

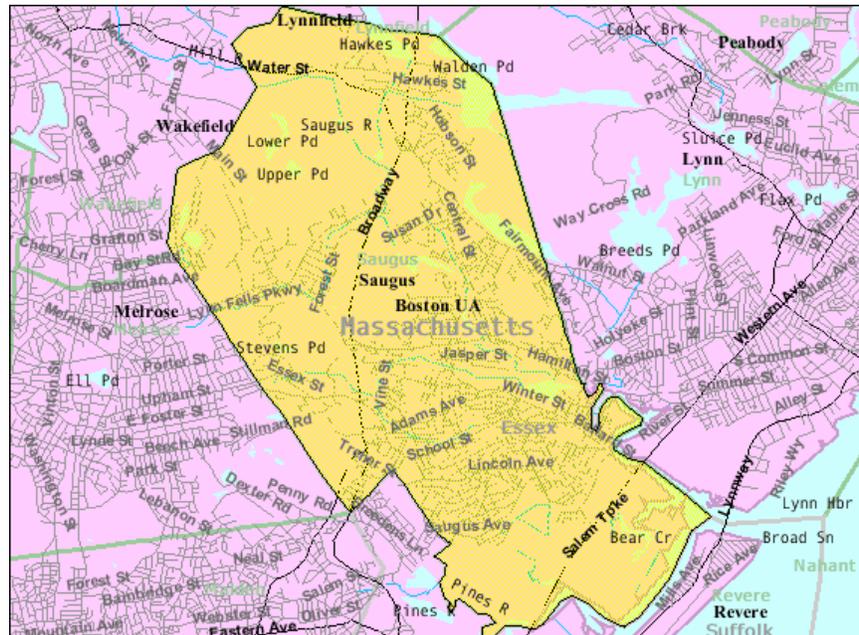
# SAUGUS, MA<sup>1</sup>

## Community Profile<sup>2</sup>

### PEOPLE AND PLACES

#### Regional orientation

Saugus, Massachusetts (42.46° N, 71.01° W) is located in Essex County, in the Boston-Cambridge-Quincy metro area (MapQuest nd) Saugus has an area of approximately 11.8 square miles, of which 11 square miles is land and 0.8 square miles is water (Town of Saugus 2007). The Saugus River forms part of the town's southwest border (State of Massachusetts 2007).



Map 1. Location of Saugus, MA (US Census Bureau 2000)

#### Historical/Background

“Saugus was first settled in 1629 and was officially incorporated in 1815. The Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site, in operation from 1646-1668, was the first integrated iron works in North America. It is now a National Historic Site” (Town of Saugus 2007). Saugus was originally part of the town of Lynn, which was originally called Saugust until 1637. Supposedly pirates hid from British authorities in Saugus at a place called Pirate’s Glen (Saugus Historical Society 2007). The Saugus Seminary was built in 1822, and was one of the earliest women’s schools in the country (Town of Saugus 2007). Saugus has a large commercial district, but still maintains some of its rural characteristics as well (State of Massachusetts 2007).

<sup>1</sup> These community profiles have been created to serve as port descriptions in Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for fisheries management actions. They also provide baseline information from which to begin research for Social Impact Assessments (SIAs). Further, they provide information relevant to general community impacts for National Standard 8 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and information on minorities and low income populations for Executive Order (E.O.) 12898 on Environmental Justice.

<sup>2</sup> For purposes of citation please use the following template: “Community Profile of *Town, ST*. Prepared under the auspices of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center. For further information contact [Lisa.L.Colburn@noaa.gov](mailto:Lisa.L.Colburn@noaa.gov).”

## Demographics<sup>3</sup>

According to Census 2000 data, Saugus had a total population of 26,078, up 2.1% from a reported population of 25,549 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990). Of this 2000 total, 47.8% were males and 52.2% were females. The median age was 41.3 years and 76.6% of the population was 21 years or older while 20.5% was 62 or older.

The population structure for Saugus (see Figure 1) shows the largest percentage of the population was between ages 40 to 49, followed closely by 30-39 and 50-59. There were fewer children aged 0-9 and 10-19 than there were middle-aged adults, yet Saugus did not have the trend seen in many fishing communities of a significant decline in young people in the 20-29 age bracket leaving the community, probably because Saugus is located in an urban area.

