

Sullivan Community Newsletter

Vol. 43 No. 4

Sullivan, NH

Jan. – Feb. 2024

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY DAY

Jan. 23

The NH Presidential Primary Election is January 23rd. Polls in Sullivan will be open from 8 am to 7 pm. Sample ballots are posted at the Town Hall and on the town website <https://townofsullivannh.com/> under Community>Voting Information.

Absentee ballots are available from the Town Clerk. Stop by the Town Hall during regular office hours, email townclerk@townofsullivannh.com or call 847-3316 for more information.

The Town Clerk's office will be closed on Election Day.

The procedure for voting will be unchanged from last year's election—enter from the door facing Centre Street. As you enter, An Assistant Moderator will greet you to make sure you have your photo ID out and advise you where to go – the ballot clerks or Supervisor of the Checklist. When you vote, you will receive 1 ballot – Democratic or Republican. After voting, you will have the option of changing your party or to be undeclared.

Need to register to vote? Supervisors of the Checklist will be on hand Election Day to assist. Or register ahead of time with the Town Clerk or at the Sullivan Library on Jan. 13, from 10am to 10:30am. Change of party not allowed before the Primary.

Want to Get Involved in Town Government? Filing Period – Jan. 24 thru Feb. 2

Every year at this time, a number of town offices become open and will be filled at the Town Election on March 12, 2024. Check out the list below, and see if you might be interested in serving. Sign up with the Town Clerk during the week of January 24 thru February 2, 2024 to get your name printed on the ballot. It only costs a dollar. The Town Clerk can also answer questions about what sort of time commitment is involved.

Town Positions Open for Election

- Selectman – one 3-year term
- Moderator – one 2-year term
- Trustee of Trust Funds – one 3-year term
- Library Trustee – one 3-year term
- Cemetery Trustee – one 3-year term
- Supervisor of the Checklist – one 6-year term
- Budget Committee – two 3-year terms

School District Positions Open for Election

- School Board – one 3-year term
- Treasurer – one 3-year term

JOINT SCHOOL & TOWN BUDGET HEARING What will your taxes be spent on next year? Feb. 6, 2024 – 7:00PM

The Sullivan Budget Committee will hold a Public Hearing at the Town Hall on the 2024 School & Town budgets. What will Sullivan's tax dollars be spent on? Come and find out. This is the time to ask all your questions. Do you have suggestions?

6th ANNUAL CHAPMAN POND KIDS' ICE FISHING DERBY - Feb. 10 – See information inside!

Sullivan Housing Update

Submitted by Leslie Casey, Sullivan Housing Task Force

As many of you know, the Sullivan Housing Task Force has been working for the past year on a State-funded grant project. The aim of the project has been to engage the Sullivan community to (1) better understand the housing needs of residents, (2) update housing-related chapters of the Sullivan Master Plan, and (3) recommended regulatory changes that will make it easier to create desired housing choices. The purpose of this article is to provide an update on what we have accomplished with the nearly-completed project, and to tell you about proposed regulatory changes that are being recommended to the Planning Board for inclusion on the ballot at Town Elections in March.

Master Plan Updates Drafted. The Sullivan Housing Task Force (appointed by the Selectmen for a 3-year term) has finished drafting updates to the Vision Statement and the Housing chapter of the Sullivan Master Plan. Thanks to tremendous participation by community members in last year's housing discussions, we received a great deal of input that is reflected in those draft updated chapters. The Planning Board will present the master plan updates at a public hearing, most likely in April 2024, where residents will have a chance to provide additional input. The updated master plan chapters will then be finalized and adopted by the Planning Board.

Housing Needs Assessment Completed. A Sullivan Housing Needs Assessment was completed in May. It showed that while the number of residents living in Sullivan has changed little since 1990, the population as a whole has gotten older, and household sizes have gotten smaller (2 out of 3 are 1- or 2-person households). Sullivan's housing stock is predominantly older single-family homes on large lots (2 acres or more), many with 3 or more bedrooms. That suggests that many residents are living in houses that are larger and more costly to maintain than what they need or want. However, residents who would prefer to downsize have had few options if they wished to stay in Sullivan. The Housing Needs Assessment also showed that wages have not kept up with recent increases in house prices, putting ownership of a large home in Sullivan out of reach for many working people.

