



Sullivan Community Newsletter

Vol. 41 No. 5

Sullivan, NH

March – April 2022

SCHOOL & TOWN ELECTION DAY **March 8th - 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

Town & School Elections

Elections for Sullivan School Board Members and Town Officials will take place on Tuesday, March 8, from 11 am to 7 pm at the Town Hall. The procedures will be unchanged from last year's elections—enter from the door facing Centre Street. Because of potential crowding in the building, we ask everyone to please be masked. An alternative voting location inside will be provided for those cannot wear a mask. See the assistant moderator, who will advise you. The assistant will also be able to answer your questions regarding registering to vote. In order to keep the check-in line moving, PLEASE, have your photo ID out and ready to present before you enter the hall. When you vote, you will receive 3 separate ballots—one for town officers, one for amendments to the Community Planning Ordinance and one for school district officers. A complete list of those running for office follows inside this newsletter.

Register to Vote

If you have not registered to vote, you may do so at the polls on March 8. You must be a registered voter to vote on warrant articles at the meetings on March 9. **New voter registrations will not be accepted at Town Meeting on March 9.**

Absentee Ballots

Just a reminder - if you are worried that you won't be able to get in and vote or worried about Covid, don't despair! Contact the Town Clerk's office to find out how you can vote by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots are available for both the Town Election and School Election.

The Sullivan web page will have copies of the ballots posted.

<https://townofsullivannh.com/>

Bring your Photo ID's

Please remember to bring your photo ID.

Free Photo ID's for Voting A voter who does not have an approved photo ID may obtain a free photo ID for voting purposes only by presenting a voucher from their town/city clerk or the Secretary of State to any NH DMV office that issues identification.

The Town Clerk's Office will be closed on Election Day!

SEE INSIDE – CANDIDATE STATEMENTS, TOWN CLEAN-UP DAY, FROM THE ARCHIVES, AND THE FOLLOWING COMING EVENTS!

Some Coming Events

Household Hazardous Waste Collections begin in March!
May 7 - Town Clean-up Day, meet at Town Hall, 9am
Annual Memorial Day Yard Sales
Earth Day Poster Contest
Easter Services

SCHOOL & TOWN MEETING

March 9 at 7 p.m.

Town Meeting and the Sullivan School District Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9, in the Sullivan Church sanctuary and Friendship Hall. Please use the side entrance where the Supervisors of the Checklist will check you in. We are asking participants to please wear a mask and to sit at least 6 feet apart unless the people are from the same household. An assistant moderator will assist with the seating.

You must be a registered voter to vote, either by hand, voice or ballot, at the town and school meetings. The last day to register to vote will be March 8 at the polls.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

TOWN OFFICERS (school candidates follow town information)

Selectman – 3 years - vote for one

David Jakway - I am asking for your vote as Selectman. I have been a resident of Sullivan since 1999 and have served on the Planning Board and Budget Committee. Having served on various committees, I have gained knowledge of how town government works and hope that I may be able to provide some fresh ideas. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Write-in Joseph Lewandowski (incumbent) - Let me introduce myself - My name is Joseph Lewandowski. I reside on Rugg Rd. Someone said I was a dying breed being a native to the state of New Hampshire. I have served the residents of Sullivan with great pleasure as one of the selectman since 2015. I have seen a lot of changes at both the state and town levels over the years, some good and some questionable, but we have always tried to do what's right for the citizens of the town, for we work for you. I must admit I missed the deadline to file this year, so I'm asking you, the people of Sullivan, for a write-in vote.

Moderator – 2 years

C. Christopher Pratt (incumbent) - Once again I am running for Town Moderator. Gaynelle and I moved to town in the fall of 1985 and were impressed with the friendliness of the people. It wasn't long before we found many opportunities to serve our community. Over the years I have been on the Bicentennial Committee, the Planning Board, the Board of Library Trustees and on various sub-committees related to town and school district matters. I would like your support to serve another term as your moderator.

Cemetery Trustee – 3 years

Write-in Kevin Wheeler (incumbent) - My name is Kevin Wheeler, I've lived in Sullivan for 53 years. I've enjoyed working with the community and would like to continue as a cemetery trustee. I have enjoyed meeting new faces as the town continues to grow and would appreciate your write-in vote for cemetery trustee in March.

