Town of Suffield Annual Report

SUFFIELD, CONNECTICUT

July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

*Summary Version
With Highlights of Our Agricultural Roots
**Growing Wisely**

There is great concern over the continued growth of Suffield. As more and more residential developments are built, we are faced with decreased open space and farmland.

We have responded to these concerns with our continued support of farmland and open space preservation efforts. The Town has maintained strong relationships with the State and Federal Government who assist with these preservation efforts. These efforts will allow us to retain the rural, historical and agricultural character of our community.

Aside from purchasing development rights of farms, Suffield has also continued to lease Town-owned open space to supplement the supply of farmland available to local farmers.

Population growth in Suffield also translates into expanding space needs for community services. In addition to the continued efforts for accommodating the needs of the Kent Memorial Library, we completed a Space Needs Study this year to evaluate the future requirements of all our Town departments. Within this report, various options and efforts are discussed in detail.

This year substantial resources were also invested in our technology infrastructure to promote more efficient government and better communication with townspeople.

Significant time was devoted to a review and revision of our Code.

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**Board of Selectmen Goals**

- Preserve open space, farms and historical assets
- Support excellent educational opportunities
- Deliver responsive town services
- Promote public safety and homeland security
- Support well-planned residential and recreational areas
- Maintain existing infrastructure needs and plan for the future
- Diversify economic base including industrial development near Bradley International Airport
- Upgrade technology so that town officials can communicate and operate more efficiently
- Manage financial resources responsibly, and
- Strengthen and nurture citizen participation
of Ethics. This document will be presented at a Town Meeting in the upcoming year.

The Annual Report also describes exciting business expansion and community enhancements. From our industrial parks to our town center and out to the lake areas. These improvements show our strong commitment to economic development as well as maintenance of our natural beauty.

Our efforts to diversify our economic base are simultaneous to the implementation of conservative budgeting practices. This has allowed us to maintain the Town of Suffield’s AA debt rating, while providing for our educational and service needs. We refinanced our debt for the new high school and other school renovations, saving taxpayers more than a half million dollars.

The following pages summarize our efforts this year. The entire text of each report can be found at www.suffieldtownhall.com.

These accomplishments reflect the cooperation between many individuals: employees and volunteers, elected and appointed. Each is a root from which our growth is nourished.

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, thank you all.

Scott Lingenfelter
First Selectman

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Development Rights

The purchase of development rights is one of the most efficient and effective farm-protection options available to the Town of Suffield and farmers.

This requires government to make a one-time payment to property owners in exchange for a permanent agricultural-protection easement on their land, thus restricting future nonagricultural use of properties. Farmers continue to hold title to their property, maintain Chapter 490 (reduced) tax status, and may lease or sell their land for farming.

Over the past several years, the Town has formed strong alliances with the Federal (USDA) and State Departments of Agriculture. They understand Suffield’s commitment to farmland preservation, and are willing and able to partner with us to protect farmland.

By partnering with the State and Federal governments, the cost to the Town to preserve farmland under this program is $2K to $3K per acre - a minor expense when compared to municipal costs associated with providing schools, roads, and other Town services to residential development on these parcels. In addition, it helps assure that Suffield maintains its rural character.

The sale of development rights provides landowners with a significant source of capital to improve or diversify a farm operation, purchase additional land, pay off debt, offer an inheritance to non-farming children, or meet family financial needs without having to sell some or all of their land.

To qualify for the CT Farmland Preservation Program, the property must be actively farmed, include at least 30 acres of cropland, and have a high percentage of prime or important agricultural soils. If you are interested in exploring a development rights purchase, please contact Ray Wilcox, Chairman of the Open Space Subcommittee of the Heritage Committee at 668-5739.

AGRICULTURAL PHOTOS

For Suffield “growing wisely” means preservation of natural resources, farms and historical assets while building residential, commercial, and municipal properties to meet the needs of our townspeople in the 21st century.

Throughout this publication are photographs centered around the agricultural base on which Suffield was founded. From dairy farms, tobacco barns and vegetables to nursery stock, turf farms and Christmas trees, Suffield’s soil continues to be at the root of its economy. In addition to photographs taken by John Smith, some photographs in this report were part of the “Suffield, A Town of Farms” photo exhibit sponsored by the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society, Friends of the Farm at Hilltop, and the Suffield Council for the Arts and are used with their permission.
Administration

**Town Clerks Statistics**

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<td>Births</td>
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<td>Deaths</td>
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</table>

**TOWN CLERK**

The Town Clerk’s office is the official records and licensing office for the Town of Suffield. All land records, minutes of boards and commissions, and vital records are kept on file here. Trade name certificates, state liquor permits, Notary Public certificates, and veterans’ discharge records are also filed in this office.

Town Clerk Elaine O’Brien reminds everyone that all the Clerk’s records are open to the public, except birth and veterans’ records which are confidential.

The following items are available in the Clerk’s office:

- **Dog licenses**: These are due annually during the month of June. The fee is $19, or $8 if the animal is neutered. The dog must have a current rabies certificate.
- **Sport licenses**: These are issued for the calendar year and are available beginning in December.
- **Marriage licenses**: These may be obtained either the town in which you live or the town where the ceremony will take place. The cost is $30.
- **Voter registration forms**
- **Absentee ballots**

**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**

The federal government has banned the use of lever voting machines. The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) issued an advisory opinion stating that lever voting systems have significant barriers that make compliance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) difficult and unlikely. If this advisory opinion is binding, municipalities will have to replace all their lever machines.

Suffield is waiting for the Secretary of the State’s decision on what equipment will be accepted for use in Connecticut.

Meanwhile, Suffield registrars continue to update, revise, and purge the local voter registration lists to maintain as accurate and current a list as is possible.

The registrars use the USPS National Change of Address system (NCOA), the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) records, the Town’s property transfer lists, the Town Clerk’s records of deaths, obituaries from the Hartford Courant, and felony conviction notices from the courts to make adjustments to the voter files.

To avoid duplicate registrations, changes are registered with other Connecticut towns. Cancellations notices are sent to all states in which newly registered Suffield voters have previously voted. Where discrepancies appear, voters are sent notices.

The Department encourages voter registration with an informational program at Suffield High School. Informational packets are also sent out to all new Suffield residents listed on the property transfer lists.

At year end, there were 7,601 Active Registered Voters in Suffield. This reflects 431 new electors and 749 changes to voter registration records. 834 voters were removed from the active voter list during this fiscal year.

On November 8, 2005, municipal elections were held in Suffield. Names were placed on the ballot in an order determined by a lottery. Voter turnout was 43 percent.

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Republicans</th>
<th>Democrats</th>
<th>Unaffiliated</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<td>7,601</td>
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**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

The Information Technology (IT) Department works to standardize the technology environment of all Town departments in an effort to improve organizational effectiveness and customer satisfaction. In the short term, the goal of the IT Committee and the IT Department translates into improved efficiency and speed; the long term plan is further implementation of the diverse capabilities of the fiber-optic network.

This year marked the successful installation of the fiber-optic phone system bringing the availability of voice mail to Town offices in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The Town’s website has been transformed to allow individual departments the ability to keep their information current.

The IT Committee has been evaluating the e-mail system, the network configurations and disaster recovery plan for implementing improvements.

William Crowley assumed his new role as Director of Human Resources for the Town of Suffield in December 2005. He returned to Suffield with over twenty years of experience in human resources and financial management.
Planning & Development

INDUSTRIAL PARKS
The final lot in Mach One Industrial Park was sold this year. Following approval by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, the 2.58-acre lot was sold to MLM Properties, LLC for $40,000. Economic and Development Commission (EDC) Chair Howard Orr pointed out that this represents Suffield’s first industrial spec building. He continued that the MLM project will help diversify the Suffield tax base and provide added jobs within the community.