Regulatory Audit Completed. To try to address the mismatch between our residents' needs and available housing choices, we have overseen a "regulatory audit" of local ordinances and regulations to identify regulatory barriers to adding some smaller, more affordable dwelling units that would fit with our demographic, as well as with the character of the town. Some of the barriers that were identified, such as dimensional requirements for lots, would require considerable community engagement and professional planning help to address, so they will be addressed in the future when resources for regulatory development become available (through another grant opportunity, we hope). Some regulatory barriers, on the other hand, can be addressed fairly easily. To that end, the Task Force is working with the Planning Board on some recommended changes to bring to Sullivan voters this year and next year.

Regulatory Change Recommended. Based on the findings of the regulatory audit, the Task Force has recommended some incremental changes to the Community Planning Ordinance that would make it easier for property owners to build Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).

The Planning Board held an initial public hearing on the draft proposed ADU ordinance amendment at its meeting on December 6, 2023. To introduce the proposed amendment, planning consultant Ivy Vann introduced the housing needs context and rationale for the recommended changes. During the public hearing on the proposed amendment that followed, several residents expressed their views and concerns. The Planning Board deliberated and voted to have the Task Force make revisions to the draft amendment.

Another public hearing, on the revised proposed amendment, will take place on Wednesday, January 3rd, 2024 at 7 PM in the Sullivan Town Hall. The proposed ordinance amendment is available from the Town Clerk during normal business hours, and on the Town of Sullivan website.

Following the hearing, the Planning Board will finalize the proposed amendment and prepare it to appear on the ballot at Town Elections on March 12, 2024. Any proposed changes to the ordinance would have to pass by majority vote before being adopted. So don't forget to vote in the March Town Elections!

Reminder: The Sullivan Planning Office is located in the lower level of the Sullivan Town Hall and is open during normal Town Hall hours. Links to information on housing topics can be found on the Master Plan Update page (under "Planning and Zoning") on the Town of Sullivan website. If there is a resource you can't find, please stop by the Planning Office, or contact the Planning Board by email Planning@TownofSullivanNH.com or telephone (603) 847-3100.

This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number SLFRP0145 awarded to the State of New Hampshire by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

6th ANNUAL CHAPMAN POND KIDS' ICE FISHING DERBY

Saturday, February 10 at 9 AM – 2 PM

A FREE event for children ages 2-15 years old with door/entry prizes. Hot cocoa and donuts will be available in the morning.

All bait will be supplied at no cost. There will be a limited supply of tackle for those who do not have their own, available by first come, first served. However, we will do our best to ensure that every child has at least one tip-up or jig pole to use. Volunteers will be on hand to drill holes and help set up.

Bring extra clothing to stay warm (gloves, socks, boots etc.) Every year at least one kid sticks a hand right in the water, gloves and all! Also, if anyone has an extra little bucket, please bring it to keep your bait in.

Trophies will be awarded for: largest perch, largest crappie, largest trout and the most fish caught.

Hosted by Kevin & Kathleen Wheeler - all are welcome! There will be a portable toilet available.

Questions – call Kathleen at 603-852-4517 or email her at kd3960@yahoo.com.

Sponsors are needed – call or email Kathleen, if you can help!

From the Archives

by Chris Pratt

For this issue of the Newsletter, I have rewritten another previous article from 2004. Dilly Dolph was a vexation to the early settlers of our community, a challenge to their moral principles, the subject of a lawsuit, and an example of our community trying to balance charity with the need for public order. She was a woman who lived by her wits in an era when marriage was the main avenue to a stable life for a woman. Rev. Josiah Seward describes her in the Sullivan history as “notorious,” “a strange and mischievous person,” and a person whose “...life was a public scandal.” From our advantage of some 200 years on, we find such a person interesting because of her non-conformity and a tragedy because of the violence that ultimately befell her. To the people of Sullivan living in 1800, she was a burden that was difficult to bear.

The story takes place in the northwest corner of our town where a steep slope rises above the Ashuelot River. Further south, the land levels off, but it is still broken by steep ravines. Most of this land faces north and is barely suitable for crops and pasturage. Around 1799, Dilly Dolph moved from Gilsum Village and built a small cabin on the Sullivan side of the Ashuelot.

Her given name was Philadelphia DeWolf. She was the daughter of Matthew and Sibyl DeWolf who lived either in Gilsum or the portion of that town that later became the town of Surry. The pronunciation of the family name soon morphed into Dolph probably because of illiteracy and the lack of standardized spelling in those days. Her siblings moved away and she was apparently left alone at a relatively early age. She soon began having children and gave them surnames of their alleged fathers. Her accused lovers denied paternity, and the cost of supporting her and her children fell to the town of Gilsum. Undoubtedly, the town was probably happy to see her move across the river. That, however, led to an entanglement with a family in Sullivan.