Library Trustee – 3 years

Write in Sarah Thorndike (incumbent) - I would very much like to continue to serve as a trustee for the Sullivan Library and would appreciate your write-in vote. Unfortunately, I missed the filing deadline to be in Wisconsin with a sick grandson. Sullivan is a wonderful place to live, and my husband and I enjoy it and appreciate the volunteer opportunities here.

Budget Committee – 3 positions of 3 years each

Write-in Mike Blanchard (incumbent) - I am submitting my name as a write in candidate for the budget committee. I have lived in Sullivan for 20 years. During this time, I have been an active member of Sullivan Fire and Rescue, advancing to the position of Deputy Chief. I am also a current member of the budget committee. With my term expiring this year, I am asking for your vote so that I can continue to support our community. Regards, Mike Blanchard

2 positions – no candidates

Zoning Board of Adjustment – 2 positions of 3 years each

Write-in Laura Lewandowski (incumbent) - Hello my name is Laura Lewandowski. I'm asking you to write me in for the Zoning Board as I missed the deadline to file this year. I have served on the ZBA since 2013. It's an honor and a privilege to serve the town of Sullivan and I would love to continue being on the board. Thank you.

Write-in Bob Switzer (incumbent) - I'm Bob Switzer. My term on the Zoning Board of Adjustment ended this year, and I would appreciate your vote. I have been on the board for several years and I forgot to register to be on the ballot. I enjoy working with the zoning board to provide Sullivan with a means of previewing zoning issues before they get to the Sullivan Planning Board. I consider this board to be a critical part of the workings of the town.

Supervisor of Checklist – 6 years

No candidate – write in

SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICERS

Moderator – 2 years

C. Christopher Pratt (incumbent) - Once again I am running for School District Moderator. I have served in the position since the Sullivan School District held its first meeting in 2013 and would like your support to serve another term as your moderator.

District Clerk – 3 year term

No candidate – write-in

School Board – 2 positions of 3 years each

Write-in Paul Bolduc (incumbent) - As we, as a town, navigate the choices for the many officers that serve our community, I would like to be considered for a position on the Sullivan School Board. I have lived in Sullivan since 2002 and have been a teacher for 25 years. I have had the pleasure to have served for the last 8 years on the school board. Prior to this, I also served on the committee that was charged with researching the educational opportunities and costs regarding the education of our children. Having children of my own, I have always tried to instill in them the importance of community and your responsibilities as a citizen in serving it. I also serve on the Sullivan Fire Department as well as Selectman. In the past five years, I think that the educational experiences that we have supported and stewarded have really been a benefit to our kids, and in turn our families and community as a whole. It has been an honor to serve with other dedicated townspeople, working together on behalf of our students, families and community. I humbly ask for your write in vote for School Board.

Write-in Michael Brooks (incumbent) - As a father of a 7th grader at Keene Middle School, I have a vested interest in the successful education for the children of Sullivan. I have an IT background and a long family history in Sullivan. I served 4 years active duty in the United States Air Force and ultimately retired from the Air National Guard with 20 years of service. While serving on the board as an elected member, I have had the pleasure to work with and learn from a number of dedicated members who all care about the success of our children. I look forward to continuing, should the voters vote for me as a write-in candidate.

Note: The Sewing/Quilting Group will not meet on March 7th, the day before Election Day.

SULLIVAN STORE UPDATE Making progress!

Excerpt from their recent newsletter...

We feel fortunate to be part of the small, tight-knit community of Sullivan, which has rallied behind us since we purchased the Sullivan Country Store in October 2020. We can't wait to rejuvenate our store! Our vision is to offer our community a place to connect and keep dollars recirculating in our town. We'll serve as a hub for local products and everyday needs.

Looking to the future, our vision is clear: We want all to feel welcome, to gather for town-wide events & activities, & feel ownership and pride in the restoration of the Sullivan Country Store. As we look to 2022, help us cross the finish line and bring our store back to life in a way our community deserves. Be a part of our vision!

Megan & Will

Septic System Progress

Septic Pro is almost done with the new system. So, what happens next? Next, Will & Megan will pick up where they left off with their licensing, which includes filing with the Department of Food Protection & the NH Liquor Commission.

Help Will & Megan bring back the Sullivan Country Store!

