

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Sutton Board of Selectmen (the Board) herewith submits their annual Town Report for 2009. The year began with the 2008 May Town election. Kevin Geraghty won reelection and finance committee member Richard Hersom was elected to the Board. Michael Frustaci did not run for reelection. The Board wishes to thank Mr. Frustaci for his dedication and service to the Town as a member of the Board of Selectmen.

Shortly after the election, the Board of Selectmen reorganized. Michael Chizy was named Chairman for 4<sup>th</sup> time and John Hebert was named vice-chairman. Mr. Richard Hersom was named clerk of the Board.

Over the past 12 months we have experienced one of the worst recessions in recent memory and for the first time since 2003, State aid to the Town was cut in mid-year. This along with slow economic activity in the Town forced positions to be frozen and cuts to be made. While we had to slow down expenditures, the Town has been able to maintain services in part due to our conservative budgeting and reserves.

The 2008-2009 fiscal year was a significant year for technology improvements to the Town including a contract with Verizon and the development of a new Town website. In July of 2008 the Board concluded months of negotiations with Verizon Cable and signed a 15 year agreement allowing Verizon to provide cable services to the residents of Sutton. The contract with Verizon provides competition and options to all subscribers. The existing Charter contract is up in 2012 and will need to be renegotiated in the next 2 years.

In May of 2008 the Town hired Virtual Town Hall to help design a new website for the Town of Sutton. After a summer of planning and design, the Town unveiled the state of the art website at [www.suttonma.org](http://www.suttonma.org). With everyone's busy schedule the Board felt that the new website would bring our Town government closer to the people. The website is now averaging over 150 hits per day. In addition, almost all of the Town's Boards and Commission meetings are now available for viewing on the Town website.

In March of 2009 the Town received the Open Government award from Common Cause of Massachusetts for the new website. Chairman Michael Chizy along with Town Administrator James Smith and Cable Director Pamela Nichols attended the award ceremony at the Boston Statehouse to receive the award. The Board wishes to thank Paul Holzworth for his volunteer efforts on the original website all Town staff who helped make the new website a reality.

In September 2008 following a Goal of becoming a more energy efficient community, set in the August Goals and Objectives meeting, the Board voted to take the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Challenge. The town launched an effort to cut 10 percent of its energy consumption in the next 12 months. Selectmen adopted the Energy Star Challenge, and agreed to form an energy efficiency committee to study how the town might cut consumption and create renewable energy from the wind and sun. The committee consists of 11 members, with members being town employees and residents interested in finding ways to cut energy use. The Board

wishes to thank Energy Chair Jared Quill and the entire energy committee for their dedication and commitment to helping the Town become more energy efficient.

In January of 2009 the Board voted to surplus 7 acres of Town owned property off Hatchery Road commonly known as the Town gravel pit. The Town acquired the gravel pit in the early 1970's when the State eliminated the Sutton Fish hatchery. The Town currently owns over 25 acres at the end of Hatchery Road. After reviewing appraisal reports the Board established a minimum bid of \$2 million dollars. After going out to bid the Town received a bid in the amount \$1.6 million dollars which did not meet the minimum threshold and the Board took no further action. The Board may revisit this issue in better economic times.

At the May Annual Town Meeting the Board supported three major capital items in addition to the annual capital plan. The Board voted to exercise its right of first refusal under MGL Chapter 61A to acquire 5.6 acres of land at 16 Uxbridge Road. The land was purchased after Town Meeting approval for \$199,000. This land is now available for Town purposes which may include additional parking for the Town Hall and Town center. In addition to the land acquisition, the Board voted to support debt exclusion overrides for a Quint Ladder truck for the Fire Department and a new roof for the Early Learning Center.

Despite the difficult economic times, the Board of Selectmen had a very good year in 2009. 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,  
Michael Chizy, Chairman  
John Hebert, Vice-chairman  
Richard Hersom, Clerk  
Kevin Geraghty  
Ryan Fattman

Attendance 2008	
Michael Chizy	100%
John Hebert	96%
Richard Hersom	96%
Kevin Geraghty	74%
Ryan Fattman	93%

## REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Sutton Residents:

It is with great pleasure and respect that I submit my first annual report to you as your Town Administrator. I was hired by the Board of Selectmen in September of 2007 after serving the City of Fall River for 7 years as the Chief Administrative Officer and 3 years as the Assistant

City Manager in Lowell. In the fall of 2007 my wife and I purchased a home in Sutton and we are proud to call Sutton our home. It is an honor to work in such a wonderful Town and with all of the dedicated employees and volunteers that make Sutton special.

Over the past year the Town has experienced the effects of one of the worst national recessions since the depression. In fact as of May 2009 the nationwide unemployment rate is 10% and tax revenues for the State and Federal Government are down significantly.

As a result of the economic downturn Governor Patrick was granted 9C authority from the legislature and proceeded to cut local aid at mid-year. The Town of Sutton received a cut of \$94,000 in state aid and reduced its non-school expenses by \$94,000. The Town was in a relatively good position to address these cuts as the result of freezing positions in the Highway department and the Council on Aging and slowing down expenditures.

Considering the economic uncertainty of the next 12-24 months we will make every effort to manage the budget and limit our use of one-time revenues to balance the budget. The Town continues to enjoy a healthy A2 bond rating from Moody's Investor Services and approximately \$1.8 million dollars in our stabilization account. In addition, utilizing tools like the capital stabilization fund we have been able to establish an annual capital plan addressing important Town assets.

In addition to addressing the financial challenges over the past 12 months we have completed a number of initiatives that benefit the Town. These projects include:

July- Negotiated a 15 year agreement with Verizon to provide cable services in Sutton.

September- Took the Energy Star Challenge committing to a 10% reduction in Energy use in Town buildings.

October- Went live with the new website for the Town of Sutton.

October-January- Completed appraisal of Town Gravel Pit and created home-rule petition to address use of proceeds. No action was taken as the bids did not reach the minimum bid price set by the Board.

March- The Town received the Open Government award from Common Cause of Massachusetts for the new website.

March- Completed design of the Early Learning Center roof and prepared article for Town Meeting. Town Meeting approved the replacement of the roof.

April- The Board voted to exercise its right of first refusal under MGL Chapter 61A to acquire 5.6 acres of land at 16 Uxbridge Road for the cost of \$199,000. Town Meeting approved the purchase.

May 11, 2009- Annual Town Meeting.

I would like to thank the Board of Selectmen for their leadership and support over the past 18 months since I began working in Sutton. The Board has set aggressive annual goals and objectives that provide my office with direction and clarity. I also want to express my gratitude to my Executive Assistant Debra Jacques for her professionalism and ability to balance innumerable tasks. Finally, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of the Town's Department heads, employees and volunteers whose dedication to the Town is unparalleled. It is an honor and a privilege to live and work in the Town of Sutton and to serve with such a talented and committed group of people.

Respectfully submitted,  
James A. Smith  
Town Administrator

## 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, 2009.

### **Vital Statistics for fiscal year 2009:**

Births	78
Deaths	55
Marriages	38
Population	9587
Registered Voters	6521

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Dog Licenses	\$ 19,845.00
Miscellaneous Receipts	5,078.00
(vitals, permits, pole locations, business certificates, street lists Bylaws, Parking Fines	
Total Monies Collected	<hr/> \$ 24,923.00

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura J. Caruso  
Town Clerk

## REPORT OF THE SUTTON BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The Sutton Board of Assessors hereby submits its annual report for Fiscal Year 2009, the period ending June 30, 2009.

The sales that occurred in calendar year 2007 were used for Fiscal 2009. The tax rate for all real estate and personal property is \$ 11.50. The Wilkinsonville Water District tax rate is \$ .37. The Town-wide cyclical revaluation for Fiscal Year 2009 of values has been completed.

Visit us at our new web site: [www.suttonma.org](http://www.suttonma.org). Our office provides assistance with deeds, supplemental taxes, motor vehicle excise tax, boat excise tax, exemptions, and classified land.

The town of Sutton offers with the Council on Aging, the Senior Work-off Program. The program offers an opportunity for Senior's with talents and skills, while offering a reduction in the property taxes. Contact Michelle @ 508-234-0703.

We wish to thank our secretary, Donna Brown. Her hard work is appreciated and we welcome a new member to the Board of Assessors, Ray J. Nichols III.

### Fiscal 2009 Recapitulation Sheet:

#### Appropriations:

Town Meetings	\$ 26,472,043.00
Cherry Sheet Offsets	\$ 308,879.00
Revenue Deficits	\$ 19,527.00
State and County Charges	\$ 208,626.00
Overlay	\$ 175,762.07
Total Appropriations	\$ 27,184,837.07

#### Revenue sources other than taxation:

Cherry Sheet Receipts	\$ 7,057,066.00
Other Receipts	\$ 1,146,388.00
Local Receipts	\$ 1,902,142.00
Enterprise Funds	\$ 747,530.00
Other Available Funds	\$ 848,212.00
Free cash	\$ 544,674.00
Total Revenue	\$ 12,246,012.00

Total Town Value	\$ 1,299,028,266.00
Residential Class Value	\$ 1,173,154,091.00
Commercial Class Value	\$ 56,458,019.00
Includes classified land values	
Industrial Class Value	\$ 35,776,850.00
Personal Property Value	\$ 33,639,306.00
Tax Rate for all Classes	\$ 11.50

Respectfully submitted, Robert Nunnemacher, Chairman  
Joyce Sardagnola, Principal Assessor  
Ray J. Nichols III, Member

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Southern 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, contact the Assessor's Office.

## **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, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

The Board members consisted of the following, Steven Rice, John Silverberg, Diane Miller, Kenneth Malo Jr., William Fredericks We would like to thank James Malley Title 5 agent for the Board of Health.

The Board of Health scheduled their meetings for the second Tuesday of the month, or as otherwise posted. There were 12 scheduled meetings, one meeting was cancelled. Board member attendance was as follows: Steven Rice 11 of 11, John Silverberg 6 of 11, Diane Miller 9 of 11, Kenneth Malo 6 of 11, William Fredericks 9 of 11.