In 1794, Lydia Nash purchased a lot on the west side of Gilsum Road which was south of where Dilly Dolph would settle. She was a widow from Taunton, MA, and moved here with her sons James, John, Asa and Abraham, Jr. In 1798, Abraham married Nancy Alexander and they built a house on the Widow Nash's property at about the same time Dilly relocated from Gilsum. Abraham and Nancy had three daughters between 1800 and 1804. It was around that time that Abraham began “keeping company” with Dilly. Soon, she had a child and claimed that Abraham was not only the father, but they had married. Dilly soon applied for assistance from the Town of Sullivan.

A special Town Meeting was called on 17 May 1804 to decide what to do. Unfortunately, the records regarding this case have not been found, but it seems likely that the Town Meeting believed it did not have to support Dilly and her children because she was squatting on the land and was, therefore, not a resident. The meeting appointed Abel Allen to bring suit against the Town of Gilsum for support of Dilly Dolph. There is no record of the case ever coming to court, but Sullivan's case was probably not that strong because the town had allowed Dilly to live in town for around 5 years without “warning her out” as a person likely to become a public burden. However, the case was soon rendered moot when Abraham divorced his wife and moved with Dilly and her children to Pownal, VT, in the fall of 1804.

The story might have ended at this point with a fresh start for Abraham and Dilly, but he proved no more loyal to her than he did with Nancy. He apparently deserted Dilly for another woman, and she returned to Gilsum around 1810. She lived for time with distant relatives, but soon built a cabin east of the village roughly between what is now Route 10 and the Sullivan boundary. Once there, she quickly returned to her old ways. The old scandals were brought up again as new scandals began annoying the villagers.

On the night of 20 June 1821, a mob descended on her cabin in the middle of a rainstorm. She was allowed to flee to a neighbor's house. Her few possessions were set outside and the cabin was burned to the ground. She and her children left town the next day and were never heard from again.

"Library Footnotes"

"The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written." – Melody Beattie

January. A time of reflection, planning, shoveling snow and staying warm. Perhaps it's a time to slow down a little. To enjoy friendships. To read a good book.

One of the fun things we do in the library is to offer a book group that meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 11 am. We are always looking to include more members in our discussions. On January 13th we will be discussing *Magic Hour* by Kristin Hannah. "In the rugged Pacific Northwest lies the Olympic National Forest—nearly a million acres of impenetrable darkness and impossible beauty. From deep within this old growth forest, a six-year-old girl appears. Speechless and alone, she offers no clue as to her identity, no hint of her past. Having retreated to her western Washington hometown after a scandal left her career in ruins, child psychiatrist Dr. Julia Cates is determined to free the extraordinary little girl she calls Alice from a prison of unimaginable fear and isolation. To reach her, Julia must discover the truth about Alice's past—although doing so requires help from Julia's estranged sister, a local police officer. The shocking facts of Alice's life test the limits of Julia's faith and strength, even as she struggles to make a home for Alice—and for herself."

The next book will be *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins. This novel was considered one of the first detective novels in history, and defining the detective genre. If this sounds intriguing to you, please join us Saturday, January 13 at 11:00 AM to receive a copy. Discussion on the book will take place on February 10th.

Your librarians are diligently working to get our Summer Reading Program put together. Be sure to sign up for our July competition between Gilsum, Surry and Sullivan. We need your help to have the best "Adventure in Your Library"!

Your librarians,

Paulette Tuttle and Sara Bolduc

Public Notice.

The Sullivan Public Library Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meetings on January 11, February 8 and March 14, 2024 at 11:30 AM at the library. The purpose of the meetings will be to formally receive any donations, hear reports, and conduct any business related to the administration of the library. As always, the public is welcome.

From Your Little Free Libraries

312 Centre St. – across from the Sullivan Post Office

Painted Rocks! Has anyone else seen them around town? It started last summer with a few cute rocks left on our stone wall area; then we saw more as we walked Echo & Clover around town. We moved the rocks around on our walk and discovered new ones all the time. Recently we saw Santa's face, a snowman, candy cane and the Grinch. Such a simple thing and always brings us a smile when we see them.

Winter is here, or at least it should be! Rain instead of snow in December, that's odd. Anyway, our Little Free Library on Centre Street is always open. So many new books were added this fall, and I have so many more to add throughout the year. If anyone is a fan of Danielle Steele, let me know. I was given quite a few of her books, new and older to add to the library.

