 - Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD)
- 1 - Order of Resource Area Delineation (ORAD)
- 19 - Notices of Intent
- 15 - Order of Conditions
- 1 - Amended Order of Conditions
- 8 - Extended Order of Conditions
- 18 - Complete Certificate of Compliance
- 7 - Partial Certificate of Compliance
- 20 - Complaints and Violations
- 9 - Site Visits pertaining thereto

The Commission's philosophy is that all plans submitted should be the "Best" engineered plan for the protection of the wetlands, first and foremost. In most cases, professional engineers and wetland scientist are now submitting plans designed to this standard. By providing clear and accurate plans, there is added insurance for the protection of the wetlands, reduction in construction error, and a more efficient processing of the application from inception through completion.

The services of our Conservation Consultant have proven to be invaluable over the course of the last three years, however due to personal issues the Conservation Commission must seek a replacement. The Conservation Commission took proposals to replace Zisk Consultants, Inc. The Commission has selected and appointed Brandon Faneuf, Professional Wetland Scientist, of Ecosystem Solutions as it's Conservation Consultant.

Projects have been processed more efficiently with better results.

There will be no added expense to the Town, and the Town will benefit with projects better aimed at the protection of the resource areas, wetlands, lakes and streams which are important to the inhabitants and to the rural complexion of the Town of Sutton.

The Commissioners continue to expand their knowledge of environmental protection and preservation by attending classes and maintaining memberships in organizations such as the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissioners and the Association of Massachusetts Wetland Scientists.

The Conservation Commission, as a State Agency and Town Department, continues to strive to be well informed and learned in serving the Town's needs as well as fulfilling the requirements of the Wetlands Protection Act and the Sutton Wetlands Riverfront District Administration Bylaw.

Attendance:

Francis Gatto – attended 17 of 24 meetings  
Mark Briggs – attended 19 of 24 meetings  
Daniel Rice – attended 18 of 24 meetings – start date of October 3, 2007  
Jack Sheehan – attended 23 of 24 meetings  
Joyce Smith – attended 23 of 24 meeting  
2 special meetings and 3 workshops were attended by all Commissioners  
Brandon Faneuf, Conservation Consultant attended 12 of 15 meetings

Respectfully submitted  
Mark Briggs, Chair  
Sutton Conservation Commission

## REPORT OF THE EARTH REMOVAL BOARD

To the Honorable Members of the Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of the Town of Sutton.

The Earth Removal Board reports the following activities for the fiscal year of July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008.

The board members conduct its monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Sutton Town Hall. Members of the Board are Alan Berthiaume, Kyle Brenner, Timothy Kane, Brian Johnson, and John Slocum.

During the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, the Earth Removal Board received 6 applications for active Earth Removal Permits. The Board will continue to make at least one on-site inspection per year.

Maguire Group Engineering, agent for the Earth Removal Board, conducts site visits as requested by the board. These visits are to ensure compliance with the Earth Removal By-Law. Maguire Group Engineering reviews all site plans submitted to the Board, attends all Public Hearings as required, and provides technical advice and counsel to the Board.

The Town of Sutton Building Commissioner, acting as the Board's enforcement agent, conducts well readings two times a year on all active permits to ensure compliance with the required 10 foot buffer zone between excavation and aquifer ground water levels.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

Earth Removal Board Application fees

Aggregate Industries \$2700.00

Pyne Sand & Stone \$ 900.00

Worcester Sand & Gravel \$ 900.00

Total Monies Collected \$4500.00

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Johnson, Chairman

Timothy Kane, Vice Chairman

Alan Berthiaume,

Kyle Brenner

John Slocum

### **REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and citizens of the town of Sutton.

I hereby submit to you the annual report of the Fire Department as the Fire Chief for fiscal year ending June 30, 2008.

First off, Thank you to the town for selecting me as the new Chief of the department.

The Sutton Fire Department responded to the following Fire & EMS Response calls.

Building, Cooking, Chimney, Oil burners, Car, Brush, Grass, Dumpsters, Rescue calls, EMS assist, EMS / MVA, Extrication from MVA, Boating, Lock out / in, Search, missing persons, Confined space rescue, Hazardous condition, Flammable gas, Gasoline spills, Gas leaks, Combustible spills, Chemical hazards & spills, Carbon monoxide, Electrical wiring, Power line down, Arching wirings, Biological hazards, MVA-cleanup, Explosive, Attempt to burn, Water problem, Water evacuation, Water / steam leaks, Smoke removal, Animal rescue, Assist police, Public service, Unauthorized burning, Bomb scare, Sprinkler activations, Smoke detectors, Dispatched & canceled calls, False alarms, Alarm system problem calls, CO2 Detectors, Severe weather, Lightning strike, Mutual Aid to surrounding towns.

Inspection of residential smoke detectors, Commercial Fire alarm systems.

Oil fired boilers & fuel oil storage tanks, Propane gas storage tank,

Industrial, Commercial & School safety visits.

Blasting permits & Inspection.



Narrative:

The Sutton Fire Department has a review team that works with the planning board on site reviews to allow us to have a voice in the proper fire safety requirements, this bears watching as it will ultimately effect how the Fire Department is going to be impacted with the new development response. Some of the areas that are cause of concern are the larger residential condominium structures. This type of residential construction does not affect our schools, but does affect fire and ambulance / EMT response and services. Additionally large non-sprinkler protected properties and building access problems are a unique problem to any fire department when the buildings come under a fire condition.

Not having an Elevator / Platform (ladder truck). We three additional aging fire trucks that does not help us when called to protect the community. It is the my recommendation that we maintain our present fire apparatus fleet at the highest level of readiness and to ensure that the town follows the fire departments short and long range plans for replacement of our fire protection equipment and personnel staff needs to protect our present and future residential/commercial development and School complex.

Code compliance and enforcement continues to increase dramatically each year. The fulltime staff work days, Monday through Friday have attended fire prevention and inspection training programs to educate them in this process. Through our basic skills in the engineering, education and enforcement areas we are meeting this challenge. We have already seen a difference through our code compliance efforts in a more professional installation of oil fires burners and heating oil tanks, tank removals, fire inspections, reducing fire hazards and more fire alarm systems installations. Through this effort we all win through decreased fire calls, fire damage and fire related injuries.

During this past year we have seen more problems associated with improper house number placement or the lack of. This continues to be a problem. So that we may service you better please make sure that your house and your commercial building numbers are visible on your home and or business location and are equally visible from the street.

This is a Town of Sutton General bylaw Article 14.1 & in the zoning bylaw (N) Retreat Lots Para 2L. Please help us, find you in your time of an emergency.

I also ask that all residents on private roads invest in a Sutton standard street sign.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Sutton Fire department for your commitment and dedication to the Sutton Fire department. I would also like to thank the family members for their continued support during our many hours away from our homes and families to attend training, both day and nights responding to calls and your untiring support to the community.

I want to also thank my fellow taxpayers for supporting the Sutton Fire Departments needs, as we continue to grow and to provide the town with the best possible Fire and Emergency Medical Services that we can.

We are always looking for new recruit fire fighters for the department as well as young people from 14 to 18 years of age to join our fire trainee cadet program.

Respectfully Submitted;  
Paul A. Maynard  
Fire Chief  
Sutton Fire Department

#### REPORT OF THE HAZARDOUS WASTE COORDINATOR

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen, and to the citizens of Sutton, I hereby submit to you my report as Hazardous Waste Coordinator for fiscal year FY-08 ending June 30, 2008.

As the Fire Chief, I also am the Hazardous Waste Coordinator for the town of Sutton.

In past year the Sutton Fire Department has continued to build our reclamation efforts by establishing a HAZ-MAT fund line, which was approved at town meeting. This fund enables the Fire Chief to "bill for services" directly to an owner or the owner's insurance carrier if a hazardous material spill occurs on a roadway, residential or commercial property. In the past, the Fire Department was compelled to use funds from our operating budget for replacement supplies, hazardous waste disposal, containment dikes and other hazmat supplies. With this account, we have been able to collect the dollars value spent for the replenishment of items used for the collect, control and abatement of hazardous materials incidents and their clean-up.

The Sutton Fire Department personnel are trained and have been able to respond to most hazardous materials incidents that we have encountered. We also know who to call if we can not handle the incident. We also have a new company in Sutton that is a hazardous waste disposal service.