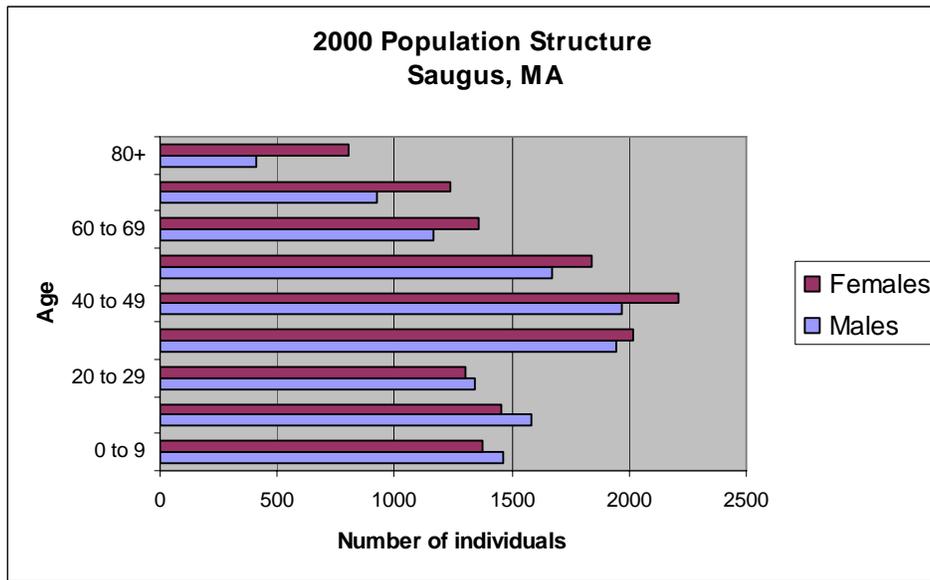


Figure 1. Saugus's population structure by sex in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

The majority of the population was white (97.2%), with 0.6% of residents black or African American, 1.3% Asian, 0.3% Native American, and 0.04% Pacific Islander or Hawaiian (see Figure 2). Only 1.0% of the population identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 3). Residents linked their backgrounds to a number of different ancestries including: Italian (36.6%), Irish (24.8%), and English (10.9%). With regard to region of birth, 87.8% were born in Massachusetts, 6.5% were born in a different state and 5.1% were born outside of the U.S. (including 1.7% who were not United States citizens).

<sup>3</sup> While mid-term estimates are available for some larger communities, data from the 2000 Census are the only data universally available for the communities being profiled in the Northeast. Thus for cross-comparability we have used 2000 data even though these data may have changed significantly since 2000 for at least some communities.