I do hope everyone had a great holiday season and we look forward to Spring coming soon.

426 Valley Rd. – across from the Sullivan Store

We're always changing our selection of books – stop by – take a book & share a book!

APPLE HILL STRING QUARTET AT THE COLONIAL

Saturday, January 20, 4pm

The Apple Hill String Quartet will perform music of Franz Joseph Haydn, Kareem Roustom, and Ahmed Adnan Saygun with guest cellist [Chelsea Bernstein](#). Hear the quartet in the historic Colonial Theatre on 95 Main St. in Keene—where you can sit and listen from the audience or up on stage 'in the round' next to the musicians!

Tickets (available through [The Colonial Theatre](#)): \$39

We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this newsletter. However, you should always call ahead or check the website to confirm dates, times, location and other information.

From Sullivan Fire & Rescue



Last time around we covered some common definitions and terminology for alarm systems. This time we are going to cover some of the things you should know for the **usage of an alarm system**. This will cover general usage items for all alarm types and different systems. Because there are so many different makes and models, it is not possible to give you step-by-step instructions to run your alarm. However, it plays into the first subject to be covered, which is...

Learn everything you can about your system. The best time to do that is when the installation technician is at your house installing the system. Do not let them hand you an instruction manual and say, "everything you need to know is in there". Ask questions and have them show you exactly how to operate all the features, including arming, disarming, (the whole system as well as isolated parts), and silencing the system. Have them point out where all the detectors and sensors are located. Ask what the limitations of the system are and how you should trouble-shoot a problem.

A few other things, that would not hurt to ask, pertain to **upkeep of the system**. Find out if you need to request periodic maintenance, or if it is automatically scheduled for you contractually. If there is a battery backup, which is common in alarms now, ask how often they need to be changed out, and if that is covered under normal maintenance. You should also get a list of important phone numbers pertaining to the alarm system. These may include the monitoring station, who to call for maintenance and repair, accounts payable for billing questions, and records department for updating information on your account.

The next topic to cover would be **key-holders**. Different alarm companies may have varying rules regarding the required number of key holders, and how close they should live to the alarm site. Three key-holders (yourself and two others that do not live with you) is a reasonable number for most residential alarms. Where a key-holder lives is important because of response times in case they are needed to let police, fire or ambulance personnel into the residence. In this case, it would not be practical to have a family member that lives in Virginia listed as one of your key-holders. A key holder, as the name implies, should be someone you trust, who has keys to get into the alarm site.

In addition to educating yourself, you will need to **educate your key-holders**. This means, pretty much all the questions you asked the installation tech (regarding operating the alarms system, not so much upkeep and maintenance) you need to explain to all of your on-call key-holders. These people will be required to operate the alarm system for responders in the event of an activation when you are not available. They may be called for system problems and supervisory alarms as well, so basic trouble shooting of the system should be explained to them. One other point your key holders should be made aware of is they may receive calls from the alarm company at all hours of the day. The alarm company will be trying to contact someone whenever there is an alarm, even if that alarm goes off at 2:00 am.

Keeping your key-holder information up to date and accurate with your alarm company is important, but often overlooked. You do not want the monitoring station wasting time calling out of service numbers while there is an emergency at your house. Likewise, past key holders do not want to be called for alarms to which they no longer are associated. Worst of all is when an alarm company calls for a key holder, who passed away several years ago. No one involved wants any part of that conversation, (which, unfortunately, happens more often than you would think), so update your key holder list often.

What should you do if you accidentally set your alarm off? If your alarm goes off and you know it was something you did, like set the fire alarm off by burning some food in the oven, or opening an outside door once the security system is turned on, then you should call your alarm monitoring station. Explain it was an accidental activation (not a false alarm), and make sure, again, make sure you tell them why the alarm went off. This is because if the alarm has already been dispatched, some fire (like Sullivan) and police departments will not cancel their responds unless there is a reason given. Again, this is only if you accidentally trip your alarm. Even if responders continue, this will let them know they can respond at a reduced rate, which is much safer.

However, if the alarm goes off because there is an emergency, such as you actually see a fire or someone trying to break in, what you should do is completely different. **Step 1. GET TO SAFETY!** If the alarm is going off and is working properly, help in some form is being started, your priority is getting you and your family out of harm's way. That needs to be done first. After that has been accomplished, call 911. The alarm has told responders there may be an emergency. Your call will confirm that, and give them important supplemental information, which will allow them to modify the response level as needed. In most cases, this means starting additional help, or specialized equipment.