The following hazardous material incidents were handled by the Fire Department:

Hazardous condition, Gas leaks, Carbon Monoxide Reports, Biological hazards, Flammable liquid spills, Combustible, Spills in to a water way, Fuel on the road way & Investigation.

In closing, I would like to thank the town departments who assisted us especially the Police Department and Highway Departments.

Respectfully Submitted;  
Paul A. Maynard  
Fire Chief  
Hazardous Materials Coordinator

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

To the Honorable Members of the Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of the Town of Sutton:  
The Board of Health reports the following activities for the fiscal year of July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008.

The Board members consisted of the following. Diane Miller, Chairman: Dr. Steven Rice, Vice Chairman, Dr. James Gilbert, John Silverberg, William Fredericks, and Kenneth Malo Jr. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. James Gilbert for his many years of service to the Board. James Malley, Title 5 Agent for the Sutton Board of Health is also greatly appreciated for his efficiency and expertise in many areas.

The Board of Health scheduled their meetings for the 2nd Tuesday of each month or as otherwise posted. There were 12 scheduled meetings, 2 meetings were cancelled. Board member attendance was as follows: Steven Rice- 10 of 10; John Silverberg 9 of 10 Diane Miller 9 of 10; Dr. James Gilbert-7 of 7; William Fredericks 2 of 3; Kenneth Malo Jr. 2 of 2.

The office hours are as follows:

|                                                  |                        |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Monday – Thursday                                | 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  |
| Tuesday Evening                                  | 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  |
| Friday                                           | 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. |
| The office is closed from 12:00 -12:40 for lunch |                        |

### BOARD OF HEALTH ACTIVITY REPORT

It is the duty of the Board to protect the public health of the residents of Sutton by developing, implementing and enforcing health policies. This year the Board adapted a new fee structure for all permits. The Board is responsible for the permitting and inspections of all retail food establishments, recreational camps, and sporting camps. The Board is also responsible for all housing inspections, as required by 105CMR 410.00. Reported violations of public health codes and environmental laws and regulations are investigated and dealt with by Board members, the Health Agent, and Public Health Nurse. The Board is working with Sara Delisio program consultant from the CDC to establish regional mutual aid agreements.

A “Complaint Book” as required by M.G.L. is available for review by the public. There were 88 entries received for fiscal year 2008. There were 34 Title 5 Inspections filed in the Board of Health office as being completed. Of the 35 inspections 28 passed, 2 failed, and 4 conditionally passed.

Other Board of Health activities are as follows:

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Percolation tests performed         | 34 |
| Plan Reviews Completed              | 36 |
| Well Permits Approved               | 12 |
| Septic Construction Permits Granted | 43 |
| Septic Inspections Completed        | 48 |
| Septage Haulers Licenses Issued     | 09 |
| Food Permits Issued                 | 43 |

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Milk Licenses Issued               | 23 |
| Inspections                        | 56 |
| Campground Permits                 | 04 |
| Solid Waste Haulers                | 08 |
| Disposal Works Installers Licenses | 25 |

Respectfully Submitted:

Diane Miller, Chairman

Dr. Steven Rice, Vice Chairman

John Silverberg, Member

William Fredericks, Member

Dr. James Gilbert,

Kenneth Malo Jr., Member

Cheryl Rawinski, RN

James Malley, Title 5 Agent

## REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDANT

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, and the citizens of the Town of Sutton. I hereby submit the annual report of the Highway Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008.

Our budget this fiscal year has remained steady with some small increases in road repair funds. A full time worker left the department in February, and this position has remained unfilled. This brings the Highway Department work force to a total of eight, Highway Superintendent, Highway Foreman, and six Equipment Operator/Laborer positions.

The winter of 2007/2008 was busy. There were 28 winter storms that left us with 70 inches of snow. In November the Board of Selectmen adopted a private road snow removal policy. Nine roads meet the criteria and snow removal was preformed throughout the winter on them.

The following is a summary of work done in the past Fiscal year.

Routine Maintenance including:

- Street sweeping
- Roadside mowing
- Repair and replacing of street signs
- Cleaning of catch basins
- Pothole patching
- Repair and maintenance of drainage systems

The paving of roadways using State Chapter 90 funds were completed as Follows:

- Portions of Central Turnpike
- Lackey Dam Road
- Portions of Brown Road
- Portions of Mendon Road
- Portions of Oakhurst Road

New storm water drainage pipe, for a distance of 1500 feet, was installed on Mendon Road.

On many roadways brush and overhead limbs were cut. Working with the tree warden we also assisted with removal of large trees on several roadways.

The department processed all the winter sand, gravel, and stone used this year, as we have done for many years. This material came from the hatchery property in Wilkinsonville.

In October we took delivery of a new, 2007 Komatsu backhoe/loader. This \$97,000 piece of equipment was paid for using state chapter 90 funds at no cost to the town. It replaced a 1994 backhoe that was traded in.

In closing I would like to thank the Town Administrator James Smith for his support. The Highway Department staff and I work hard to keep our roadways safe year round, we welcome your recommendations and ideas. To all the department staff thank you for your support and assistance.

Mark Brigham  
Highway Superintendent

#### INVENTORY

|   |                                          |
|---|------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Ford F350 4X4 Pickup 1999                |
| 1 | Ford F350 4X4 Pickup 2002                |
| 1 | Ford F450 Dump Truck 1999                |
| 1 | Ford F450 Dump Truck 2001                |
| 1 | Sterling L7500 Dump Truck 2001           |
| 1 | Sterling L7500 Dump Truck 2000           |
| 1 | Ford L8513 Dump Truck 1997               |
| 2 | Ford L8000 Dump Truck 1994               |
| 1 | Ford L8000 Dump Truck 1988               |
| 1 | International 7400 Dump Truck 2005       |
| 1 | Freightliner FL70 Catch Basin Truck 2000 |
| 1 | John Deere Loader Model 624G 1996        |
| 1 | John Deere Loader Model 644D 1985        |
| 1 | John Deere Grader Model 672B 1988        |
| 1 | John Deere Skid Steer Model 250          |
| 1 | Komatsu Model WB156 Loader/backhoe 2007  |
|   | Ford Tractor Mower Model 3910 1984       |
| 1 | Ford Tractor Mower Model 8N 1953         |
| 1 | Elgin Street Sweeper 2000                |
| 1 | Sandpiper Portable Screening Plant 1975  |
| 1 | Vermeer brush chipper 2001               |
| 1 | Portable Cement Mixer 2000               |
| 2 | 12ft. Power Angle Snow Plows             |
| 6 | 11ft. Power Angle Snow Plows             |
| 2 | 9ft. Power Angle Snow Plows              |
| 2 | 8ft. Power Angle Snow Plows              |

## REPORT OF THE SUTTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Board of Library Trustees and Director of the Sutton Public Library respectively submit a report for July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008 to the Honorable Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Sutton.

The Board of Library Trustees consists of three elected members: Jane Anderson, Chair, Susan Robsky, Secretary and Rachel Tufts, Member-at-Large. The Board and the Library Director meet monthly to ensure that library operations run efficiently and to review and update library policies.

This year there was a change of Youth Services Librarians. Molly Johnson left the position of Youth Services Librarian to accept a similar position at the Charlton Public Library. Carol Geary accepted the position in September 2007.

Carol's previous position was at the Hopkinton Library. Carol has a long career in community and library service working as a coordinator of student programs and a cataloguer at the Walnut Hill School, as a Grant Coordinator in Essex Junction, Vermont, and as a storyteller and freelance writer.

### **Statistics**

Library statistics increased by 16% in FY08 illustrating that the library continues to be an integral part of the educational resources of the community.

|                                   | FY06   | FY07   | FY08   |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Library materials owned           | 25,287 | 26,590 | 28,828 |
| Total Circulation Transactions*   | 87,423 | 91,023 | 94,854 |
| Interlibrary Loans                | 7,759  | 8,930  | 9,394  |
| Registered Borrowers              | 2,313  | 2,661  | 3,008  |
| Number of Programs                | 163    | 184    | 264    |
| Program attendance                | 3,711  | 4,945  | 5,364  |
| Number of library visits          | 21,008 | 22,507 | 31,597 |
| Number of hits on library website | 3,657  | 8,165  | 12,387 |

\*Circulation transactions include checkouts, checkins, renewals and patron registrations.