Appended to this report are the following

Appendix A- Board of Health Activity Report

### **Appendix A- 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. 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.

A "Complaint Book" as required by M.G.L. is available for review by the public. There were 41 entries received for fiscal year 2009. There were 40 Title 5 inspections filed with the Board of Health office as completed. Of the 40 inspections 27 passed, 3 conditionally passed, and 10 failed.

Other Board of Health Activities Are as Follows:

Percolation Tests Performed	24
Plan Reviews Completed	32
Well Permits Approved	11



Septic Construction Permits Granted	18
Septage Haulers License	9
Disposal Work Installers License	20
Solid Waste Haulers	9
Septic Inspections Completed	21
Food Permits Issued	44
Milk License	21
Temporary Food Permit	7
Seasonal Food Permits	2
Campground Permits	4
Camp/ Recreational Camp Inspections	9
Food Inspections	43
Barn Inspections	18

Respectfully Submitted,  
Steven Rice, Chairman  
John Silverberg, Vice Chairman  
Diane Miller, Member  
Kenneth Malo Jr., Member  
William Fredericks, Member  
Cheryl Rawinski, RN  
James Malley, Title 5 Agent

#### 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/Department Head for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009.

Wellness/ Blood Pressure Clinics were held every Wednesday at the Senior Center, the last Tuesday of the month at Orchard Apartments, and by appointment or availability at the Town Hall. Public Health programs, wellness presentations and trainings were provided throughout the year.

This past seasonal flu season multiple immunization clinics were held. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health allocated 460 doses of influenza vaccine. All the doses were administered according to established guidelines.

The responsibility to protect the health and wellness of all the citizens in the town proved to be challenging this past spring. A new virus had emerged. This novel virus strain H1N1 had a major impact reaching a pandemic level. Strict Public Health guidelines were established by the CDC, MDPH and were implemented. This virus had an effect on many students and residents of the town.

Emergency preparedness continues to play an important role in Public Health. As an executive committee member of the Region II Public Health Coalition this committee continues to meet biweekly. Through the coalition Sutton was one of the original communities to enter in a Mutual Aid agreement for regional emergencies. The coalition also brings 74 communities in the central Massachusetts region together to enhance public health awareness.

This department is dedicated to meet the ongoing public health needs of the community.

Wellness/ Blood Pressure Participants	1,635
Immunizations	460
Home Visits	107
Outreach/Case Management	172
Communicable diseases/ Contacts	144

Respectfully Submitted  
Cheryl A. Rawinski RN Public Health Nurse

## REPORT OF THE BUILDING COMMISSIONER

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

Construction permits in 2008 saw an increase in renovations with a drop in new construction. Energy costs caused a sharp increase in solid burning fuel appliance installations as citizens try to offset heating costs. The seventh edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code came into affect with many revisions in the code. We thank you for the opportunity to serve you and as always we are ready to assist you with construction or code questions.

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 2009 to permit the following:

Additions/Remodels (45)	Pool (18)
Commercial Additions (2)	Siding/Roof/Window (77)
Commercial: New Construction (2)	Sign (7)
Commercial Renovation (5)	Single Family Home (10)
Condominiums (2)	Stoves (Wood, Pellet, Gas) (110)
Decks / Porches (25)	Temporary Mobile Home (1)
Demolition (10)	Wireless Communications equipment (1)
Garage/Barn/Shed (30)	106 Inspections (18)
In-Law Apartment (1)	
Miscellaneous (13)	