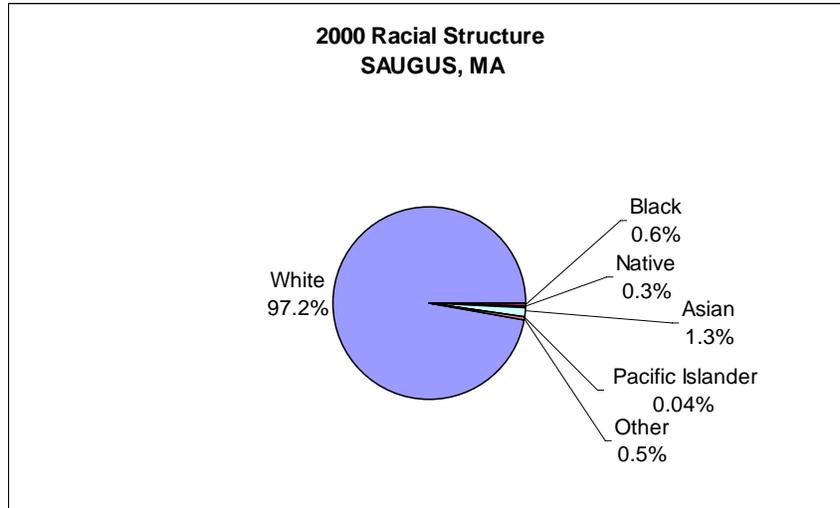


Figure 2. Racial Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

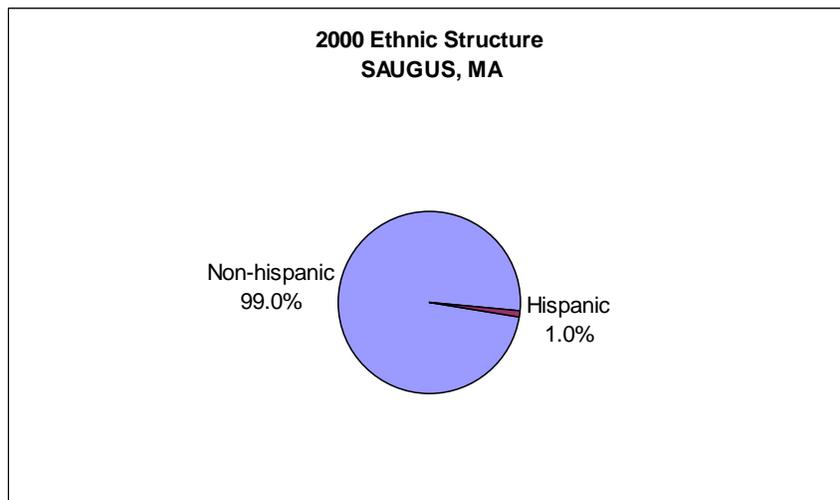


Figure 3. Ethnic Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

For 89.7% of the population, only English was spoken in the home, leaving 10.3% in homes where a language other than English was spoken, including 3.6% of the population who spoke English less than “very well” according to the 2000 Census.

Of the population 25 years and over, 87.6% were high school graduates or higher, and 19.2% had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Again of the population 25 years and over, 3.2% did not reach ninth grade, 9.1% attended some high school but did not graduate, 39.3% completed high school, 21.5% had some college with no degree, 7.6% received an associate’s degree, 12.6% earned a bachelor’s degree, and 6.7% received either a graduate or professional degree.

Although the religion percentages are not available through US Census data, according to the Association of Religion Data Archive (ARDA) in 2000, the religion with the highest number of congregations and adherents in Essex County was Catholic with 70 congregations and 362,900 adherents. Other prominent congregations in the county were United Church of Christ (49 with 15,358 adherents), United Methodist (31 with 8,713 adherents), Jewish (29 with 21,700 adherents), Episcopal (28 with 14,064 adherents) and American Baptist (24 with 5,291 adherents). The total number of adherents to any religion was up 4.1% from 1990 (ARDA

2000). There are fifteen houses of worship listed for Saugus, which include: two Roman Catholic; two Congregational; two United Methodist (one of which is Portuguese, the United Methodist Portuguese Ministry); one Unitarian Universalist; one Episcopalian; one Baptist; one Jewish; the Clifftondale Church of the Nazarene; Gospel Hall (non-denominational); Greater Grace World Outreach Ministries; New Hope Assembly of God; and the Salvation Army (Saugus.net nd).

### **Issues/Processes**

A company from Texas is planning to run a natural-gas pipeline through part of Massachusetts. Part of the pipeline would run through land owned by the Town of Saugus. The town hopes to be compensated for the use of the land as well as the any environmental impacts that may occur (Laidler 2006). Saugus recently had to close the doors to its town library due to budget cuts (Gaffney 2007).

During February 2007, 230 acres of clam flats in Revere and Saugus reopened to commercial clam digging following close to two decades of closure due to bacterial contamination. The reopened beds are located in the estuarine portions of the Pines and Saugus Rivers (in Revere and Saugus). The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries decision follows years of closely tracing water quality improvements in the Rumney Marshes Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The beds are open at least one day/week from October 1 through July 15, and depending upon water quality conditions may be open two days per week.<sup>4</sup>

### **Cultural attributes**

Saugus has a yearly Founder's Festival in September; the festival celebrates the town's history and gives the town's people an opportunity to show off wares. There are also planed events which are sponsored by the town. The highlights of Saugus's history are the town hall and the iron works (Town of Saugus 2007). The Saugus Historical Society hosts a Strawberry Festival each June (Saugus Historical Society 2007a). Saugus also has a town theater group called the "Town-Criers" which puts on several productions a year. The novel Cell by Stephen King also features the Miracle Mile, a well know area of Saugus (Town of Saugus 2007).