### **Library Worth to the Community**

The spreadsheet below illustrates how much money would be spent in each category by Sutton residents if they had to pay for the services offered free by the library. The amounts are based on actual costs for library materials or services and were formulated by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (a federal agency) as well as the American Library Association. The use statistics are based on FY08 counts.

| <b>Use</b> | <b>Library Service</b>                 | <b>Avg<br/>Cost of<br/>Item</b> | <b>Cost</b>           |
|------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 30,684     | Books Borrowed                         | \$20.00                         | \$613,680.00          |
| 1,764      | Magazines<br>Borrowed                  | \$4.00                          | \$7,056.00            |
| 4,029      | Music (CDs)<br>Borrowed                | \$14.95                         | \$60,233.55           |
| 2,267      | Audiobooks<br>Borrowed                 | \$50.00                         | \$113,350.00          |
| 13,298     | Videos Borrowed                        | \$19.99                         | \$265,827.02          |
| 163        | CD-ROMS<br>Borrowed                    | \$39.99                         | \$6,518.37            |
| 140        | Museum Passes<br>Borrowed              | \$24.00                         | \$3,360.00            |
| 4,878      | Inter-Library<br>Loans                 | \$35.00                         | \$170,730.00          |
| 181        | Out of state<br>Inter-Library<br>Loans | \$75.00                         | \$13,575.00           |
| 3,640      | Internet Use                           | \$12.00                         | \$43,680.00           |
| 832        | Reference<br>Transactions              | \$25.00                         | \$20,800.00           |
| 2,184      | Database<br>Searches                   | \$20.00                         | \$43,680.00           |
| 200        | Children's<br>Programs                 | \$10.00                         | \$2,000.00            |
| 64         | Adult/YA<br>Programs                   | \$10.00                         | \$640.00              |
|            | <b>Total Worth of<br/>Library</b>      |                                 | <b>\$1,365,129.94</b> |

### **Grants:**

The Circle of Friends Community Partnership Council for Children and the Beginning Years Network provided grants worth \$1,500 to the library. This grant money was utilized to provide quality programs for the children such as the Apple Tree Arts music program, storytellers Aili Paal Singer and Joseph Geary, the Toe Jam Puppet Band, Pumpernickel Puppets and a visit by children's author Susan Lubner.

The library applied for and received a Museum of Science 'scholarship grant' which enabled us to offer a visit from the Museum of Science Reptile show which was very well received by the children.

## **Children's Programs**

An astronomy program offered by the Aldrich Astronomical Society was very well attended. The Society graciously donated \$200 worth of astronomy books to the library. We appreciate their generosity.

The Summer Reading Program for the 2008 calendar year was a spectacular success. Over 477 people participated in the program, a 228% increase in program participants over FY07. Circulation statistics for the summer showed a 64% rise over FY07.

Massachusetts businesses and attractions provided passes or gift certificates as prizes for the program. Cold Stone Creamery at the Blackstone Valley Shoppes, National Gallery, Pleasant Valley Country Club, Target, Circuit City, Breezy Waterslides, The Worcester Tornadoes and other regional businesses donated prizes which were awarded weekly and at the end of the summer reading program to the raffle winners.

## **Young Adult Programs**

Ninety-six teens participated in the Teen component of the Summer Reading Program. Cold Stone Creamery donated weekly prizes as well as a grand prize for this group. Also, we had several teen video game nights which were well attended.

We have started a Teen Advisory Council and a Book Discussion Group. The purpose of the advisory council is to get input from the teens in the community regarding what additional services and programming we can do for this age group. We welcome all interested teens. Other workshops we offered included a cartooning workshop as well as a jewelry-making workshop. We are already planning for several video game evenings for FY09 as well as some movie events.

## **Adult Programs:**

The Library Director facilitates a book discussion group at the Senior Center library/computer room which meets on the first Thursday of each month at 12:30 pm. We have read a variety of non-fiction and fiction titles such as: The Great Hurricane of 1938; Dark tide: the Great Molasses Flood of Boston; A Bell for Adano; and Ladies of Liberty.

The library also offered a History Book Discussion Group which met the first Wednesday of the month at 1 PM and 7 PM . We read such titles as Devil in the White City; Holocaust: the Cocoanut Grove Fire; The Wild Blue; The First American Revolution and Dearest Friend: the Biography of Abigail Adams. In addition, we offered monthly genealogy and 'Using the Library Catalog' workshops.

The Friends of the Sutton Library is a non-profit group consisting of individuals, families and organizations committed to supporting the library through an annual membership drive and several fundraising events. Ongoing sale items include the book sale in the library foyer, canvas tote bags and unique greeting cards. The Friends utilize these monies to support the children's programs, buy equipment and other additions to the children's room, such as new shelving for the children's easy readers. The Friends also purchase discounted passes to museums and attractions which are available for use by all Sutton residents. These institutional passes are for



Higgins Armory Museum (\$200); Ecotarium (\$200) and Roger Williams Park Zoo (\$115). We encourage you to join the Friends Group; membership forms are available at the library's circulation desk.

The Tower Hill Botanic Garden pass (\$150) is generously donated by the Sutton Garden Club. We thank them for their generous donation.

In addition we also have the Massachusetts Park Pass (\$35) which enables one to park free at all Massachusetts State Parks.

In FY08 the library continued to participate in the Senior Tax Abatement Program. Ms. Jean Sullivan continued this past fiscal year as the facilitator of the weekly knitting group which meets on Wednesday afternoons between 1 and 2:30 pm in the library Reference Room. Mr. Joseph Ballard continues doing some cleaning, routine maintenance, gardening and other projects for the library.

Looking at the statistics of library visits, transactions and interlibrary loans, it is obvious that the library continues to be a center of learning and social interaction for the community. This is due in large part to the excellent library staff: Carole Anderson, Andrea Baker, Carol Geary, Erik Johnson, Pamela Johnson, Judith Peladeau and Laurel Welch. Their welcoming demeanor, helpfulness and humor is appreciated by library patrons.

Library staff member's tasks go beyond checking out, checking in and taking fines. The staff does so much more: placing in and out-of-state holds, registering new borrowers and entering the information into the network database, registering patrons for library programs, providing reference and readers' advisory services and providing library catalog and computer aid to library visitors. Carole Anderson and Pamela Johnson are responsible for finding the correct title records for new materials, requesting the records if they don't exist, assigning the Dewey Decimal Classification number, typing spine labels, entering each item into the CWMARS database as well as reviewing holds and sending overdue notices. Judy Peladeau, Andrea Baker and Laurel Welch receive newly acquired materials, check them off the packing lists, identify the materials as Sutton Library items, cover the books, etc. In addition they put all the returned materials away (**38,148 items in FY08**), and shelf read, i.e. making sure materials are in order on the shelf. In addition to her regular duties, Andrea Baker also creates our wonderful library displays.

Do you have a talent that you would like to share with others by offering or facilitating a program? We are always looking for ideas for new programs.

Check out the library website [www.suttonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.suttonpubliclibrary.org) to see what events are coming up, find out what new titles we have, answer our "Question of the Week" or suggest a title you think we should purchase.

Roberta Rothwell, Library Director  
Jane Anderson, Library Board, Chair  
Susan Robsky, Library Board, Secretary  
Rachel Tufts, Library Board, Member at Large

## REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the citizens of the Town of Sutton, I hereby submit to you my annual report as Public Health Nurse for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008.

Wellness/ Blood Pressure clinics were held every Wednesday at the Senior Center, the last Tuesday of the month at Orchard Apartments, and at the Town Hall by appointment. Educational programs and training were provided throughout the year for all residents. The Worcester Regional Medical Corp. in coordination with the Board of Health continues to recruit volunteers, both medical and non-medical personnel to assist the town in the event of a public health emergency. Presently there are 96 residents enrolled and ongoing training is provided to prepare the volunteers for various roles.

This past flu season seven immunization clinics were held to accommodate adult residents. The annual allotment was increased to 390 doses this past season, and administered per Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines.

Lyme disease continues to be the predominant communicable disease within the Town. Per 105CMR 300, MGL c 111s7 this disease is one of 88 reportable diseases to the MDPH. This state mandate requires follow-up disease investigation, and patient education.