Building Permit Fees Collected: \$140,466.18

~~~~~

Wiring Inspector : Larry Morris  
Alternate: Stuart Anderson  
Permits Issued: 203  
Fees Collected: \$43,459.36

Plumbing Inspector: Michael McQuiston  
Alternate: Dana Gravison  
Permits Issued: 89  
Fees Collected: \$9,685.00

Gas Inspector: Dana Gravison  
Permits Issued: 62  
Fees Collected: \$3,721.00

Total Fees Collected: \$197,331.54

## REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

The Conservation Commission would like to thank Francis Gatto for his years of devoted service to the Commission for the Town of Sutton. His presence will be missed.

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:

- 2 - Enforcement Orders
- 3 - Emergency Certificates
- 11 - Determinations of Applicability
- 5 - Positive Determinations to File a Notice of Intent
- 0 - Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD)
- 1 - Order of Resource Area Delineation (ORAD)
- 9 - Notices of Intent
- 9 - Order of Conditions
- 1 - Amended Order of Conditions
- 12 - Extended Order of Conditions
- 6 - Complete Certificate of Compliance
- 4 - Partial Certificate of Compliance
- 13 - Complaints and Violations
- 3 - Warning Tickets
- 9 - Site Visits pertaining thereto

The Commission's philosophy is that all plans submitted should be the "Best Management Practices" engineered plan for the protection of the wetlands, first and foremost. In most cases, professional engineers and wetland scientist submit plans designed to this standard. By providing clear and accurate plans, there is added assurance for the protection of the wetlands,

reduction in construction error, and a more efficient processing of the application from inception through completion. Good plans make good projects.

The services of our Conservation Consultant have proven to be invaluable. The Commission has used Brandon Faneuf, Professional Wetland Scientist, of Ecosystem Solutions as its Conservation Consultant. Mr. Faneuf has recently been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (the "MACC"). Projects have been processed even more efficiently with better results. There is no added expense to the Town and the Town benefits 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 Congress of Lakes and Ponds and the Blackstone River Coalition.

The Conservation Commission, as a State Agency and Town Department, continues to strive to be more well informed and dedicated 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:

Mark Briggs, Chair – attended: 23 of 25 meetings  
Joyce Smith, Co-Chair – attended: 25 of 25 meeting  
Alyse Aubin – attended: 9 of 12 meetings, from July 2009 to December 2009  
Daniel Rice – attended: 25 of 25 meetings  
Jack Sheehan – attended: 22 of 25 meetings  
MACC Conference: 4 Commissioners attended 11 Different Meetings and Workshops  
Brandon Faneuf, Conservation Consultant attended 24 of 25 meetings

Respectfully submitted  
Mark Briggs, Chair  
Sutton Conservation Commission

## 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, 2009.

It is the mission of the COA to identify the needs of the residents aged 60 and over and to inform and educate the community and to enlist support and participation to serve those needs. We design, promote and implement 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 3PM. Fritz Petrie, Outreach Director and Michelle Edelstein, Director have been busy with outreach and referral as well as, advocacy 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, 11 – 14 families per week. This year the Food Pantry provided 100 holiday meals for families in Sutton.

Although the Sutton Senior Center offers limited van transportation to residents of 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 with the support of Nancy Perry continue to bring us delicious and nutritious meals, plenty of friendship and laughter 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  
Fritzi Petrie-Outreach  
Diane Hanley- Custodian  
Jim Graves- Van Driver

### **Council on Aging Board**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Edelstein, Director

**Annual Activities Report**

Congregate meals: 5,200

Home Deliveries: 10,400

**Outreach and Advocacy**

General information: 7,500

Case management: 1,352

Health benefits counseling: 778

**Professional Services**

Support group: 52

Legal Assistance: 178

Financial management: 164

Tax Assistance: 82

**Support Services**

Friendly Visiting: 160 hours

Telephone Reassurance: 75

Medical Equipment Loans: 122

**Transportation**

Ambulatory: 3,330

Non ambulatory: 1,270

Under 60: 130

**Newsletters:** 6,000

**Volunteers:** 40

**Wellness**

Blood Pressure: 1,082

Podiatry: 78

Flu Clinic: 100

**Recreational/Socialization**

Bingo: 1,300

Bridge: 147

Chorus: 544

Computer class: 1,200

Chatterbox: 180

Yoga: 156

Muscular Strength: 182

Wii: 260

Entertainment/Guest Speakers: 446

Hookers: 364

Pitch: 312

## REPORT OF THE SUTTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and citizens of Sutton. I hereby submit my annual report of the Sutton Fire Department for year 2009.

Thank you to the voters for allowing the purchase of the New Engine/Ladder truck.

The Sutton Fire Department responded to 701 calls this year for Fire, EMS Response, Haz-Mat Inspections, calls for service and assistances as follows.

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 and 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:

residential smoke and carbon Monoxide detectors, Commercial Fire alarm systems, Oil fired boilers and fuel oil storage tanks, Propane gas storage tank, Industrial, Commercial and Blasting permits, various other inspections and assistance visits / Inspection.

The Sutton Fire Department has a review team that works with the planning board on site plans 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 both residential and business causes a unique problem to any fire department when the buildings come under a fire condition.

### **The following is an inventory of Fire vehicles.**

|                     |                    |      |
|---------------------|--------------------|------|
| Engine 1            | Pierce             | 2005 |
| Engine 2 & 3        | FMC                | 1987 |
| Engine 4            | American La France | 1977 |
| Tanker 1            | Freightliner       | 1998 |
| Tanker 2            | Freightliner       | 2001 |
| Rescue 1            | Freightliner       | 1996 |
| Squad 2             | Dodge              | 1987 |
| Special Operations  | E-350 Ford         | 1995 |
| Forestry / Tanker 4 | A / M General      | 1995 |
| Forestry 1          | F-350 Ford         | 2008 |

|            |                  |      |
|------------|------------------|------|
| Forestry 2 | F-450 Ford       | 2004 |
| Forestry 3 | C-20 Chevrolet   | 1975 |
| Forestry 5 | K-2500 Chevrolet | 1991 |
| Forestry   | Jeep Military    | 1947 |
| Antique    | Seagrave         | 1921 |

We have three additional aging fire trucks that dose 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 repair / replacement of our fire protection equipment and personnel staff needs to protect our present and future residential / commercial development and our School complex.

Code compliance and enforcement continues to increase dramatically each year.

The fulltime staff work days, Monday through Friday and have attended on going fire prevention and inspection training programs to educate them in this process. We also have attended motor vehicle driver training classes offered by the MIIA insurance company. 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.

Again this past year we have seen more problems associated with house numbers or the lack of any number. 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 are equally visible from the street. This is a Town of Sutton General bylaw Article 14.1 and in the zoning bylaw (N) Retreat Lots Para 2L. Please help us, find **you** in **your** time of need for Sutton emergency services.

We have an on going program with the Sutton senior center to supply and install house numbers.

Again, this year we received state grant funding for our fire safe (S.A.F.E.) program that we teach in the Sutton school class rooms to the K-5 grades. We have a retired Sutton high school teacher and fire fighter as our instructor.

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

I ask that all residents living on private roads invest in a Sutton standard street sign, with our private ambulance service it is difficult for the EMT's to find some of these roads.

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 afford.



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 the hours away you're your homes and families to attend Fire training and responding to Fire /EMS calls both day and nights rain or shine and your untiring support to the community.

Respectfully Submitted  
Paul A. Maynard, Fire Chief

## REPORT OF THE FIRE WARDEN

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and the citizens of Sutton, I hereby submit my annual report as the Sutton Forest Fire Warden for year 2009.

As Fire Chief for the Town of Sutton, I also serve as the Forest Fire Warden.

During this past year, we found again that our enduring snow pack and late snow storms provided our part of Massachusetts open land extremely wet condition during our traditionally high forest fire months. It seems the winters have cut down amount of the forest fire dangers but this could eventually change causing a dry season in the years to come. Our ability to burn residential brush and debris still will continue in the town of Sutton.

Even though we did have a wet spring this past year, we did have several permitted fires get away from the permit holders. This was often the result of having too large of a fire, no one tending the fire, no water available to extinguish the fire and not following the state open burning procedures indicated on the permit. The Sutton Fire Department does not write the law.

The law & regulation is in the 310 CMR 7.07 and the enforcement of the law is for the protection of all Sutton residents and property. Please help us by obeying the rules and regulations as written on the permit application. If at any time anyone has questions concerning the open burning process or the regulations please feel to call the Fire Station Monday through Friday during the daytime hours of 8 AM to 4 PM at 1 (508) 865-8737.

The following permits were issued for residential or agricultural burning:

|                     |     |                      |   |
|---------------------|-----|----------------------|---|
| Residential Permits | 558 | Agricultural Permits | 8 |
|---------------------|-----|----------------------|---|

The following responses were made to assist the forest fire warden by the fire department:

Illegal burning, Smoke investigations, Brush fires, Grass fires, Controlled burning,  
Outside rubbish burning, Garbage / Landfill burning, Mutual aid given to other towns.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Sutton Fire Department, District Fire 7 state fire Warden and neighboring fire departments for the assistance they have given the town.

Respectfully Submitted  
Paul A. Maynard, Forest Fire Warden

## REPORT OF THE HAZARDOUS WASTE COORDINATOR

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen, and the citizens of Sutton, I submit my report as Hazardous Waste Coordinator for year 2009.

As the Fire Chief, I also serve as the Hazardous Waste Coordinator for the town.

Fire Department continued our reclamation efforts authorized by establishing a revolving fund, as approved at town meeting. This fund enables the Fire department to “bill for services” directly to the owner or insurance carrier if a hazardous material spill occurs on a roadway, residential or commercial property. In the past, the Fire Department used or expended funds from within the fire department operating budget for replenishment of supplies, hazardous waste disposal, containment dikes and other haz-mat mitigation supplies.

We continue to live in an environment where you find items left in places that require the mitigation, remove and reporting to the state DEM and Fire Marshals office.

Fire Department personnel are trained and are able to respond to most minor hazardous materials incidents that we have encountered. We also have resources from the state if required.

We will continue to be vigilant in searching and securing grants to lesson the financial impact to the taxpayer.

In closing, I would like to thank all town departments who assisted us this past year especially the Police, Highway, Building and the Board of Health for their support.

Respectfully Submitted  
Paul A. Maynard  
Fire Chief  
Hazardous Materials Coordinator

## 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 providing services and protection to the residents and visitors of our community. We have strived to provide a superior and professional service while balancing modern fiscal constraints. Activities such as calls for service and arrests are on the increase while staffing levels have fallen.

We have hired two officers that were replacements for existing vacancies. One officer attended recruit training at the Massachusetts State Police Academy while the second officer had already attained basic recruit training prior to his employment with the Sutton Police. Hiring an

academy trained officer was a cost saving measure that proved fiscally prudent in our current economic times.

We maintain our philosophy of placing a strong emphasis of constant training for our officers. This is a necessity in order to remain current in modern law enforcement practices. Unfortunately, funding from the state to train police officers is nearly non existent. We have continued our approach of offering online based training to officers in an effort to curb costs and enhance the variety of topics available. In addition to regular annual training such as CPR, some of the training subject matter that our officers were exposed to were; child passenger safety, advanced accident investigation, digital evidence courses, domestic drug interdiction, LIDAR training, active shooter training and law enforcement liability seminars to name a few.

