



## ***Sullivan Community Newsletter***

**Vol. 41 Number 3**

**Sullivan, NH**

**Nov. – Dec. 2021**

### **LETTERS TO SANTA**

#### **Mail them at the Sullivan Post Office!**

Coming soon in the lobby of the Sullivan Post Office – a Special Santa Mailbox! Have your child drop his/her wish list into the box then look for a personalized reply! Address letter to: Santa Claus; North Pole – no postage necessary, if mailed in Sullivan. Be sure to include your child's name and return address!

If the letters are mailed by Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, the return envelope will be postmarked with an authentic North Pole postmark. Get all letters to Santa into the mail by Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> to guarantee a reply from Santa.

### **SANTA DAY IN SULLIVAN**

**December 4, 2021 (Snow date: December 11)**

**Sullivan Fire Station**

**1-2:30 pm**



Come visit Santa and do your holiday shopping in the fire station bay. Gifts are only 25¢ each! There will be lots of gift items for you to choose from for family and friends, Bows and wrapping paper will be available to take home. Santa asks you to be safe and warm: please wear masks, dress warmly and observe social distancing. Come and join the holiday fun!! Sponsored by the Friends of the Sullivan Library - with many thanks to the Sullivan Fire Department for the generous use of their space.

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 6:30 pm**

Come and enjoy a country Christmas Eve service with a carol sing, meaningful message, luminaries and special music. As the newsletter goes to print, an inside service is planned, but it could be moved outside depending on the state of Covid in our area. Watch the church Facebook page or call 603-847-3477 for updates. Masks and physical distancing, please. Mark your calendar for this holiday happening! No church service Dec. 26.

### ***Poinsettias Sale to Help Support Care in Our Region***

Home Healthcare, Hospice & Community Services (HCS) is holding its annual poinsettia sale. The plants will be available at the HCS office in Keene in November and December. Proceeds from the sale benefit HCS home care and hospice services provided in southwestern New Hampshire. The poinsettias are locally-grown and are ready just in time for the holidays for gifts and decorations!

They are available in red, pink or white and in three sizes: a single stem plant in a 6" pot with 6 to 8 blooms (\$12); a double stem plant in a 7" pot with 12 to 15 blooms (\$20); and a triple stem plant with 20 to 25 blooms (\$30).

**Orders must be received by Thursday, November 18.** Orders may be placed online at [www.HCSservices.org/hcs-news/26thpoinsettiasale](http://www.HCSservices.org/hcs-news/26thpoinsettiasale) . For more information or to request an order form be mailed to you, call Marianne at 352-2253 x4294 or email [poinsettias@HCSservices.org](mailto:poinsettias@HCSservices.org).

## "LIBRARY FOOTNOTES"

Seasons change.... People change....

Here we are at the tail end of another year. As I write this, the weather doesn't know if it wants to cool off or warm up, but the leaves sure are pretty. Don't you agree? And soon we all know what will be coming... but I'm not going to be the first to say it out loud! Just in case though, are you prepared for some cozy winter evenings when the work is done for the day and you just want to get lost in a book, audiobook or movie? We can help you with that!

Are you looking for a way to add more reading into your life? Well, here at the Sullivan Public Library, we can help you with that! We have started up the **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Book Group** again and it meets at 11 AM on the second Saturday of each month. If you would like to join, but can't come in person, we also offer a Zoom link for you to join us. Check out our Facebook page for more details on the current read, or to offer suggestions for any future reads.

Did you know that if there is a book that you are looking for and we don't have a copy here in the library, chances are good that we can order it for you from another library? Inter-Library Loan is a terrific tool that helps us get in what you need, whether for school or personal reads.

**Problems downloading your books?** If you use Libby/ Overdrive for your audio and e-books, but have found that you are logged out of your account, come to the library for your new patron number and we can get you back in business again.

**Curbside pick-up available 24/7!** Can't get into the library when we're open? Call or email us: we'll put your books into the green book box and you can pick them up at your convenience!

Thank you to **Ginger DeAngelis**, library volunteer, who recently helped put together the new brochure about our library services. Be sure to pick one up – in it is the link to downloading books through the Sullivan Library and another link where you can find out what books are on the shelves of the Sullivan Library.

A huge thank you to all who have donated their time and resources to help us better serve you!