The department has ongoing communication and collaboration with staff and administration within the School system, Police, Fire Departments, Senior Center, local physicians, area hospitals and numerous social service agencies. This cooperative effort ensures assessments through home visits, outreach, nursing services, and intervention to residents as needed. The department has also provided local college students with internship programs in the Public Health field. A Worcester State College student developed a hazardous waste program. Also a nursing student from Anna Maria College presented a program on hypertension and risk factors.

Emergency preparedness continues to be an ongoing process. Guidelines and deliverables are established annually by the CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The Region 2 Public Health Coalition continues to meet bi weekly. By attending these meetings and fulfilling the mandates allows the town to participate in obtaining federal grants to be prepared for a public health emergency.

Goals for FY: continue emergency preparedness planning, conduct a table top and functional exercises: complete the comprehensive community assessment for the town: maintain skills and increase knowledge, for staff, and board members through training programs offered by various agencies, speakers, and other educational opportunities.

|                                       |      |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Wellness/ Blood Pressure Participants | 1710 |
| Immunizations                         | 390  |
| Home Visits                           | 169  |
| Outreach/ Case Management             | 155  |
| Communicable Diseases/ Contacts       | 196  |

Respectfully Submitted  
Cheryl A. Rawinski, R.N. Public Health Nurse

## Report of Planning Board & Department

In FY 08 larger approved developments sat awaiting final permits and now await a better economy. Numerous smaller projects were approved including Accord Building on Providence Road, Worm's Way renovation on Route 146 north, and a water filtration plant for Whitinsville Water on Mendon Road. Additionally two projects finished up construction from last year, both NEDT in South Sutton Commerce Park and Dunkin Donuts/XtraMart on Route 146 north are open and doing well. Other projects nearing completion of the review process include Atlas Box's world headquarters at over 225,000 s.f. on Route 146 north, Oakhurst Farms travel plaza on Oakhurst Road, and Renaud Commercial/Industrial building on Whitins Road.

The creation of new single-family house lots on existing roads remains nearly non-existent. Leland Hill Estates, our first over 55 Continued Care Retirement Community, has no occupied units and awaits an uncertain future. Settler's Hill, a 120 unit CCRC off Singletary Avenue was endorsed but is working on provision of water and sewer. Finally, Armsby Pond/Village, a 206 unit CCRC on Armsby Road is considering a withdrawal.

Seventeen articles went to the Fall 2007 and May 2008 Town Meetings. Nine articles dealing with a potential Village Center District in Sutton Center were vigorously debated and eventually defeated, all others were approved. Bylaw changes included addition of a Wind Turbine Bylaw as well as a Right to Farm Bylaw.

The Planning Department staff works at the direction of the Planning Board as well as the Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen. In addition to assisting the Board in its daily functions, the Planning Department has also been working on the following in this fiscal year:

- Continued work with the Tree Warden and DCR on tree care and maintenance issues. Coordinated 2008 Arbor Day ceremonies, planting three sugar maples at Water's Farm and re-certified Sutton as a Tree City USA for the eighth year.
- Commenced construction on Tri-Centennial Park along the banks of the Blackstone River on Blackstone Street.
- The Planning Coordinator completed a stint as Acting Assistant Town Administrator that included negotiating a New Inter-Municipal Agreement for Sewer with Millbury, and initiating update of the Town's Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.
- Manchaug Master Plan – Hired a consulting firm, Gates Leighton, and held a planning charette, formulated a Master Plan, and initiated work on improvements to Manchaug Center.
- Marion's Camp Master Plan – Hired Gates Leighton, held a planning charette, and formulated of a Master Plan for renovation and improved use of Marion's Camp.
- Shaw Parcel – Assisted the Administrator's Office in presentation and advocating for the Town's purchase of this 130+ acre parcel for municipal use.
- Updated and distributed the Town of Sutton business marketing brochure.
- Assisted the Housing Partnership Committee with our first Affordable Housing Lottery for two units at Forest Edge of Blackstone Street, which went really well!

- Worked with the Towns of Northbridge, Douglas and Uxbridge on 43D Planning including designation of Priority Development Sites (PDS) and planning for connector roadways to the east and west of Route 146 at the Whitins Road/Main Street exit in South Sutton.

|           |                       |          |
|-----------|-----------------------|----------|
| Revenues: | Form A Plan Fees:     | \$ 2,600 |
|           | Subdivision Plan Fees | \$ 771   |
|           | Site Plan Fees        | \$ 1,810 |
|           | Special Permit Fees   | \$ 625   |
|           | Other                 | \$ 150   |

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Largess, Jr., Chairman  
 Scott Hughes, Vice Chairman  
 Scott Paul  
 Tom Connors  
 Dan Moroney  
 Wayne Whittier, Associate  
 Jennifer Hager, Planning Director  
 Linda Shea, Planning Assistant

## REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen, and the citizens of Sutton:

The police department is pleased to report another successful year of service and protection delivered to the residents of Sutton. We continue to try to mold and adapt our police operation in response to modern fiscal limitations and crime trends without reducing the quality of service provided. Our calls for service continue to trend upward each year as does our population, motoring public utilizing our roadways, commercial and industrial growth and other factors that increase demand for public safety services.

We have continued our efforts at pursuing methods that allow us to limit our fiscal constraints. Including obtaining approximately \$25,000 in grant funds in areas such as community policing, click it or ticket enforcement, bullet proof vests and statewide emergency telecommunications. We have also continued to capitalize on the trade skills of our own department members to complete building renovation projects that otherwise would be unfunded. Projects such as the construction of a new evidence room inside our garage and converting the original room into much needed office space.

Our philosophy for the need to place a strong emphasis on training of personnel continues. Changes in crime trends and modern police techniques dictate that training is an essential ingredient for the success of a modern law enforcement agency. Our officers have attended

approximately 1,250 hours of training this past year. Training topics such as: boating enforcement, advanced accident investigation, heavy equipment theft, narcotic investigation, computer crimes targeting children, school violence, cyber bullying, etc. We have also introduced a web-based training program in order to increase the availability of training to personnel.

As our department tries to remain modern we have implemented programs such as a bicycle patrol for special events, i.e.; parades and unique geographical areas such as Purgatory State Park. Mobile Data Terminals have been installed in our fleet in order to provide more effective and proficient policing. We continue to try and build relationships with our community partners such as the School Department. By collaboratively working towards the development of a school violence response plan and enhancing overall school security.

We are entering an era that will pose some of the most significant challenges to the law enforcement community as a whole. Unfortunately our economy is in a downward spiral which has historically led to increase in both crimes of violence and crimes against property. These same economic conditions limit the future resources available to law enforcement units. We continue to pledge our dedication to quality service and protection for the citizens of Sutton.

**July 2007 through June of 2008**

**Dispatched calls for service: 13,751**

**Typical calls include:**

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| ❖ Rape/Sex Offenses               | 9   |
| ❖ Assault&Battery                 | 52  |
| ❖ Larceny                         | 93  |
| ❖ Vehicle Theft                   | 6   |
| ❖ Well Being Check                | 63  |
| ❖ Family Offenses                 | 11  |
| ❖ Trespassing                     | 112 |
| ❖ Juvenile Offenses               | 12  |
| ❖ Erratic Operator                | 132 |
| ❖ Financial Crimes                | 32  |
| ❖ Missing Persons                 | 29  |
| ❖ Disturbances                    | 160 |
| ❖ Domestic Disputes               | 76  |
| ❖ Obscene/Threatening Calls       | 67  |
| ❖ Recreational Vehicle Complaints | 31  |
| ❖ Medical Assists                 | 509 |
| ❖ Fire Alarms                     | 84  |
| ❖ House Alarms                    | 231 |
| ❖ Business Alarms                 | 128 |
| ❖ Summons Served                  | 89  |
| ❖ Assist Citizens                 | 177 |
| ❖ Animal Complaints               | 180 |
| ❖ Suicide/Attempts                | 14  |

|                           |     |      |
|---------------------------|-----|------|
| ❖ Disabled Motor Vehicles |     | 360  |
| ❖ Assist Other Police     |     | 294  |
| ❖ Neighbor Disputes       |     | 46   |
| ❖ Untimely Deaths         |     | 3    |
| ❖ Breaking & Entering     |     | 36   |
| ❖ General Services        |     | 289  |
| ❖ Hang Up 911 Calls       |     | 93   |
| ❖ Motor Vehicle Accidents |     | 258  |
| ❖ Drug Offenses           | 101 |      |
| ❖ OUI Arrests             |     | 62   |
| ❖ Total Arrests           |     | 642  |
| ❖ Protective Custody      |     | 26   |
| ❖ Motor Vehicle Citations |     | 1881 |
| ❖ Parking Tickets         | 147 |      |
| ❖ Vandalism               |     | 71   |
| ❖ Criminal Incidents      |     | 419  |