Across from Mach One, Marketsure completed a new 50,000 s.f. warehouse in Phase I of the Market Research Park. A substantial addition to this new building is planned for Phase II. Approvals for the addition are expected to be sought in the upcoming fiscal year.

The Town continued to work with Pearson, a western Massachusetts developer, on the potential sale of 63-acres of town-owned land for a new planned industrial park.

Also during this fiscal year, a wood pellet distribution company completed a 13,780 s.f. building on Winter Drive.

A major renovation at 1160 South Street was finished, upgrading this 24,000 s.f. structure with a new roof and new windows. Cargo Zone/BDL occupies part of this building while freight forwarder, Panalpina, Inc., has entered into a lease for 5,000 s.f. of the property.

Chairman Orr reported that the EDC worked closely with the Zoning and Planning Commission on a zoning amendment that cleared the way for approval of a 7,800 s.f. building on Austin Street to be used as a contractor’s yard.

As is obvious from this business development activity, Bradley International Airport and access to Route 20 and I-91 are prime drivers for economic development in Suffield. To foster this growth the Town continues to participate in the Bradley Development League (BDL), an economic development partnership with Windsor, Windsor Locks and East Granby. BDL developed a trade show booth this year and promoted the area with articles and advertisements in the New England Real Estate Journal.

Another important relationship for the EDC is with the Suffield Chamber of Commerce. EDC staff attends the Chamber’s monthly Board of Directors’ meetings, and they have partnered on several projects.

TOWN CENTER
The Heritage Committee together with the EDC has made significant steps forward in the revitalization of the Town Center.

With a goal to improve public safety, calm traffic, enhance business, improve the pedestrian network and add aesthetic features, the following initiatives were undertaken:
• Reviewed the 1 Mountain Road (formerly 5 High Street) office building development;
• Reviewed proposed signage for the Foodbag and the Mountain Road Marketplace;
• Coordinated a site visit by the Connecticut Main Street Program to help analyze the Town Center’s strengths and weaknesses;
• Strategically planned for future Town Center enhancements; and
• Reviewed current municipal space needs in light of traditional Main Street principles and made recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

Bids for construction of the Town Center Project, received in July 2005, were higher than the available funds. Thus the project was scaled down; an additional $200,000 was requested from the Town to augment the $900,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Grant and $100,000 in private donations. Finally, C. J. Fucci was awarded the construction contract with the bid of $887,396.

Construction got underway in April. The scope of the construction...
Two Suffield businesses, Trend 2000 and Big Red’s Computer Services, relocated into the Mountain Road Marketplace.

The EDC continued to sponsor the Suffield Farmers’ Market on the Green.

Just beyond the Town Center, the Helena Bailey Spencer Tree Fund and the Val Gallivan Fund Committee reported funding beautification projects on North Main Street and on Mountain Road. Over $7,000 from the funds were used for trees along the roads.

Within the Historic District along Main Street, the Historic District Committee (HDC) Chair William Moncrief noted the “lovely and significant repairs to ...houses and barns and outbuildings.”

The HDC evaluated 20 applications for Certificates of Appropriateness this past year. Moncrief noted that some repair work, such as painting and planting, did not require applications from his Commission, but that “substantial and excellent work” had been performed in these areas to restore and preserve the material fabric of the District.

The Historic District Committee also spent considerable time this year considering the appropriate use of replacement windows and the acceptance of new siding materials in certain circumstances.

Discussions also were held on the historical and architectural significance of the current library building, as the Town considers options to resolve the space and ADA issues of the Kent Memorial Library.

LAND PRESERVATION

The Heritage Committee also reported a productive year in the preservation of agricultural lands. A coordination of their efforts with State and federal officials concluded the transaction on the development rights on the 109-acre Allen Farm.

Applications were submitted to the Connecticut and the Federal Departments of Agriculture for four Suffield farms. Three were approved as possible candidates for the purchase of development rights.

Combining Suffield Open Space Funds with money from other funding sources would make the preservation of the 80-acre Zera Farm, the 91-acre Fish Farm, and the 88-acre Beneski Farm possible. If these development rights purchases are accepted by a Town Meeting, the Town will have preserved 683 acres of open land since 2001 for a total cost of approximately $6 million. Suffield’s share is $1.4 million.

In a celebration of Suffield’s agricultural heritage, the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society, the Suffield Arts Council, the Friends of the Farm at Hilltop (FOFAH) and the EDC joined together with a town-wide barn tour. Suffield, A Town of Farms, as the event was entitled, also included a photo contest with agricultural themes. Some of the photos entered in this contest are printed within this annual report.

FOFAH

The EDC coordinated with the FOFAH on their $500,000 State grant to renovate the historic dairy barn. FOFAH intends to reopen the farm as an agricultural and environmen-
tal learning center. With the help of an architectural firm, conceptual plans for the barn and specifications for Phase I of the rehabilitation are complete.

A new sewer main was constructed to service the Hilltop Farm, as well as the adjacent Culinary Institute and International College for Hospitality Management. The new sewer will allow potential new buildings on the Culinary Institute site.

LAKE AREA
A $100,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Grant was secured to renovate the historic skating rink at Babbs Beach. Citizens Restoring Congamond, a volunteer group working in partnership with the Town, used the money to purchase new windows and other building materials for the reconstruction. An application, filed to nominate Babbs Beach for the National Register of Historic Places, was approved by the State. It has been sent on to the federal government for their review.

The nearby retail plaza at Ebbs Corner has received approval for expansion.

The Conservation Commission reported the purchase of sand to expand the beach area at White’s Pond in Sunrise Park. The planned expansion will accommodate residents, who wish to use the beach while the Parks and Recreation Department has beach activities during the six weeks of summer camp. Conservation Chair Arthur Christian hoped that it would be ready for the summer season.

Bernie Pepka, Sunrise Park’s Superintendent for the past 19 years, announced his retirement. The Conservation Commission was conducting interviews to fill the position at year end and hopes to have the position filled by August 2006.

OTHER GRANTS
The EDC oversaw administration of a $650,000 Small Cities Grant for the reconstruction of First, Second and Fourth Streets. With the help of Congressman Rob Simmons, $400,000 was secured for the reconstruction on Third Street.

CONSERVATION STATISTICS
Of the 26 applications processed by the Conservation Commission, six required public hearings. The Commission collected $7,000 in revenues from applications fees and $8,000 in soil and erosion control fees.

ZONING STATISTICS
The Zoning and Planning Commission also processed 26 applications. Application fees totaled $17,770. Z&P held seven informal discussions with prospective applicants, a process which clarifies many confusing issues and processes.

After review, 456 building permits and certificates of occupancy were certified for zoning compliance.

In February 2006, Z&P instituted a Zoning Compliance Certification fee of $50 per building permit. At the end of the fiscal year, the Zoning Office had collected $4,550 in fees.

A total of $19,167 of fees-in-lieu of open space was added to the Town’s Open Space Fund.

James Taylor, Zoning Enforcement Officer, investigated 202 complaints.
Board of Education

The Suffield Public Schools has completed its first year under the leadership of Jack Reynolds as Superintendent of Schools. “We have a renewed commitment to excellence. The school community at all levels - governance, leadership and instruction - is creating a dynamic educational culture of continuous improvement that is generating ideas and improved practices,” reported Michael Smith, Board of Education Chairman.

Within this commitment to excellence, the Board of Education noted the following areas of progress:

- Revisions both curriculum and instructional techniques to address enormous changes in expectations and mandates.
- Revisions the budget process and format to encourage understanding and participation.
- Developed new highly focused instructional services for elementary students to support the diverse needs of students.
- Developed plans for organizational changes to enable greater integration of subject areas and an expanded team approach to teaching and learning.
- Explored high school reform as part of a local, state and national effort. Suffield High School is a recognized leader in several areas, particularly its Arabic studies.