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Current Economy**

Saugus is famous for its Miracle Mile (Route 1) on which there are many businesses known for their large and decorative signs and displays (Town of Saugus 2007).

According to the US Census 2000<sup>5</sup>, 65.1% (13,903 individuals) of the total population 16 years of age and over were in the labor force (see Figure 4), of which 2.1% were unemployed, none were in the Armed Forces, and 63.0% were employed.

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<sup>4</sup> Profile review comments, Joan LeBlanc, Saugus River Watershed Council, PO Box 1092, Saugus MA 01906, October 10, 2007

<sup>5</sup> Again, Census data from 2000 are used because they are universally available and offer cross-comparability among communities. Some statistics, particularly median home price, are likely to have changed significantly since 2000.

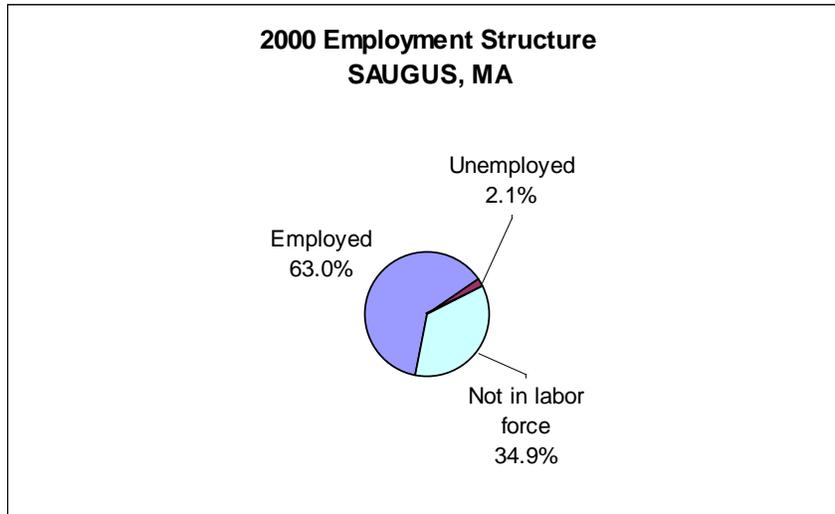


Figure 4. Employment Structure in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

According to Census 2000 data, jobs in the census grouping which includes agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining accounted for 45 positions or 0.3% of all jobs. Self employed workers, a category where fishermen might be found, accounted for 664 positions or 4.9% of jobs. Educational, health and social services (18.4%), retail trade (13.5%), manufacturing (10.6%), and finance, insurance, real estate and rental and leasing (10.1%) were the primary industries.

Median household income in Saugus was \$55,301 (up 31.9% from \$41,919 in 1990 (US Census Bureau 1990a)) and median per capita income was \$25,524. For full-time year round workers, males made approximately 75.9% more per year than females.

The average family in Saugus consisted of 3.11 persons. With respect to poverty, 3.1% of families (essentially unchanged from 3.2% in 1990 [US Census Bureau 1990]) and 4.2% of individuals were below the US Census poverty threshold. This threshold is \$8,794 for individuals and ranges from \$11,239-35,060 for families, depending on number of persons (2-9) (US Census Bureau 2000b). In 2000, 29.4% of all families (of any size) earned less than \$35,000 per year.

In 2000, Saugus had a total of 10,069 housing units of which 98.6% were occupied and 69.4% were detached one unit homes. More than one quarter (29.7%) of these homes were built before 1940. Mobile homes, boats, RVs, vans, etc. accounted for 1.5% of housing units; 87.6% of detached units had between 2 and 9 rooms. In 2000, the median cost for a home in this area was \$204,100. Of vacant housing units, 7.5% were used for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. Of occupied units, 19.7% were renter occupied.