#### **FINES ASSESSED**

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| ❖ Assessed Fines for Citations | \$54,640.00 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|

#### **FEES COLLECTED**

|                             |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| ❖ RMV Non Criminal Fines    | \$ 69,780.00      |
| ❖ District Court Fines/Fees | \$ 25,432.00      |
| ❖ Pistol Permits            | \$ 6,187.50       |
| ❖ Default Restitution Fees  | \$ 311.23         |
| ❖ Administrative Fees       | \$ 4,406.00       |
| ❖ Accident Reports          | \$ 1,144.00       |
| <br>Total:                  | <br>\$ 107,260.73 |

Respectfully submitted,  
Dennis J. Towle  
Chief of Police

### **REPORT OF THE RECREATION COMMISSION**

The Recreation Commission respectfully submits this report to the Board of Selectmen and the citizens of the Town of Sutton.

The Recreation Commission reports the following activities from the fiscal year of July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. The Commissioners are Sharon Manz, Kevin Peltier, Donna Raposo, and Mary Elizabeth Surprenant.

The Town Beach was open through Labor Day. It was staffed with two lifeguards from noon to 6 P.M. daily. One hundred forty nine season passes were sold to Sutton residents at \$25 per family and 26 season passes sold to non-residents at \$50 per family. The Commission defined a family as 2 adults and 4 children. Day passes were available for \$5 per person and 93 were sold. Swim lessons were offered at the beach in the morning prior to public opening.

The Commission continues to work toward improvements at Marion's Camp.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Manz  
Kevin Peltier  
Donna Raposo  
Mary Elizabeth Surprenant

#### REPORT OF THE SUTTON SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

The following is a compilation of the efforts of the Sutton School Building Committee for the fiscal year encompassing the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008

Following a directive from the Board of Selectmen, the Committee was reorganized and increased in size to a thirteen person board.

In September 2007 the Committee welcomed a visit from representatives of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the MSBA), as well as our three State legislators, Sen Richard Moore, Rep Paul Frost and Rep Jennifer Callahan. This visit allowed for visual confirmation of the issues listed in the Statement of Interest and Flansburgh's Feasibility Study, as well as an opportunity for MSBA representatives to ask specific questions surrounding the existing school facilities. Of significant importance was the opportunity for the MSBA to recognize the somewhat unique structure of Sutton's existing shared-space single location campus.

In January 2008 members of the Committee, the School Department and the Board of Selectmen met with the MSBA at their Boston office. This provided an important opportunity for the MSBA to inquire into the needs of Sutton, as well as for the Sutton delegates to inquire further into the developing MSBA procedures for renovation and new construction.

The Committee continued to seek methods to disseminate information regarding the potential project to the Community. To that end, the Committee provided support and information to a School Department sponsored community information session.

Members of the Committee attended off-site meetings and seminars regarding issues such as Green School Initiatives and how those methods may best be incorporated into a potential project in Sutton, focusing on effectiveness as well as cost-saving methods.

The Committee worked with the MSBA as the Authority continued to develop its requirements from communities interested in renovation and building projects. This included providing information for an Initial Compliance Certification, Enrollment Projections and development of the methods for selecting an Owner's Project Manager and the development of the Designer Selection Panel. Sub-Committees were created to specifically address each of these areas.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sutton School Building Committee

Chairperson – Wendy Mead; Vice-Chairperson – Christine Watkins; Recording Secretary – Laura Stonebreaker; Michael Jerz; Cecilia DiBella; Glenn Coulter; Timothy Harrison; Donna Davis; David Suhl; Ross Weaver; Ken Stuart; Roger Raymond; and, James Smith

## REPORT OF THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

I am pleased to submit this annual report of the Sutton Public Schools for the 2007-2008 school and fiscal year. Overall it was a very positive school year that featured excellent relationships with teachers, students and parents. Due to the restoration of positions students had more instruction in music and art, in particular.

The passage of the multi-faceted debt exclusion override in May 2007 provided the School Department and Town with additional revenue for the year. Funding restored important instructional positions in art, music and technology. These had a very positive impact on the school program. In addition, the Town's new mechanism for funding its annual capital needs provided the School Department with support for several projects including the first phase of a five-year replacement cycle for computer equipment and the installation of video security systems for school entrances. These developments contributed to a very positive outlook for the year.

The school year opened with an enrollment of one thousand six hundred and thirty-two (1,632) students a decrease of thirty-five (35) students. Kindergarten enrollment settled back into the normal range of six sections rather than the record setting eight section class of one hundred sixty-eight (168) students in the fall of 2006.

On September 28<sup>th</sup> the school community gathered together for a sad but very poignant event, the re-naming of the Early Learning Center to the Simonian Center for Early Learning. Over one hundred school and community members attended the re-naming ceremony and the dedication of "Claudia's Garden" at the entrance of the school. The Garden itself was a community-wide endeavor. Perennials and shrubbery were donated from many parents and staff in honor of Claudia. Area landscapers donated labor and materials. Claudia often spoke about cutting back brush and planting new shrubs in the front of the school to make the entrance brighter and more appealing. The Garden and new landscaping complete her dream.



Results of the MCAS tests in the Spring of 2007 were released in the Fall. Once again they showed strong performance by Sutton students. Our students continued to excel in the state's MCAS testing program, in most cases well above state averages. The only clouds on the picture were scores in the third and fourth grades. Curriculum Director Lucille DiLeo noted that students' lack of familiarity with MCAS and test anxiety may be contributing factors but also indicated that faculty would be examining test items and the curriculum to ensure that both were aligned with the tests. In her presentation to the School Committee Mrs. DiLeo also shared a longitudinal view of student achievement, tracking progress in math, language arts and science for the same group or cohort of students through elementary, middle and high school. It showed steady advancement through the years that is a strong tribute to faculty, students and parents in the district. Sutton schools and the district as a whole again met the AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) standard as mandated by state and federal education agencies through the "No Child Left Behind" law.

The district also moved forward with several new initiatives and enjoyed some special events during the 2007-08 school year. Michael Breault the new Elementary School Principal developed a multi-year schedule for creating the Standards Based Report Card. Sutton is one of many districts that is moving away from the traditional number or letter grading system toward this new method of assessing and identifying student progress. The new report card will be more detailed and will provide specific information about the skills a student has mastered rather than an overall grade. Teachers from each grade are working with the Principal and Curriculum Director. The Committee has already met with parents to explain the new system and review the timeline with more meetings planned as the project progresses. At the Middle School a new after school program, the Middle School Connection began. It features homework help in addition to recreational activities. With funding from a federal grant, the School also introduced "Second Step" a federally validated anti-bullying program.

The High School introduced or restored activities as well. A Recognition Dinner was held for students who achieved High Honors. Rep. Callahan was the featured speaker. A visit by U. S. Congressman Richard Neal also included a presentation to high school students. For the first time in several years, Drama Club was offered directed by Cameron Loss. The Club presented three sold-out performances of **Pride and Prejudice** with spectacular reviews. Mrs. Kerr's chorus group and select ensemble presented an evening **Cabaret** with a wonderful assortment of selections in a coffee house-type environment. Music Director Mark Smith and Suzanne Dame presented wonderful Spring and Winter concerts that continued to draw standing room only audiences of proud faculty, family and community members. Our athletic teams also had an excellent year with several competing in state and regional tournaments.

Simonian Center Principal Lauren Dubeau and Title I Director Tina Schirner presented a series of parent coffees to explain the new Open Court reading program. Special Education Director Margo Austein introduced a new award, the Apple Pin, to recognize faculty and staff who have distinguished themselves by providing exceptional service to special education students. New panels and cases were installed in the middle school entrance area to display the superb and fascinating work of our talented middle and high school art students.