Recently they launched a crowdfunding campaign with "The Crowd Monadnock!" Thank you to everyone who has supported their campaign so far. How will they use this funding? They plan to invest in commercial refrigeration & equipment, mitigate water damage, give a facelift to the commercial kitchen and a stretch goal is to build a customer restroom.

If you're curious about the campaign, check it out - **Help Rejuvenate the Sullivan Country Store!** <https://monadnock.thelocalcrowd.coop/campaign/bring-life-back-to-the-sullivan-country-store/> . Follow their progress on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NHcountrystore> , and/or sign up for their newsletter at sullivancountrystore@gmail.com .

From the Archives **by Chris Pratt**

Here is the annual look back at previous town meetings.

10 years ago. The 2012 warrant contained 26 articles signed by Selectmen Richard Hotchkiss, Mark Paquette and Robert Thayer. Article 11 called on the town to direct the Monadnock Regional School District to conduct a study on Sullivan's withdrawal from the District. After much discussion, the meeting voted 87 to 13 to proceed. That began the long process of Sullivan creating its own school district which was realized in November. The continuing difficulties following the 2008 "Great Recession" were shown in the Planning Board report. Chairman Bob Switzer reported there were no subdivisions in 2011 and only one driveway permit issued as well as a small site plan review. Road Agent Randy Smith reported on the completion of the wood-fired boiler. Winter was harsh with unrelenting snow storms from January into April. However, the hard winter led to the dirt roads thawing gradually which meant a shorter mud season. Emergency Management Director, Al Henry reported the department's completion of several plans with the help of Amy Monroe. She was completing her senior year at Monadnock HS and worked with the department as her senior project. Librarian, Denise McFarland reported on the first year of the library's downloadable book program which was available through the NH State Library. 16 users downloaded 180 items. Eric White reported on the activities of the Conservation Commission which included a new forestry plan for the Winch Forest, funding a naturalist educator from the Harris Center and sponsoring the annual road cleanup. The cleanup gathered some 940 pounds of trash including 165 pounds of recyclables, 28 tires, 3 TVs and a computer monitor.

25 years ago. The 1997 warrant contained 36 articles signed by Selectmen George Gline, Edward McCann and Richard Katze. The cover of the town report that year featured a photograph of the new town hall taken on the day of its dedication. Amendments to the Community Planning Ordinance, which would have lowered the minimum square footage for a dwelling and required a certificate of occupancy were defeated by voters. A number of new Capital Improvement funds were established—mostly for Fire Department equipment. The perennial issue regarding the status of the Town Road Agent was raised once more and the Meeting (yet again) refused to have the Road Agent appointed by the Board of Selectmen. It would remain an elected position for a few more years. The Meeting approved the sale of the former Town Hall in East Sullivan. The Meeting voted to thank Stephen Hamilton for obtaining surplus furniture for the new town hall from Citizen's Bank. The Selectmen's report noted the relocation of the town barn and the expansion of the cemetery. Town Treasurer Elva Frazier noted that once again the town did not need to borrow money in anticipation of taxes which saved a significant amount in interest charges. Fire Chief Richard Connor noted the Fire Department's celebration of its 50th anniversary. Various reports noted the moving of committee and board meetings to the new town hall. Police Chief Karl Wheeler said that the new police station had been, "...a great help as we are now able to process our subjects here instead of taking them to Keene."

50 years ago. The 1972 warrant contained 23 articles signed by Selectmen Theodore Parker, Raymond E. Motter and Harvey W. Swett. The main appropriation that year was to build a new bridge over Spaulding Brook on Valley Road. The total cost of the bridge, which would be designed by the State, was \$56,000, but only \$7,000 was to be raised by taxes and borrowing. It was approved. The second major change was that the meeting voted 87 to 83 to abolish the Planning Board that had been established the year before. The action also repealed the subdivision regulations that the Board had adopted. This controversy would continue over the year and eventually the Planning Board would be reinstated. Article 12 was approved which raised the salaries of town officers. Selectmen went from \$200 per year to \$225 (the chairman from \$400 to \$450). Hourly employees received a 25 cent per hour raise. The meeting raised concerns over the fact that it had authorized a conservation commission in 1966, but the Selectmen had never appointed anyone to the commission.