Your librarian,  
Paulette Tuttle

### **Best Wishes, Dott Miles – we'll miss you.**

It was with regret the Sullivan Library Trustees accepted the resignation of librarian, Dott Miles, a familiar, friendly face to many in town. Her work with the mystery book group, the cookbook group and with interlibrary services are important library services. We wish Dott and her husband, Peter well in their new home.

The Trustees of the Sullivan Public Library

### **Public Notice**

The Sullivan Public Library Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meetings on November 11, December 9, 2021 and January 13, 2022 at the 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.

## **HELP WANTED - a few hours a week!**

The Sullivan Public Library is looking for a part-time librarian to work a few hours a week, including alternating Saturdays and 1 or 2 evenings. Library experience and residency are preferred but not required. Reading appreciation, good communication and computer skills needed. If you or someone you know might be interested, send a resume and letter of interest to [cpratt@myfairpoint.net](mailto:cpratt@myfairpoint.net) or mail to Chris Pratt, 183 Valley Road, Sullivan, NH 03445. All inquiries will be kept in strict confidence.

The Trustees of the Sullivan Public Library

## Ponderings of a Resident

When my wife and I moved to Sullivan in 2002, we were attracted to the beauty and solitude of Sullivan. As a new arrival in town, it did not take me long to recognize that the core strength that drove the Town and kept it running were the older residents. The warm friendly greeting of Lois Woodbury as I registered my cars in her living room. Some of these vital people have left an indelible mark on our Town. We have lost some members: our long-time police chief Karl Wheeler, Mary Parker who was so vital to the library, the town's kids as well as to the church. Lorraine Lindemood who was much more than simply our Treasurer. And, of course Randy Smith who cared for a lot more than just our roads. In the past 20 years, the cornerstone of people who are vital to the running of our Town remains.

Pause and look for a moment at this Newsletter. Look through the names that you routinely see, these are a true reflection of residents of Sullivan. Residents who care deeply about their town and feel a sense of duty to become an integral part of it. From volunteers sewing hundreds of masks for the town in a pandemic to volunteering their time to fix up Jewett Park, cleaning our roads of trash or preserving our town history. They donate countless hours and give of themselves, skills, talents and tools to the benefit of many planned and unplanned events as they arise. Our Fire Department is proudly one of a dwindling number in New Hampshire which is strictly volunteer. From training to responding in the middle of the night, they do so without recompense. Its volunteer history is valued and a point of pride for members.

These people are also our Planning Board Members, School Board Members, Conservation Commission Members, on the Zoning Board, Selectmen, First Responders and more. They give of themselves for the benefit of their neighbors. The one common thread that joins all of them together.... is their worry. There is very real concern about the future and what it will bring to our Town. Fewer and fewer people are coming forward to volunteer to serve on Town Committees and Offices. As the years pass, many are worried about the continuity of knowledge, the continuation of how to arrange and take care of Town affairs. It takes a lot of pressure off of our Town's finances as well. Many of these roles are required by the State and we have managed to meet them with those willing to volunteer time and energy with relatively small stipends. Many other communities have had to resort to salaried positions from Town Managers, Town Planners, Fire Chief to EMTs and more. If things don't turn around with more of our citizens stepping up to take part in Town affairs, there will be no choice but to hire people for these duties which will undoubtedly impact our small town's finances.

I fully understand that so many of us are busy in life, but I would humbly point out the rewards of volunteering. I know that it has afforded me to gain a great deal of knowledge, a sense of appreciation and satisfaction of helping to preserve the character of our Sullivan Community as well as forming strong friendships and ties with my neighbors. Please pause and consider your own experiences and skills for your town. Your community is in need...of YOU!

Sincerely,  
Paul Bolduc  
Sullivan Selectman  
Sullivan EMT & Firefighter  
Sullivan School Board

### **SO LONG TO A FAMILIAR FACE AND HELLO TO A NEW ONE!**

The red jeep around town has a new driver – Jeff Gilbert, Sullivan's postal route driver for years has decided to retire. He and his wife will head west to the warmer climate of Arizona to be closer to family. His last day will be Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.

At the same time, Sullivan welcomes Rachael Wilcox, a Sullivan resident, who is taking over his route.

**Best wishes to both of you!**

### **SULLIVAN SUPERVISORS OF CHECKLIST**

**Nov. 18 11 to 11:30am**

Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session at the Sullivan Town Hall for additions and corrections to the checklist as well as change of party affiliation.