The Community Service Learning (CSL) program launched during the 2006-07 school year expanded its focus by funding several new projects. They focused on environmental science, nutrition, local history and a multi-generational reading group. High school faculty members and co-directors Christina Gamble and Rich Levansavich developed a strong Leadership Board, which met every month to plan activities. The winter “Kick Off Event” was a very successful community dinner that showcased funded projects and introduced faculty, students and community members with community service learning.

The high school submitted its required Special Progress Report to NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) in August 2007. While acknowledging the many positive developments at the School, in its October 2007 response NEASC noted continued concern about the facility itself and continued the school’s Warning status.

The district received good news from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) regarding facility needs in the middle and high school, however. In November, MSBA selected Sutton’s application for the renovation of the middle and high school to move forward to the next planning or feasibility stage. It was one of only forty-nine (49) construction projects out of one-hundred-sixty two (162) district applications that was selected for further study. At a meeting at MSBA’s office in Boston in January, 2008 staff outlined the next steps in its new multi-faceted process for building or renovating schools in the Commonwealth. The newly re-constituted Building Committee was energized by this important development.

The Class of 2008 distinguished itself in many ways. Thirty- three percent (33 %) of the Class were awarded Adams Scholarships by the state. These scholarships provide admission and free tuition at all two and four year state colleges and universities with the exception of the Massachusetts College of Art. Allison Messier was honored at the Annual Scholars Luncheon by the Worcester County Superintendents’ Association for her many achievements at Sutton High School.

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, ninety-seven (97) diplomas were awarded to the Class of 2008. Eighty-six percent (86%) of the class is continuing their education at two or four-year institutions.

As the school year ended we bid farewell and a long, happy and healthy retirement to Lil Lefebvre, Bev MacCollom and Lorraine Sokol who collectively represent nearly nine decades of service to Sutton schools and several generations of students. Also in June, Donna Coonan, high school science teacher was honored by the Blackstone Valley Superintendents’ Collaborative for her “Exploravision” introduction to physics program. Once again, the School Department’s fiscal year ended with a balanced budget.

I close this Annual Report by extending my appreciation to the parents, athletic booster groups, and area businesses and parent organizations that provide support to the schools in so many ways. Their generosity and hard work provides enrichment activities and assistance to teachers and students. I also wish to acknowledge with sincere gratitude the support of Sutton citizens at Town meeting. Finally, none of the wonderful moments in our classrooms this year would have been possible without the dedication and professionalism of our teachers, administrators, and support staff. Thank you all!

Respectfully submitted,  
Cecilia M. Di Bella, Ed. D.  
Superintendent

#### REPORT OF THE SEWER COMMISSIONERS

To the Honorable Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen and the citizens of Sutton, we here with submit the annual report as Commissioners of the Sewer for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008.

The Wilkinsonville Wastewater Collection System pumped 40,015,613 million gallons to the Upper Blackstone Treatment Facility through the Town of Millbury in the fiscal year 2008. There are approximately 730 users in the Wilkinsonville area of town. The ongoing negotiations with the Town of Millbury have been reached and a new 25 year Inter- Municipal agreement for operations and maintenance (O&M) costs for Town of Sutton have been established.

The Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility has processed 11,824,503 Million Gallons in fiscal year 2008. The facility processes around 30,000 gallons per day, with approximately 160 users.

Due to the economy the following anticipated projects have been placed on hold:

Cold Spring Brook Place – Lowes, McDonalds and Pub 99 - Flow 15,400 gpd.  
Sutton Plaza Expansion – Stop and Shop with restaurants – Flow 16,800 gpd.  
Settlers Hill (Sutton Center) 120 units - Flow 18,000 gpd.  
Leland Hill (55+) - Flow 13,200gpd

Billing is based upon per unit. A single family household is considered as one unit. (Example: a duplex is 2 units; three families are 3 units, etc.) Each unit is allowed 5,000 gallons per month. (30,000.00 gallons for six months billing cycle) A minimum fee of \$450.32 a year includes indirect costs (\$225.16 half year) will apply. A fee of \$6.25 per every thousand gallons above the minimum usage (30,000) does apply.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sewer Commissioners:  
Larry Wiersma, Chairman  
Neal Crites  
Robert Judson

#### Report of the Zoning Board of Appeals

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of the Town of Sutton:

The Board of Appeals conducts its meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30pm in the Town Hall. The board can be reached during normal Town Hall office hours through the Building Commissioner's office with any questions regarding filing procedures for zoning issues.

The Board of Appeals consists of the following members:

Arthur Keown – Chairman (Term expires 2010)  
Richard Deschenes – Clerk (Term expires 2011)  
Jeffrey Fenuccio – Member (Term expires 2010)  
Gerald Page – Member (Term expires 2009)  
Russell Sylvia – Member (Term expires 2009)  
(2) Alternate seats - Vacant

During Fiscal Year 2008 a Comprehensive Permit was heard for a Condominium Project known as Water View Commons. The hearing process on the petition remains ongoing and a decision most likely will take place during Fiscal Year 2009.

The Board wishes to report that during Fiscal Year 2008 the following applications were heard:

Variance applications:

Approved (13)

Denied (0)

Withdrawal (1)

Special Permit Applications

Approved (5)

Denied (1)

Administrative Appeal:

Denied (0)

Comprehensive Permit (40B)

Under review (1)

Respectfully submitted,  
Arthur Keown, Chairman  
Lynn Dahlin, Secretary

Blackstone Valley  
Vocational Regional School District  
Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report

Educating Tomorrow's Employees Today

Inspiration. Initiative. Innovation.

Employers favor Valley Tech graduates.

Valley Tech graduates bring knowledge and enthusiasm to the workplace.

The workplace offers opportunities and responsibilities.

Responsibilities in active citizenship, alongside career preparation, make a Valley Tech education the starting point for a full life in a global economy.

Valley Tech faculty members and staffers prompt inspiration, expect initiative, and encourage innovation in the classrooms, laboratories, field work projects, and extracurricular activities. For each student, these are maturing experiences, which we round out with school-based social activities.

Quality counts.

Keenly aware of the depth and breadth of commitment of the residents, employers, and government officials in each of our 13 stakeholder towns, we regard the entire Valley Tech enterprise and each of its parts as demanding of our best efforts on each student's behalf, and worthy of your scrutiny.

The following pages highlight progress in 2008. We invite your attention, extend our thanks for your spirited tradition of support, and ask for your renewed faith and confidence. In the meantime, we remain focused on what we do best: provide talented candidates for today's highly competitive workforce.

### **Mission**

To provide, in a safe learning environment, integrated academic and vocational technical skills, empowering each student to achieve world-class educational excellence, diverse career opportunities, and individual success in an ever-changing global society.

### **District**

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, based in Upton, proudly serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge.

Valley Tech offers employees and students equal opportunities without regard to race, color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, nature or status of residence, or disability.

### **A Letter From the Superintendent-Director**

To serve as the longstanding superintendent-director of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District is an honor, especially during this period of sustained growth, which is marked by the overall success of our staff and students.

It is a privilege to oversee your vocational technical system and to be entrusted with the education of your children.

By putting immediately to use the financial and in-kind contributions of many generous residents and businesses, we aim to show our deep and continuing appreciation for your

widespread and sustained support. Let me renew our commitment to accountability as we work to meet your expectations.

Valley Tech draws much favorable attention. For example, the February 2008 issue of *District Administration*, a national magazine for school leaders, profiled Valley Tech's fresh direction in career technical education. And just the month before, Boston's WCVB-TV news magazine program *Chronicle* highlighted at Valley Tech the advantages our students gain, upon graduation, in further schooling, military service, or immediate employment. Meanwhile, the Blackstone Valley's community media carefully cover Valley Tech's progress.

In addition to fulfilling the duties of superintendent-director, responsibilities came in designing career and technical schools in Providence, Boston, and Delaware, and we helped to revamp Rhode Island's vocational technical school system.

It has also been rewarding to represent this District as the elected vice president of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents and to serve as one of three Massachusetts representatives to the Governing Board of the American Association of School Superintendents.

As we continue to increase our overall student enrollment to unprecedented levels, we, in turn, pursue every avenue available to obtain non-taxpayer revenues to enhance student learning and to apply financially prudent and responsible, cost-avoiding conservation measures to reduce Town assessments.