As part of the school’s ten-year accreditation study and in recognition of the wider world in which graduates are being prepared to compete, SHS is exploring expansion of international student opportunities.

- Initiated the integration of new technologies at all levels of the district. Extraordinary advances were made in the availability of new technologies for all staff and students. Video conferencing is now taking place.

A safe, limited access “email, website, digital locker” system for the entire community was developed and will permit the creation of enhanced instruction processes while reducing the costs inherent in print communications. This significantly improves communication possibilities for students, staff, and families. The expansion of Suffield’s wireless environment allows Suffield schools to create instructional models that are accurate reflections of the expectations of both colleges and businesses.

Suffield’s public school system continues to demonstrate broad learning, growth and excellence in many areas. Students excelled in the arts, the sciences and agriscience. Current State tests scores can be viewed on the school website, www.suffield.org.

Athletic distinctions for the past year include the Suffield High School Girls Soccer team winning the NCCC Conference, Class M State Championship for 2005-2006, scoring a 4-1 victory in the finals against Holy Cross.

The Suffield Middle School Cross Country team competed in the 13th annual competition with the girls’ team finishing in first place and the boys team finishing in second place.
Public Safety

Public Safety can be summarized – and rightly so – with a series of statistics. However, it is interesting to note that the 2005-06 reports from our police, fire and ambulance focused on people, community partnerships and gratitude to individuals in the community and in their departments.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Michael Manzi wrote “With the assistance of the Suffield Fire Department and the Suffield Volunteer Ambulance Association, the Suffield Police Department strives to ensure Suffield is a safe place to live, work and visit. We have established our town as being one of the safest communities in Connecticut. The citizens of Suffield deserve credit for this distinction, as do the men and women of our public safety departments.”

He noted that with the growth of Suffield in many positive areas that there also has been an increase in certain types of criminal activity. His Department has addressed these situations with proper management allocation and by deploying adequate manpower levels with the resources available. The statistics reveal an increase in criminal arrests which he attributed to a “more proactive policing approach based on officer-initiated calls for service.”

Participation in community events such as Suffield on the Green, Fireman’s Carnival and the Hilltop Festival continue to be viewed as opportunities to foster community partnerships. The Police Department mentioned its continued support of the School Resource Officer, its Police Explorers Program and Golf Tournament, the senior picnic and bingo, its interaction with both Suffield Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, its Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) classes and DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) programs, and its involvement with the annual food drive as indicative of this philosophy.

As usual, the Police Department reflects a few personnel changes this year. Jeremy DePietro and Barbara Reynolds were sworn in as new officers. Officer DePietro not only brings nine years of experience on the Bridgeport Police Department to Suffield, but also his talent as one of the few certified sketch artists in Connecticut. Officer Reynolds has five years of experience with the New Milford and Wethersfield Police Departments and offers “an outstanding approach to our community policing policy,” wrote Commission Chair Richard Carmon.

Walter Gogulski was hired as a part-time Animal Control Officer and Marie Bourque joined the force as a part-time dispatcher.

In November, Lieutenant William Kuras retired from his full-time position after serving the Department for 38 years. He remains with the Suffield Police as a part-time Supernumerary Officer.

As a result of Kuras’s retirement, Sergeant Craig Huntley was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and Officer Shawn Nelson was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. These promotions from within the Department continued its efforts to maintain a solid organizational structure.

Chief Manzi expressed appreciation to all of his employees and singled out Officers Jeffrey Reynolds, Terence Antrum and Peter Osowiecki for their involvement with Suffield youth programs. In addition to the dedication and hard work he noted from the men and women under his command, Chief Manzi commended three of his ranking officers for their volunteer efforts when they joined the Suffield Rotarians in building a wheelchair-accessible deck for Carolyn Caldwell. Ms. Caldwell’s daughter had been seriously injured in an automobile accident.

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Volunteer efforts are still the backbone for both the Fire Department and the Ambulance Association.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department expressed concern that the growth of the community has increased the number of calls dramatically, while the average number of personnel responding has declined.

The Department responded to 573 calls in 2005, nearly double the under 300 average of the 1990s. The average number of people responding in that earlier time period was 9.6, while the 2005 average was 8.3.

“This trend occurred despite a variety of incentive programs, including training stipends and tax abatements, that were implemented ... to attract and retain volunteers,” writes Commission Chairman Fred Hackenyos in his report. “Firefighters, both fulltime and volunteers, must complete a significant amount of training in order to maintain their skills and certifications. Training requirements have again been expanded for 2006/2007 to comply with the National Incident Management System. Although such training is valuable,” he continues, “it increases the time commitment imposed on volunteers. Time constraints are frequently cited as the principal causal factor when members resign from the Department.”

Simultaneously, Hackenyos noted that the demographics of the department brought this personnel issue to the forefront the year with the retirement of three long-time members. John Golec, Sr., and Edward Chase retired after 50 and 49 years of service, respectively. Richard Miner ended his 35-year career with the Department with seven years as a volunteer firefighter and 28 years on the Fire Commission. Dick served as chairman for the last 20 years and has continued to be involved in his capacity as Building Committee Chairman. “The experience, wisdom and sage counsel of these three individuals will be greatly missed,” wrote Hackenyos.

John Golec, Jr., joined the Department as a fulltime firefighter in September 2005 to offset the volunteer decline. Golec has been a Suffield volunteer since 1981 and served 23 years as a firefighter/EMT for Hamilton Sunstrand. Fulltime department personnel now stand at six including the Chief.

The Fire Commission completed a study defining the personnel, capital and other resource requirements for the next 20 years. Because of the uncertainty of attracting and retaining volunteers, Commissioners struggled with personnel and staffing projections.

In the end they submitted two scenarios: one assumed that volunteer support remained at current levels and the other anticipated the continued, gradual erosion of the volunteer base. In both cases, additional fulltime firefighters will be needed to accommodate future population growth. However, in both options, volunteers continued to play a critical role, and the Suffield Fire Department is expected to remain a primarily volunteer organization through the 20-year planning horizon.
In light of the personnel projections for the Fire Department, the Commission has applied for a Federal SAFER grant.

If approved, the grant would underwrite salary and benefits for an additional firefighter for five years. The Commissioners have also applied for a $200,000 FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) grant to replace the Department’s aging self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

**SUFFIELD VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION**

The SVAA celebrated 30 years of service to the Town of Suffield. The volunteer group has grown from one ambulance, 200 calls per year and basic level care to three ambulances, one paramedic intercept vehicle, 1,500 calls per year and paramedic level care with state-of-the-art equipment.

Suffield remains one of a few Connecticut communities that offer a paramedic scholarship program and runs with volunteer as well as paid paramedics.

The Association is now able to provide paramedic-level care for 18 hours a day and is working toward providing this on a 24-hour basis.

Another goal of the SVAA is to train as many residents as possible in CPR and the use of the Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs). This goal is not a one- or two-year commitment but a long-term goal and a model for other communities.

In November 2005, Guy Henry joined the SVAA as Chief of Service. Henry comes to Suffield with an extensive EMS background, most recently as a Captain/Paramedic with the Bradley Airport Fire Department and as Assistant Chief of the East Windsor Ambulance Association.

The Association will soon move to a new 6,000-square-foot building on Bridge Street equipped with modern training facilities.

All the funding for the new SVAA headquarters has been provided through a combination of the Association’s own savings and $700,000 in donations from private sources. A $250,000 donation was received from Michael Zak, who will name the facility.

Another example of the generosity of Suffield citizens followed a December fire in the Police Department’s K-9 vehicle. Philomena “Phil” was locked in the back seat. Officer Peter Osowiecki saw the vehicle fully gulfed in flames.