Our efforts in pursuing alternative funding through grants continued. We were successfully awarded a \$21,000 federal grant targeting school security. These funds will target increased security measures via electronic devices such as video cameras and remote locking mechanisms. We believe a strong partnership with the school community is absolutely essential to aid in the success of our children's wellness and future. The police department was also awarded a \$6,000 Click it or Ticket grant to supplement salaries for seatbelt, drunk driving, and speeding enforcement. A portion of this grant was also used to purchase speed measuring devices such as radar and lidar units. Additionally, we received approximately 22,000 in grant monies to begin the installation of air conditioning in our 911 dispatch area.

While our future proves to be challenging in the current economic times, the police department will steadfastly pursue excellence in service. Increases in criminal activity and diminishing staffing levels will not hamper our determination to deliver the finest and most professional of law enforcement services to our community.

July 2008 through June of 2009  
Dispatched calls for service: 14,718  
Typical calls include:

|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| ❖ Rape/Sex Offenses               | 13  |
| ❖ Assault&Battery                 | 47  |
| ❖ Larceny                         | 90  |
| ❖ Vehicle Theft                   | 13  |
| ❖ Well Being Check                | 56  |
| ❖ Family Offenses                 | 13  |
| ❖ Trespassing                     | 129 |
| ❖ Juvenile Offenses               | 14  |
| ❖ Erratic Operator                | 109 |
| ❖ Financial Crimes                | 57  |
| ❖ Missing Persons                 | 16  |
| ❖ Disturbances                    | 146 |
| ❖ Domestic Disputes               | 63  |
| ❖ Obscene/Threatening Calls       | 60  |
| ❖ Recreational Vehicle Complaints | 27  |

|                                    |      |
|------------------------------------|------|
| ❖ Medical Assists                  | 472  |
| ❖ Fire Alarms                      | 65   |
| ❖ House Alarms                     | 250  |
| ❖ Business Alarms                  | 144  |
| ❖ Summons Served                   | 62   |
| ❖ Assist Citizens                  | 217  |
| ❖ Animal Complaints                | 158  |
| ❖ Suicide/Attempts                 | 8    |
| ❖ Disabled Motor Vehicles          | 308  |
| ❖ Assist Other Police              | 258  |
| ❖ Neighbor Disputes                | 33   |
| ❖ Untimely Deaths                  | 7    |
| ❖ Breaking & Entering              | 31   |
| ❖ General Services                 | 236  |
| ❖ Hang Up 911 Calls                | 83   |
| ❖ Motor Vehicle Accidents          | 281  |
| ❖ Drug Offenses                    | 91   |
| ❖ OUI Arrests                      | 73   |
| ❖ Total Arrests                    | 557  |
| ❖ Protective Custody               | 34   |
| ❖ Motor Vehicle Citations          | 3050 |
| ❖ Parking Tickets                  | 52   |
| ❖ Vandalism                        | 70   |
| ❖ Criminal Incidents               | 382  |
| ❖ Suspicious Activity Investigated | 539  |

#### **FINES ASSESSED**

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| ❖ Assessed Fines for Citations | \$56,360.00 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|

#### **FEES COLLECTED**

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| ❖ RMV Non Criminal Fines    | \$ 65,417.50 |
| ❖ District Court Fines/Fees | \$ 15,905.50 |
| ❖ Pistol Permits            | \$ 2,250.00  |
| ❖ Default Restitution Fees  | \$ 0.00      |
| ❖ Administrative Fees       | \$ 5,518.00  |
| ❖ Accident Reports          | \$ 624.00    |
| ❖ Cruiser Use Fee           | \$ 300.00    |
| ❖ Booking Video Fee         | \$ 50.00     |
| ❖ Solicitor Registrations   | \$ 74.00     |

|        |              |
|--------|--------------|
| Total: | \$ 90,139.00 |
|--------|--------------|

Respectfully submitted,  
Dennis J. Towle, Chief of Police

## REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

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, 2009.

Funding for this department comes from several sources. Town funds provide for day-to-day operations as well as storm water system repair and replacement, surface treatments for small areas of roadways, and routine maintenance (sign replacement-patching-mowing-line painting). Funds for major road resurfacing comes from the state chapter 90 program.

While state funding has remained steady for the past several years our town funds have been reduced. This makes it more difficult for us to perform the routine tasks and to keep up with roadway system repairs.

The work force includes the superintendent, highway foreman, and six equipment operators. The department operates and maintains eighteen pieces of equipment with a value of over 1.5 million dollars.

The winter of 2008/2009 had average snowfall with 20 storms that left us with 60 inches of snow. On December 12 we had an ice storm that severely affected some parts of town. Some of the emergency and clean up work were eligible for federal disaster funding. Application for the return of these funds was made to FEMA and \$15,000 was returned to the town.

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

- Portions of Central Turnpike, Burbank Rd, Leland Hill Rd, Blackstone St.
- Uxbridge Road
- McGuire Road
- Glen Court
- Skyline Drive

Storm water drainage pipe was installed on Pierce Road and Burke Lane. We worked with the Manchaug Lake Association, whom had obtained an EPA 319 grant, to install storm water runoff improvements at the Manchaug boat ramp and on Manchaug Road.

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 February we took delivery of a new, 2009 John Deere loader. This \$143,000 piece of equipment was paid for using state chapter 90 funds at no cost to the town. It replaced a 1985 loader 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. 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 544K 2009        |
| 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              |
| 11 | One way 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 2008 to June 30 2009 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, Member-at-Large and Rachel Tufts, Secretary. The Board and the Library Director meet monthly to ensure that library operations run efficiently and to review and update library policies.

### Statistics

Library statistics increased by 13% in FY09 illustrating that the library continues to be an integral part of the educational resources of the community.

|                                   | FY06   | FY07   | FY08   | FY09   |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Library materials owned           | 25,287 | 26,590 | 28,828 | 31,928 |
| Total Circulation Transactions*   | 87,423 | 91,023 | 94,854 | 98,535 |
| Interlibrary Loans                | 7,759  | 8,930  | 9,394  | 9,378  |
| Registered Borrowers              | 2,313  | 2,661  | 3,008  | 3,303  |
| Number of Programs                | 163    | 184    | 264    | 376    |
| Program attendance                | 3,711  | 4,945  | 5,364  | 6,541  |
| Number of library visits          | 21,008 | 22,507 | 31,597 | 34,430 |
| Number of hits on library website | 3,657  | 8,165  | 12,387 | 19,597 |

\*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 FY09 counts.

| Use    | Library Service        | Avg Cost of Item | Subtotals    |
|--------|------------------------|------------------|--------------|
|        |                        |                  |              |
| 32,093 | Books Borrowed         | \$20.00          | \$641,860.00 |
| 1,966  | Magazines Borrowed     | \$4.00           | \$7,864.00   |
| 3,871  | Music (CDs) Borrowed   | \$14.95          | \$57,871.45  |
| 2,476  | Audiobooks Borrowed    | \$50.00          | \$123,800.00 |
| 13,787 | Videos Borrowed        | \$19.99          | \$275,602.13 |
| 170    | CD-ROMS Borrowed       | \$39.99          | \$6,798.30   |
| 157    | Museum Passes Borrowed | \$24.00          | \$3,768.00   |
| 4,087  | Inter-Library Loans    | \$35.00          | \$143,045.00 |

|       |                                            |         |                       |
|-------|--------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| 207   | Out of state<br>Inter-<br>Library<br>Loans | \$75.00 | \$15,525.00           |
| 4,102 | Internet<br>Use                            | \$12.00 | \$49,224.00           |
| 954   | Reference<br>Transaction<br>s              | \$25.00 | \$23,850.00           |
| 2,203 | Database<br>Searches                       | \$20.00 | \$44,060.00           |
| 5607  | Children's<br>Programs                     | \$10.00 | \$56,070.00           |
| 151   | Adult/YA<br>Programs                       | \$10.00 | \$1,510.00            |
|       | <b>Total<br/>Worth of<br/>Library</b>      |         | <b>\$1,450,847.88</b> |

### **Grants and Gifts:**

The Circle of Friends Community Partnership Council for Children and the Beginning Years Network provided \$1,500 in grants to the library. This grant money was utilized to provide quality programs for the children such as the Apple Tree Arts music program, Pumpernickel Puppets, and the Higgins Armory Museum presentation. The library applied for and received from the Museum of Science in Boston a ‘scholarship’ program dealing with “Cold Science” which they presented in the summer. The Aldrich Astronomical Society presented a program on Comets and also generously donated several books on astronomy.

The Sutton Cultural Council presented the library with a grant of \$1,500 which was used for several exciting programs, including the Caribbean for Kids, Toe Jam Puppet Band and a Magic and Juggling Performance by Scott Jameson.

The library asked Unibank for a donation toward creating a more inviting area for the Teens and ‘Tweens (ages 10-18) in the facility. Unibank donated \$1,000 towards furniture for this area. The library’s Teen Advisory Board selected a café table and bar stools and the new furniture has been installed in the teen area. Please come in to see this refurbished setting.

Cold Stone Creamery and the Friends of the Library collaborated on several projects to encourage participation in the state-wide summer reading program. Flexible flyers were purchased through their generosity. Also, Cold Stone Creamery donated weekly gift certificates for the teen participants.

We wish to thank all of the organizations and businesses for their generosity and thoughtfulness in supporting the library.



### **Children's Programs**

As stated above, the astronomy program offered by the Aldrich Astronomical Society was very well attended. The Society graciously donated \$250 worth of astronomy books to the library. We appreciate their generosity.

The Summer Reading Program for the 2009 calendar year was a spectacular success. The number of participants in the program once again rose by 10% in program participants over FY08. Circulation statistics for the summer showed a 53% rise over FY08.

Massachusetts businesses and attractions provided passes or gift certificates as prizes for the program. Cold Stone Creamery at the Blackstone Valley Shoppes, Pleasant Valley Country Club, Target, Breezy Waterslides, The Worcester Tornadoes, The Paw Sox, the Tomb in Boston, the Museum of Science in Boston, the New England Revolution 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**

Eighty-seven 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.

The Teen Advisory Board meets the first Friday of each month in the Reference Room of the library. Participants in the TAB also participate in the Teen 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. The teens have been offering suggestions for movies, books, video games and also selected the mural for the toddler area which reflected the space theme for the summer reading program. We welcome all interested teens.

Other workshops included a cartooning workshop as well as a jewelry-making workshop. We are already planning for several video game and trivia evenings for FY10 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. Our plans for FY10 include a movie component for the group. We will discuss a book one week and see the movie version of it the following week. It should be an interesting variation on the traditional book club. The library offered several adult genealogy programs, which we will continue in FY10. These genealogy programs included topics such as Getting Started; Local and Regional Resources; Online Resources; Organizing your Data; and Software Selection. We are planning to offer several craft programs such as origami, jewelry-making, zentangle and calligraphy for FY10. If you have any suggestions for programs or would like to participate please talk to the library staff.

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 provide other support services to the library. The Friends also purchase discounted passes to museums and attractions which are available for use by all Sutton residents at no charge. The cost of these institutional passes is substantial: 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 donated by the Sutton Garden Club. We thank them for their generosity.

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

In FY09 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. If you are interested in knitting or crocheting we encourage you to participate. 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, Katy Fant, Pamela Johnson, Judith Peladeau and Laurel Welch. Their welcoming demeanor, helpfulness and humor are 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, Katy Fant 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 (**39,478 items returned in FY09**), 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. Is there a title you want to read but can't find in our network or in the Commonwealth? Pam Johnson is our expert out-of-state Inter-Library Loan person. Pam gets books from California, Illinois, Louisiana, Wyoming and anywhere else the material may be located. You can use the item for one month and then return it to the library at no cost to you.

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 the “Question of the Week” or suggest a title you think we should purchase. The library is your gateway to knowledge. Don’t hesitate to use it.