100 years ago. The 1922 warrant contained 14 articles signed by Selectmen Edward L. Jewett, Herbert S. Currier and Frank L. Rawson. State highway aid continued to improve the quality of Sullivan's main roads. The town qualified for a 50-50 match during the previous year. A major change occurred that year regarding the Sullivan Public Library. Ann Nims, who had been librarian for 28 years, retired. The Library's collection had been in a room off of her kitchen. The decision was made to move part of the collection to Lillian Brown's home in East Sullivan and part to the home of Bessie Jewett in the Center. There was not enough room in either home for the entire collection, so the Town Meeting voted \$15 to construct bookcases at the Town Hall for the leftovers. School Superintendent, Vernon Ames noted that the addition of State aid to education had improved Sullivan's ability to upgrade its school houses to meet the new construction standards.

200 years ago. The 1822 warrant contained 13 articles signed by John Mason, Samuel Seward and Isaac Rawson. The Meeting voted most of the articles dealing with appropriations—\$300 for highways, \$300 for the schools and \$250 for the town charges. In addition, the Meeting voted \$160 to paint the meetinghouse. The specific motion

called for "...the meeting house be painted and the color like that of Keene meeting house." They chose a committee to see to the matter. The Town had an interesting controversy regarding the school taxes of William Warren. He lived on the east side of town on the border with Nelson (roughly where the power lines cross into Sullivan). Since his farm was remote from the schoolhouse, his children attended school in Nelson. He applied to pay his school taxes to Nelson rather than Sullivan which raised an interesting question of jurisdiction. The annual meeting refused his request. However, a special meeting was called on September 16th to reconsider the matter. The article called on Warren to pay his taxes, or the town would consent to have his farm annexed to Nelson. A compromise was reached where Warren would pay his taxes to Sullivan for 1821 and then present a certificate from Nelson that he paid his taxes to them for the year 1822. This may be the first example of "tuitioning" some of our students to another town—a practice that became common later in the 19th century.

Annual Sullivan Fire Department Yard Sale Fundraiser!

May 27 & 28

It's almost time to start spring cleaning! The Sullivan Fire Department plans to hold their annual yard sale on May 27th and 28th at the Fire Station, 9am to 3pm, rain or shine. Keep in mind "one man's trash is another man's treasure" as you clean. Donations will be accepted starting May 1st. To arrange a donation, pick up or drop off, please contact Bonnie Blanchard at 847-9680 or leave a message at the fire station at 847-9020.

Sullivan Church & Library will also hold Sales!

Once again, the center of Sullivan will host 3 sales on Memorial Day weekend! The church will also have a yard sale on May 27th & 28th and will begin collecting items in May. Call Becky Cummings at 847-3477 for help with pickup or drop-off of any items you might have to donate. The library will host their annual plant and book sale on May 28th. More on all to come in the next newsletter!

DON'T FORGET TO VACCINATE & LICENSE YOUR FAVORITE 4-LEGGED FRIENDS BY THE END OF APRIL!

Dogs are especially fortunate—at least that is how it must seem to the thousands of New Hampshire cats who, unlike their dog friends, do not get to experience the privilege of being licensed by their human owners. At just four months of age, a properly vaccinated dog is eligible for an official license from the town or city it lives in and can proudly show off its shiny license tag to its less fortunate feline friends! (quote from the NH Municipal Organization – for complete article, see <https://www.nhmunicipal.org/town-city-article/dogs-and-cats-some-laws-affecting-our-four-legged-friends> . See the Town Clerk for your licenses!

SPRING ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP!

May 7

It's time for Sullivan's annual roadside clean-up! Soon the snow will melt away which generally means that, unfortunately, many cans, bottles and "you name it" will become visible along our roads. We hope you'll be able to help

Meet at the Town Hall at 9 am for road assignments and to pick up a few of the familiar blue bags. If you could take one section of your road and pick up the rubbish, it would be a great help. Once you fill your blue bags, drop them off at salt shed at the town barn.

Due to Covid, we still don't feel comfortable offering lunch, but we invite everyone to pack their own and join us in Friendship Hall at the Church for a "picnic lunch". Conservation will provide beverages. Guaranteed good company and it's also a great way to meet your neighbors!

If you can't make it on the 7th but would like to help, stop by the town hall or library after April 15 for a couple of blue bags or call Roger Sweet at 847-3463 to get them ahead of time.

EARTH DAY POSTER CONTEST

Calling All Sullivan Households!