Although Osowiecki rescued Phil without injury, the devastating of the fire totally destroyed the K-9 vehicle. Suffield people responded with an overwhelming effort to raise money for a new K-9 vehicle. A fund drive by the public school system, charitable donations from residents and a non-partisan fundraiser by the Democratic Town Committee raised thousands of dollars. As a result of this heart-warming community support, a fully equipped K-9 vehicle was in service on April 1, 2006.
GRANTS RECEIVED
While Suffield’s public safety departments have been overwhelmed by the depth of generosity in both dollars and time, each department works diligently to contain the costs paid by Suffield’s taxpayers for public safety. In doing so, they actively pursue grant funding.

The following were awarded:
• $57,000 FEMA Grant to the Fire Department for vehicle exhaust systems in Stations 2, 3 and 4;
• $2,500 Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) enabled the Police Department to put a new overhead emergency light system, stop sticks and a trauma bag in one of the cruisers;
• $15,000 Technology Transfer Program Grant purchased a Thermal Imaging Device for the Police Department.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT
In news about the infrastructure changes during 2005-06 fiscal year, Town Engineer Gerald Turbet reported that a December Town Meeting accepted Farmstead Lane, Melrose Lane, Pembroke Drive and Wainscot Lane as town roads.

Drainage problems on Ellison Street, the Eagle Watch subdivision and River Boulevard were analyzed as a result of severe October storms. The Ellison project was completed. The drainage system design and construction at Eagles Watch and River Boulevard as well as small drainage projects on South Grand and Halladay Avenue are one the upcoming year’s agenda.

Also on the upcoming schedule is the final stage of the Suffield Street bridge project and completion of the reconstruction of First, Second, Third, and Fourth Streets.

Final approval from the DOT (Department of Transportation) in 2005-06 opened the way for the bidding and construction of the long awaited Farmington Valley Greenway project north of Phelps Road.

Also anticipated in 2006-07 is the completion of the Stormwater Management Plan and submittal of the Part B Stormwater Permit Application. The Building Department issued 104 Certificates of Occupancy in the past fiscal year, up from 61 in the previous twelve months. However, new building permits issued and inspections by Building Official Edward Flanders dropped significantly during 2005-06, indicating a downturn in the building activity in both residential and nonresidential construction.

Public Works
Five small projects at McAlister and Spaulding Schools completed the school renovations that had dominated the work schedule of the Public Works Department for the past few years. This fiscal year marked a transition to addressing repairs and modifications of other Town-owned properties.

Repairs at several Town buildings were as result of OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) requirements. Major projects addressed DEP Department of Environmental Protection) requirements:
• Underground oil storage tanks were removed at Bridge Street School, Sunrise Park House and the Highway Garage. These tanks either exceeded the recommended life-limit or were not DEP compliant. They were replaced by internal tanks or switched to natural gas.
• The DEP requires water quality monitoring at the landfill, WPCA (Water Pollution Control Authority), the highway garage, the new fire station and six other locations. Previously three separate contractors performed this service for the town. The requirements were consolidated and sent out for bid. An annual contract was awarded to a single environmental contractor saving the Town about $20,000.
• The DEP requires water quality monitoring at the landfill, WPCA (Water Pollution Control Authority), the highway garage, the new fire station and six other locations. Previously three separate contractors performed this service for the town. The requirements were consolidated and sent out for bid. An annual contract was awarded to a single environmental contractor saving the Town about $20,000.
• Demolition of the house on the Babbs Beach property was completed to eliminate a potential hazardous situation. The asbestos problem was abated prior to demolition.
• Canopies were added to the landfill dumpsters as per DEP direction.
Department employees installed new roofs at the Copper Hill Fire Station, the Sunrise Park Pavilion and the main house at the park. A new bathroom floor was also added at the house at Sunrise Park, and the exterior of the Copper Hill Fire Station was painted. The Police Station was connected to the sewer line, and the area repaved. A secure impound area was built at the Police Station. The Department installed a new heating system and renovated the break room at the highway garage.

The interior painting of both the Police Station and the Copper Hill Fire Station were completed with the help of inmates from the Willard Cybulski Correctional Institution in Enfield. Now in its third year, the Inmate Program now matches inmate talents and experience with projects needing completion. The Town added a part-time Inmate Coordinator to transport inmates from the Enfield facility. This Coordinator also assists the Animal Control Officer whose duties were expanded to cover Windsor Locks.

In September 2005, the Public Works Department hired John Cloonan as a fulltime Facilities Manager replacing a part-time consultant. Cloonan previously held a similar position at American Saw & Manufacturing Company in East Longmeadow, Massachusetts.

Last fall, a Space Needs Study was completed. This evaluated the space needs of Town departments as well as the condition of the Town Hall, Bridge Street School, the old ambulance building, the highway garage complex, and the offices at 61 Ffyler Place. The library was not included in this study as it has been the subject of several other recent studies. The entire report of this study is available on the Town website.

With the results of this study available, selection of an architectural engineering firm is anticipated in the upcoming year to develop plans and specifications for Town Hall renovations. An ad hoc committee to address the library needs will be formed and is expected to make its recommendations by January 2007. Funding and construction for both projects is planned for fiscal year 2007-08.
WPCA
During this year, the WPCA entered into a loan agreement with the Town of Suffield to finance a plant upgrade. This loan had been previously approved at a Town Meeting, and construction of the new facilities began in the late summer of 2005.

The $5.1 million project is jointly funded by WPCA funds, Department of Corrections grant money, DEP grants, and Town reserve funds. The WPCA will make annual payments to the Town to repay the loan portion.

The upgrade will expand plant capacity from 1.5 million gallons per day to 2.3 million gallons per day. In addition, the new facilities will address the nitrogen removal requirements implemented by the Connecticut DEP in 2003. According to the CDM, the WPCA’s design firm, this upgrade should accommodate the Town’s wastewater treatment needs for the next 20 years. Construction should be complete by December 2006.

The Suffield Conference Center and Hilltop Farm were added to the sewer area this year.

A study of Pump Station #1 on Thompsonville Road and its service area is planned to address existing capacity issues.

Sewer use fees were raised by $10 for the upcoming fiscal year. The annual fee for sewers will be $190. The WPCA reported that it continues its successful effort to collect all delinquent accounts.

Social Services
The Social Services Commission oversees the efforts of the Suffield Social Worker, the Youth Services Director, the Minibus Coordinator, and the Senior Center.

During 2005-06, the minibus continued to provide transportation for Suffield residents who are physically handicapped or aged 60 and over.

Using three minibuses and one transport car, the service provided rides for doctors’ appointments, other medically related services, grocery shopping and hair appointments as well as daily transportation to Enfield Adult Rehabilitation, Enfield Dialysis, Enfield Adult Day Care and the Felician Sisters Adult Day Care. Stops at the Post Office

*Tobacco growing, harvesting and curing continue their importance in Suffield’s economy into a fourth century. (Shade tobacco photos on pg. 13; Field tobacco photos on pg. 14)*
and the drug store are also part of the regular routine.

According to Director Denise Winiarski, the minibus made 8,004 pick-ups and logged 56,298 miles, while the drivers clocked a total of 4,180 hours of road time. A grant for the North Central Area on Aging funded a second bus on the Thursday schedule. This grant also allowed more flexibility in transportation to and from the Senior Center Programs, medical appointments, and other requested town-wide transportation.

The Senior Center, now in its third year at Suffield Village, continues to increase in attendance.

“The past year was truly remarkable and busy in terms of changes to Medicare Part D and providing the very much needed counseling services through an anxious and confusing open enrollment period,” wrote Senior Center Director Paula Gemme in a review of the Center’s activities. She reported that Social Services Commission Vice Chair and CHOICES Volunteer Ernie Petkovich was invaluable in his help during this time. “Ernie went way above and beyond the call of duty for our community. He diligently applied himself to learning Medicare Part D and helped hundreds of people with Part D education, screenings and enrollments.” She continued that in the first four months of 2006, Hartford County CHOICES volunteers, counselors and staff provided direct assistance to 4,992 individuals and logged more than 3,500 hours of counseling time.