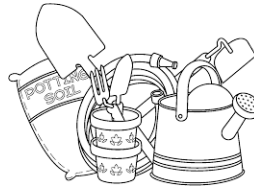
Then there is that scenario between these two cases. The alarm goes off, but you do not know why. The best thing to do is to treat the alarm as if it were an actually emergency and follow the instructions given above. There could be an emergency you have not detected, or it could be a power problem, or an alarm malfunction. It is best to get to safety and let responders check for the cause when they arrive.

The last topic we are going to go over is **medical alarms**. If you have an actual medical alarm which is monitored by a company that specializes in medical care, they are very different from fire or burglar systems. For starters, medical alarms are generally set off manually by pressing a button or entering a code on a keypad. A medical specialized monitoring company will then try to make contact with the patient to find out what the emergency is before requesting help (fire and burglar companies will start help first). Once they have determined the reason for the alarm, or fail to contact the patient, they will start medical responders.

Some companies will have clients fill out a "**File of Life**" and place it in a red envelope on their refrigerator. This is a form that lists the patient's medications and medical histories for responders to reference. This is good, but you should make sure the monitoring station has basic information on record that can be relayed to responders as soon as they are dispatched. This is in case they cannot reach or communicate with the patient, the responders can be forewarned as to what they may have for an emergency. This information should include the age and sex of the patient, and hidden key or lock box information. Medical history should include any hearing impairment or mobility issues. Additionally, include any history of cancer, cardiac, respiratory, diabetes, stroke, seizures and any other major medical problems, as well as any advanced medical directives.

Tips from a Master Gardener: Better Lawns & Gardens with Less Work

Submitted by Leslie Casey



I hope you all had a happy holiday season. With the New Year, thoughts turn to eating healthier food and getting more exercise, right? Here are some tips on fruits, vegetables and off-season outdoor exercise in keeping with those themes! Plus, a bonus news item on the “bright side” of climate change.

Fruits. If you have fruit trees, keep an eye out for bark damage in the winter, especially below the snow line. Voles love to eat fruit tree bark, which seriously injures or kills the tree. A hardware cloth cylinder placed in the fall or early winter around the base of the trunk provides good protection from gnawing teeth. Keep any mulch or grass a few inches away from the trunk so it won't harbor critters and, just as importantly, it won't rot the trunk.

Outdoor exercise. This is a good time to look at the structure of deciduous trees and shrubs to decide if they will need pruning to improve their shape and growth habit. Pruning is best done in late winter or early spring, before leaves appear. UNH Extension has a handy illustrated fact sheet titled “The Basics of Pruning Trees and Shrubs,” available online. And while you have those loppers out, tidy up the yard by removing woody saplings before they take over stone walls and other hard-to-mow areas! A longer-term solution for areas like that will be to plant shrubs that will shade out “weed trees” and provide habitat for wildlife. We are fortunate that more plant nurseries in the area are selling native shrubs and perennials. Fassett Farm Nursery in Jaffrey and Bagley Pond Perennials in Warner have wonderful websites that allow you to peruse and pre-order. Fassett Farm also offers garden design services, including installation if you wish to skip the outdoor exercise part.

Vegetables. This is a good time of year to sort through garden seed packets and order any new seeds that are needed for spring. Some vegetables, such as lettuce and onions, have seeds that can lose viability rapidly in storage, so check for germination if you plan to use seed from a previous season. Onions and their relatives have a long growing season, so start those seeds indoors early: between mid-February and mid-March. The UNH Extension table “Growing Vegetables: When to Plant your Vegetable Garden,” lists the best time to plant each type of vegetable seed relative to the average last frost date (May 11-20 for Sullivan).

News Item. On a more general note, the USDA has just released its updated plant hardiness zone map for the United States. This new map is based on 30-year averages of the lowest annual winter temperatures and aims to provide guidance on what perennial plants will likely survive winter low temperatures in different parts of the country. For us here in New England, the new map includes data from 1991 to 2020 as compared to the 2012 map, which used data from the 1970s to 2005. The map for the US now includes data from many more weather stations as well – from 7,983 for the 2012 map to 13,412 in the newest version. This means that it is more precise and accurate than ever.