What does your family cherish about our natural world?

The Sullivan Conservation Commission is inviting each household to submit a poster illustrating what you cherish about our natural world. The poster can be in words, pictures, a magazine collage or a combination. You may use any size, any kind of paper you have on hand. Need paper? We'll have some for you at the town hall and library.

EVERY household submitting a poster will receive a complimentary gift. Leave your posters at the town hall or library and make sure your name and contact information is on the back or attached. Submissions will be accepted any time after receiving this newsletter up until **EARTH DAY- APRIL 22nd**. If you get your household's poster in early, it will be on view for town meeting! This fun family/household contest (no age limitations) is an opportunity for you to think and talk together about our natural world, what it means to you and what you want to protect. We hope you'll take a little time to think about Earth Day, participate in this community project and have some family fun together! If you have questions, ask any conservation member or call or email Wendy Byrn at 603-847-9621; dervish@myfairpoint.net or Becky Cummings at 603-847-3477; bcummings@myfairpoint.net.

"LIBRARY FOOTNOTES"

From Sullivan's Big Free Library

T.S. Eliot reflected in his poem "The Waste Land" that April is the cruelest month. Around these parts we know that the cruelest month can be March - with winter overstaying its welcome just a little too long and mud season holding on even longer! Come by the library to get some springtime inspiration - anything from gardening ideas, optimistic fiction, uplifting poetry or motivating biographies. We'd love to say hello to you and adieu to winter!

Your librarians are working hard to make sure your reading needs are met. We are always open to suggestions, though. What is it that would bring you in to the library more often, if only we offered it? Let us know!

We have started up our **2nd Saturday Book Group** again. So much fun! If you are looking for a different style of book to read, but aren't sure where to start, consider checking this out. We even offer a Zoom link in case you aren't able to meet at the library. Our March read will be *A Great Deliverance* by Elizabeth George. This is book 1 in the Inspector Lynley Mystery series.

Some of the newest books that we have added into our collection are:

Better Off Dead by Lee Child (book 26 in the Jack Reacher series)

Nashville Noir by Jessica Fletcher (book 33 in the Murder, She Wrote series)

The Whistler by John Grisham

The Judge's List by John Grisham

The Maid by Nita Prose

The Bonesetter's Daughter by Amy Tan

It's Better This Way by Debbie Macomber

The Lying Life of Adults by Elena Ferrante

We also have many audio CDs and DVDs. Come in and check us out again, if it's been a while since you've ventured into the library!

We would like to thank our volunteers Ginger DeAngelis and Ginny Yawarski.

Your Librarians,

Paulette Tuttle and Sara Bolduc

FROM SULLIVAN'S LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

By Tammy Rondeau

It seems as though the winter has been long, and my Little Free Library across from the Sullivan Post Office is stuck, buried in some snow. It's full! It even has some new books added recently, but unfortunately, we didn't keep up with snow removal and the bank on the road is now ice. We'll be better next year 😊 for sure.

I look forward to spring, melting snow and new faces to use the free library. Take a book or leave a book. Remember- you do not have to return them, so share them.

When you stop by, say hello to our new yellow pup, Clover!

LOOK WHAT'S IN THE LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE!

We hope you will take a few minutes to stop by, see our ever-changing display case, as well as our ever-changing supply of new books.

VINTAGE TEA CUP COLLECTION

Libby Beede has her beautiful, vintage tea cup collection set out at the library for everyone to enjoy. It's bright & colorful and guaranteed to lift your spirits on these chilly, winter days! Come in and take a look. Decorative tea cups were at their peak of popularity in the 1950's & 60's. Maybe your mother or grandmother had a collection. There are signs they may be making a come-back today!

COMING IN APRIL – TRAINS!

Dave Jakway's collection of Garden Railway trains will be on display, beginning in April. They're G-Scale size which runs on a gauge of 1.75 inches. This is the largest scale offered, making them suitable for outdoor use, rain or shine. On display will also be models of real Narrow Gauge engines which are used in Maine as well as other parts of the world. The engine types are Forney's, Consolidated and Climax. Also displayed will be various freight cars.

DO YOU HAVE A COLLECTION TO SHARE?