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

## REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD & DEPARTMENT

In FY 2009 larger approved developments like Cold Spring Brook Place (Lowe’s Anchor) and Sutton Plaza Expansion continued to await a better economy. Numerous smaller projects were approved including Hair Inc. a hairdresser/spa on Boston Road, National Grid expansion of their maintenance yard and a new 60,000 s.f. maintenance building off Main Street in Northbridge, Dileo Gas propane distribution on Route 122A, Sutton Center Store Expansion on Singletary Avenue, and Chase Harris Septic on Dudley Road. The Board denied approval to the Oakhurst Farm Travel Plaza on Oakhurst Road on the grounds that the gas station use is not an allowed use in the Office Light Industrial District. The Board’s denial was affirmed by Land Court but an appeal has been filed. The Blue Jay restaurant site received one final opportunity to pull their building permit and lock in their grandfathering that must be utilized by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The developers of Leland Hill Estates, our first over 55 Continued Care Retirement Community, fell victim to the rough economy and were bankrupted. The banks involved have a purchase and sale agreement with a developer who seeks to convert the project into a 60 unit single family Local Initiative Project (LIP), essentially a friendly 40B project, with 25% of units affordable to those making 80% or less of the area median income. The DeFeudis Development open space subdivision slated for Central Turnpike was inundated with endangered species and wetland issues and ended up withdrawing their application. Only 9 new building lots were created on existing roadways in this twelve month period.

Twenty five articles went to the Fall 2008 and five to Spring 2009 Town Meetings. Bylaw changes included allowing small wind turbines, multiple uses on one lot, and internally illuminated signs with design restrictions. The changes also included a petitioned zoning change of two different areas along Route 146 to north and south Business Highway.

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 this past fiscal year:

- Continued work with the Tree Warden, MHD and National Grid on tree care and maintenance issues. Coordinated 2009 Arbor Day ceremonies, planting 3 trees at Manchaug Fire Station and re-certified Sutton as a Tree City USA for the ninth year.
- Completed construction of Tri-Centennial Park along the banks of the Blackstone River on Blackstone Street.

- Manchaug Master Plan –Completed the first phase of the Manchaug Master Plan work that included installing ornamental trees, a small seating area, various granite benches and designing, fabricating and installing street pole banners. Also obtained DCR Grant to install the central section of the Mumford River Trail in Phase 2 of the Master Plan and began engineering/permitting as well as removal of invasives and tree work along the banks of the River.
- Continued work with the Towns of Northbridge, Douglas and Uxbridge on potential economic development measures to benefit all towns, including development of connector roadways to the east and west of Route 146 at the Whitins Road/Main Street exit in South Sutton. Obtained 43D funding and began hiring various consultants to perform a sewer connection study and the East side road study with Northbridge.
- Obtained 43D funding and contracted for new aerials of the Town and received grant for GIS software, maintenance and training to establish a starter GIS system for in house mapping.
- Obtained \$628,000 MORE grant to assist Atlas Box with off site roadway improvements, install a water line along this portion of Route 146 for the benefit of numerous businesses, as well as install Opticom Emergency Pre-emption at the lights at Route 146 and Boston Road.

|           |                       |         |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------|
| Revenues: | Form A Plan Fees:     | \$ 2400 |
|           | Subdivision Plan Fees | \$ 25   |
|           | Site Plan Fees        | \$ 700  |
|           | Special Permit Fees   | \$ 150  |
|           | Other                 | \$ 75   |

We also bid farewell to our EXTREMELY competent Planning Assistant, Linda Shea, who moved on to other pursuits as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. She will be missed tremendously.

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

## 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, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

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 Brian Johnson, Chair, Alan Berthiaume, Kyle Brenner, and John Slocum.

During the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, 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, conduct 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 ground water levels.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

Earth Removal Board Application fee's \$ 4,500.00

Total Monies Collected \$ 4,500.00

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Johnson, Chairman  
Alan Berthiaume  
Kyle Brenner  
John Slocum

#### 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 fro the fiscal year of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. The Commissioners are Brian Allen, Barry McLean, and Jennifer Bohanan. The Town Beach was open through Labor Day. It was staffed with two lifeguards from noon to 6 P.M. daily. One hundred thirty nine season passes were sold to Sutton residents at \$25 per family and 21 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 109 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,  
Brian Allen

Barry McLean  
Jennifer Bohanan

## 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, 2008 to June 30, 2009. The Commissioners are Brian Allen, Barry McLean, and Jennifer Bohanan. The Town Beach was open through Labor Day. It was staffed with two lifeguards from noon to 6 P.M. daily. One hundred thirty nine season passes were sold to Sutton residents at \$25 per family and 21 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 109 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,

Brian Allen  
Barry McLean  
Jennifer Bohanan

## REPORT OF THE SEWER COMMISSIONERS

To the Honorable Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen and the citizens of Sutton, we herewith submit the annual report as Commissioners of the Sewer for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009.

The Wilkinsonville Wastewater Collection System pumped 41,796,553 million gallons to the Upper Blackstone Treatment Facility through the Town of Millbury in the fiscal year 2009. There are approximately 730 users in the Wilkinsonville area of town.

The Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility has processed 12,369,481 Million Gallons in fiscal year 2009. The facility processes around 34,000 gallons per day, with approximately 160 users.

In fiscal year 2009 there were a total of four new sewer connections and the Town of Sutton issued eight drain layers licenses for the year.

Due to the economy the many anticipated projects have been cancelled. The following remain on hold:

Leland Hill - Flow 13,200gpd

Bridal Path –Flow 20,000gpd

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.

The Board of Sewer Commissioner's and the Sutton Sewer Department would like to thank Robert Judson for the many years of service as a Sewer Commissioner. We wish him all the best.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sewer Commissioners:  
Larry Wiersma, Chairman  
Neal Crites  
Barbara Bessette

## REPORT OF THE SUTTON COMMUNITY TV BOARD

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Sutton:

Sutton Community Television Board serves local Public, Education and Government (PEG) access television needs within the town by providing a community forum for free speech, education, information and government transparency. The PEG stations are broadcast on Charter channels 11, 12 & 13 and Verizon channels 29, 30 & 31.

Although negotiations with Verizon had been ongoing, the cable license agreement was signed and became effective on July 15, 2008 and has a term of fifteen years. This has added an element of positive competition among the cable providers and should result in increased selection and cost-saving benefits to the townspeople.

A short time later in August 2008, three cable-recording assistants were hired to accommodate a planed increase in local government coverage upon the direction of the Board of Selectmen. Coverage of additional meetings was made possible through the purchase of a Leightronix Nexus Network Managed Video System Controller, which allows for digitally based programs (rather than rotating tapes and DVDs through assorted decks).

In addition to the regularly recorded Board of Selectmen and School Committee meetings, regular coverage of the Board of Health, Conservation Committee, Earth Removal Board, Finance & Warrant Committee, Planning Board, School Building Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals is now available. Additional meetings recorded and broadcast include some of the Energy Ad Hoc and Historical Committee meetings. Other government coverage also included

the Town Meeting in May 2008. The coverage of these government meetings is rebroadcast on the local stations.

In addition to the television rebroadcast, the meetings also became available online when the Cable Department was able to unveil a new online programming database in conjunction with the roll-out of the town's new and improved website ([www.suttonma.org](http://www.suttonma.org)) in October 2008. This offers the convenience of viewing all broadcast and recorded meetings online at anytime.

In addition, more than 504 public service announcements, including public meeting agendas, Senior Center and Public Library activities and schedules and non-profit event details, have been displayed on the local access stations through FY 2009 (July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009).

The Education station has also expanded with the addition of recording of several sporting events and drama club presentations in addition to the traditional coverage of music concerts (holiday and spring) and the annual promotion and high school graduation ceremonies.

Although Sutton's own local community producers are limited, we were able to record the annual Sutton Baseball Parade, Memorial Day Parade, several concerts on the common sponsored by the Cultural Council and the Chain of Lights celebration.

SCTV also offers a variety of programs generated by other area local PEG stations including Local Rock (From Millbury Public Access) showcasing rock bands performing live at the Millbury studio; Bloomin' with the Bemis and Thyme In The Kitchen (Spencer, MA); The Dungeon of Dr. Dreck (Mendon, MA) and Backpacker's Journal (Grafton, MA). In addition, several no-series shows such as the Family Fall Festival Day, Civil War Reenactment, River Bend Farm, Smokey The Bear Birthday Celebration and the Blackstone Valley Sugaring show were produced in Uxbridge, MA.

Other public programming included series such as Music and the Spoken Word, which features religious music by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Army Newswatch.

We welcome input and programming from the public - - these are your local access stations. Cable access operations are funded through payments made by the local cable providers Charter Communications and Verizon, Inc. All are invited to attend the local monthly meetings (usually held the first Monday of the month at the town hall) or contact us at SCTV, 4 Uxbridge Road, Sutton, MA 01590; 508-865-8735 or via email at [p.nichols@town.sutton.ma.us](mailto:p.nichols@town.sutton.ma.us)

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela Nichols, Cable Coordinator  
And the Sutton Community Television Board  
Leo Lavin, Chairman,  
James LeClaire, Vice-Chairman  
Phil Berube, member  
Dave Kiley, member



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

The Board of Appeals has the authority to:

1. Hear and decide appeals as outlined in Section 8 of MGL ch. 40A.
2. Hear and decide special permit applications.
3. Hear and decide petitions for variances and,
4. Hear and decided appeals from the decisions of the zoning administrator.

The Board consists of the following members:

|                               | Year Term Expires |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Arthur Keown – Chairman       | 2010              |
| Richard Deschenes – Clerk     | 2011              |
| Jeffrey Fenuccio – Member     | 2010              |
| Gerald Page – Member          | 2012              |
| Russell Sylvia – Member       | 2012              |
| (2) Alternate seats - Vacant. |                   |

The Board wishes to report that during Fiscal Year 2009 (11) meetings were held and the following petitions were heard:

### Petitions for Variance:

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Approved   | (8) |
| Denied     | (0) |
| Withdrawal | (0) |

### Petitions for Special Permits

|          |     |
|----------|-----|
| Approved | (2) |
| Denied   | (1) |

Respectfully submitted,  
Arthur Keown, Chairman  
Lynn Dahlin, Secretary

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT FOR 2008-09

I am pleased to submit this annual report of the Sutton Public Schools for the 2008-2009 school and fiscal year.

As in prior years, the summer was very busy and all too short for the many special and capital projects, maintenance tasks and activities that can only be accomplished in schools during summer break. Capital projects included updates to the computer network, the tiling of additional areas in the elementary school and Simonian Center, additional security system components and air conditioners for the computer labs. We appreciate the Town's support for these items.