In May, the Senior Center received an Amiel P. Zak Public Service Grant. Five new computers, software and printers were purchased with the funds for its computer lab. This has enabled the Center to provide additional programs, information, and resources for senior-related topics.

Gemme reported also that the North Central Health Department had continued its grant for ACTIVE Exercise programs and added a new class, Pilates with Yoga, to their grant. This grant offers free classes to new participants and low-cost classes for returning seniors.

The Youth Services Bureau provides direct service and referral for youth who are at risk for delinquency, truancy, substance abuse, or suffering from mental health needs. Referrals
for services are received from parents, schools, police, and the youths themselves. Based in both the middle and high schools, Youth Services Director Peter Black has been involved in the creation of the Youth and School Staff advisory committee and is a member of the Suffield Juvenile Review Board and the Capital Area Substance Abuse Council. In addition to his involvement with students within the schools, Black provided services to more than 70 families during fiscal year 2005-06.

Since October 2003, the Town of Suffield has contracted with the Suffield Emergency Aid Association (EAA) to provide the citizens of Suffield with an array of social services. Services offered include Renter’s Rebate, Connecticut Energy Assistance, Meals-on-Wheels, Friendly Visitor/Friendly Shopper, and the Housing Loan Program. In addition the EAA receives and disburses funds collected in Suffield by the Salvation Army kettle to provide backpacks and school supplies to low-income students.

The agency operates the food pantry, provides preschool vision and hearing screenings, holiday baskets, and flu immunization clinics. Through the memorandum of understanding between the EAA and the Town, the agency administers the Town’s budgeted General Aid funds.

The Department offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities for many segments of the Suffield population. The youth, however, remains the largest target audience. Tween Camp, aimed for children between our youth and teen categories, was added to the roster of numerous day camps and programs this summer. It had full attendance all summer long.

An open forum in February, organized to allow residents to discuss recreational needs and ideas, brought forth other new programs. In response the Department offered pre-school opportunities in dance, music, cooking, and crafts.

With the Citizens Restoring Congamond partnership (CRC), progress continues on the Babb’s property. The private residence was razed. “This section of land is a prime location for a future community structure with a breathtaking view overlooking the lake,” writes Parks and Rec Director Wendy LaMontagne. The CRC has been busy with renovations of the roller rink. At this time the beach remains closed.

The Department secured a $36,480 DEP grant for improvements to the Windsor Locks Canal State Park Trail Project. The money will be used for general maintenance as well as the installation of benches, plantings and interpretive signs along the Connecticut River and the canal.

Much needed, Town-owned, athletic fields will be added to Suffield as part of a zoning agreement with the Stratton Farms development. These fields should be available for play in 2007.

Again, another Town department pointed out the generosity of Suffield’s family, clubs, and civic groups. Commission Chair Lou Casinghino noted that the department operates on less than one percent of the Town Budget. It stretches into a wide
variety of recreational opportuni-
ties thanks to the efforts of count-
less volunteers. Special recognition
was given in the report to the CRC,
Knights of Columbus, the Travel Soc-
cer Club, Friends of Suffield, Friends
of the Skateboard Park, and the
team coaches.

In addition to careful planning of
resources, the Suffield Parks and
Recreation Department was recog-
nized by the Connecticut Interlocal
Risk Management Agency (CIRMA)
for new and innovative risk control
initiatives for the town skate park.

KENT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
A growing population means con-
stantly expanding use of our library
facilities. The number of visitors
at the library increased by nearly
10,000 this year and interlibrary
loan activity more than doubled! The
Kent Memorial Library hosted
16 percent more meetings and
programs than in the previous fiscal
year, including a film series, mu-
sic concerts, crafts, magic shows,
story times, and regular meetings of
organizations such as the Girl Scouts
and the Historical Society. Twelve
local artists generated a great deal
of interest with their exhibits in the
gallery.

With all this growth the library
is outgrowing its current base of
operations. As work continues to
plan a new home for the library, the
Library Commission has secured a
$500,000 State grant to help fund
construction.

Circulation at first glance appears
to be lower, but this is mainly a result
of a change in the circulation peri-
ods. Previously, six different circu-
lation periods ranged from three days
to four weeks. Since last May, circu-
lation periods are either one week or
three weeks.

Another major change is our new
website (www.suffield-library.org)
designed by Kim Lord and Diane
Morse. It now includes Virtual Ref-
ence, which gives patrons refer-
ence access 24/7.

The library also started renting
books from McNaughton Com-
pany. McNaughton gives the library
multiple copies of popular reading
material that can be returned after
interest wanes.

The fiscal year saw several staff
changes as Patricia Cafferata and
Rebakah Hayes relocated to Maine,
and Danna Gauntner took a position
in Farmington.

A great deal of selected weeding
and reorganization has taken place this
year in the Juvenile Reference and
non-fiction areas. Youth Services
Head Wendy Taylor coordinated 256
children’s programs, marketed the
Summer Reading Program in the
school, and made a concerted ef-
fort to create holiday displays in the
Young Adults. The Teen Selection
Committee continues to be involved
with library choices for their age
group.

The Friends of the Kent Memorial
Library supported three Courtyard
Concerts this past year and hosted
the First Annual Books, Wine and
Jazz Celebration fundraiser in June.
Over $3,000 was raised for new
materials. Other event highlights in-
cluded a workshop and mini-concert
with Guitarist Glen Roth; Choosing a
Medicare Plan: Medicare Part D with
a representative from the office of
Congressman Rob Simmons; a pro-
gram with Elaine Kuzmeskus, author
of Connecticut Ghosts: Spirits in the
State of Steady Habits; Greg Bulter,
Suffield native involved with special
effects on Charlie and the Chocolate
Factory; and a lively Harry Potter
book discussion group.

In the official report of Library Direc-
tor James McShane, he noted with
gratitude the contributions of Bob
White, Kerry White, Bob Carroll,
Lester Smith, Meadowbrook Kennels,
Subway, River’s Edge Restaurant,
Highland Park Market, Bradley Bowl,
and Wendy’s Restaurant Co. in add-
ing special details to the variety of
programs.

Connecticut produces one pumpkin for every three of its residents;
grows one Christmas tree for every 9 of its residents; has one horse for
every 58 people; produces 222 glasses of milk for every man, woman,
and child in the state every year. Suffield alone produces more than
59,600 of those glasses per day! Connecticut is first in the US in horse
and layer (chicken) density and first in New England in tobacco acreage
and value, nursery and greenhouse sales, milk production per cow,
and Christmas tree sales. It is first per square mile in NE in silage and
hay production. “Full-time farms are fewer but much larger. Part-time
and lifestyle farms are growing and increasingly diverse.” (Dr. W. A.
Cowan, Agriculture in Connecticut 2005) With over 100 farms, Suffield
is mirroring this trend.
Financial Departments

ASSESSOR
Suffield’s 2005 Grand List increased $30,109,106 over the 2004 Grand List. This increase of 2.09% is a reflection of today’s market and results in an increase of $762,964.75 tax dollars. The town’s grand list defines the total amount of taxable real estate, personal property, and motor vehicles. Distribution of the Assessments is Residential 91%, Commercial 5% and Industrial 4%.

The Assessor’s Office is responsible for the appraisal and assessment of all real estate, personal property, and motor vehicles within the town. The office keeps track of all sales within the town and follows market trends and construction costs. Assessor Fran Keenan writes in her report: “For the convenience of our citizens, our entire database is available on the internet. It can be accessed at www.visionappraisal.com. This allows access to the assessment and sales information along with building data, total acreage and even the photo.” She reminds readers that the Assessor’s Office contains much helpful information to those buying or selling real estate, purchasing a motor vehicle, or considering moving into town.