If you or someone in your family has a hobby, consider sharing it with the Sullivan community by putting it on display at the Library for a month or two.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Sullivan Public Library Board of Trustees will hold its monthly meetings on March 10, April 14, and May 12, 2022 at 3:30 PM at the library. The purpose of the meeting 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.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection!

A great opportunity to clean toxic wastes from your basement, workbench, garage, and cupboards.

Spring 2022

Sat. Mar. 19 Wed. Mar. 23 Sat. Mar. 26
Sat. Apr. 16 Wed. Apr. 20 Sat. Apr. 30
Sat. May 14 Wed. May 18 Sat. May 21

All collections run 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Keene Recycling Center, 55 Old Summit Road, Keene

<https://ci.keene.nh.us/public-works/household-hazardous-waste-schedule>

What to Bring

Products marked toxic, poison, corrosive, irritant, hazardous, flammable, danger.

If you think it's hazardous, bring it up.

What Not to Bring: empty containers (can be recycled), latex paint, ammunition, fireworks, radioactive materials, makeup & toiletries

Other Information: Containers must be labeled as to their contents. No containers larger than 10 gallons will be accepted.

Collection takes approximately 10 minutes from time of arrival.

EASTER SERVICES AT THE SULLIVAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The Sullivan Congregational Church invites you to join them for an Easter Sunrise Service, April 17 at 6:00 am, in front of the Sullivan Church. In case of inclement weather, service will be held inside. Following the service, a complimentary Easter breakfast will be served! Questions – call 847-3477.

A traditional Easter Service will be at 9:30 am in the sanctuary with Pastor Christopher Cornell. We hope you can join us for one or both services! Both services will feature special music and an Easter message.

Other Easter Services: Palm Sunday, April 10 at 9:30 am - Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service, preceded with a soup and bread meal will be held on April 14 at 6:00 pm in Friendship Hall at the church.

From the Fire Department



One thing many of us who live in the sticks can say is that we are used to power outages, and no doubt many of you have purchased generators to deal with this issue. This time around we are covering a few safety tips for generators and their use. The information is taken from the NH Department of Safety, Division of Fire Safety. For anyone that would like more information, you can refer to the state website at fmo@dos.nh.gov.

There are basically two types of generators, portable and stationary. Stationary generators should only be installed by NH licensed gas fitters and hooked up to electrical systems by NH licensed electricians, so we are not going to spend much time covering stationary generators. The licensed professionals should take care of the safety issues, but if you have any questions, you can refer to the above web site or contact the fire department.

Portable generator are smaller and, as the name implies, can be moved around. As with stationary generators, portable generators should only be hooked into electrical systems by NH licensed electricians. Improperly hooked up generators (without transfer switches) could cause fires or serious injury or death to utility workers trying to restore the power.

Here are some of the many safety points for generator operation that are the responsibility of the homeowner to follow.

--Portable generators should be no closer than 10 feet to a structure. Make sure the generator exhaust is pointed away from all building openings, which includes doors, windows, dryer and kitchen vents and heater exhaust vents. You may need to take wind direction into account as well.

--Never run generators inside a structure, this includes basements, garages (even with the door open) or sheds. Carbon monoxide build up can occur very quickly with little warning. If possible, generators should be run under an open sided protective cover.

--Make all electrical connections prior to starting the generator. Making connections while the generator is running during inclement weather may lead to electrocution.

--Do not run generators near combustible items. Heat from the motor can cause fires. When refueling, giving the generator ample time to cool will also reduce fire hazards.

--Never modify or construct power cords so a generator can be hooked up to an appliance or receptacle.

Even though Sullivan does not currently require permits or inspections for portable and stationary generators, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact the fire department.

Reflections of a Man Devoted to the Town of Sullivan

Submitted by Ann & Roger Sweet

Although Richard "Dick" Smith and his wife Ana live in Arlington, MA, they have for many years appreciated their woods near Chapman Pond in Sullivan. They have camped and hiked with their children and grandchildren, enjoying "the time changes of daylight among the hills. Sullivan is far enough away from Keene to avoid city lights of night. The brightness of the Milky Way on snow, and the North Star circling by the Big Dipper continue the daytime sun's shadows, marking time on the twelve hills that make a dial around the clock-faced town." (Quote from a letter Dick recently wrote to the Sweets.)

