Creating Success for Saugus

A review of the priorities, objectives, accomplishments, and successes of Saugus for the past five+ years

TOWN OF SAUGUS MASSACHUSETTS

For over 5 years, Town Manager Scott Crabtree has worked alongside the Board of Selectmen and other Town officials and staff to ensure day-to-day management and decisions are made in the best interest of the community and its residents.

TOWN OF SAUGUS MASSACHUSETTS

Priorities and Objectives

Priorities

- Ensure Town government is accountable and transparent, and implements sound financial management, policies and procedures to support enhanced infrastructure and services for residents
- Support the children of Saugus with a learning environment that exceeds State standards for a top-rated, Level 1 School District and supports the Town's vision of ensuring high quality education for current and future generations of students
- Identify opportunities and grants to supplement Town services and support key community objectives relating to community safety, transportation, infrastructure, environment and economic development
- Expand economic development opportunities and enhance vitality of the community by amending the Town's Zoning By-Laws on Route 1, streamlining policy guidelines for evaluating rezoning requests and leading major development projects
- Provide high quality, affordable housing opportunities for low and moderate-income households in order to enhance household, neighborhood and community stability

TOWN OF SAUGUS MASSACHUSETTS

Priorities and Objectives continued

Priorities

- Maintain, preserve and incorporate improvements to infrastructure that supports the safety and quality of neighborhoods and the Town's planned economic development projects
- Provide and promote community and recreational opportunities for all ages
- Create a unified community in which Town leadership works together to achieve goals and support the best interests of the residents of Saugus
- Adopt energy reduction goals for the Town and create services and systems for collection and disposal that support recycling and waste reduction
- Negotiate contracts and agreements in the best interests of the Town
- Provide services that are responsive to the community and focused on improving quality of life

TOWN OF SAUGUS MASSACHUSETTS

Accomplishments & Successes

Priority

Ensure accountable and transparent Town government with sound financial management, policies and procedures to support enhanced infrastructure and services

- Bond rating increased to AA+/Stable by S&P in 2016 – highest in Saugus history
  - Taxpayers to save $7.2 million estimated in borrowing for Middle-High School District-Wide Plan
  - Town recognized for revenue/expenditure assumptions, monitoring progress vs budget, LT financial plan
- Stabilization fund estimated $6 million – highest in Saugus history
- $2.9 million Free Cash certified – funded rainy day account, paid for snow/ice removal
- Developed annual fiscal budgets that eliminate structural deficits
- Developed financial management policies & practices; Commended by Dept of Revenue
- Implemented procurement and purchasing policies, resulting in cost savings
- Maintains operational efficiencies with lean workforce
- Established five-year Capital Improvement Plan in collaboration with department heads, boards and commissions

TOWN OF SAUGUS MASSACHUSETTS

Accomplishments & Successes

Priority

Support our children with learning environment that exceeds MA standards for top-rated schools and Town's vision of ensuring high quality education

- Overwhelming support for new 21st century education plan and MSBA Middle-High School
  - New Middle-High School/grades 6-12 includes multipurpose athletic field and outdoor track
  - Renovate Belmonte Middle for upper elementary/grades 3-5 and Veterans Elementary for PreK-grade 2
  - Voter approval for District-wide Master Plan as high as 71%
- Gained MSBA approval and award up to $65.1 million for new MSBA Middle-High School
  - Completed Modules 1-4: Eligibility Period, Forming Project Team, Feasibility Study, Schematic Design
  - Progressing through Module 5, Funding the Project; Soon to begin Module 6, Detailed Design
- Launched plan to assist eligible seniors/veterans/others with associated taxes through double tax exemption

TOWN OF SAUGUS MASSACHUSETTS

Accomplishments & Successes

Priority

Identify opportunities and grants to support community objectives relating to safety, transportation, infrastructure, environment, economic development

- Secured $65.1 million grant through MSBA for new Middle-High School plus $5.5 million in outside grants/funding over past 3+ years
- Access to over $5 million in funding through grants, including:
  - FEMA SAFER for 8 new firefighters and turnout gear; thermal imaging cameras; and Police COPS
  - MassDOT to construct new, safer bridge to replace bridge on RT129 near Wakefield
  - Dept of Energy Resources for clean energy access, backup generators at public safety building and Senior Center
  - LEAP/MAPC for Green Communities designation and funding, and completion of solar landfill project
  - Seaport Econ Council for River Walk feasibility study/design/permit, plus potential for $3+ million for construction
  - MA Gaming Commission for Saugus/Revere Transportation Planner and Community Mitigation
  - Dept of Conservation to revamp Tree Farm, create nursery, provide training
  - Dept of Housing to develop Housing Production Plan
  - Exec Office-Admin/Finance to develop GIS strategic plan, update Open Space/Recreation Plan, facilitate budgeting
  - Initiated solar landfill project behind DPW, bringing in $80K annually and est. 2 million kilowatts in electric credits
- Land reclamation agreement for Rt 99 Quarry site brings monthly grant for parks/recreation and new revenue of $36K/yr minimum plus fees per truck load that may total $100K+ each year
- Renegotiated Wheelabrator tipping fees to save $171K plus ongoing expense savings

TOWN OF SAUGUS MASSACHUSETTS

Accomplishments & Successes

Priority

Expand economic development opportunities by amending Route 1 zoning and provide high quality, affordable housing opportunities