By Connecticut State Law the Town of Suffield is required to revalue all real estate within the town as of October 2008. A revaluation is the process of conducting the data collection and market analysis necessary to equalize the property values of all properties within the town for the purpose of a fair distribution of the tax burden. This upcoming revaluation is a complete physical revaluation.

The Assessor’s Office processed and approved 147 applications for elderly or disabled tax relief. State reimbursement totaled $87,852.36. An additional $9,524.29 in State reimbursement was received for veteran’s exemptions.

Legislative changes impacting municipal assessment include Public Act 06-83 (as amended by Public Act 06-196) institutes a new tax relief program as of October 1, 2006, under which the State of Connecticut pays a portion of the property tax for certain machinery and equipment used in manufacturing and biotechnology.

TAX COLLECTOR
The fiscal year ended with a 98.3% collection rate. Tax Collector Tina Lucia reported that her office filed 103 real estate tax liens and 104 trash service liens this year. The office also had one foreclosure for two lots located on Austin Street.

BOARD OF FINANCE
Municipalities are governed by the Governmental Auditing Standards Board (GASB). This Board recently issued two Statements, GASB 43 and 45, both of which concern Other Post Employee Benefits. The Town of Suffield is required to implement the first in the upcoming fiscal year, and the latter in the 2007/08 financial statements.

GASB 43 applies to trusts which are set up to fund these benefits. GASB 45 applies to the financial statements the Town issues regarding these trusts and estimated liabilities of the benefits. To meet these new requirements the Town will be required to have actuarial valuations completed every two years to estimate the liabilities. The Statements do not require that the liabilities be funded. The RFP, Request for Proposal, has been issued for the actuarial report. The 2006/07 budget includes $500,000 to begin funding these costs.
The Board of Finance and the Town of Suffield have also been addressing the need for new Municipal Financial Software. The current system has not been efficiently managing the Town’s needs, as has been pointed out in the Auditor’s Reports during the past few years. The new system is expected to include the general ledger, accounts payable, project/grant accounting, purchasing, budgeting, account receivable/cash receipts/miscellaneous billing, capital assets, payroll, human resources, utility billing, and tax assessment/collection.

An ad hoc committee was formed to study this issue. By year end, an RFP had been issued for assistance in this task and developing an RFP for a new software system.

Each year the process of developing a Town Budget begins in late February and continues until it is passed, usually the second Wednesday in May. The Board of Finance meets weekly to review the requests presented to them by the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education. The public is welcome to attend these meetings. The Town Budget is also affected by the State of Connecticut Budget, as approximately 25% of the Town’s revenue comes from it.

The Board of Finance must find an equitable balance between the amount requested by the Selectmen, the amount requested by the Board of Education, the State’s contribution, and the ability of the residents to support the budget.

The town ended the year with revenues received in excess of budget by about $628,000. The primary surplus areas include:

- $217,000 Property Tax, Interest and Lien Fees,
- $238,000 Interest Income,
- $83,000 Current Services and Fees, and
- $48,000 Miscellaneous.

There were also $299,000 of unspent budgeted appropriations. The undesignated fund balance at the end of the year is $6,916,309 which is 16.1% of the FY 2006/07 budget.

In her report, Director of Finance Deborah Cerrato thanked everyone who assisted her during the year in these tasks with special note of appreciation to Christine Mills and Janell Wray.

**ACCE**

The major projects for 2005/06 were a town-wide telephone system, facilities/infrastructure improvements, dispatch compliance and pavement management.

Projects submitted to ACCE for the next five years totaled about $30,000,000. In addition to normal requests for equipment, technology and studies, there were requests of $26,000,000 for various town building renovations or new building and $2,000,000 for open space. This committee had the task of prioritizing the projects presented to them.

The amount approved for fiscal year 2006-07 was $2,441,000. These projects include:

- $240,000 Bridge Repairs, (less $192,000 grant reimbursement)
- $500,000 Pavement Management,
- $615,000 Public Works Projects,
- $615,000 Open Space, and
- $125,000 Technology.

**AUDITOR’S RECOMMENDATIONS**

The financial statements of the Town of Suffield were audited by Scully & Wolf, LLP, Certified Public Accountants from Glastonbury.

The audit “disclosed no instances of noncompliance” nor “any matters involving the internal control over the financial reporting and its operations” that were considered to be material weaknesses. The auditors did offer suggestions for consideration to modify and improve accounting controls and administrative practices. Some of these were recommended for change in Scully & Wolf’s previous audit.

The fiscal year 2005-06 can be best described as a year of transition. In an effort to make the recommended changes and to accommodate the mandatory Government Auditing Standards Board (GASB) changes, many different areas have been addressed. New computer software, personnel changes, and new procedures have been analyzed.

Many changes were implemented during fiscal year 2005-06, but year end statements did not reflect their use during the entire year and/or the focus was to implement the change for the 2006-07 year.

The Board of Finance Chair, Charles Watras, reports that he is pleased with the progress and the cooperation during this transition process. Most of the results will be more obvious in upcoming annual reports.

The entire text of the auditors’ report is accessible at www.suffieldtownhall.com.
### Adjusted Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Adjusted Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Property Taxes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current list</td>
<td>25,118,201</td>
<td>25,282,102</td>
<td>163,901</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplemental MV tax</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>282,912</td>
<td>(17,088)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest &amp; Fees</td>
<td>175,000</td>
<td>207,051</td>
<td>32,051</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prior years</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Property Taxes</strong></td>
<td>25,693,201</td>
<td>25,909,809</td>
<td>216,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Licenses, Permits &amp; Fines</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Dept.</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>302,518</td>
<td>2,518</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoning &amp; Planning</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>24,947</td>
<td>4,947</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoning Board of Appeals</td>
<td>3,360</td>
<td>3,080</td>
<td>(280)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police Permits</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>4,021</td>
<td>1,021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>14,174</td>
<td>2,174</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic District Fees</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**Total Licenses, Permits &amp; Fines</td>
<td>339,160</td>
<td>349,590</td>
<td>10,430</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue from Use of Money &amp; Property</strong></td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>488,138</td>
<td>238,138</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue from Other Agencies</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Telecommunications grant</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>49,048</td>
<td>(25,952)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hood Share Sec Trtmt Plt</td>
<td>240,000</td>
<td>237,925</td>
<td>(2,075)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue from Other Agencies</strong></td>
<td>315,000</td>
<td>286,973</td>
<td>(28,027)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State Grants</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PILOT, State Property</td>
<td>2,664,620</td>
<td>2,735,043</td>
<td>70,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mashantucket Pequot</td>
<td>1,229,801</td>
<td>1,580,527</td>
<td>350,726</td>
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<tr>
<td>PILOT, Vessels</td>
<td>5,656</td>
<td>5,656</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>PILOT, Mfg. Equipment</td>
<td>94,991</td>
<td>125,327</td>
<td>30,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PILOT, Disabled Tax Relief</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>8,579</td>
<td>(2,422)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans Exemption</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>8,579</td>
<td>(2,422)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elderly Tax Relief</td>
<td>63,000</td>
<td>78,804</td>
<td>15,804</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property Tax Relief</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>7,947</td>
<td>947</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridge Grant</td>
<td>560,000</td>
<td>5,286</td>
<td>(554,714)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOCIP Reimbursement</td>
<td>87,142</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(87,142)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Services</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>(59,723)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Aid Road</td>
<td>115,190</td>
<td>129,361</td>
<td>14,171</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total State Grants</strong></td>
<td>4,912,400</td>
<td>4,691,685</td>
<td>(220,715)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Federal Grants</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>41,067</td>
<td>41,067</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Education Related Revenues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition, Vo-ag</td>
<td>755,000</td>
<td>762,458</td>
<td>7,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition, Other</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>125,177</td>
<td>25,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Cost Sharing</td>
<td>4,321,431</td>
<td>4,474,280</td>
<td>152,849</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vo-Ag Grant</td>
<td>112,441</td>
<td>112,441</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Educational Grants</td>
<td>5,503</td>
<td>19,807</td>
<td>14,304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pupil Transportation</td>
<td>182,444</td>
<td>164,166</td>
<td>(18,278)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>72,467</td>
<td>72,467</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc. School Income</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>5,775</td>
<td>(4,225)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Education Related Revenues</strong></td>
<td>5,486,378</td>
<td>5,736,571</td>
<td>250,193</td>
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</table>
### Adjusted Budget vs. Actual

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line Item</th>
<th>Adjusted Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Variance</th>
<th>Favorable (Unfavorable)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Charges for Current Services</strong></td>
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### 5-Year Revenue Summary

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The family tradition of cutting your own Christmas tree is still available at several locations in Suffield.
## Expenditures

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### Library, Recreation & Parks

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### Other

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### Debt Service

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### TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

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### 5-YEAR EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>30,297,170</strong></td>
<td><strong>33,587,019</strong></td>
<td><strong>35,477,427</strong></td>
<td><strong>37,128,266</strong></td>
<td><strong>39,742,063</strong></td>
<td><strong>42,842,975</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures: 1,048,774
Adjustments for Budget to GAAP Reporting: (1,619,805)
Total Fund Balance (GAAP): 8,283,484
Designated Fund Balance (GAAP): 1,201,057
Undesignated Fund Balance (GAAP): 7,082,427
Undesignated Fund Balance as % of Total Expenditures (GAAP): 23.4%

The goat and sheep share the pasture at Cupola Hollow Farm on North Stone Street. Part-time farms in Suffield have a wide range of produce including beef cattle, goats, sheep, llamas, alpacas, rabbits, honey bees, grapes, flowers, vegetables, syrup, chickens and eggs.
### Grand List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004 Grand List</th>
<th>2005 Grand List</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Accounts</td>
<td>Net Assessments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>13,385</td>
<td>88,445,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Property</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>38,098,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate</td>
<td>5,826</td>
<td>922,636,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,049,180,969</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,079,290,075</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2005-06 Tax Collections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Tax Due</th>
<th>Total Tax Paid</th>
<th>Interest and Liens</th>
<th>Rebates</th>
<th>Transfer to Suspense</th>
<th>Uncollected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Year</td>
<td>25,792,702</td>
<td>25,593,804</td>
<td>78,198</td>
<td>34,722</td>
<td>233,620</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior Years</td>
<td>432,652</td>
<td>188,384</td>
<td>59,885</td>
<td>9,15</td>
<td>26,256</td>
<td>218,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>26,216,354</strong></td>
<td><strong>25,782,188</strong></td>
<td><strong>138,083</strong></td>
<td><strong>43,873</strong></td>
<td><strong>26,256</strong></td>
<td><strong>451,783</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Outstanding Debt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonds</td>
<td>36,313,421</td>
<td>33,336,445</td>
<td>30,462,335</td>
<td>26,806,049</td>
<td>24,252,544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>36,313,421</strong></td>
<td><strong>33,336,445</strong></td>
<td><strong>30,462,335</strong></td>
<td><strong>26,806,049</strong></td>
<td><strong>24,252,544</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Debt Services as a Portion of Total Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td>30,297,170</td>
<td>33,587,019</td>
<td>35,477,427</td>
<td>37,128,266</td>
<td>39,742,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>3,272,798</td>
<td>4,534,597</td>
<td>4,308,133</td>
<td>4,985,461</td>
<td>3,226,909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>10.80%</td>
<td>13.50%</td>
<td>12.14%</td>
<td>13.43%</td>
<td>8.12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Three large horticulture greenhouse operations and several part-time greenhouses in Suffield add to Connecticut’s ranking first in New England for nursery and greenhouse sales.
Municipal Elections

Indicates elected to the position.

First Selectman
√ Scott R. Lingenfelter R 1,786
   Eileen B. Moncrief D 1,631

Board of Selectmen
√ Douglas H. Viets R 2,080
√ Timothy J. Reynolds R 1,930
√ John G. Smith, IV D 1,678
√ Christine R. Davidson D 1,748

Board of Finance
√ Joanne M. Sullivan R 2,229
√ Charles P. Watras R 1,796
√ David R. Tagliavini R 1,895
   Mark O’Hara D 1,576

Board of Finance
2-year Term
√ Dennis A. Kreps D 1,733

Board of Finance
Alternate
√ James W. Lennon R 1,649
   Enrique Alvarez R 1,578
√ Joseph J. Sangiovanni D 1,655
√ Derek E. Donnelly D 1,639

Board of Education
√ Robert W. Eccles R 1,706
   David P. Beltramello R 1,630
√ Mary K. Roy R 1,833
√ Susan M. Clark R 2,003
   Jeanne Long D 1,481
   MaryEllen Tusnky D 1,605

Fire Commission
√ Herbert K. Smith, Jr. R 1,709
   Frederick E. Hackenyos R 1,806
   Richard W. Gemme R 1,841
   Ernest J. Begin D 1,682

Police Commission
√ John H. Zavisza, Jr. R 1,811
   Gerald N. Pleasant R 1,410
   Donald W. Miner R 1,951
   William W. Murty D 1,214
   Joseph J. Quinn, Jr. D 1,514

Board of Assessment Appeals
   John G. Permatteo R 1,569
   George J. Roebelen, Jr. R 1,601
   Christopher W. Burke D 1,583

Planning and Zoning Commission
√ Francis J. Ravenola R 1,913
   John J. Conley, Jr. D 1,756
   John P. O’Malley D 1,583

Planning and Zoning
Commission
Alternate
√ Mark D. Winne R 1,431
   Thomas W. Frenaye D 1,272

Water Pollution Control Authority
√ John S. Gifford, III R 2,085
   Donald G. Leis, Jr. D 1,766
   William J. Steinka D 1,853

Town Meetings

These summaries are furnished for convenient reference. The official minutes are available in the Town Clerk’s office.

DECEMBER 28, 2005
Acceptance of State Property Near the Enfield Bridge
The meeting voted to accept a small parcel of land on the west side of East Street North (Rte. 159) near the Enfield Bridge, offered free as long as the land was to be used for municipal or highway purposes. (The “SUFFIELD” sign occupies this parcel.)

Melrose Lane, Farmstead Lane, Pembroke Drive and Wainscott Lane
Four new subdivision roads were accepted as public roads. Melrose Lane runs southerly from Halladay Avenue East; Farmstead Lane is a U off of Melrose; Pembroke Drive runs westerly from Taintor Street; and Wainscott Lane runs westerly from South Street.

MAY 10, 2006
Annual Town Budget Meeting
The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence honoring the memory of USMC Corp. Steven Bixler, killed in the Iraq War on May 3.

The proposed Town Budget, calling for a total expenditure of $45,159,664, elicited many comments complaining that the budget was inadequate. The resolution calling for its acceptance failed (by paper ballot: 109 YES, 151 NO.).

MAY 22, 2006
Second Town Budget Meeting
A proposed Town Budget of $45,344,664, revised by the addition of $185,000 (the amount that had been removed from the Board of Education’s recommended budget), was approved by voice vote.

First Selectman Elaine Sarsynski resigned her position in July 2005 to accept a position in the private sector. This fiscal year saw two other administrative resignations. William Troy resigned his position as Superintendent of Schools. Town Planner Phil Chester resigned his position in June 2006.
TOWN OFFICIALS

ADMINISTRATION

Selectmen
Scott R. Lingenfelter, First Selectmen
Christine R. Davidson
Timothy J. Reynolds
John G. Smith, IV
Douglas H. Viets

Assessor
Frances Keenan

Town Clerk
Elaine C. O’Brien

Treasurer
Blair Childs

Tax Collector
Christine A. Lucia

Town Counsel
Edward G. McAnaney

Judge of Probate
Edward G. McAnaney

IT Committee
Ernest J. Begin
Thomas W. Frenaye
Samuel E. Johnston, Jr.
Edward D. Laprade
Timothy M. O’Connor
Deborah Howe, Director
Daniel Beaudoin, Engineer

Registrars
Darlene Burrell
Judith A. Remington

Town Historian
Lester Smith

CATV Advisory Commission
Alexander J. Fraser, Chair
Nelson A. LaMonica

Ethics Commission
Robert O. Y. Warren, Chair
Richard L. Aiken, Jr.
Thea D. Coburn
Dorothy K. McCarty
Anne F. Stagg
Ronald Birmingham, Alt.
Ronald X. Horn, Alt.

Board of Assessment Appeals
Christopher W. Burke
Shirley Harrison
George J. Roebelen, Jr.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Town Planner
Philip S. Chester

Conservation Commission
Arthur P. Christian, Chair
Glenn A. Neilson, Vice Chair
Barbara F. Chain
Thomas J. Heffernan
John M. Leahey
Robert R. Roberts
Raymond R. Wilcox
Susan A. Mack, Alt.
Margot M. Roesberg, Alt.
Bernard Pepka, Park Supt.

Town Forest Commission
Abigail F. Wolcott, Chair
Arthur M. Sikes

Economic Development Commission
Howard W. Orr, Jr., Chair
Charles T. Alfano, Jr.
Russell T. Cobb
Susan M. Thorner
Roger F. Tracy
Brian R. Banak, Alt.
Lynda G. Montefusco, Alt.
Patrick J. McMahon, Director

Zoning Enforcement Officer
James R. Taylor

Zoning & Planning Commission
J. Scott Guilmartin, Chair
Frank E. Bauchiero, Jr., Secretary
John J. Conley, Jr.
Chester A. Kuras
John P. O’Malley
Francis Ravenola
Jeffrey Carbounau, Alternate
Mark D. Winne, Alternate

Community Center Steering Committee
Candice Batholomew
Walter B. Beck
Debra DelVecchio
Sue Ann Nealon
Wallace Goodwin Rodger
Joanne M. Sullivan
Eugene Torone, Jr.

Zoning Board of Appeals
Brian G. Donnelly, Chair
William Edward Arendt
Susan A. Hastings
Mark David O’Hara
Christine Rago
Matthew J. Hoberman, Alt.
Kenneth H. Schulte, Alt.
William F. Somerville, III, Alt.

School Building Committee
Henry M. Miga, Chair
Kevin W. Goff
Nelson LaMonica
Joseph J. Sangiovanni
Eugene Torone, Jr.
Thomas L. Wardell
John Muska, Alt.
Glenn Neilson, Alt.

Historic District Commission
William S. Moncrief, Chair
Justin Donnelly, Vice Chair
Gilbert P. Ahrens, Secretary
Milton M. Edmonds, Jr.
Margery C. Warren
Thomas R. Deupree, Alt.
Douglas Mayne, Alt.

Heritage Committee
William T. Hansen, Chair
Janet M. Banks
Arnold S. Magid
Chester A. Kuras
William S. Moncrief
Mark O’Hara
Joseph J. Quinn, Jr.
Raymond R. Wilcox
Mark D. Winne

Helena Bailey Spencer Tree Fund Committee
Anita A. Wardell, Chair
Dale A. Baker
Blair Childs
Scott R. Lingenfelter
Warren C. Packard
Agnes M. Schulte
Horace T. Sikes
Elizabeth A. Stanley
Edward (Ron) Vidal

Connecticut River Assembly
Kevin M. Banak, Alt.

North Central Tourism Bureau
William E. Wood

EDUCATION

Board of Education
Michael J. Smith, Chair
David P. Beltramello
Louis J. Casinghino
Susan Miller Clark
Robert W. Eccles
Lauren K. Life
Lori A. D’Ostuni
Robert A. Parks, Jr.
Mary K. Roy
John F. Reynolds, Superintendent
PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire Commission
Frederick E. Hackenyos, Chair
Gerald R. Bland
Richard Gemme
Richard P. Leach
Robert F. Quagliaroli
Herbert K. Smith, Jr.
Thomas L. Bellmore, Fire Chief

Police Commission
Richard L. Carmon, Chair
Kathryn T. Leis
Donald W. Miner
Joseph J. Quinn, Jr.
Linda Carol Stevenson
John H. Zavisza, Jr.
Michael Manzi, Police Chief

Ambulance Association
Guy Henry, Director

Building Inspector
Edward F. Flanders

Town Engineer
Gerald J. Turbet

Alarm Review Board
Thomas L. Bellmore, Fire Chief
Michael Manzi, Police Chief

Animal Control Officer
Angelo DiMauro

Building Code Board of Appeals
Glenn A. Neilson, Chair
Alfred P. Casella
Kevin W. Goff
Robert J. Peck
Eugene Torone, Jr.
Nelson A. LaMonica, Alt.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Commission
Thomas L. Wardell, Chair
Louis Guy Boccasile, Vice Chair
Elaine M. Defocie
Anthony J. Roncaiolio
Deborah L. Smith
Jose A. Velasco
Bruce C. Williams
John Muska, Director
Mark Cervione, Highway Supt.

Public Works Appeals Board
Louis Guy Boccasile, Chair
Scott R. Lingenfelter
Thomas J. Sheridan, Jr.

Water Pollution Control Authority
Bruce G. Remington, Chair
Edward M. Alibozek
Brendan M. Begley
John S. Gifford, I11
Donald G. Leis, Jr.
Wallace Goodwin Rodger
William J. Steinka
Bernie Gooch, Supt.
Julie Nigro, Business Manager

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Social Services Commission
Julia R. O’Leary, Chair
Ernest J. Petkovich, Vice Chair
Jane P. Fuller
Sarah M. Leahey
Diedre Summa
Julia Velasco
Georgena G. Winiarski

Municipal Agent for the Elderly
Patricia Beeman

Housing Authority
Viola C. Carney, Chair
Debra S. Krut, Secretary
Anne J. Taylor, Treasurer
Kathleen Remington
Joan Stearns
Mary E. Steinka
Richard F. Miner,
Executive Director

North Central District Health Board
Brian Cooper
Zygmunt F. Dembek

LIBRARY, PARK & RECREATION

Library Commission
Robert W. White, Chair
Tracy T. Eccles, Vice Chair
John Garber, Secretary
Thomas R. Burton, Treasurer
Glenda Carpp
Muriel P. Coatti
Joseph Stephen Humpreys
Caroline M. Kearins-Martir
Jeanne Romansky
Howard Starr
William G. Sullivan
James McShane, Director

Parks & Recreation
Louis J. Casinghino, Chair
Donna Lyn Bazyk
Joseph B. Bombard
Gerald B. Crane
Robert Ravens-Seger
Jane B. Smith
Stephen S. Tobey
Norann T. Coggins, Alt.
Paul E. Muska, Alt.
Wendy LaMontagne, Director

FINANCE

Board of Finance
Charles P. Watras, Chair
Milton M. Edmonds, Jr.
Brian J. Kost
Dennis A. Kreps
Joanne M. Sullivan
David R. Tagliavini
Derek E. Donnelly, Alt.
James W. Lennon, Alt.
Joseph J. Sangiovanni, Alt.
Deborah J. Cerrato, Director

ACCE
Craig Horrigan, Chair
Sarah E. Bourn
Thomas W. Frenaye
Eric J. Harrington
Raye Mandriola
A. Gary. Mandriola, Alt.

Retirement Commission
Matthew P. Falkowski, Chair
Blair Childs
William Kuras
William W. Murty
Eric B. Remington
Joanne M. Sullivan
Scott R. Lingenfelter,
First Selectman
William Taylor, Police Dept.
Daniel Sheridan, ad hoc