Summer is also the time for reflecting on the past school year and planning for the next one. To that end the School Committee held its summer retreat in July which featured a review of the results from the annual survey of parents and staff; evaluation of its 2007-08 goals; review of the MassTELLS (Mass Teaching Learning and Leading Survey) data for the district and developing goals for the 2008-09 school year. With the obvious issue of the facility problems in the middle and high schools, faculty responses in MassTELLS across the system were very favorable. This indicated that they felt supported in their efforts to provide high quality instruction to Sutton's children. In early August the administrators held their annual retreat which included many of the topics and issues at the School Committee's retreat in addition to in-depth planning for the opening of school later in the month.

During the summer months many faculty and staff continue their professional development by enrolling in courses and workshops. Administrators also attended several professional development opportunities geared to school and system priorities. One particular area was differentiated instruction, a system wide goal for the upcoming year. During the school year there will be professional development opportunities and resources to enable teachers to tailor instruction to the individual needs of students in their classrooms. This will be an on-going priority for the next several years that will manifest itself in different ways. For example, in the 2009-2010 school year VMS (Virtual Middle School) which will provide on-line courses to middle school students will be introduced. Another part of this effort is a federal initiative RTI (Response to Intervention) that addresses a student's special needs in an incremental manner.

School safety and security remain a priority in the system. And in this regard Police Chief Dennis Towle and his department have assisted the school department in many ways including a revision of our Emergency Response Plan. Chief Towle shared updated practices and procedures from his recent training. As a result our manuals and plans reflect the most current state and national information. Staff was trained on these new procedures at meetings during the year. At the practice lock down in the spring everyone performed extremely well. Thank you Chief Towle and your staff!

The school year opened for students on Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> with an enrollment of one thousand six hundred and twenty-four (1,624) students a decrease of eight (8) students from the previous school year. The middle school began the year with a new principal, Gerard Goyette. A former teacher in the middle school and assistant principal at the high school, Gerry's leadership and organization skills, and knowledge of the school's curriculum and staff ensured that the school year began smoothly.

Sutton had much to celebrate in the fall with the release of the MCAS test results administrated in the spring of 2008. Once again Sutton students showed strong achievement. Middle school

students outperformed their peers across the state in ELA as they bucked a statewide downward trend. Math scores for grades 6 and 7 were nothing short of outstanding as Sutton students placed in the top 5 and 7 % of the state. Grade 4 students showed substantial improvement in both math and ELA. In other grades scores were virtually unchanged. In her presentation to the School Committee Curriculum Director Lucille DiLeo presented the 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.

The district also moved forward with several initiatives and enjoyed some special events during the 2008-09 school year. Elementary Principal Michael Breault and his faculty continued their work on the new 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. Parent feedback was excellent.

Simonian Center Principal Lauren Dubeau and her staff took the lead in the district's recycling initiative. A special assembly "Garbage is My Bag" introduced students to the many ways recycling benefits planet earth and town Sutton. Students watched in awe as "Trashologist" Jack Golden demonstrated how virtually every item we use daily can be recycled and reused. Thank you to SEFT (Sutton Education Foundation) for funding this event.

Mr. Breault and Mrs. Dubeau collaborated on many events during the school year. Of particular note was "Math Mania" night. Parents and students joined faculty in math activities. It was an outstanding event that was very well attended. It is no wonder our students do so well in this subject!

The Community Service Learning (CSL) program had another successful year. High school faculty members and co-directors Christina Gamble and Rich Levansavich developed a strong Leadership Board, which met monthly to plan activities. At the winter Kick Off Dinner in January the keynote speaker was Kristen McKenna, state coordinator of CSL. The newly funded projects were Camp Sunshine, the Mini-Math League, and the Secret Lair. CSL again celebrated the end of the school year with an Ice Cream Social that was very well attended by students, parents, staff and community members.

With the move of Mr. Goyette to the middle school and a very tight budget, the assistant principal position at the high school remained vacant. Principal Daigle worked closely with the department chairs and faculty at the high school faculty to ensure that all administrative areas were covered despite the loss of the assistant principal position. The Drama Club directed by Cameron Loss presented three outstanding sold-out performances of **Our Town**. The band, chorus and select ensemble continued their superb concerts under the direction of Music Directors Mark Smith, Susan Wildman, Suzanne Dame and Sandy Kerr. Our boys and girls athletic teams had another excellent year with strong representation in several state and regional tournaments.

The high school submitted its required Special Progress Report to NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) in August 2008. While acknowledging the many positive developments at the school, in its October 2008 response NEASC noted continued concern about the facility itself and continued the school's "Warning" status.

The Middle/High School Building Project accelerated during the year. The Town approved a warrant article that funded the hiring of an Owner's Project Manager required by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to oversee the Project from the very beginning to post-construction. Funds were also dedicated to revision and updating of our Feasibility Study originally developed in 2006.

Some of the new special initiatives for the year included "Going Green" that features dissemination of electronic rather than paper informational materials in the district, expansion of the district's Web site, expansion of the district's recycling program and the reduction of energy usage. Thanks to support from the PTO the school department piloted the AlertNow telephone notification system. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education conducted a mid-cycle review of our Special Education Department. Under Margo Austein's leadership, with one exception, the district passed with flying colors. The review team echoed NEASC's concern about the quality of the physical space used by the high school program. Thanks to Pam and Ray Nichols, Lucille DiLeo and the administrators, interaction between Sutton cable and the school department expanded significantly. Equipment upgrades and closer collaboration resulted in more coverage of school functions and events. Many, many thanks to Pam and Ray!

There were also many special events during the year. On October 25<sup>th</sup> one of our military parents delighted everyone in the system when he landed his Black Hawk helicopter on the Little League field. While he was deployed in the Middle East the community offered a great deal of support to his family and in his final days before retiring from the military he wanted to share some of his experience. He graciously allowed students and faculty to view the 'copter up close and personal. The event brought the distant war and its impact on our families close to home. At its induction ceremony for new members on November 24<sup>th</sup> the Sutton Future Teachers Club dedicated the chapter in memory of Adam Cox. The "Jazz Café" a collaborative effort of the music and art departments on May 7<sup>th</sup> was extraordinary. While students performed a wide variety of musical offerings, student art work from the across the system was professionally exhibited in the Romasco Gym. Both drew a large number of parents, grandparents, students, faculty and community members.

The state and national fiscal crisis significantly influenced the development of the FY 2010 budget. Declining state revenues and reduced local receipts all contributed to another difficult budget process across town and school departments. School departments across the state and the country were relieved that new federal stimulus monies from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) offset state education aid cuts eliminating staff reductions.

The Class of 2009 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. Alissa Raskauskas was honored at the Annual Scholars Luncheon by the Worcester County Superintendents' Association for her many achievements at Sutton High School.

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, one hundred (100) diplomas were awarded to the Class of 2009. Ninety-two percent (92%) of the class is continuing their education at two or four-year institutions. Once again parents and staff coordinated many special activities for the graduating class.

As the school year ended we bid farewell and a long, happy and healthy retirement to two of the district's physical education teachers Barbara Wrenn and Jan Boule who together represented nearly sixty years of service to Sutton schools and several generations of students. Also in June, Kelly Whittier, middle school math teacher was honored by the Blackstone Valley Superintendents' Collaborative for her innovative Math Camp and, frankly, for simply being an outstanding teacher in the district.

Once again, the School Department's fiscal year ended with a balanced budget.

In late April I informed the School Committee and the community of my intention to retire from the school system at the end of the 2009-10 school year which will be my fifth year as Sutton's superintendent.

I close this Annual Report by extending my appreciation to the parents, PTOs, Sutton Education Foundation, athletic booster groups, and area businesses and other 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. You are the best!

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

## Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report

### Life-long Educational Journey Strengthened via Valley Tech

Success begins with knowledge and skill. At Valley Tech, the opportunity for students to refine both knowledge and skill is central to our mission and defines our purpose.

As high school students face the challenges of entering a complex global workforce environment, they must learn and understand complex academic concepts and develop sophisticated life and career skills. Our ever-changing and technologically advanced world requires talented and dedicated employees who are equipped to problem-solve and communicate effectively and to continually learn on the job.

A recognized leader in educational innovation, the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District, generously supported by its citizenry, prepares students for success in career and college or other advanced training. Creating more motivated and high achieving students, career technical education has garnered tremendous attention recently – especially as practiced at Valley Tech – because the vocational education system links academic learning with practical, real world applications and promotes a life-long learning approach that is so vital for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

By embracing change rather than clinging to the past, your vocational technical system constantly seeks curricular and facilities improvement to provide expanded learning opportunities. Implementing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills training, a rigorous academic curriculum, and vibrant extracurricular activities is the formula that has proven to lead to success.

Valley Tech students, staff and administrators had many noteworthy accomplishments during Fiscal Year 2009 (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009). The following pages highlight the progress and samples of achievements earned during that period.

## **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 its member 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**

For more than 15 years, it has been my pleasure to serve as the superintendent-director of your vocational technical system. During that time, we have experienced tremendous growth, not only within our Upton-based facility, but in our approach to educating students. The overall success of our staff and students most assuredly reflects the type of delivery you expect.

The yearly commitment you make to our students and their education is met with great appreciation and a burning desire to exceed your expectations. As the year culminated with a celebration of the impressive and lengthy career of retiring principal Richard Brennan and our system welcomed a new administration under incoming principal Christopher Cummings, we remain tireless in our efforts to use your financial and contributory support to prepare a growing student population for the challenges they will face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.

In addition to my responsibilities as superintendent-director of Valley Tech, it is also an honor to represent vocational technical education and this District in multiple regional, state, and national capacities. As education reform draws greater attention, career technical systems like Valley Tech are in the spotlight for the return on investment stakeholders expect.

Last spring, Valley Tech and its students were prominently featured by WBUR, the Boston radio affiliate of National Public Radio. The station's three-month long series, *Project Dropout*, focused on the methods and approaches school systems use to lower student dropout rates. Valley Tech, with one of the lowest dropout rates in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, provided national listeners with examples of how to engage students as they work toward their diplomas. The radio program was just one example of how the mainstream and local media monitor and report on Valley Tech.