Dick enjoys the Celtic heritage of Sullivan. One of New Hampshire's first governors was John Sullivan, of Irish origins. Sullivan was one of Washington's important generals and very involved in the activities founding the American Revolution. The meaning of the Sullivan - "Sul" of Sullivan "refers to eyes and the rest of the word suggests "seeing from above as a bird, star or a hill overlooking its valley below Sullivan."

We miss the visits of Dick and his grandchildren to Sullivan, but we are glad he thinks pleurably of our town and writes to tell us so. Those who participated in past roadside clean-up days loved seeing him, his kids and grandkids pile out of their cars every year to help, and they all stayed for lunch afterwards. They always brought a dish to share with the group, too.

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.

COMING SOON – A NEW COLUMN FOR THE NEWSLETTER! “Meet Your Neighbor!”

By Risa Keene

Grab yourself a hot cup of coffee, sit by the fire and meet your neighbors. “Meet Your Neighbor” is an upcoming new feature in our Sullivan Newsletter. Although Sullivan is a small town, there are still people we don't know, or maybe there are interesting things we don't know about familiar people in town. This series will introduce us to residents of Sullivan; some may have grown up here, some may be new. Looking forward to talking with you!

But first, let me tell you a little about myself!

My name is Risa Keene, and I love meeting new people, learning about different cultures, gardening, riding my bike, camping/hiking and x-country skiing. These interests have been woven into my life since I was a child. I grew up in Huntington Station NY, on Long Island, about an hour train ride east of New York City. We lived, “in the country.” My parents first took me tenting when I was 6 months old; I've been enjoying outdoor activities ever since.

My first job as a speech/language therapist was in Providence, Rhode Island. That's where my husband Doug and I met. We moved to Kotzebue Alaska (10 miles north of the Arctic Circle) 2 weeks after we got married. I worked as a speech/language therapist for the school district and traveled by mail plane to all the rural villages in our district. That meant I spent Tuesdays through Fridays in small villages working with the students and staff.

We moved into Sullivan when our 3 children were young, and we still love living here. One of our special memories occurred soon after we arrived, when my daughters and I decided to make a scarecrow. We didn't have any hay and were told to contact the Sweets as they probably had some. Although I had never met them before, they were very friendly and invited us to gather some hay off their barn floor. We got enough and made a fine scarecrow. The time with Ann and Roger on their farm made a big impression on the kids, and it's still part of our family stories.

Another memorable situation from Sullivan was when I was on the Cemetery Expansion Committee with several people including Mary and Ron Hull. Boy, Ron could tell a great story and with his sense of humor he had me laughing so hard! He recounted one time when a grave filled up with so much water that the coffin floated up. Mary also has a good sense of humor. She once called me up at home and told me I had “won the Sullivan lottery!” Once I accepted the prize she then followed up with, “To be on the Sullivan School Board.” She got me. I was involved for several years.

In 2015 Doug and I spent 2 years living in Lesotho, Africa. He worked as a physician there, teaching family doctors and seeing patients. I worked with a local organization leading book groups for kids, helped the staff teach young adults about HIV/AIDS and worked with some students from the school for the deaf. We made lifelong friends there and are still in touch with many of them.

I'm looking forward to meeting more people in town through this series. If you are interested in being interviewed by me, or if you have ideas of someone for me to interview, please let me know. No need to worry, about the article, I'll write it and you will review it & provide feedback before it goes to print. You can reach me at risagkeene@gmail.com or 603 847-9122.

Community Volunteer Transportation Company Get a ride or give a ride

Right down the road, someone needs a ride to somewhere essential. CVTC's vetted, volunteer drivers continue to give rides to people who need a ride to doctor's and social service appointments, grocery shopping, and the pharmacy. Drivers wear facemasks, sanitize the cars between trips, and request riders sit in the back seat.

If you are someone who needs a ride, call CVTC. You can keep your appointments, stay independent, and live at home in peace.

Here is what one rider recently told us: "Just want to thank you for all your efforts towards making a stressful situation into a comfortable escapade. Both drivers were expedient in all regards and provided much appreciated diversion and calm in addition to transportation."

Call CVTC 821-0569 or email volunteerdriverprogram@cvtc-nh.org. We will return your call or email promptly. To learn more, visit CVTC on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CVTCGiveARide> or go to www.cvtc-nh.org. Our office is located at 375 Jaffrey Rd., Suite 3, Peterborough, NH 03458.