**Out walking after dusk this time of year? Please remember to wear light-colored clothing or reflective vests and orange clothing during hunting season.**

# From the Archives

by Chris Pratt

There are many opportunities in our town for people who like to walk. We are fortunate to have a number of trails such as Meetinghouse Rock, Otter Brook Falls and the land around Bolster Pond. For those who prefer to stay on a road, we have two loops—Centre Street/Hubbard Road/South Road as well as Valley Road/Cross Road/Centre Street. Medical science tells us there a number of benefits for even a small amount of walking. Before the automobile, many of our residents would hike to the post office in either Sullivan Center or East Sullivan. Walking saved the bother of hitching up the horse and gave one an opportunity to see what the neighbors were “up to.” In researching this article, I came upon a woman who was perhaps our greatest walker—Emma Hammond.

Emma Rosetta Cilly was the daughter of Nathan Gove Cilly and Amy Smith (Phelps) Cilly. She was born in Orange, NH, on 5 April 1848. On 5 December 1870, she married John Wallen Hammond. He was from Winchester and they settled on a farm there. Their first child died not long after birth. Then they had a daughter, Edith Pearl Hammond, who was born on 1 September 1879. After living in Massachusetts for a time, they moved to Sullivan after purchasing the 70 acre Martin Spaulding farm in 1897. This farm stood for many years on the land that is now 10 Jenkins Lane. On 2 October 1901, their daughter Edith married Burton Edward Smith. He grew up on the Smith farm located on Ferry Brook Road. Burton and John formed a partnership to operate the farm. The Hammond/Smith farm was primarily a dairy farm but probably sold timber and vegetables as well butter.

Emma Hammond managed the household with Edith and did what she could to supplement the family income. She would later recall picking berries and walking to Keene to sell them. Her vigor was not restricted to selling berries. Apparently, she walked everywhere she needed to go in Sullivan as well. Carleton Nims recalled that she was his Sunday school teacher and she regularly pitched in when help was needed at the church. He recalled her helping to shingle the roof on the horse sheds.

Emma's time in Sullivan ended on 27 May 1910 when she and John sold the farm on Jenkins Lane. The Hammonds and Smiths moved to Lyme in hopes of finding a better farm. Unfortunately, Burton died on 29 June 1912. At age 86, John could not continue farming without Burton. So, he and Emma decided to move to 50 Cottage Street in Keene. John died on 1 February 1914. In spite of all of these changes, Emma quickly adapted to her new community.

During her time in Keene, Emma was very active in the Methodist Church as well as the work of the George Street Chapel. She enjoyed singing and was the oldest member of the Keene Chorus Club. She was always willing to lend a hand for a sick neighbor and was one of the city volunteers during the Influenza Pandemic of 1918.

Also, Emma kept walking. She never owned an automobile and soon developed a regimen that included a 3 mile walk once a week. On other days, she always walked to downtown Keene or wherever her errands took her. Every once in a while, she walked to Sullivan to visit with her friends and former neighbors. She also began an annual climb up Mount Monadnock. In October of 1922, her annual hike caught the attention of the *Keene Sentinel*. “It was nothing for me,” she was quoted as saying, “I could have repeated the climb the next day.” She went on to praise the virtues of walking every day.

On the night of 15 March 1923, she walked to a market on Giffin Street. The sidewalks were wet and slippery, and so she decided to walk on Washington Street for her return trip. A motorist failed to see her and hit her. She died instantly with a broken neck and multiple broken bones. She was 3 weeks shy of her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Some people walk for pleasure. Others walk for their health. Still others walk because it is a means to go from one place to another. In her life, Emma Hammond seems to have embraced all three ideas. In the process, she lived a remarkable life.

**LOOKING FOR A CERTAIN SULLIVAN PHONE NUMBER?** Did you know many important Sullivan phone numbers are listed on the back page of this Newsletter? If you need a fire permit, the warden's numbers are there, too!