During the past year, we continued to increase our overall student enrollment responding to the need for quality vocational technical education in the Blackstone Valley. We also aggressively pursued additional non-taxpayer revenues to enhance student learning opportunities. During these challenging economic times, we continue to seek alternative ways to reduce and complement member town assessments.

We hope that you take pride in the numerous achievements of our students and staff. Thank you for your interest in our 2009 Annual Report and best regards,

Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick  
*Superintendent-Director*

## Valley Tech Builds Upon a Foundation of Success

Not content with accolades earned in recent years for dramatic improvements to our campus, Valley Tech embraces change and continues to build upon a solid foundation of success. Seeking to maximize space usage and upgrade learning areas, crews worked vigorously throughout the summer of 2008 to refine and enhance an already modern facility.

Though the building underwent a \$36 million expansion and renovation project from 2003-2006, increasing demand in certain trade areas and workforce environment changes in others influenced the need for refinements to Valley Tech's approach. In addition to the preventative maintenance on safety systems and the annual scheduled upkeep of the entire campus, alterations in several of the vocational technical learning areas were accomplished for the 2008-09 school year.

Utilizing in-house talent and available funding, Valley Tech relocated and expanded its Plumbing department, built new training walls and stalls for Electrical, and relocated and enhanced the Painting and Design Technologies program. As the changing global workplace generates new workforce preparation demands, we remain committed to affording students the best possible learning environment and will continue to modify and enhance instructional space to adapt to constantly evolving expectations.

In line with this goal to respond effectively to workforce demands, and reacting to well documented needs of the health care industry, Valley Tech worked diligently and cooperatively with state officials toward the establishment of a post-secondary Licensed Practical Nurse program. After conducting a site survey following several months of preparation by Valley Tech staff, the Board of Registration in Nursing of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health determined the vocational technical system had the ability to establish the program, and granted approval for a September 2009 opening.

Valley Tech received initial grant funding through the state for implementation of the program. State Representatives John Fernandes (D-Milford), Jennifer Callahan (D-Sutton), George Peterson (R-Grafton) and State Senator Richard Moore (D-Uxbridge) assisted Valley Tech in its efforts to launch what promises to be a highly successful and much-needed training program.

## A Model of Academic and Technical Excellence

The Massachusetts vocational technical education model has received significant attention in recent years as education researchers and state policy makers note that the achievement gap between vocational and comprehensive high schools has closed by 27 percent in the past six years. In an October 2008 publication on vocational-technical education in Massachusetts by the Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research, Valley Tech was cited for increased academic excellence, extensive programs for advancing the academic levels of students, a negligible drop-out rate, and for harnessing student expertise to extract the most value from its recent expansion/renovation project. The widely circulated white paper, which touted Massachusetts vocational-technical schools as examples of the most successful models of high school design,



called Valley Tech a pillar of excellent academic-vocational integration and described how our faculty works cohesively to merge academics and vocational training by emphasizing reading, writing, and math skills across the academic and vocational curricula.

Your career and technical system was also featured in a seminar hosted by the Illinois Business Roundtable on “Taking High School Reform to Scale in Illinois” during which the superintendent-director served as an invited panelist and provided insight into the successful Valley Tech approach. That approach has also been credited with influencing the direction of a new career and technical facility in Providence, Rhode Island, and will substantially impact a 2009 accreditation review of an international school in Kuwait.

Valley Tech was considered for a national, longitudinal research project by the Office of Vocational and Adult Education of the U.S. Department of Education. Two researchers from Washington, D.C., applauded the work being done by our staff in enabling students to achieve life-long learning. The Cadmus Group, Inc., an energy efficiency consulting firm with six major offices across the country including Watertown, Mass., has done a long-term study of Valley Tech as a “Green School.” Technicians and researchers visited the school several times to gather information and data for its study.

By constantly evaluating and revising our curriculum, we seek to increase academic rigor and provide more sophisticated training to give our students an advantage in the workplace. Expectations for our students are high, which is stressed to them from their first day as freshmen. Students respond as evidenced by our dropout rate, which is one of the lowest in the state. As reported on National Public Radio, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education figures showed Valley Tech with just a 0.9 percent dropout rate for 2008. That compares to the state average of 9.9 percent.

For the Class of 2008, Valley Tech tied for the seventh highest graduation rate among district high schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Valley Tech’s four-year graduation rate was 97.2 percent, trailing only Dover-Sherborn (99.3), Wayland (98.7), Longmeadow (98.5), Manchester Essex Regional (97.6), Hadley (97.6) and Weston (97.3). Lenox’s rate was also at 97.2. Additionally, while many Massachusetts school systems experienced increased absenteeism due to the new flu strain, the district’s daily student attendance rate held steady at an impressive 96 percent.

In applauding the students’ desire and focus, Dr. Fitzpatrick said: “To borrow Walt Whitman’s words, we challenge our students to finish what they start and invite each ‘voyager to sail forth to seek and to find.’ ”

While education reformers nation-wide are considering the possibility of longer school days and years, Valley Tech continues to operate with a longer school year, a practice begun in 1997. Students attend school for 193 days and staff work for 195. We believe our success is directly attributable to effective utilization of this increased learning time.

Students Showcase Their Talent

The accomplishments of Valley Tech students reflect the commitment to learning that transpires on a daily basis:

- The Class of 2009 became the sixth straight to have 100 percent of its membership reach competency determination on the state-mandated Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests.
- The Class of 2010 continued an eight-year improvement trend with an impressive 78 percent registering Advanced or Proficient on the MCAS math exam and 79 percent recording those levels on the English language arts portion. Proportionally, those in the Needs Improvement or Failing category continued to decline. Some 99.6% passed the ELA exam, 96.7 passed the Math, and 96.2 passed the new Science/Technology Engineering tests on the first administration. The scores by Valley Tech students also translate to an increase in the system's Composite Performance Index which is used to determine Adequate Yearly Progress. Systems must show AYP improvements under federal legislation.

| <b>Test Date</b> | <b>Class Year of Graduation</b> | <b>MATH Advanced or Proficient</b> | <b>MATH Needs Improvement or Failing</b> | <b>ENGLISH Advanced or Proficient</b> | <b>ENGLISH Needs Improvement or Failing</b> |
|------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Spring 2008      | 2010                            | <b>78%</b>                         | 22%                                      | <b>79%</b>                            | 21%                                         |
| Spring 2007      | 2009                            | <b>74%</b>                         | 26%                                      | <b>73%</b>                            | 27%                                         |
| Spring 2006      | 2008                            | <b>70%</b>                         | 30%                                      | <b>66%</b>                            | 34%                                         |
| Spring 2005      | 2007                            | <b>62%</b>                         | 38%                                      | <b>55%</b>                            | 45%                                         |
| Spring 2004      | 2006                            | <b>55%</b>                         | 45%                                      | <b>58%</b>                            | 42%                                         |
| Spring 2003      | 2005                            | <b>36%</b>                         | 64%                                      | <b>42%</b>                            | 58%                                         |
| Spring 2002      | 2004                            | <b>34%</b>                         | 66%                                      | <b>34%</b>                            | 66%                                         |
| Spring 2001      | 2003                            | <b>34%</b>                         | 66%                                      | <b>29%</b>                            | 71%                                         |

- For the fifth straight year, a greater number of seniors qualified for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship awarded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. With 70 members of the Class of 2009 qualifying for the scholarship, it marked the second straight class to hit the threshold of the top 25 percent of the students in the district. The scholarships, based on a

student's MCAS scores as a sophomore, provide free tuition at the state's two- and four-year colleges or the University of Massachusetts.

- With ever increasing numbers of students opting to continue their education at the post-secondary level, the total dollar value of scholarships awarded to Valley Tech seniors continues to increase. The Class of 2009 received no less than 180 awards, with a real value of greater than \$295,000.
- Another sellout crowd attended the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Superintendent's Dinner, a seven-course gourmet meal planned and prepared by the Culinary Arts students, staff and alumni. The annual extravaganza provides funds for various student initiatives. The dinner is a major undertaking with major contributions from several vocational technical programs including Painting and Design Technologies, Carpentry, Electronics, Graphics Communications and HVAC/R.

#### Secretary Reville, Community Groups, SkillsUSA on Campus

Secretary of Education Paul Reville took time from a full schedule of appearances to visit Valley Tech and address students on the pending reforms of education in the Commonwealth. A longtime supporter of public education, Secretary Reville chose Valley Tech as a place to deliver an overall view of the future of education.

"This is a special place," Secretary Reville said of Valley Tech. "This is an innovative, exceptional and exciting school, and it's an honor to be able to talk with students here. With the talented leadership at this school, you have the ability to seize a wonderful learning opportunity."

Secretary Reville said that the initiatives in place at vocational technical schools like Valley Tech should be considered for implementation in other systems as part of the overall vision that the Readiness Schools Plan seeks to provide.

Valley Tech continued to serve as a valuable community resource as the campus was the host site for numerous area events, notably including the Upton Woman's Club Annual Fall Fair, the Milford Area Chamber of Commerce Business Expo, a Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission meeting, and the Upton Men's Club Fourth of July fireworks festival. The district was awarded a Corridor Star Award for its contributions to the National Heritage Corridor.

SkillsUSA Massachusetts is New England's largest educational organization, providing opportunities for students to develop leadership and teamwork skills through education, training, service and competition. Valley Tech was recruited, for the third straight year, to host the annual state championships for more than 640 students competing in some 50 vocational technical trade and employment contests. The students vied for places in the national championships.

We were pleased to again partner with Milton-CAT of Milford and the Upton Highway Department for two contests. The Milton-CAT facility has proven ideal for Diesel Equipment

Technology participants to undergo technical written and practical tests. The Upton Highway Department hosted the Brick Masonry competition.

In partnership with a vast number of businesses and industries, the SkillsUSA championships and conference have evolved into a multi-million dollar event with major non-tax support and donations.

### Taking the Challenge to a National Level

At the prestigious national SkillsUSA championships in Kansas City, Missouri, more than 5,000 students competed in 91 trade and technical fields. Valley Tech represented Massachusetts with thirteen students competing in eight contests and recorded podium finishes for the sixth time in seven years.