Valley Tech belongs to you, and we hope that you take pride in your District's hallmark achievements.

Thank you for your interest in our 2008 Annual Report and best regards,

Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick  
*Superintendent-Director*

### **Valley Tech Progress At-a-Glance**

As federal and state government and education leaders develop major school reform, we welcome opportunities to further improve our curriculum offerings, step up academic rigor, and make even more precise and demanding the vocational technical laboratories and courses.

Improvement is part of our tradition. In fact, 11 years ago we completed a three-year phase-in bringing to 193 the number of student contact days and to 195 the number of instructional staff days each academic year. That was pioneering action in Massachusetts.

Families understand the importance of a high school diploma, which is evident in Valley Tech's dropout rate. Documented by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, our dropout rate was 0.2 percent for 2006-2007, which is the most recently documented datum. This compares with the state average of 3.8 percent.

We synchronize the Valley Tech education with employers' emerging needs. We constantly reshape and refine the curriculum. Students live up to our high expectations for them. Some 94.6 percent of our Class of 2007 graduated within four years, which is significantly higher than the state average of 80.9 percent.

Evidence of faculty and student commitment is our record of 100 percent employment placement of graduates, with two-thirds of our alumni/ae, during the last several years, pursuing advanced education. This comes at a time when, as U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings has observed, "90 percent of our fastest-growing jobs require education or training beyond high school."

We concern ourselves with the whole student, student by student. Valley Tech was among the first non-urban schools to establish a School Based Health Center, in continuing partnership with Milford Regional Medical Center. Student health services include physical fitness, nutrition, and certain medical initiatives.

### **Students Showcase Their Talent**

Independent documentation of the caliber of Valley Tech teaching and learning speaks for itself:

- In 2008, for the fifth consecutive year, 100 percent of the graduating class achieved documented competency in the state-mandated Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests.
- 94 percent of the Class of 2009 attained the required benchmark the first time the students took the test.
- Valley Tech met all requirements for Adequate Yearly Progress, for the Class of 2009, when 74 percent of the students registered Advanced or Proficient on the Mathematics exam and 73 percent did so on the English Language Arts test.
- Students and staff completed more than 820 value-added projects, on the campus and throughout the District, which, as field-based learning experiences, created savings totaling \$220,793.
- 56 members of the Class of 2008 qualified for the Commonwealth's John and Abigail Adams Scholarships, in reflection of their MCAS scores as sophomores. The scholarships provide free tuition at the state's two- and four-year colleges and the university.

- 40 students were inducted into the James S. Mullaney Chapter of the National Honor Society in recognition of the high level of their scholarship, school and community service, leadership, and character.
- A sellout crowd attended the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Superintendent's Dinner, a seven-course gourmet meal planned and prepared by the Culinary Arts students. Directing the complex program were culinary professionals Michele LeBlanc, Matthew Williams, James Bird, Steve Calagaris, and Dawn Haigis. Contributing an enormous amount of work were students in Painting and Design Technologies, Carpentry, Electronics, Graphics Communications, and HVAC/R.

The Valley Tech robotics team, The Shifters, showcased its engineering and problem-solving capabilities by finishing in second place in regional competitions in Hartford and Boston. The team, under the direction of Drafting instructors Michael Faticanti and James Aukstikalnis, posted an enviable 20-8-3 record in FIRST Robotics events in 2008. In addition to various fund-raising activities, in which all Valley Tech clubs and organizations participate, the robotics team received support from sponsors such as EMC, Foster-Miller, Inc., LONZA, Pegasus, Inc., Anver Corporation, Lee Company, Allegro Microsystems, Inc., and the Douglas Festival Committee.

The following students from Sutton were among the Class of 2008: Danielle Elizabeth Cronin, Business Technology; Daniel Robert Allard, Electrical; Caleb Steven Kelley, Electrical; Timothy Eric Anderson, Electronics; Nathan Phillip Roux, Electronics (National Honor Society); Melissa Susan Bilodeau, Graphic Communications; Thomas Dennis Tighe, HVAC/R (NHS); Albert Girard Gosselin, III, Information Technology; Kyle Joshua Kahale, Information Technology; Christopher Corey Smith, Maintenance Repair Service; Daniel Gurney Farnham, Manufacturing Technologies.

### **Education in Action**

In a tribute to the nature, scope, and quality of Valley Tech's facilities, SkillsUSA Massachusetts, which is New England's largest educational organization, conducted its annual state championships for more than 620 students competing in 50 vocational technical trade and employment competitions for the second year in a row. We were the lone host site. The students vied for places in the national championships.

Valley Tech was also honored to partner with Milton-CAT of Milford and the Upton Highway Department for two contests. At its modern and advanced facility, Milton-CAT put the Diesel Equipment Technology participants through rigorous written and practical tests on all aspects of diesel technology. For the second straight year, the Upton Highway Department helped house the Brick Masonry competition.

With more than \$1 million in non-tax support and donations from businesses and industry throughout Massachusetts and beyond, the SkillsUSA Massachusetts championships is considered a premiere annual educational event.



The appeal of Valley Tech’s facilities was again made clear when we hosted a FIRST Lego League tournament, which brought more than 60 teams of potential engineers, ages 9-14, from throughout the Northeast. The youngsters designed, built, and programmed robots made of Legos to perform complex tasks in game-like conditions on a ping-pong table-sized playing surface.

Indeed, Valley Tech has become a Mecca for technical student competitions.

| <b>Competitor</b> | <b>Home Community</b> | <b>Category</b>              | <b>State Results</b> | <b>National Results</b>    |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Justina D’Amato   | Uxbridge              | Community Service Team       | Gold                 | Silver                     |
| Lindsay Melanson  | Milford               | Community Service Team       | Gold                 | Silver                     |
| Nicole Onanian    | Uxbridge              | Community Service Team       | Gold                 | Silver                     |
| Christina Estrada | Bellingham            | Preschool Teaching Assistant | Gold                 | Bronze                     |
| Jonathan Holland  | Grafton               | CNC Turning                  | Gold                 | 6 <sup>th</sup> in Country |
| Victoria Gemme    | Millbury              | Technical Drafting           | Gold                 | 8 <sup>th</sup> in Country |

|                                                                                                                                                  |          |                               |      |                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|------|-------------------|
| Kaitlin Henault*                                                                                                                                 | Millbury | Job Skills Demonstration      | Gold | Top 10 in Country |
| Timothy Lapan                                                                                                                                    | Douglas  | Automotive Service Technology | Gold | Top 10 in Country |
| *Note: Ms. Henault also received special recognition for mastering all contest competencies while assisted by Katelyn Christiansen of Millville. |          |                               |      |                   |

### **Valley Tech Teams Bowl ‘Em Over**

Valley Tech’s athletic program keeps growing in player participation and winning percentage. Now the Beavers also own two coveted state championships.

Undefeated in the regular season, the girls’ volleyball team gained two more victories, achieving a 20-0 mark and winning the state vocational school title.

After just eight years of interscholastic play, the Valley Tech varsity football team stands as champions of the Central/Western Massachusetts Division 3A Super Bowl. The Beavers defeated Dean Tech, 37-8, on a blustery cold morning at Westfield State College, capping a remarkable 12-1 season with eight straight victories.

The Bowl title gave longtime head coach Rene Hanson a perfect send-off as he retired to Florida. Coach Hanson was at the helm of the Beavers for all but one year (2004) and his influence in building the program will be seen for years to come.

The combined won-lost records of Valley Tech’s other teams topped 70 percent. Those winning ways followed word that we received the prestigious Boston Globe Markham Award for the best regular season winning percentage total of all sports during the 2006-07 school year.

Go Beavers!

### **Numbers Reflect Success**

The marketplace success of our graduates, now for generations, produces value that justifies and, in turn, inspires our stakeholders’ enthusiasm.

The District’s FY08 total operating budget was \$16,994,267. Chapter 70 Aid contributed \$6,607,116 and Minimum Contributions from the 13 member towns totaled \$6,650,789.

In the operation portion of the budget but outside DOE Net School Spending areas, the District budgeted \$304,674 for transportation costs, \$217,120 for acquisition of fixed assets, and \$665,506 for retiree medical coverage. This was offset by \$765,912 in

regional student transportation funds received from the Commonwealth. In addition to their state-required Minimum Contributions, the member towns unanimously supported the school's operating budget with shared assessments for operations, student transportation, asset acquisition, and retiree medical. This investment provided the fiscal support to respond to the diverse learning needs of a student population that grew by 8 percent over FY07.