Sullivan used to be Zone 5b (-15°F to -10°F average lowest winter temp) but has been updated to Zone 6a (-10°F to -5°F average lowest winter temp) in 2023. The USDA cautions against drawing too many conclusions about weather trends from this data. That said, if being in a higher hardiness zone means I can start my garden earlier or keep harvesting tomatoes later, I'll take it! I hope you have enjoyed these tips. If you have gardening questions, email me: LCasey29@hotmail.com. I will try to find you the answer or I will forward your question to one of our UNH Extension experts.

BIRDING ON THE FARM Sponsored by Cheshire County Conservation District

When: Saturday, January 27th, 9:00-11:00AM

Where: Hillside Springs Farm, 32 Comerford Rd, Westmoreland NH 03467

What winged wonders wander our wintery world? Flock to Hillside Springs Farm on January 27th to find out!

We will be discovering winter-loving species and learn about farm habitat dynamics for birds, habitat management, wildlife conservation on the farm, and species identification from experienced bird guides. This workshop series is open to birders and enthusiasts of all skill levels. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars and weather appropriate attire and boots. Pace will be slow over moderate terrain.

Registration is required: <https://birdingonfarm.eventbrite.com>

For more information or assistance in online registration please contact Matt at 603-756-9282 or matt@cheshireconservation.org

Presented by the Cheshire County Conservation District (CCCD) in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District (Windham NRCD), the Southeastern Vermont Audubon Society and the Antioch Bird Club.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS!

By Risa Keene

KEANAN KLEINE

Earlier this week I took some time to talk with Keanan Kleine. I've known him since he was born; he's done some work at my house; taken care of our cats, replaced our mailbox and helped to move some heavy lawn furniture, but I haven't spoken to him in a long time. He is a 10th grader at Keene High School who has a positive, healthy and adventurous outlook on life.

We spent most of an hour talking about mountain biking. If you know Keanan I'm sure you are not surprised! As a young child Keanan & his sister were always jumping on the trampoline, climbing ropes, trees and doing a variety of acrobatics inside and outside of their house. That was his foundation. His first experience with mountain biking was at Camp Takodah, in Richmond during 2021. Now he's hooked! Keanan has tried a variety of types of mountain biking, including trail riding & x-country but he is into All-Mountain Biking BIG TIME!

Over the past 2 years he has learned a lot and tried some incredible things. At the beginning of each season, he sets goals for himself. This season his goal was to be able to do backflips and bigger jumps. He successfully accomplished his goals. During our time together he shared some videos of his jumps and tricks. He already knew how to successfully complete a backflip from his feet. So, this past season he went to the "foam pit," to practice his backflip with his bike before he attempted it on the trail. I asked him if he was aware of being frightened on his first attempts, and he replied that he wasn't. While he stood in place before getting on his bike to take on this challenge, he focused his attention on the present, breathed and then took off. He pulled back on his handlebars and landed headfirst with his bicycle on top of him. After successfully practicing the flip many, many times he tried it outside of the foam pit and "I crushed my goal!"

Why does he like mountain biking? He loves "the adrenalin, getting air, being outdoors, seeing new things and being inspired by what his friends accomplish." He also enjoys being an inspiration to his friends. Keanan said that he has already set his eyes on goals for the next season of biking. "I want to be able to hit every feature in the park. I've done all the drops, but not all the jumps. I also want to learn more tricks like no-handers and 360's."

Keanan also enjoys downhill skiing. He said he started "casual skiing," with his dad when he was little, and began racing with the high school team last year. When asked if he had goals for his skiing, he quickly answered, "I have some. I want to do jumps on skis and improve on the trails. I want to be as good on my skis as I am on my mountain bike."

More impressive than the maneuvers he does on his bike, is his ability to break his goals into smaller steps so that he can reach them and knows what to do when he feels challenged. Keanan and I both felt that being involved in sports helps one learn how to break tasks down and then apply it to other areas of life, like academics. He added that sports also, keep you physically healthy."

Before retiring the first bike he ever had, Keanan worked and saved his money from jobs to purchase his past bikes. He now owns a Enduro and loves it! This biker takes safety seriously and uses his own money to buy the safety equipment he needs, such as special shoes, knee pads, elbow pads, chest/back protector and full-face helmet and goggles.

You probably are interested in finding out what Keanan would like to do as an adult. Well, he's not certain, but something that involves biking, maybe combining biking with engineering. He also stated that he likes technology. "There's a lot I'm interested in."

It was a joy to talk with Keanan. He has a healthy respect for sports, life and other people. We are lucky to have this young man and many, many others living in our community.

Sullivan School News



There's a lot going on at Nelson School!

Greetings, Sullivan Community!

The year is in full swing - it is hard to believe we are almost halfway through! Our students have been working hard in their classrooms on all kinds of different learning projects. Our Grade 5 students studied Native American cultures and did presentations (including dioramas and essays) about their tribe of choice. Our Grade 4 students have mastered long-division - a huge achievement! - and have been doing an integrated gingerbread house unit that involves math and writing skills. Our Grade 2 and 3 students have been reading *Charlotte's Web*. In math, our second grade students have been working on odds and evens, while Grade 3 has started working on simple division. Our Grade 1 students have been studying Holidays Around the World as their Social Studies focus, and have been working on an opinion writing piece about their favorite animals. Our K/R students have been working hard on letter sounds and writing the beginning and ending of words. They also have been practicing addition by counting on in math, and have been learning coins.

December Service Project - As a school, we did a December service project of creating snowflake decorations for the 100 Nights shelter. We were also able to donate some of the leftover clothing from our annual clothing swap to Feeding Tiny Tummies. Additionally, our staff hosted an after-school community service club, and a Sewing Club for Grades K-3. Some of our Gr 4 & 5 students who have been a part of the sewing club in the past joined as helpers to assist the younger students. We were also lucky to have community volunteers to support our students with learning this skill. We will be offering more clubs, including a machine sewing club for Grades 4 & 5 in January and additional options for activities throughout the spring.

Holiday Happenings at Nelson School - We have been very fortunate to experience a wide range of community events over the past few months. Thanks to the families and volunteers in our school community, we had an extremely successful Harvest Feast on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. We fed nearly 100 people! We extend special thanks to Kim Ioannou and the staff at The Pub in Keene for preparing our three turkeys again this year. We also had a very successful Holiday Concert on December 11th, which featured all of our classes singing seasonal songs under the direction of our music teacher, Madi Gubata. Our 5th graders put on a successful stage adaptation of *The Christmas Carol*, with almost every student taking on multiple roles within the script.

The Circus Comes to Town! - In January, we have the circus coming to town! Troy Wunderle of Wunderle's Big Top Adventures will be working with our students in this year's arts residency during the week of January 16th-19th. This will culminate in Nelson School students putting on a circus performance on Friday, January 19th at 6:00PM at Keene High School. We are also looking forward to our annual Spelling Bee toward the end of January, as well as Reading Incentive Month activities in February. Believe it or not, we will also be having our first transition meeting with Keene Middle School in February to prepare our 5th graders for their next step!

Welcome to our new custodian! - We are excited to be welcoming Claude Hutchins, Jr. to our staff as our custodian/maintenance person. We are currently seeking a tutor to help support our students. If you are interested, please reach out to the school or fill out an application at <https://www.applitrack.com/sau29/onlineapp/default.aspx>. We are also ALWAYS looking for subs!

Kindergarten in the fall? As we get closer to the spring, we will also be starting to talk about kindergarten enrollment. We keep a running list of anticipated enrollment each year. If you have a child who you anticipate being in our kindergarten class in Fall 2024, please reach out to the office, so we know to keep you informed about enrollment and springtime events, such as our Upcoming Kindergarten Open House night and Kindergarten Step-Up Day, in April and May. For any families with children aged 0-5, we also have a number of spots available to enroll in Ready! For kindergarten. It is a program offered through local schools designed to help families prepare their children for kindergarten. There are just three sessions per year, and both in-person and virtual options are available. Participants receive a small package of toys for their children after each session, and participation is FREE to families. Please reach out to the school if you are interested so we can get you connected to the instructor.

Days Off - As a reminder to our school families, students do not have school on Monday, January 1st (New Year's Day); Monday, January 15th (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day); and Wednesday, January 24th (Teacher Workshop Day). Students are off for Winter Vacation during the week of Monday, February 19th-Friday, February 23rd. School will resume on Monday, February 26th.

We are looking forward to welcoming our students back to school on Tuesday, January 2, 2024!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support,
Nicole Gordon
Principal/Curriculum Integration Specialist, Nelson School

SULLIVAN SUPERVISORS OF CHECKLIST SESSIONS...

Supervisors will be in session at the Sullivan Library on Sat., Jan. 13 from 10 to 10:30am for new registrations and corrections to the checklist for the Presidential Primary. Bring proof of residency, citizenship and a photo ID. Note: Change in party affiliation is not allowed at this time.

Supervisors will be in session at the Sullivan Town Hall on Tues., Jan. 23 from 7 to 7:30pm for new registrations and corrections to the checklist for Town Elections & Town Meeting. Bring proof of residency, citizenship and a photo ID.

Supervisors will be in session at the Sullivan Library on Sat., Mar. 2 from 11 to 11:30pm for new registrations and corrections to the checklist for Town Elections & Town Meeting. Bring proof of residency, citizenship and a photo ID.

SEW, QUILT, CRAFT, KNIT or VISIT – MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS MONDAY AFTERNOONS!

Stop by the Sullivan Church meeting hall on Monday afternoons, from 1 pm to 2:30 pm. Stay a while and visit or maybe bring a craft or hobby to work on. We're a small, congenial group. If you're new in town, it's a great place to meet other people and if you've been here a while, join the group to find out what's happening in Sullivan and the area. For more information, contact Mary Hull at the town hall or 847-9718 or Becky Cummings 603-847-3477. **Note:** The group does not meet the Mondays before Election Day.

TOWN FOOD PANTRY OPEN TWO NIGHTS EACH MONTH!

The Sullivan Food Pantry, located in the rear, lower level of the Sullivan Congregation Church, is open on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 5:30 – 6:30 pm.

Any town resident may stop by and pick up food, personal care items and paper goods. If you would prefer home delivery, please contact the Town Hall (603-847-3316) or Gaynelle Pratt, Food Pantry Coordinator, at 603-847- 3271. If you, or someone you know is in immediate need, feel free to call anytime. Donations of paper goods, personal care items or nonperishable food for the pantry may be left at the Sullivan Post Office, the Town Hall or the Library.

Thank you to all who generously help support the Food Pantry!

SULLIVAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday service 9:30 am 847-9030

Pastor Christopher Cornell

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If you can volunteer some of your time, we can always use more drivers!

**TOWN FOOD PANTRY REMINDER
OPEN TWO NIGHTS EACH MONTH!**

The Sullivan Food Pantry, located in the rear, lower level of the Sullivan Congregational Church, is open two nights each month, the second and fourth Thursdays, from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. Any town resident may stop by and pick up food and paper goods. If you would prefer home delivery, please contact the Town Hall (603-847-3316) or Gaynelle Pratt, Food Pantry Coordinator, at 603-847-3271. If you, or someone you know is in immediate need, feel free to call anytime. Donations of paper goods or nonperishable food or the pantry may be left at the Sullivan Post Office, the Town Hall or the Library. Many thanks to all who help their neighbors by donating food and/or financial assistance to the pantry.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The Sullivan Newsletter is published 6 times a year. It is mailed free of charge to Sullivan residents and interested landowners/taxpayers. Subscriptions are \$5 a year for non-taxpayers. Classifieds are \$10 a year; \$2.50 per issue, \$45 per full page or \$25 for ½ page. Make checks out to Sullivan Newsletter. Mail to PO Box 110; Sullivan, NH 03445 or drop it off at the town hall with the town clerk or administrative assistant.

Deadline for the next newsletter is Feb. 15. News items may be left in the Sullivan Library Book Box, mailed to PO Box 110 Sullivan 03445 (labeled Newsletter) or e-mailed (preferred) to:

bcummings@myfairpoint.net

Editor: Becky Cummings 603-847-3477

Assistant Editor: Gaynelle Pratt

TOWN CONTACT NUMBERS

Town Hall 603-847-3316

selectmen@townofsullivannh.com

Town Clerk 603-847-3316

townclerk@townofsullivannh.com

Town Highway Dept. 603- 847-3366

highway@townofsullivannh.com

Sullivan Planning Brd 603-847-3100

planning@townofsullivannh.com

Sullivan Fire Station 603-847-9020

Sullivan Library 603-847-3458

sullivanpubliclibrary@gmail.com

Sullivan Country Store 603-847-3853

Sullivan Church 603-847-9030

Sullivan Post Office 603- 847-9720

Nelson School 603-847-3408

Keene Middle School 603-357-9020

Keene High School 603-352-0640

Sheriff (non-emergency) 603-352-4238

EMERGENCY 911

For Burn Permits Call:

Al Henry, Chief & Warden 603-847-9598

Mike Blanchard, Deputy Warden 603- 847-9680

Paul Bolduc, Deputy Warden 603-498-2578

JR Guyette Deputy Warden 603-852-2815

Erik Kazlouskas, Deputy Warden 603- 903-2881

Please note: we make every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this newsletter. However, you should always call ahead or check the website to confirm dates, times, location and other information.

SULLIVAN NEWSLETTER

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