Valley Tech won four gold medals – one individual plus a three-person team. Katelyn Christiansen of Uxbridge won a gold medal in Dental Assisting, while the Community Service Team of Lindsay Melanson (Milford), Nicole Onanian (Uxbridge) and Jacob Elliott (Uxbridge) captured the top prize for their Community Service Team project and presentation. The Valley Tech Entrepreneurship Team of Brooke Bibeault (Uxbridge), Robert Caouette (Blackstone), Amanda Small (Uxbridge) and Courtney Soter (Sutton) secured bronze medals. At the state championships, additional students won gold medals and earned national qualifying berths: Scott LeBlanc (Grafton) in Automotive Refinishing Technology; Jason Lewis (Mendon), Diesel Equipment Technology; Anna O'Donnell (Douglas), Food and Beverage Service; Rebecca Tober (Millville), Office Computer Applications; and Maria Cassidy (Uxbridge), Related Technical Math. Scott LeBlanc finished fifth in the nation as a sophomore.

### Valley Tech Teams in Winner's Circle

The Valley Tech Team 61 Shifters displayed their creative thinking and engineering talents by capturing first place at the U.S. FIRST Robotics Boston Regional Competition. The Shifters were nearly perfect (8-1) en route to their first-place showing at the popular competition featuring teams comprised of secondary and post-secondary students. The Shifters went on to compete successfully in the Connecticut Regional, and finished in the top-20 at the national championships in Atlanta. Valley Tech received major support from EMC of Hopkinton and Foster-Miller of Waltham for its competitions.

The robot Valley Tech uses to compete is annually constructed as an integrated project across several vocational technical programs. Drafting students design and engineer the parts, while the Manufacturing Technologies students manufacture them. Carpentry students assist with the base and design prototypes. Electronics helps with the wiring and Auto Body paints various parts. Information Technology assists with programming issues and Graphic Communications designs and prints team T-shirts.

With a greater global emphasis on science and technology, what better way for middle school aged students to learn than through the intensity and fun of hands-on contests? That was the case for hundreds of students at the ninth annual FIRST LEGO League Competition at Valley Tech.

A full field of 64 teams competed in the FIRST qualifying event, during which students, aged 9-14, from across the Northeast had their science, technology, and robotics knowledge and skill tested to the limits. The full day of matches was highlighted by the Sharon A team defeating the Dover Rovers in the final.

On the fields, courts, fairways, and rinks, Valley Tech athletic teams are a force in the Colonial Athletic League. Once a rare event, postseason appearances by the Beavers are becoming routine. Overall, Valley Tech teams continue to combine to win nearly 70 percent of their regular season contests, an accomplishment which has earned the school the *Boston Globe* Markham Award for two consecutive years. This award is presented each year to the vocational technical school with the highest athletic win percentage in the state. Participation of students climbs each season and on any given afternoon the campus is abuzz with interscholastic activity. As the system seeks to expand athletic opportunities with limited financial resources, student-athletes are asked to support their teams through a myriad of fund-raising activities.

The following students from Sutton, listed alphabetically, were members of the Class of 2009 who graduated in June (National Honor Society members are indicated by NHS): Christopher M. Bagley, Information Technology; Timothy E. Bathgate, Auto Body; Ryan M. Bettencourt, Automotive Technology; James R. Campanale, Business Technology; Alyssa B. Clark, Health Services; Kathryn E. Fant, Cosmetology; Rebecca L. George, Business Technology; Maria C. Hickenbottom, Graphic Communications; Joshua M. Joubert, HVAC/R; Casey D. Kelley, Information Technology; Christopher J. Lisk, Auto Body; Anthony C. Mikelonis, Plumbing; Lucas W. Nydam, HVAC/R; Matthew J. O'Loughlin, Culinary Arts; Christopher T. Otto, Electronics; Corey J. Patterson, Electronics; Jacob D. Radzik, Electrical; Jeffrey S. Stafinski, Electrical.

### Numbers Reflect Success

In an atmosphere of 21<sup>st</sup> Century rigor, the success of our student body is measured by 100% competency determination, high career placement rates, and solid college matriculation rates for our graduates. This in turn justifies our stakeholders' confidence that Valley Tech is succeeding in its mission to prepare the students of Blackstone Valley with a world class education.

Mindful of the uncertain economic climate, Valley Tech held its FY09 total member town assessment increase to 3.93 percent. The District's FY09 total operating budget was \$18,094,750. Chapter 70 Aid contributed \$6,462,753 and Minimum Contributions from the 13 member towns totaled \$7,306,124.

In the operating budget outside state-mandated net school spending areas, the District budgeted \$273,452 for transportation costs, \$154,600 for acquisition of fixed assets and \$691,760 for retiree medical coverage. 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 costs. This investment provided the fiscal support to respond to the diverse learning needs of a student population that grew by five percent over FY08 and again in FY09 and FY10.

In response to weakening economic forecasts and lower than expected tax collections, the Commonwealth was forced to reduce the District's Chapter 70 allocation by \$759,526; however, those funds were completely restored with funding from ARRA (American Recovery & Reinvestment Act), also known as stimulus funds. Given the ongoing fiscal constraints and the likelihood of a continued economic slump, the District continues to search out greater efficiencies in its staffing patterns, supply purchases, technology upgrades, and contractual service requirements. Bolstered by prudent budget management practices, the District utilized an unreserved fund balance of \$285,000 to offset the towns' actual assessments. Additionally, the District secured funds to purchase vocational equipment and other fixed assets through private donations of \$8,300.

Throughout the 2008-09 school year, officials reduced expenditures in order to develop an FY10 budget proposal which reflected an overall increase of just 1.99 percent, despite a 5.6% increase in students. The FY10 budget was closely scrutinized by some 120 finance committee members across the district and unanimously approved by all district member towns.

| <b>BUDGETED REVENUES</b>        | <b>Original</b>   | <b>Adjusted</b>   | <b>Actual</b>     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Member Town Assessments:        |                   |                   |                   |
| Minimum Contribution            | 7,306,124         | 7,306,124         | 7,306,124         |
| Transportation (Over State Aid) | 273,452           | 273,452           | 273,452           |
| Capital Equipment               | 154,600           | 154,600           | 154,600           |
| Retiree Medical                 | 691,760           | 691,760           | 691,760           |
| Additional Contribution         | 594,329           | 594,329           | 594,329           |
| Debt Service                    | <u>683,857</u>    | <u>683,857</u>    | <u>683,857</u>    |
| Total Member Assessments        | 9,704,122         | 9,704,122         | 9,704,122         |
| State Aid:                      |                   |                   |                   |
| Chapter 70 - Regional Aid       | 7,222,279         | 7,222,279         | 6,462,753         |
| Transportation Reimbursement    | <u>749,686</u>    | <u>749,686</u>    | <u>783,849</u>    |
| Total State Aid                 | 7,971,965         | 7,971,965         | 7,246,602         |
| Other Revenue Sources:          |                   |                   |                   |
| Miscellaneous Income            | 168,663           | 168,663           | 181,338           |
| Unreserved Fund Balance         | <u>250,000</u>    | <u>250,000</u>    | <u>250,000</u>    |
| Total Other Revenues            | 418,663           | 418,663           | 431,338           |
| <b>GRAND TOTALS</b>             | <u>18,094,750</u> | <u>18,094,750</u> | <u>17,382,062</u> |

### Retirement Brings Leadership Change

Following a highly successful 35-year career at Valley Tech as a teacher, coach, and administrator, Assistant Superintendent-Director/Principal Richard Brennan retired from his leadership position at the end of the 2008-2009 school year.

Prior to his tenure as principal from 2001-2009, Mr. Brennan served as a math and science teacher from 1974-95, including several years as the Team Leader of the Math department. He was awarded Teacher of the Year in 1986. He then moved into the role of Assistant Principal/Dean of Students for six years (1995-2001) before being named principal. Mr.

Brennan's other roles at Valley Tech included President of the Teachers' Association and various coaching positions, including 20 years as head coach of the track and field team, and 16 years as cross country coach.

Christopher Cummings, a Bellingham resident and former Assistant Principal at Ashland High School, was named to replace Mr. Brennan. Mr. Cummings previously served as a vice principal at St. Raphael Academy in Pawtucket, RI, and St. Mary's Junior-Senior High School in Lynn. He also taught at one of Valley Tech's sister vocational schools, Tri-County Regional in Franklin, for five years.

In the spring of 2009, the Valley Tech Family was saddened by the death of beloved staff member Ed Waters. Mr. Waters was an accomplished golfer and coach of the Valley Tech golf team that won numerous championships. He also coached basketball and was the roaring "Voice of the Beavers" at all of the Valley Tech football games. The school community gathered to remember him in an uplifting memorial service held in the Competition Center and a scholarship fund has been established in his memory.

#### Researching and Earning Alternative Funding Awards

Throughout Dr. Fitzpatrick's tenure, Valley Tech has aggressively pursued alternative sources of funding through public and private grants or donations, competitive monetary awards, and available rebates. These dollars support greater learning, programs, and services for students, and also assist in reducing member town assessments. Grants and supplemental funding secured during this year include:

| <u>GRANT/FUNDING TITLE</u>                              | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Academic Support Services                               | \$ 21,100     |
| Blissful Meadows Company Open                           | 4,000         |
| BV Chamber - Manufacturing & Technology Education       | 4,400         |
| BV Chamber – Project S.M.I.L.E.                         | 500           |
| EMC – Robotics Sponsorship                              | 10,000        |
| Foster-Miller – Robotics Sponsorship                    | 20,000        |
| Hopedale Foundation                                     | 4,762         |
| Laboratory Robotics Interest Group                      | 2,000         |
| Milford Federal Savings & Loan Association              | 3,500         |
| Milford Regional/DPH School Based Health Center Funding | 25,000        |
| New England Dairy Council                               | 2,256         |
| Perkins Occupational Ed./Vocational Skills              | 149,599       |
| SPED Entitlement                                        | 253,278       |

|                                                                              |             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| SPED Program Improvement                                                     | 3,344       |
| Title I                                                                      | 89,596      |
| Title IIA - Educator Quality                                                 | 25,282      |
| Title IID - Technology                                                       | 1,196       |
| Title IV - Safe & Drug Free                                                  | 3,347       |
| Valley Tech Ed. Foundation Mini-Grants: Project S.M.I.L.E.,<br>Aviation Club | 2,000       |
|                                                                              | <hr/>       |
| TOTAL GRANTS/AWARDS:                                                         | \$625,160   |
| ARRA Federal Stimulus Funding                                                | \$759,526   |
|                                                                              | <hr/>       |
| TOTAL SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING:                                                  | \$1,384,686 |

The system also positioned itself to be eligible for potential additional ARRA funding by submitting applications for ‘shovel-ready’ projects aligned with federal goals to increase environmental awareness and reduce dependence on foreign oil. We look forward to the possibility of establishing a Central Massachusetts Renewable Energy Training Center should federal start-up funds be made available for this proposed new post-secondary partnership with area community colleges and workforce training organizations.

#### School Committee Provides Guidance

Thirteen devoted individuals, whose expertise is invaluable to overseeing the operations of the District, comprise our School Committee. Elected to four-year terms, members allot endless hours toward defining and improving the District. Their experience base from an array of industry occupations is beneficial to the betterment of Valley Tech.

Michael D. Peterson, Mendon  
*Chairman*

Gerald M. Finn, Millville  
*Vice Chairman*

Daniel L. Baker, Uxbridge  
*Secretary*

Paul M. Yanovitch, Hopedale  
*Assistant Treasurer*

Joseph M. Hall, Bellingham  
William J. Pontes, Blackstone  
John C. Lavin, III, Douglas  
Anthony M. Yitts, Grafton  
Arthur E. Morin, Jr., Milford  
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*