**Need help with something?** Check out our Classified Ads for that – you just may find what you want!

## ROLE MODELS FROM ANOTHER ERA

By Patricia McMahon Clark

*Recently, we took a ride down the road through East Sullivan, the village of my youth. A flood of memories and emotions gripped me when I saw a real estate sign on the lawn of the Goodnow property. The last home from my immediate neighborhood is to be sold. I reviewed written memories of the Victorian lady role models during my youth, and submit this essay in loving memory of **Minnie L. Goodnow** and her home, called the Heritage. P.M. Clark 2021*

Minnie was born to an old and solid New England family that valued education and service to the community. Her father, Leslie Henry Goodnow, served as a state legislator; her mother, Martha, oversaw the post office. In the dining room, there was a 12-pane window with a little door in a middle pane where mail could be handed to a receiver standing on the porch. The family owned Goodnow's Mill by Otter Brook, where water power from a dam was used to make many items. I remember the folding tables, which appeared in homes around the village. Mr. Goodnow was director of the East Sullivan Band and East Sullivan Orchestra. Rehearsals were held in a shed building behind the house. He ran "Singing Schools" locally and as far away as Swanzey. My great grandfather's diaries mention attending band rehearsals during the last two decades of the 19th century.

Minnie attended Keene High School, where she stayed with the family of her friend Myrtle Ellis, former residents of Ellenville who had moved to Keene to establish a business. Horse drawn wagons provided transportation when needed. After high school, Minnie taught in Harrisville, and at Beech Hill in the Keene District. She boarded at the Moore farm on Concord Hill and trudged through the snow carrying the day's water and starting the wood fire before her pupils arrived. Minnie taught for a while at District #3 in the Fifield District. One of her pupils was Perley Swett. Many years later, during my youth, Perley left a box of berries and a poem at her door. Minnie taught for many years in Billerica, Massachusetts before her retirement to the Heritage, which happily occurred during my early childhood. Minnie must have been an outstanding teacher, with her keen intelligence, desire to pursue courses to further her education, her consistent manner and quiet ability to instill discipline in young minds. In the modern era, she could have pursued any career she chose.

I came to know Minnie during her 30 or so years of retirement. She was our cherished neighbor, a presence who seemed timeless. She never lost the teacher instinct. For years, she coordinated with the NH State Library in receiving, distributing and returning children's books. I eagerly awaited each shipment and became acquainted with the Moffats and other classic characters in this manner. Our town library lacked funds for a library such as exists now. It consisted of shelves of books located first in private homes before being consolidated in the upstairs room at Union Hall. During all these years, we relied on shipments from the State Library to augment our meager offerings. Minnie did a valuable service by providing us young people with quality reading material.

Minnie kept a small cottage garden just behind her back door, where she raised vegetables for consumption and to give away. She practiced healthy eating, and was a regular customer of Mr. Quinn of Hancock, who about once a week during harvest season, came by to sell produce out of the back of his pickup truck. I can see Minnie now, walking out with her change purse in hand to look over the selection as he parked at the foot of her drive by the side of the road.

Minnie was a charter member of the Homeland Circle and an active member for over 50 years. The group held annual picnics. Once in the early 1940s, Minnie hosted the event on her lawn. By the corner of her driveway was a magnificent great grandfather elm tree, which to Minnie's sorrow, eventually had to be removed, leaving a vast stump around which brush and plants grew, framed by a lovely white lattice fence on the road side. Old fashioned roses tumbled about. The lawn was on level ground, which made it perfect for croquet and picnics. In those days, the Circle picnics attracted women of all ages and in significant numbers. Members brought a favorite dish to contribute to the feast. Fortunately, photos of this picnic do exist and provide a gallery of many of the neighborhood women of a past era.

Minnie often was away visiting friends. If it was winter, she hired me to keep her bird feeders filled. I was given a key to the house. She left jars of peanut butter, cheap donuts in boxes and birdseed. I smeared peanut butter onto the donuts and dipped them in birdseed to provide a winter treat at the bird feeders on the front porch. She also hired me to help with house cleaning. Her large pantry had floor to ceiling shelves, which I cleaned once or twice a year. I washed windows and did other light work. In her teacher fashion, Minnie never hesitated to point out ways I could improve, vital lessons for my future.

During World War II, I sold war stamps to the people on our road. Each week I delivered stamps, counted the amount paid, and delivered the money to Freda Hastings, as I recall. Minnie always purchased 10 cent stamps, which she

pasted into a book that when filled she exchanged for a \$25 War Bond. She showed me letters from her nephew, Lonnie, who was in the Navy in Alaska. I was fascinated to see the little pictures he drew in hopes of bypassing the censors. One time he came in his sailor uniform to visit "Auntie" accompanied by a lovely young woman, Polly. After their marriage and the birth of their son John, they lived for a while in the north apartment at the Goodnow home. We young folks would congregate around the player piano in the living room. They added spice and sparkle to our teen years.