TIPS FROM A MASTER GARDENER: BETTER LAWNS & GARDENS WITH LESS WORK

Submitted by Leslie Casey



The days are getting longer; the sap buckets are out. Those can only mean one thing: spring is around the corner! It is time to gear up for the growing season.

Late winter is the best time to prune fruit trees and most shrubs. It is worth the effort because it is an investment in the health and appearance of these long-lived plants. Bonus: the blackflies aren't out yet! For best results cut cleanly and avoid damaging the "collar," which is a distinct bulge where the branch connects to the trunk of the tree or an older branch. The collar's job is to heal the bark wound left when a branch is removed. You don't need paint; wounds will heal best if left alone.

Follow pruning "rules of thumb" from UNH Extension to start pruning trees like an expert: (1) Remove all dead, damaged, diseased branches; (2) Remove all water sprouts (fast-growing, upright branches) and branches that cross and rub each other; (3) Remove branches that hang down or grow upright to compete with the main leader. Additionally, reduce the length of or remove branches that are more than ½ the diameter of the main trunk; (4) Eliminate branches that have narrow crotch angles (less than 45 degrees) to reduce the change of splitting or breaking; and (5) Prune moderately and only cut off branches if you have a good reason to. Pruning can be spread over several years, so you aren't removing more than 1/3 of the canopy in a single growing season.

A common mistake is shortening shrubs by chopping off the tops. It is much better for the plant to selectively prune the tallest branches back to the trunk (mind those collars!). It is easiest in the long run, though, to plant a shrub variety that will naturally stay at the desired height at maturity. Multi-trunked shrubs such as lilacs and blueberries may be easily rejuvenated by removing old trunks at the base. Again, do not remove too much of the plant in one season.

For more on pruning basics, including tricks to get the most out of flowering shrubs, check out the UNH Extension pruning basics fact sheet: <https://extension.unh.edu/resource/basics-pruning-trees-and-shrubs-fact-sheet>. For more specifics on training and maintaining fruit trees, check out this fact sheet: <https://extension.unh.edu/resource/growing-fruits-growing-plums-cherries-and-apricots-nh-home-orchards-fact-sheet>.

It is tempting to get going in the vegetable garden when the soil is still wet, but don't do it. That is the main cause of soil compaction that can leave you with poor drainage and growth problems all season. Soil is dry enough to rototill so long as it does not stick to your shovel and shoes, and crumbles when squeezed. Even better: think about switching to raised beds or other no-till methods.

I hope you have enjoyed these tips. If you have gardening questions, email me: LCCasey29@hotmail.com. I will try to find you the answer, or I will forward your question to one of our UNH Extension experts.

Jeffrey P. Smith Farm Camp Scholarships For kids ages 5 to 20!

The Cheshire County Conservation District is now taking applications for the Jeffrey P. Smith Farm Camp Scholarship! Applicants should be ages 5-20 and Cheshire County residents. Does your child have interest in farms or gardening? Would he or she like to explore these interests this summer? The Jeffrey P. Smith Farm Scholarship endeavors to connect young people with agriculture and the natural world around them. Jeff felt it was everyone's job to keep the soil protected and cared for, so that it would always be there for us, our children and our children's children to enjoy and have foods that keep families happy and healthy. It's a great chance to learn how to grow all sorts of wonderful foods and/or an opportunity to learn to help take care of animals. If this is of any interest, waste no time in applying for one of our free farm camp scholarships. Find the form at: <http://www.cheshireconservation.org/monadnock-localvores> Deadline to apply is March 31st.

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[If you can volunteer some of your time, we can
always use more drivers!](#)

EARTH DAY POSTER CONTEST

Calling All Sullivan Households!

What does your family cherish about our natural world?

See inside newsletter for details!

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 town clerk Mary Hull or administrative assistant.

Deadline for the next newsletter is 20 April. 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

SPRING ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP!

May 7

Meet at the Town Hall at 9am for bags & road assignments. See inside for more information.

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Sullivan Fire Station 603-847-9020
Sullivan Library 603-847-3458
Sullivan Post Office 603- 847-9720
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Keene Middle School 603- 357-9020
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<https://townofsullivannh.com/>

For Burn Permits Call:

Al Henry, Chief & Warden 603-847-9598
Mike Blanchard, Deputy Warden 603- 847-9680
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