## **Government**

Saugus has a Representative Town Meeting style of government with a Town Manager and a Board of Selectmen (State of Massachusetts 2007).

### *Fishery involvement in government*

Saugus has a Boats and Waterways Commission with 5 voting members and the harbormaster, who does not vote (Town of Saugus 2007).

## **Institutional**

### *Fishing associations*

The [Massachusetts Fisherman's Partnership](#) focuses on issues for fishermen in different ports in Massachusetts. The Partnership responded to the need of health care for fishermen and their families by developing the Fishing Partnership Health Insurance Plan with federal and state aid. This plan has been in place since 1997 and reduces the amount of money that fishermen's families have to pay to be covered by health insurance (Hall-Arber et al. 2001).

### *Fishing assistance centers*

Information on fishery assistance centers in Saugus is unavailable through secondary data collection.

### *Other fishing related organizations*

The Saugus River Watershed Council was founded in 1991, and is working to protect and restore the natural resources of the watershed. Their mission includes promoting public access, restoring the river habitat, fisheries, and water quality, and educating the public. The watershed lies within 11 towns including Saugus (Saugus River Watershed Council 2007). The Council has been working in partnership with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries to monitor and restore historic fisheries to the watershed. Fish monitoring programs in 2007 indicated the presence of healthy rainbow smelt and American eel populations in the river. Sampling also indicated the presence of species diversity of fresh and salt water species, including: yellow perch, white sucker, rainbow smelt, American eel, white perch, mummichog, three-spine stickleback, and four-spine stickleback.<sup>6</sup>

## **Physical**

"The land is a combination of rough ledges, stony soil and level fields with several brooks flowing into ponds and the Saugus River. The southeastern section is dominated by Rumney Marsh, a salt water marsh" (State of Massachusetts 2007). Rumney Marsh was designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern in 1988 to preserve its critical environmental value as one of the most biologically significant salt marshes north of Boston. The marsh provides valuable habitat and feeding grounds for a wide variety of fish, shellfish, birds, and mammals (Saugus River Watershed Council 2007). "The town has a tidal shore line of 10.4 miles" (State of Massachusetts 2007). Saugus is located in eastern Massachusetts with Lynnfield to the north, Lynn on the east, Revere to the south, Malden on the south west and Wakefield and Melrose on the west. The Saugus and Pines Rivers form borders of the town and join at the Atlantic Ocean. Saugus is 9 miles north of Boston. There are three principle routes in Saugus, U.S. Route 1 which runs north-south, and state routes 107 and 129. Saugus is a member of the MBTA and provides fixed bus service as well as nearby rail service. Saugus is very close to Logan International Airport (State of Massachusetts 2007).

The Saugus River runs through the town; the community's lobster boats are found in the river (State of Massachusetts 2007). There is one commercial dock, known as Lobsterman's Landing, located at Vitale Park (Town of Saugus 2007). There is one bait and tackle shop listed for Saugus; Tom's Bait and Tackle (State of Massachusetts 2007).

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<sup>6</sup> Profile review comments, Joan LeBlanc, Saugus River Watershed Council, PO Box 1092, Saugus MA 01906, October 10, 2007

## INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHEAST FISHERIES<sup>7</sup>

### Commercial

Saugus claims to have the largest lobster fishing fleet in Massachusetts (State of Massachusetts 2007). There are roughly three dozen full-time fishing boats which use Lobsterman's Landing, the town's commercial fishing pier (Gaffney 2007).

Lobster made up vast majority of landings for all other years from 1997-2006 (see Table 1). The level of home port fishing was low for most years with the exception of 2005. The value of home port fishing in 2004 was zero. This seems to indicate that, with the possible exception of 2005, most of the landings in Saugus are by vessels home ported elsewhere. Over the same time period, the number of home ported vessels in Saugus seemed to show a declining trend, from fifteen in 1997 down to eight in 2006 (see Table 2). Likewise, the number of vessels with owners living in Saugus declined from sixteen in 1997 to eight in 2006.