- Developed economic development vision while successfully passing many rezoning articles
- Created Planning & Development Department to handle rising economic development demands and supervised major development projects in Route 1 zoning and overlay districts
- Assisted with development of Housing Production Plan
- Brought grants in for local clean energy and efficiency projects through designation as a Green Community by the Department of Energy and Resources

TOWN OF SAUGUS MASSACHUSETTS

Accomplishments & Successes

Priority

Maintain, preserve and incorporate improvements to infrastructure that supports the safety and quality of neighborhoods and the Town's planned economic development projects

- Invested in up-to-date public safety equipment
  - Police cruisers, building maintenance equipment and DPW trucks/equipment
- Implemented reverse 911 directory informing public of safety notices
- Prioritize maintenance efforts to ensure roads and sidewalks are in optimum condition
  - Lincoln Avenue Revitalization Project
  - Supported capital improvements to Lincoln Avenue pumping station
- Ensuring safety of our neighborhoods and increasing public safety capacity
  - Promoting and hiring in Police, Fire and DPW departments
  - Hiring eight new firefighters through $1.5 million FEMA SAFER grant
  - Installing security cameras and lighting at schools and parks
  - Police department earned its accreditation for best practices and professionalism

TOWN OF SAUGUS MASSACHUSETTS

Accomplishments & Successes

Priority

Provide and promote community and recreational opportunities for all ages

- Organized efforts to re-build/design parks and playgrounds with bright, new, safer equipment
  - Bucchiere/ Bristow Park
    - Handicap-accessible play area plus sports areas and T-ball field
    - Walking track with workout stations for all ages
    - Brand-new, on site parking lot
  - Veterans School Playground
    - Wheelchair accessible inclusive playground equipment
    - Updated basketball court
  - Belmonte Middle School
    - Five new tennis courts for tournament play
    - Pickleball court
    - Shot put area adjacent to the track
    - Lights installed soon for night play

TOWN OF SAUGUS MASSACHUSETTS

Accomplishments & Successes

Priority

Create a unified community in which Town leadership works together to achieve goals and support the best interests of the residents of Saugus

- Increased collaboration between Town administration and School Department and Superintendent
  - Strengthening relationships that benefits families of Saugus
- Forward momentum on key initiatives which boost public confidence
- Enhanced communications between Town leadership and residents
  - Informational meetings around Town
  - Town Manager's Desk cable-TV interviews
- Town- sponsored special community events
  - Tree Lighting, Founder's Day, Christmas Eve Parade, Celebrating Saugus' Success, Halloween Activities

TOWN OF SAUGUS MASSACHUSETTS

Accomplishments & Successes

Priority

Adopt energy reduction goals for the Town and create services and systems for collection and disposal that support recycling and waste reduction

- Town designated as a Green Community by the Department of Energy Resources
  - Received $451,000 in grants
- Initiated Solar Landfill Project behind DPW bringing in $80,000 annually and an estimated 2 million kilowatts in electric credits
- Invested in 2 electric vehicles and 1 charging station for greater and cleaner energy conservation within Community
  - Fully funded through grants and incentives, free of charge for residents
  - Vehicles offer improved fuel economy, lower fuel costs, reduced emissions
  - Utilized by Department of Public Works and Parking Enforcement
- Established a Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM), first of it's kind in MA
- Promoted water conservation through rain barrel giveaway program

TOWN OF SAUGUS MASSACHUSETTS

Accomplishments & Successes

Priority

Negotiate contracts and agreements in the best interest of the Town

- Successful negotiations with Revere, Winthrop and Chelsea to form Winnisimmet Regional Opioid Collaborative to address opiate use and abuse
- Worked with cities of Revere, Malden, Chelsea and Lynn on mitigation related to impacts of the proposed gaming casino in Everett
- Collaborated with City of Revere in applying for funding from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission for a Transportation Planner ($150,000 allocated)
- Formed numerous partnerships through regional agreements with surrounding communities ensuring more efficient ways to deliver Town services to residents in an affordable manner
    - Veteran Benefit Services and Affordable Housing Services

TOWN OF SAUGUS MASSACHUSETTS

Accomplishments & Successes

Priority

Provide services that are responsive to the community and focused on improving quality of life

- Initiated and maintaining of “Sachem Red” and white crosswalks
- Beautification of Saugus center and Cliftondale square
  - Hanging flower baskets in Summer months
  - Lights on trees during winter months
  - Adornment of Town hall with American flag buntings
  - Seasonal banners hung from telephone poles
- Quick response in addressing resident concerns
- Repainting landmark town signs

TOWN OF SAUGUS MASSACHUSETTS

Accomplishments & Successes

Additional Accomplishments/ Successes

- Assisted in resolving financial & administrative issues related to SCTV during transition from previous to current Board of Directors
  - Completion of audits, tax returns filed, financial processing and record keeping
- Helped take steps to resolve the Bellevue Heights subdivision issue by:
  - Switching over the subdivision's electricity account to the Town to ensure street lights would be kept on
  - Seeking outside legal counsel to address the ongoing matter
- Instituted public Wi-Fi reception in Town Hall
- Became certified as an Assessor by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- MCCPO certified
- Saugus became designated as a Purple Heart Community
- Supported funding and plan to address Elm Street flooding, drainage

TOWN OF SAUGUS MASSACHUSETTS

Saugus Police Department
CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION