

Sullivan Community Newsletter

Vol 44 No. 4

Sullivan, NH

Jan. – Feb. 2025

TOWN BUDGET HEARING

Sullivan Town Hall

Feb. 4 at 7pm

Joint School and Town Budget Hearings will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 4, beginning at 7pm. What are Sullivan's tax dollars being spent on? Come and find out. This is the time to ask all your questions. Do you have suggestions?

7th Annual Kids' Ice Fishing Derby

Feb. 8 – See Details Inside Newsletter

TOWN & SCHOOL ELECTIONS & MEETINGS IN MARCH

Local Offices Up for Election

Town

Selectman – 1 seat of 3 years

Town Clerk/Tax Collector – 1 seat of 1 year

Budget Committee – 2 seats of 3 years each

Cemetery Trustee – 1 seat of 3 years

Trustee of Trust Funds – 1 seat of 3 years

Library Trustee – 1 seat of 3 years

Sullivan School District

School Board – 2 positions of 3 years each

District Moderator – 1 position of 2 years

District Clerk – 1 position 3 years.

Filing for office to get your name on the ballot:

The filing period for town & school offices begins January 22 and closes January 31 with the Town Clerk. Filing fee is \$1.

Election Day is Tuesday, March 11. Town Meeting will be held the following evening, Wednesday at 7pm.

Registering to vote:

Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session at the Sullivan Public Library on **Tues., Jan. 21** between 7 and 7:30 pm for additions and corrections to the checklist. They will also be in session at the Sullivan Library for additions and corrections on **Sat., Mar. 1** between 11 and 11:30 am. Bring proof of residency, citizenship and age. Residents may also register to vote with the **Town Clerk**.

Proof of Citizenship must be a birth certificate, US Passport/Passport Card or naturalization papers. If you do not have proof of citizenship, you will not be allowed to register to vote.

Positions are also open on some town boards - The Planning Board has openings for two alternate members and Conservation has opening for one new full member and two alternate members.

Please remember that there are often other boards (appointed) that would welcome new members. Let Jason or Kathleen at the Town Hall know if you are interested.

7th ANNUAL CHAPMAN POND KIDS' ICE FISHING DERBY

Saturday, February 8 – From 9 AM to 2 PM

Per usual, we will have a limited supply of ice tip ups available for those who do not have their own, on a first come basis. Never ice fished before? No problem! We will have volunteers on hand to help set you up and get you fishing. We will also have bait available, at no charge. We ask that if you have a little bucket, to bring it to store your bait in.

Trophies will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place for

- *Most Fish Caught
- *Largest Perch
- *Largest Crappie
- *Largest Trout

We will have many, many, free door prizes as well. We try to ensure that every child leaves with something!

Registration is "in person" on the morning of. The Derby begins at 9am and ends at 2pm. We serve a free lunch around 11:30 (all locally sourced proteins) - *Chicken and Rice Soup, *Venison Stew and *Bear Chili. This is all made possible by our wonderful volunteers and sponsors!!

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!

To learn more about how you can help, contact Kathleen Wheeler via FB messenger or by email kd3960@yahoo.com.

DON'T FORGET - WE HAVE MUSEUM PASSES AT THE SULLIVAN LIBRARY!

Fort # 4 in Charlestown; the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord and Cheshire Children's Museum in Keene - these have been made available for you by Sullivan Friends of the Library!

"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 is a time to slow down a little. To enjoy friendships. To read a good book.

Borrow a telescope!

We have recently been gifted a **brand-new, high-tech telescope** by the NH Astronomical Society (nhastro.com). It is a magnificent telescope that can be borrowed by patrons who are interested in exploring the night sky and all of its celestial wonders. Come by to check it out! We have resources that can provide information and details about what stars and night sky phenomena you may find, based on location and date.

If you are looking for camaraderie, fun and maybe even some book talk, consider coming to our **Second Saturday Book Club** at 11:00 a.m. We have a lively group of regulars (and reading the whole book every time is not a requirement)! We would love to widen our circle and share our enthusiasm for books, chitchat and general goings-on about town.

Another great facet of our library is that we often receive fantastic donations of new and "new to us" books that keep our new book section in regular circulation. Any time you stop by, you are bound to find something worthy of your time and interest. We look forward to seeing you!

Your librarians,

Paulette Tuttle and Sara Bolduc

Public Notice

The Sullivan Public Library Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meetings on January 16, February 20 and March 20, 2025 at the 11:30 PM at the library. **Please note the meeting change from the 2nd Thursday to the 3rd Thursday.** 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.

Little Free Library on Centre Street

The little free library on Center Street (across from the Post Office) extends a Congrats to Cambree, who was the winner of the cat's name contest in November. Remember the library is always open. Stop by anytime.

Little Free Library on Valley Road

Don't forget to stop by our Little Free Library, right across from the Sullivan Store. We're overflowing with books! There's a little something for everyone

From the Archives **by Chris Pratt**

When one says, “the Sullivan Church,” we are usually referring to the church located at the corner of Centre and Church Streets, which is known as the United Congregational Church of Sullivan. Photographs of the building appear in a number of publications related to our town and it has long represented a cultural center of our community as well as a house of worship. However, even in the early days of our town, there was a diversity of religious expression in addition to the dominant Congregationalists. The largest of these other faiths were the Baptists.

Baptists from England began arriving in the American Colonies in the early 17th century. Like most of our early settlers, they were fleeing religious persecution. One of their beliefs was the notion that religious faith and citizenship were separate—something that horrified the Puritans who believed that the congregation and government were one in the same. As the Colonies threw off British rule, an attitude of tolerance began to take hold. In New Hampshire, laws were passed at various times to recognize faiths other than the dominant Congregational Church. In 1819, the state passed the Toleration Act which finally separated the roles of church and government. It also abolished the so-called tithe tax that required all citizens to financially support the Congregational Church and its minister.

Baptists in Cheshire County were active in Swanzey, Alstead and Gilsum. Some of the Gilsum Baptists lived in that portion of Gilsum that became the Northwest quarter of our town in 1787. They lived along Gilsum Road and the now discontinued portion of Boynton Road, which originally ran from Gilsum Road as far as Nash Corner in Gilsum. In 1798, Charles Cummings and his wife Mary arrived in Sullivan and settled on the previously mentioned Boynton Road. In 1810, they purchased a farm on a side road (later called Cummings Road).

One of the beliefs of the Baptists, at that time, was that one does not have to have specific training to be a minister, but can become one, if he is a person who is moved by the Holy Spirit to be a preacher of the gospel. Charles Cummings was such a man, and, by at least 1806, he was preaching to the group of Gilsum and Sullivan Baptists. On 14 January 1808, a group of Baptist Ministers from Alstead, Dublin and Swanzey as well as a number of Baptist congregation members from other churches in Cheshire County met and officially established The First Baptist Society of Sullivan and Gilsum. For his part, Rev. Cummings was ordained and officially became the church’s first pastor.

Rev. Cummings was pastor of the church for nearly 30 years. However, perhaps because of his religious zeal or his low pay, he also took on work for other Baptist churches in Peterborough, Roxbury and Keene, as well as working with the Domestic Missionary Society. He was released from his Sullivan ministry in 1834, but continued to preach at churches in Cheshire and Hillsborough Counties until his death in 1849. He was followed by 11 other pastors, but like the Sullivan Congregational Church, the Baptists at that time had trouble keeping a pastor for more than a few years.

The records of the Baptist Church have been preserved in the Sullivan Town Archives. These include lists of members. It is like a “who’s who” of the residents of the northern part of town. It includes families such as the Boyntons, the Winchesters, the Fosters, the Hemenways and the Rawsons. Another collection of papers includes the application of church members to be exempted from the tithe tax in 1820. That list includes Amasa Brown who lived in the southwest corner of town near Jenkins Lane. It also includes Pompey Woodward—one of our African-American residents who lived near Bolster Pond.

At first the group met at private homes and at the #5 Schoolhouse which was then located on Boynton Road. However, as the congregation grew, they needed to meet in a larger hall. That led them to the Four Corners where they used Wardwell’s Hall for a few years and were also allowed to use the Centre Church on occasion. In 1836, the congregation decided to build a permanent meetinghouse on land owned by William Brown at the Four Corners. The building was two stories high. The lower story served as a place to keep horses and the upper story was used as a house of worship.

One of the main beliefs of the Baptist faith is that the rite of Baptism should occur in adulthood, when a person fully understands the meaning of the faith. Baptism is also by full emersion in water. In the first few years, the rite took place in one of the many mill ponds around town. With their church in a permanent location at the Four Corners, the decision was made to build a permanent baptistery. A structure similar to a large bathtub was constructed in the small stream that runs next to the Four Corners Cemetery.

Beginning around 1850, the Baptist Church had more members from Gilsum than from Sullivan. This led them to start holding services at the Methodist Church in Gilsum (now the Gilsum Town Hall). Membership continued to decline until the congregation finally disbanded in 1859.

In 1853, Ephraim Foster purchased the Sullivan Baptist Church, took it apart, and moved it to Keene to be used for the construction of a house. A few years later, Frederick B. Nims built a new house (522 Centre Street) on the site.

For about 40 years, the Baptist Church was part of our community. Like many of the societies and institutions that were formed around 1800, it gradually withered away. Today, the Four Corners neighborhood stands on the site where members of one of the oldest faiths in America had once worshiped.

Tree Lighting Recap

On November 30th, Sullivan celebrated the beginning of the holidays with the lighting of the tree next to the library in memory of Marsha Cook. Marsha was very involved in the happenings in Sullivan over the past 10 years, including holding the position of Chair of the Selectboard. Marsha had lights put on the tree about 5 years ago to bring spirit to our little town. A small group of volunteers planned this year's last-minute celebration to keep that spirit alive. New lights were added to the tree, cookies were baked and Santa was invited to stop by. The night of the event, caroling, cocoa and cookies were enjoyed by about 70 parents and children. The fire department assisted with Santa's arrival by giving him a ride on the fire truck. Santa led the countdown to the lighting of the tree and handed out candy canes to each child. It was a magical evening. Be sure to mark your calendars for next year - the Saturday after Thanksgiving for Tree Lighting 2025.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with our first Tree Lighting. Marsha was definitely smiling down on us that night.
Wendy Pelletier

From Sullivan Fire & Rescue



The topic we are covering in this article is as serious as a **heart attack** – basically, because we will be discussing heart attacks. There are many different types and categories of cardiac emergencies, but we are only going to cover the two big ones, heart attacks and cardiac arrest.

Often confused to mean the same thing by many people, **heart attacks** and **cardiac arrest** are two different conditions. A myocardial infarction (M.I.), aka a heart attack, is when blood flow to the heart is severely reduced or completely blocked. The heart, being a muscle that never takes a break, requires continuous blood flow, which supplies it with oxygen and energy. When that blood flow is compromised or stopped, the affected section of the heart begins to die. Damage to the heart increases the longer it goes untreated, and will lead to cardiac arrest if enough damage is done.

Symptoms of a heart attack include sweating, dizziness, nausea, shortness of breath and weakness/fatigue. The patient may also have chest discomfort/pain that feels like a burning sensation or squeezing pressure. The pain may also radiate to the jaw, arms and back. Women generally have less severe symptoms than men do.

If a heart attack is suspected, take the following steps. Call 911 immediately for help. Have the patient sit in a comfortable position and try to keep them calm. Do not have them walk or exert themselves (try to keep the heart rate low). Loosen any tight or restrictive clothing. If they lose consciousness, monitor their breathing and pulse. If they are breathing on their own, lay them on their side with their head facing down so any saliva or vomit will drain out of their mouth. If breathing stops, or they no longer have a pulse, start CPR.

The word “arrest” means to stop. **Cardiac arrest** is when the heart stops beating. When this happens, blood is no longer circulating and oxygen is no longer being supplied to the organs in the body. Some organs can go for a prolonged period without oxygen, but the brain cannot. In as little time as three minutes after being deprived of oxygen, the brain starts to suffer damage. That is why it is critical to start CPR immediately after cardiac arrest.

The two major symptoms of cardiac arrest are unconsciousness and an absence of a pulse. Respiratory arrest, or when the patient stops breathing, also occurs with, or shortly after, cardiac arrest. This is known as cardiopulmonary arrest. Treatment is to call 911 for help immediately and to start CPR. The sooner high-quality CPR is started, the better the chances of survival for the patient. In this case, seconds really do count.

Some of you ask, “What is CPR, and how do I do it?” Cardiopulmonary resuscitation is a way to circulate blood and oxygen in the patient by rapidly compressing the patient's chest. How is more complicated to answer. When you call 911, they will give you step-by-step instructions for performing CPR.

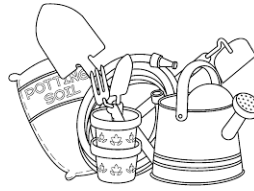
CPR Training - Being trained ahead of time on how to perform CPR will increase your effectiveness. In the coming months, the Sullivan Fire and Rescue Department will be holding training sessions for the public for CPR. Date, time and location have not been confirmed yet. When details are worked out, they will be posted on the town website and in the newsletter. Hope to see you there.

22nd Annual Keene Ice & Snow Festival Feb. 1 – 10am to 4pm

A free day of family-friendly fun in downtown Keene, the 2025 Ice Festival will host 10-12 ice carvers alongside many free family events and activities, including a children's train ride, roaming circus acts and buskers, roasting s'mores, sugar on snow, "find the yeti" scavenger hunt and more! <https://www.visitnh.gov/things-to-do/events-calendar/events/20th-keene-ice-snow-festival>

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

Submitted by Leslie Casey



The cold and snow of winter have arrived, and at first glance the landscape may seem barren of life. Nothing could be further from the truth! While many of our animals adapt to winter conditions by migrating or hibernating, the snow itself allows many small animals to remain quite active throughout the season.

The “subnivean zone” is the area between the surface of the ground and the bottom of the snowpack. The zone forms when snow that lands on the ground sublimates due to heat radiating from the earth. (“Sublimate” simply means to go from a solid into a gas without going through the melting stage.) Warm, moist water vapor rising into the bottom layer of snow then refreezes into tightly packed, rounded ice crystals that form a sturdy roof.

Mice, voles, and shrews are able to live in the space under the snow, protected from the cold and from hungry predators. They make long tunnel systems complete with air shafts to the surface. The minimum amount of snow needed for tunnels is 6 inches. Add another two inches, and the subnivean zone remains close to 32°F regardless of the outside temperature and weather conditions. Food is right at hand: grass, leaves, bark, seeds, and insects are free and unfrozen. Pretty sweet lifestyle, if you are a vole!

Grasses are an important structural component of subnivean habitat. Snowfall causes the dead grass to bend over, forming an insulating thatch. If the grasses are tall enough, they even create spaces that allow larger animals like foxes and rabbits to shelter under the snow. As if we needed more reasons to stop mowing everything short, the winter plant interest and wildlife habitat provided by unmown fields and meadows really enliven the landscape. Early spring, as the snow starts to melt, is a great time to check for signs such as tunnels that show just how busy the subnivean zone’s inhabitants have been. Keep in mind, though, that attracting wildlife means you have to live with it: consider how close to buildings and valuable trees you want that habitat!

Voles are notorious for damaging fruit trees by hiding under the snow and eating the bark. Typically, pine voles go for the roots, and meadow voles go for any part of the tree that is above ground. UNH Extension has an excellent fact sheet titled “Managing Voles in New Hampshire Orchards and Highbush Blueberries.” It talks about options and considerations for protecting your orchard, including costs. If voles are likely to be a problem, trunks should be wrapped with plastic mesh or hardware cloth, and the areas around trees and shrubs should be kept free of weedy growth and fallen fruit that attract pests.

One of the joys of winter walks in fields and woods is seeing the tracks and wing prints of the predators who take advantage of all that subnivean bounty. Owls can hear mice and voles running around underground from 30 yards away, while foxes and coyotes detect them mainly by scent. Another predator is the ermine, a beautiful white weasel with a black-tipped tail. Its long, slender body can easily squeeze down narrow air shafts to dine on mice. Together, they do their part to help keep small mammal numbers in check.

The information included in this article was sourced from an article in Northern Woodlands magazine, “The Subnivean Zone: Shelter in the Snow,” by Barbara Mackay (2014), and from “Wishing for Winter Habitat? Plant These Grasses this Spring,” by Rose Rankin for Wild Ones (2024). Both are available online. And a great resource on ways to improve backyard habitat for all seasons is the half-hour video from UNH titled, “A Garden for Wildlife: Natural Landscaping for a Better Backyard,” available on YouTube.

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.

WINTER OFFERINGS FROM APPLE HILL

Saturday, January 18, 2025 7 pm

Collaboration with MoCo Arts “Time to Dance”

The Redfern Arts Center at Keene State College

Ludwig van Beethoven String Quartet Op. 59 No. 3 in C Major

Tickets and information: <https://www.moco.org/time-to-dance/>

Saturday, January 25, 7 pm doors open/8 pm concert

Nova Arts, Keene, NH

Once again, the Apple Hill String Quartet brings an eclectic line-up of music to Nova Arts. Inspired by their tour to the West Coast this winter, the Quartet highlights two composers from that region of the US. For complete concert information, visit

<https://applehill.org/concerts/concerts-apple-hill/> .

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

It's A Return Visit to Lesotho!

by Risa Keene

You may recall from past Sullivan Newsletter articles I wrote, that from 2015-2017 Doug and I lived in Lesotho, Africa. It is a landlocked country the size of Maryland with a population of 2.3 million. Lesotho is completely surrounded by the Republic of South Africa. It is often called the "Mountain Kingdom" or the "Roof of Africa" because two-thirds of the country is made up of mountains (Drakensberg and Maloti ranges) and it is the only country in the world that is entirely above 1,000 meters in elevation. Doug and I returned to Lesotho for a brief visit the last 2 weeks of October. It was an incredible reunion. Come and join me on our recent trip.

When we first arrived, we visited with several of the doctors Doug worked with when we were living there; they were in the residency program and have since completed the program. So much has changed with LeBoHA (Lesotho Boston Health Alliance, the organization Doug worked for) since we left! In 2015 there were 0.9 doctors per 10,000 people in the country. In 2021 there were 4.54 doctors per 10,000 people, and the number of certified doctors has continued to grow. Much of this progress is due to LeBoHA's hard work. Their objective is to strengthen Lesotho's health care by recruiting, training and retaining health professionals, especially those in primary care. LeBoHA presently has a 4-year postgraduate family medicine program and a two year internship program. When the organization began, it was staffed by several western doctors & a few doctors from other African countries. Now the program is fully staffed by Basotho physicians (those from Lesotho). A huge change.

It was so interesting to listen to the physicians talk about what still stood out about us when we lived there. Some of them talked about Doug's calming affect, even in difficult situations. Others recalled specific lectures or advice and many fondly remembered my "family dinners" which I made when they visited the Bill Bicknell Guesthouse during Contact Week.

Unfortunately, Doug could only stay a week, but I continued my visit. When I returned to Hloste, where we had lived, I walked all over. I stayed at Birdhaven Guesthouse. Because Doug and I had stayed there for 1 week when we first moved to Lesotho, I knew the manager of the guesthouse, Mme. Thandi. We caught up on our children; what we had been doing since we last saw each other and of course joked around. Birdhaven consists of a building with individual guestrooms, a kitchen and a dining room, but they also have rondavels which are circular 1-room houses with a toilet, shower a small refrigerator and a bed. The mortar is traditionally made of sand, soil & cow dung (these were made without cow dung) and roofs are made of thatch that is sewn to the poles with grass rope. I felt cozy in my little rondavel.

I returned to the hospital grounds and saw some of the people who owned "shops," or stalls along the small road. One man recalled my name, "Mme Risa!" he called out, "What are you doing here?" He was a shop owner who sold fruit which I frequently bought on my way to work. His stall was still there. Mme Thabang saw me out of the corner of her eye and ran out of her stall to give me a big hug. She is the woman who made and sold makuenya (fried dough balls) that were delicious!!!! She taught me how to say "Please may I have two makuenya" in Sesotho (the primary language in Lesotho). We agreed that we both looked a little older and were so happy to see each other. It was late in the day, and she did not have any more makuenya, so I stopped back the next day to get two, fresh out of the frying pan.

As I walked further away from the hospital, I crossed a busy road, thinking to myself, "Look right, now left." (people drive on the left side of the road in Lesotho) to get to the Leribe Crafts Centre, where I had learned to weave. I visited with Bomme ("the women") who worked there. Sadly, only a handful of women were still working there as many were laid off during COVID because they did not have the money to pay all the salaries. Our conversations were in English, Sesotho and South African Sign Language (about 5 of the women who work there are deaf). My weaving instructor Mme. Leratho (her name means "love"), happened to be there.

We laughed about how angry she pretended to be when my border stitches on the scarves I was weaving were not tight enough. From the Crafts Centre I walked over to "Shoprite." On my way there I passed 4 young women. They said something to me in Sesotho which I couldn't understand, so I said, "I'm sorry I don't understand Sesotho very well," to which they laughingly responded, "Well, why don't you use your dictionary you always carried!" They knew me from when I worked at Help Lesotho! They were now 16 years old but were only 9 or 10 when they first met me!! I always carried my dictionary with me & jokingly called it my bible!

I visited Help Lesotho where I did volunteer work and became particularly close to the staff. I didn't have a kitchen, and I wanted to serve my friends dinner after work, so I ordered pizza from the hotel and bought some cake from Shoprite. We said grace together, enjoyed our food and shared stories about when I was working there. One woman, Mme. Shasha recalled the day when she was given a new job, she was then in charge of the Pearl Program (which supports girls by teaching topics on sexuality etc.). She recalled that when she was to begin the new job she said to me "Mme. Risa I've never done this job, what should I do?" I told her to "fake it until you make it!" She remembered that, and she's still in charge of the Pearl Program, doing a darn good job!

Someone else recalled a time, when I had invited everyone to our home for a lasagna dinner. No one had heard of lasagna, much less had eaten it before. On another occasion I had gotten a DVD of a popular movie, and I invited my fellow staff members to come to our home, which I turned into a movie theater (with tickets and popcorn)!

While walking around near Help Lesotho, 6 older teenagers came up to me and used my sign language name (the letter "R" that traced my lower lip). They remembered me from a workshop that the staff at Help Lesotho and I presented on sexuality to the older students at St. Paul School for the Deaf. We talked for a while about what they were doing and what I was doing in Lesotho.

Later on in the trip I spent a night at a friend's house just outside of Maseru, the capital. Mme. Palesa (which means flower) is married, and they have 2 daughters, a 7 year-old and a 3 year-old. I had forgotten what it was like living with two young kids! Mme. Pully (her nickname) had invited her parents, sister, brother-in-law, two nephews, younger sister, and mother-in-law as well as two other friends I knew from Help Lesotho, all over for a traditional Basotho family dinner. They cooked meat stew, sausage, "Likhobe" which is wheat grain, Papa (maize mixed with water and cooked), Chakalaka (a spicy vegetable stew usually served with papa), Motoho (drinkable porridge) & Lipabi (baked ground cornmeal with a dash of sugar). It was a delicious and joyous celebration.

I visited with more friends while there. Each one had memories of my time in Lesotho. Needless to say, I was touched and honored by the warm welcome that I received during my visit. People frequently say to me, "How wonderful that you gave so much while you were in Lesotho." But you know, it's not a one-way street, when someone is kind to you or when you are kind to someone else, the kindness is EXCHANGED. We all benefit from our kindness to each other. That's supposed to be the way the world functions.

Greetings, Sullivan Community! **From Nelson School**

We are excited to be back in school after our Holiday break!

November and December both flew by, as we were hard at work learning and building our community. In November, students earned their first all-school recognition of the year for showing **Nelson SPIRIT** (**S**afety, **P**roblem-solving, **I**ncluding others, **R**espect, **I**n control of body and words, **T**reating others the way they want to be treated). Students voted to have an ice cream sundae party, which everyone enjoyed! We held our annual Harvest feast and shared a wonderful meal as a school, which students, staff, and community members helped to create. Special thanks to Colleen Matthews & Doug Bullock, Sarah Martin, Joy Birdsey, and Cindy Hutchins for being our Turkey Team. I also want to recognize and extend thanks to C&S Wholesale Grocers, whose generous grant made it possible to have the feast without asking for community donations. In December, we had Parent-Teacher Conferences and our annual Clothing Swap. It is always so rewarding to connect with families and celebrate student success. Our students were hard at work up until the start of school vacation, with some breaks for classroom community activities and our all-school holiday stations. While students worked hard to continue their learning, they also had a nice time celebrating this time of year with our school community.

We continue to offer clubs that appeal to different student interests. Over the past few months, students have had the opportunity to be involved in Computer Club and Friendship Bracelet Club. Machine Sewing Club will be starting next week for Grades 4&5, and we are looking forward to Birdhouse & Birdfeeder Club starting later in January and Cardboard Creations Club starting later this spring. We hope to offer a few additional clubs through the remaining part of the year.

On January 13th, Nelson School students will perform their Winter Concert, starting at 6:00PM at Keene Middle School. The program will be about 45 minutes long, and will feature singing and instrumental performances. We are also looking forward to our annual Spelling Bee toward the end of January, as well as Reading Incentive Month activities in February, including our Book Swap and trip to Toadstool Books. 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!

Friends of Nelson School (formerly the Nelson School PTO) has been very active this year, and will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on Thursday, February 6th. Be on the lookout for further details! Flyers should go up in the community soon. We greatly appreciate the continued support of both of our Nelson and Sullivan communities. Nelson School is a special place and would not be what it is without our communities supporting us! If you are interested in joining the Friends of Nelson School, please contact the school. You do not have to be a parent of a current student to be involved!

Thinking Kindergarten – Fall 2025? As we get closer to 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 2025, please reach out to the office, so we know to keep you informed about enrollment and springtime events.

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.

As a reminder to our school families, students do not have school on Monday, January 1st (New Year's Day); Monday, January 20th (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day); and Friday, January 24th (Teacher Workshop Day). Students are off for Winter Vacation during the week of Monday, February 24th-Friday, February 28th. School will resume on Monday, March 3rd.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support,

Nicole Gordon
Principal/Curriculum Integration Specialist
Nelson School

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 and 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!

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

Stop by the Sullivan Church meeting hall on Monday afternoons, from 1 pm to 2:30 pm. Have a coffee, 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. Entrance is on the upper level; follow the sidewalk from Church St. Questions - Becky Cummings 603-847-3477. Note: The group does not meet the Mondays before Election Day.

FARMING OPPORTUNITIES from CHESHIRE COUNTY CONSERVATION!

Improve your farm's resilience through a climate adaptation or mitigation project!

We encourage you to apply for the fourth round of the New Hampshire Conservation Districts Climate Resilience Grant! Funds are available for projects that mitigate the impact of agriculture on climate change and enhance the on-farm adaptations to projected climate conditions. Preference will be given to projects that can demonstrate strong potential in mitigation and adaptation. Applications are due on February 1, 2025! Interested applicants can contact their conservation district for more information: <https://www.cheshireconservation.org/nh-districts> Learn more and apply here: <https://www.cheshireconservation.org/climate>

The Monadnock Food Co-op Farm Fund Program, in partnership with the Cheshire County Conservation District, is now accepting applications from local farmers in Cheshire County and abutting towns. Currently, in its ninth year, the fund has supported twenty-five farms in the Monadnock Region. The Monadnock Food Co-op Farm Fund's mission is to support local farmers in increasing sustainable food production and wholesale sales to contribute to a thriving local farm economy. This grant supports several of the co-op's goals, including building a healthy, sustainable food system, supporting local farmers and producers, and contributing to a strong, sustainable, and improving local economy. Applications are due February 1, 2025! More information and apply here: <https://www.cheshireconservation.org/farm-fund>

2024 FIRE PERMITS HAVE EXPIRED!

A reminder that fire permits expired Dec 31st of last year and currently there is not adequate snow cover in most places to kindle a fire without a permit. NH requires 100ft radius of continuous snow cover around the fire.

Please contact a fire warden for a burn permit or stop by the Fire Station on Wednesday nights at 7pm. If the weather remains dry, a burn ban may be placed until more precipitation is received. Fire Warden contact numbers may be found on the last page of this newsletter with classifieds.

Birding on the Farm with Cheshire Conservation

<https://www.cheshireconservation.org/event-details/birding-on-the-farm-lucky-13-farm>

Time & Location

Jan 25, 2025, 9:00 AM

Lucky 13 Farm, 259 Warwick Rd, Winchester, NH 03470, USA

About the event

Join us for an exciting opportunity to bird on farms throughout our region! Learn new skills and about wildlife conservation on the farm!

Participants will learn about farm habitat dynamics for birds, habitat management, wildlife conservation on the farm, as well as species identification from experienced bird guides.

- This workshop series is open to birders and enthusiasts of all skill levels!
- Participants should bring binoculars with them (extras may be available), and weather appropriate dress and boots.
- Walking: Please note that we will take stops for discussion and observation.
- Signs will direct to parking areas.

SULLIVAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday service 9:30 am 847-9030

Pastor Christopher Cornell

Phone 603-852-0895

Facility Rental: Wendy Pelletier
603-209-0333

Preferred contact is email

pelletier.wendy.s@gmail.com

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Del Ouellette

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“NO-FEE” TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AVAILABLE!

CVTC

Providing “no-fee” transportation for people who do not have access to transportation because of age, ability, economic situation or other limiting circumstances. Our trip purposes include non-emergency medical & social service appointments and the pharmacy. Call CVTC to schedule ahead of time!



1-603-821-0569

<https://www.cvtc-nh.org/>

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

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Jarrid Zieba

Apple Hill Rd. Sullivan NH

603-903-8660

ziebahvac@gmail.com

SULLIVAN COUNTRY STORE

140 Route 9
(603) 847-3053

www.sullivancountrystore.com
& www.facebook.com/nhcountrystore
Instagram: Sullivan Country Store
Closed Mondays

Store Open Tuesday - Sunday 6am - 6pm
Kitchen Hours: Wed. - Sat. 6am - 5pm,
Sunday 8am - 3pm, Tuesday 9am - 4pm

FOOD PANTRY

Rear, lower level of church
2nd & 4th Thursdays 5:30-6:30 pm.
Not convenient?
Contact Gaynelle Pratt 603-847-3271.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The Sullivan Newsletter is published 6 times a year. It is mailed free of charge to Sullivan residents and interested and owners/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 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

SULLIVAN NEWSLETTER

PO Box 110
Sullivan, NH 03445

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 607- 258-3439
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

Fire permits are required for all outside burning including campfires and the burning of brush. Gas grills, gas fire pits and charcoal fires in a container up and off the ground do not require a permit. We do issue seasonal campfire permits but permits are issued on a daily basis, weather permitting.

Sullivan's Forest Fire Wardens:

Al Henry - Warden 603-762-4231
Mike Blanchard - Deputy Warden 603-762-0941
Erik Kazlouskas - Deputy Warden 603-903-2881
Robert "JR" Guyette - Deputy Warden 603-852-2815
Paul Bolduc - Deputy Warden 603-498-2578

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.

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