Minnie, like single women of the time, was often a caregiver. Mrs. Marietta Ware had lived in the north apartment of the Goodnow home for decades. I'm sure that Minnie kept an eye on her, as much as an independent old lady would allow. Whenever Mrs. Foster, next door, was between caregivers, Minnie crossed the lawn to look after her as well. Fortunately, both ladies were within steps, because Minnie never drove a car. Years later, when her brother Walter moved in with her, he brought along his Dodge, one of the first with a kind of automatic drive. The two of them hired my mother, Edna to drive them to visit friends in the area. She always looked back on those times with pleasure. When Walter became quite forgetful, Minnie lovingly looked after him. She would send him on errands to Jack's store and eventually pin a list to his jacket for Jack to read. At the end, Minnie phoned my mother and asked for her presence. Walter had been sitting at lunch when he slouched and was gone. Minnie held his hand until the undertaker arrived. Throughout the years, Minnie had taken pleasure in her nephews, Leslie and Walter (Lonnie), sons of Walter and Helen (Wiswall) Goodnow. As boys, they visited with "Auntie" during school vacations. Their mother Helen stayed with Minnie during parts of a terminal illness. The Heritage was shared with family as needed.

Minnie refused to be "old". She remained interested in the wider world. She didn't care to drink tea, because that was for "old ladies". When age and infirmity became a fact of life, Minnie showed great resourcefulness. When she was told that her vision was failing and could not be saved, she bought a typewriter and learned touch typing. She allowed herself one soap opera a day on television. My mother often walked up the road to join her. Minnie realized that she would need help to stay at home, so she went about finding people to live with her. This was becoming increasingly difficult, because it was the Sixties and society was changing markedly. Fortunately, she found a couple of ladies, one who "lived in" for several months, and one who came days, as I recall. This ruggedly independent soul spent only a matter of weeks in a nursing home at the end. She was lucid, with her dignity intact!

Minnie was a lady in her bearing and behavior. She was of medium height, with a shock of glorious white hair. I still marvel at how she dressed her hair, with a bun in the back and beautiful soft waves in front. All of this was held in place by a delicate net. Her face had soft wrinkles and jowls. She accessorized her carefully chosen clothing with necklaces or pins. She wore high quality shoes with Cuban heels, a dark color for winter and a light color with perhaps cutwork in the summer. Her dress lengths left a few inches of sturdy ankle and leg showing. Her manner was moderate: in her walk, in her speech, in her movements, in her emotions. Minnie was a picture of quiet dignity.

Minnie lived long enough to see me graduate from college and teach for more than a decade. She continued to quietly support me. Until her final days, upon occasion she would give me one of her beloved books with a little message inside, often in the form of a poem. I have always treasured these gifts. She likewise wrote poems for family, and filled copy books with her poems--and diaries--over the years.

Minnie would have been pleased that the Heritage became home for her nephew Leslie and Alma (Smith) Goodnow for years after her death. They were ever present, watchful, and helpful neighbors after my father died and my mother lived alone before I retired. After they moved to Heritage Heights in Concord, Minnie's grandnephew Hal Goodnow watched over the home, property and rental occupants for lots of years.

Time has run out. The house that was built in the 1840s has sheltered generations of Goodnows. May it become a heritage for a family in this century.

**THE HOLIDAYS ARE FAST APPROACHING!  
Does someone you know need a little extra help?**

If you or someone you know can use help with holiday meals, gifts or other items, please contact Gaynelle Pratt at 603-847-3477 or via the town hall.

## DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL COLLECTION OR HOBBY THAT MIGHT INTEREST OTHERS?

### Kids & adults are all welcome

The Sullivan Library is inviting kids and adults alike to display their special collections/hobbies in their glass cabinet (4' x 14" x 18"). What might you have? – a special toy collection, local memorabilia, artwork, woodworking, sewing, antiques, photos? The library wants to rotate displays frequently.

Have you seen the current display in the case by the Friends of the Library? They put it together for the Fall Festival and it shows many of the projects they've done over the years! Stop by and take a look – maybe you'll see pictures of your kids, friends or even yourself!

## LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES ARE IN SULLIVAN TOO!

The Little Free Library (Charter # 132665) at 312 Centre St. is up and running and stocked. Please feel free to stop by anytime to pick up a new book to read. A few DVD's have recently been added, too. Check back often, as books will rotate in and out as space is available. Free complimentary bookmarks with photos taken by us on them, are for taking, too - 😊. We are located across from the Sullivan Post Office and welcome all to stop by to check us out. Happy Reading!  
The Rondeaus.



A second LFL is coming soon. Watch the area around 426 Valley Road.

## Sullivan's First Fall Festival

The Jewett Park Restoration Committee would like to extend thanks and gratitude to every person who made the 1<sup>st</sup> Sullivan Fall Festival a success. The Sullivan Conservation Committee, the Sullivan Church, Friends of the Library, Sullivan Selectboard members, the Sullivan Highway/Road department and the Sullivan Fire Department... you ALL helped make this a community event.

Lastly, and certainly not least, thanks to our residents and our donors. We now have 2 picnic tables, 5 gallons of stain and free inspection by a professional roofer to assess the pavilions. The festival day was about raising money to restore our park (which we did!), but it was about more than that. It was about bringing together and giving back to this beautiful town that we all call home - our Community.

We raised \$2776 just at the Festival. Our goal is \$10k by spring of 2022. We are almost halfway there! Residents interested in participating on the committee or anyone who would like the latest updates, email Kathleen Wheeler at [kd3960@yahoo.com](mailto:kd3960@yahoo.com).

Donations to the restoration project will be greatly appreciated. Checks should be made out to Jewett Park Restoration and mailed to: Jewett Park Restoration, PO Box 94, Sullivan, NH 03445.

On behalf of the Jewett Park Committee, thank you all for your support.

Kathleen Wheeler

## “No Fee” Transportation for Monadnock Region Residents! Drivers Wanted

Sullivan has at least one volunteer driver - thank you, whoever you are! - but more are needed. Can you spare a little of your time? People become volunteer drivers for a variety of reasons. Some volunteer because they want something meaningful to do, want to give back, feel satisfaction from helping others or feeling needed. Some volunteer to build relationships with others or because they prefer donating time instead of money. No matter the reason, volunteer drivers improve the health and wellness of the Monadnock Region, one ride at a time.

The Community Volunteer Transportation Company (CVTC) needs 12 more volunteer drivers to achieve its goal of having 75 active drivers by the end of 2021. Can you help CVTC provide “no fee” transportation to non-emergency medical and social service appointments, grocery shopping, and other basic needs? Call 1-877- 428-2882, ext. 5 for more information about becoming a volunteer driver or visit their website: [www.cvtc-nh.org](http://www.cvtc-nh.org).

**Do you need a ride or know of someone who does?** CVTC provides transportation for non-emergency medical and social service appointments, grocery shopping and other basic needs. Give them a call!

## From the Fire Department



'Tis the season again. We're not talking about the obnoxious commercials and blinking lights. We're talking about when the fire department starts going out to people's houses for chimney fires. Now that the days are getting shorter and the temperature is starting to fall, here are a few tips for chimney, stove, and fireplace maintenance.

The first thing to check on your stove is the door. The door should be able to close properly and should not be falling off its hinges. Next, make sure the seal on the inside of the door (the rope looking thing) is not damaged or missing. Check the air intake on the front of the door or the air vent on the bottom of the stove (depending on your type of stove). Ensure that they are not plugged, and that they can fully open and close properly. Look inside the firebox to make sure none of the firebricks are broken or missing.

Moving up from the stove the next thing you will want to check is the stovepipe. Make sure there are no holes in the pipe or that the pipe has not worn so thin it will not hold up to being touched. Remove the pipe and clean out any soot or build-up. Check the flu to ensure it opens and closes properly and is not damaged. While the pipe is off, also clean out the thimble and check for any damage. When replacing the stovepipe, it should fit firmly into the stove and the chimney thimble.

For a fireplace, there are also a few things to check as well. First, make sure the fireplace itself is not damaged. The bricks or stone should not be loose or missing and there should not be large or excessive cracks. Inspect the spark arresting screen for holes or damage and make sure it opens and closes properly. Also, check to see if the damper is in proper working order. Lastly, make sure the smoke shelf (up in the base of the chimney) is clear of debris.