Giving consideration to the overall municipal fiscal constraints and the Commonwealth's economic status, the District continues to search out greater efficiency in its staffing patterns, supply purchases, technology, and other contractual service requirements. Bolstered by prudent budget management practices, the District utilized unreserved fund balance in the amount of \$250,000 to offset the towns' actual assessments. Additionally, the District secured funds to purchase vocational equipment and other fixed assets through private donations totaling \$19,950.

| <b>BUDGETED REVENUES</b>        | <b>Original</b>   |  | <b>Actual</b>     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| Member Town Assessments:        |                   |  |                   |
| Minimum Contribution            | 6,595,931         |  | 6,650,789         |
| Transportation (Over State Aid) | 304,674           |  | 304,674           |
| Capital Equipment               | 217,120           |  | 217,120           |
| Retiree Medical                 | 665,506           |  | 665,506           |
| Additional Contribution         | 857,727           |  | 802,869           |
| Debt Service                    | 696,157           |  | 696,157           |
| Total Member Assessments        | 9,337,115         |  | 9,337,115         |
| State Aid:                      |                   |  |                   |
| Chapter 70 - Regional Aid       | 6,513,152         |  | 6,607,116         |
| Transportation Reimbursement    | 679,000           |  | 765,912           |
| Total State Aid                 | 7,192,152         |  | 7,373,028         |
| Other Revenue Sources:          |                   |  |                   |
| Miscellaneous Income            | 215,000           |  | 216,090           |
| Unreserved Fund Balance         | 250,000           |  | 260,000           |
| Total Other Revenues            | 465,000           |  | 476,090           |
| <b>GRAND TOTALS</b>             | <u>16,994,267</u> |  | <u>17,186,233</u> |

### **Greening Valley Tech**

While people around the world are becoming more aware of the need for industrialized countries to discover and pursue alternative energy sources, energy and natural resource conservation are already a way of life at Valley Tech, which is a Massachusetts Green School under the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's Renewable Energy Trust program.

The expansion and renovation of Valley Tech, completed in 2006 and unanimously supported by the District member towns, included numerous high-performance, renewable, and energy efficient features. The everyday use of solar panels, natural light

tubes, occupancy sensors, high tech boilers, advanced ventilation systems, and water saving equipment enable Valley Tech to deliver its stakeholders tens of thousands of dollars a year in energy cost savings. Clearly, Valley Tech is doing its part to help curb the growing problem of global climate change.

Noted author Mike Tidwell returned to Valley Tech to speak to the entire student body about the potential devastation the United States faces due to the changing climate. As a school-wide project in 2005, Valley Tech students read his book “Bayou Farewell: The Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana’s Cajun Coast.” Tidwell visited Valley Tech in March 2005 to talk with students, presciently, as it turned out, about his book, which explained how the deterioration of the bayou region would result in major devastation of the New Orleans area if a massive hurricane were to strike landfall there. Sadly, just five months after his visit to Valley Tech, Hurricane Katrina was responsible for nearly 2,000 deaths and more than \$100 billion in damages.

This year at Valley Tech, Tidwell remarked that “You can consider me an alarmist, but at least you know when I was here three years ago you heard me speak of what people in the Gulf region potentially faced.” He added, “I am here to tell you that today we are all New Orleanians. That due to global climate change we are all subject to the same perils of weather. We cannot adopt the denial approach people in that region and our government did before Hurricane Katrina.”

Tidwell has published another book, entitled “The Ravaging Tide: Strange Weather, Future Katrinas, and the Coming Death of America’s Coastal Cities.” He said he is simply following the facts, confirmed by scientists around the world, that hurricanes are getting bigger and stronger, and that the sea level is rising. Tidwell stressed that the world’s population must greatly reduce its reliance on the use of fossil fuels and switch to clean and renewable energy sources.

“Since you see it every day, you probably can’t appreciate as much what an incredible school you have,” Tidwell said. “I have been to a great number of colleges and high schools across the country and this is what they should all be like. You have solar panels, light sensors, a top of the line efficient HVAC system. This is an amazing school and you should thank the visionary School Committee, faculty, administration, everyone involved for making it happen.”

Valley Tech’s Renewable Energy Team, made up of students and staff, is committed to promoting energy conservation measures and educating others in methods that will benefit the environment and produce cost savings.

For the second straight spring, Valley Tech hosted an Energy Expo. Nearly 20 companies participated. The entire Valley Tech student body attended as part of a cross curriculum exercise. Students from nearby schools also took part.

We’re serious about energy conservation:

- Electronics students produce biodiesel fuel powering a generator which, in turn, charges the batteries of Valley Tech's electronic truck, a donation from NationalGrid.
- Electronics students, using biodiesel technology, have developed a line of soap products.
- Carpentry and HVAC/R students are experimenting in the design of energy efficient buildings.
- Fashion and Design Club students hosted a fund-raising spring fashion show for scholarships with the theme "Green Is The New Black."

Numerous visitors from school systems in New England and beyond toured the Valley Tech campus throughout the year to gather information and ideas on how to make the buildings in their systems more energy efficient.

### **Researching and Earning Grants/Awards/Rebates**

As a permanent priority, Valley Tech aggressively pursues public and private grants, donations, and alternative sources of income for both the District and our member communities.

The non-taxpayer portion of funds raised reduces member town assessments, enabling Valley Tech to offer special programs, services, and opportunities. During FY08, Dr. Fitzpatrick exceeded the \$15 million mark in funds raised since he was selected as the Superintendent-Director in 1994. Grants secured during this year:

|                                                                                    |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Academic Support Services                                                          | \$17,900  |
| Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce – ProjectRENEW – Renewable Energy Initiative | \$2,500   |
| Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce – Pre-Engineering Grant                      | \$5,000   |
| Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce – Project Smile: Dental Care Awareness       | \$500     |
| CS2 (Communities with Schools for Success)                                         | \$20,500  |
| Perkins Occupational Ed./Vocational Skills                                         | \$161,687 |
| SPED Entitlement – Student Support Services                                        | \$243,423 |
| SPED Program Improvement                                                           | \$5,941   |
| Title I (Federal Reading Program)                                                  | \$77,432  |
| Title II Educator Quality                                                          | \$24,239  |
| Title II Technology                                                                | \$1,104   |
| Title IV Safe & Drug Free                                                          | \$3,133   |

|                                                                                                                     |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Title V (Federal Funds for Library Technology)                                                                      | \$1,177 |
| Valley Tech Ed. Foundation Mini-Grants: <i>Project Smile, Aviation Club, Cross Country Team, Bio-Diesel program</i> | \$4,000 |

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b><u>SUB TOTAL:</u></b> | <b><u>\$568,536</u></b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|

**OTHER GRANT AWARDS**

|                                                                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| MA Department of Education Foundation Reserve Awards                                  | \$251,000 |
| MA Department of Workforce Development<br>(Licensed Practical Nurse Training Program) | \$100,000 |

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b><u>SUB TOTAL:</u></b> | <b><u>\$351,000</u></b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|

|                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b><u>TOTAL:</u></b> | <b><u>\$919,536</u></b> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|

**School Committee Provides Leadership, Guidance**

The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District relies on 13 individuals who make up its School Committee for leadership and expertise in overseeing the District's operations. These individuals diligently devote countless hours in their dedication to community service.

The industry-based experience of School Committee members benefits the District as we advance in all aspects of campus life.

Michael D. Peterson, Mendon  
*Chairman*

Gerald M. Finn, Millville  
*Vice Chairman*

Daniel L. Baker, Uxbridge  
*Secretary*

Arthur E. Morin, Jr., Milford  
*Assistant Treasurer*

Joseph M. Hall, Bellingham

William J. Pontes, Blackstone

John C. Lavin, III, Douglas

Anthony M. Yitts, Grafton

Paul M. Yanovitch, Hopedale

Chester P. Hanratty, Jr., Millbury

Jeff T. Koopman, Northbridge

Mitchell A. Intinarelli, Sutton  
Kenneth M. Pedersen, Jr., Upton

Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick  
*Superintendent-Director*

Barbara Auger  
*District Treasurer*