Some commercial shellfishing takes place in Saugus; the clam beds of the Pines and Saugus Rivers are considered to be "conditionally restricted". To ensure that they meet health and safety standards, the clams must be processed through the state's shellfish purification plant in Newburyport before reaching the market. The beds are temporarily closed following rainstorms due to potential stormwater pollution. Only fishermen with a MA Shellfish License from DMF and a "master digger" designation are eligible to harvest clams in the region.<sup>8</sup>

### Landings by Species

Table 1. Rank Value of Landings for Federally Managed Groups

Species	Rank Value of Average Landings from 1997-2006
Lobster	1
Other <sup>9</sup>	2
Largemesh Groundfish <sup>10</sup>	3

*(Note: Only rank value is provided because value information is confidential in ports with fewer than three vessels or fewer than three dealers, or where one dealer predominates in a particular species and would therefore be identifiable.)*

<sup>7</sup> In reviewing the commercial landings data several factors need to be kept in mind. 1) While both federal and state landings are included, some states provide more detailed data to NMFS than others. For example, shellfish may not be included or data may be reported only by county and not by port. 2) Some communities did not have individual port codes until more recently. Before individual port codes were assigned, landings from those ports were coded at the county level or as an aggregate of two geographically close small ports. Where landings were coded at the county level they cannot be sorted to individual ports for those earlier years, e.g., prior to 2000. 3) Where aggregated codes were used, those aggregate codes may still exist and be in use alongside the new individual codes. Here the landings which are still assigned to the aggregate port code cannot be sorted into the individual ports, so port level data are only those which used the individual port code. 4) Even when individual port codes exist, especially for small ports, landings may be coded at the county level. Here again it is impossible to disaggregate these to a port level, making the port level landings incomplete. 5) In all these cases, the per port data in this profile may under report the total level of landings to the port, though all landings are accounted for in the overall NMFS database.

<sup>8</sup> Profile review comments, Joan LeBlanc, Saugus River Watershed Council, PO Box 1092, Saugus MA 01906, October 10, 2007

<sup>9</sup> "Other" species includes any species not accounted for in a federally managed group

<sup>10</sup> Largemesh groundfish: cod, winter flounder, yellowtail flounder, American plaice, sand-dab flounder, haddock, white hake, redfish, and pollock

## Vessels by Year<sup>11</sup>

Table 2. Federal Vessel Permits Between 1997-2006

Year	# Vessels (home ported)	# Vessels (owner's city)
1997	15	16
1998	13	11
1999	10	9
2000	10	10
2001	12	11
2002	13	11
2003	13	10
2004	11	10
2005	9	9
2006	8	8

(Note: # Vessels home ported = No. of permitted vessels with location as homeport, # Vessels (owner's city) = No. of permitted vessels with location as owner residence<sup>12</sup>)

### Recreational

Saugus has many waterways and a small access area to the Atlantic Ocean. Fishing licenses are available from the Town Hall. There is one bait and tackle shop listed for Saugus, Tom's Bait and Tackle (State of Massachusetts 2007a).

### Subsistence

Families often fish from the road and rail crossings over the Pines River and Saugus River located within the Rumney Marshes Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Striped bass are a popular catch for both recreational and subsistence fishing. Those fishing along the estuarine portions of the Saugus River for subsistence are primarily immigrants from other communities such as Lynn.<sup>13</sup>

### FUTURE

The town received a \$550,000 grant in 2007 to revitalize Lobsterman's Landing, the town's commercial pier, which is badly in need of repairs. The pier and floats will be replaced, and the freezers will be repaired (Gaffney 2007).

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- Gaffney M. 2007. Lobsterman's Landing to get a facelift. Saugus Advertiser, 2007 May 17

<sup>11</sup> Numbers of vessels by owner's city and homeport are as reported by the permit holder on permit application forms. These may not correspond to the port where a vessel lands or even spends the majority of its time when docked.

<sup>12</sup> The Owner-City from the permit files is technically the address at which the owner receives mail concerning their permitted vessels, which could reflect the actual location of residence, the mailing address as distinct from residence, owner business location, or the address at which a subsidiary receives mail about the permits.

<sup>13</sup> Profile review comments, Joan LeBlanc, Saugus River Watershed Council, PO Box 1092, Saugus MA 01906, October 10, 2007

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