The next thing to check is the chimney. Before getting started, make sure no birds or other animals have taken up residence in your chimney. Caps and spark arresting mesh can help with keeping your chimney critter free. Just about the most important step in the maintenance process is sweeping the chimney using the proper brushes to clear out any creosote buildup. Creosote can obstruct airflow, preventing the fire from burning properly and/or causing smoke blowback into your house. Creosote is unburnt material from the fire and is highly flammable, so the worst-case scenario is a chimney fire, and if there is damage to the chimney lining the fire could spread to your house. Burning fires at lower temperatures and burning wet wood tends to cause creosote to build up faster, requiring cleaning more often. You should at least check, if not clean your chimney several times throughout the winter to keep it clear and in working order.

If you go through your inspection and maintenance and find damage to your stove, fireplace or chimney you should have it repaired by a licensed professional. Another word of caution, getting up on a roof is not for everyone. Know your limits! It may be necessary to hire a chimney sweep to get the job done right and safely. If you have any doubts, have a licensed and insured chimney contractor inspect and clean your chimney.

Erik Kazlouskas, Deputy Warden

### **CONGRATULATIONS SULLIVAN FIRE & RESCUE!**

*Celebrating 75 years of serving their community and a trophy, too!*

Sullivan Fire & Rescue participated in the Keene Fire Prevention Parade on Oct.3 and this year they brought home the 2021 Phil Davis, Sr. Memorial Trophy for best appearing marching unit with apparatus! Also, a shout out to our Fire Brigade member, Parker Bolduc for designing our 75th. anniversary banner.

#### **IF YOU NEED A BURN PERMIT OR HAVE QUESTIONS, CONTACT ONE OF OUR FIRE WARDENS**

Fire permits are required for all outside burning except gas grills or charcoal fires up and off the ground or when there is complete snow cover. There are three people in town who can issue permits and answer your questions: Al Henry, Warden 847-9598; Mike Blanchard, Deputy 847-9680 and Erik Kazlouskas, Deputy 903-2881

See the complete list of Fire Regulations under Fire & Rescue on the Sullivan website - <https://townofsullivannh.com/>.

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

**Submitted by Leslie Casey**

What do autumn leaves have to do with birdsong in the spring? A great deal, it turns out! Birdsong is the way birds defend territory and bond with mates in the spring, when nesting and raising young occur. If you hear a lot of birds singing on your property, it means there are probably nests, and you are doing something right! If not, you may want to look at whether "fall cleanup" is making your yard less attractive to nesting birds.

Almost all birds feed their babies protein-packed insects, especially nice soft caterpillars. Without a plentiful supply of caterpillars (the larval stage of butterflies and moths) close by, most birds simply cannot raise young successfully. This is where the autumn leaves come into the picture.

Butterflies survive the winter not as adults, but in egg, caterpillar or chrysalis form in a hibernation-like state that allows them to withstand cold temperatures. A few native butterflies do overwinter as adults: the Mourning Cloak butterfly, for example, shelters under bark or in rock crevices. Whatever the stage of their life cycle, all rely on dead plant material for protection. Leaves left along stone walls and under shrubs, as nature intended, are ideal shelter.

If you do need to get rid of leaves on the lawn and driveway, one way is to mulch them by running them over with a mulching mower (or even a regular mower). Mulched leaves can then be left on the lawn as fertilizer or raked onto garden beds. Another way is to rake leaves into a pile somewhere inconspicuous, so they can decompose into compost. (Leaf blowers are a last resort – they spew too many pollutants.)

There has been a lot of talk lately about the importance of native plants in the landscape. Too much, in some people's opinion. Before you tune it all out, think about the fact that virtually all those yummy caterpillars are specialists that can only eat one particular type of plant, and that plant has to be native to this region. Caterpillars literally cannot eat anything else.

The Audubon Society has a great native plants database online that lets you type in your zip code, and it spits out a list of the best trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers. Do you have some growing wild already?

Native plants + autumn leaves = Birdsong. It is that simple!

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.

## **SULLIVAN SCHOOL NEWS**

### **Sullivan School District News**

Sullivan students have started the school year in a more traditional model, other than still wearing masks. So far things seem to be going smoothly, and we are glad students are able to be back in the classroom full time.

The Sullivan school board has started a search for a new superintendent, as Ken Dassau has announced his retirement at the end of this school year. Julie Fenrich will take over as special education director. Currently Ken Dassau also fills this role.

Sullivan School Board joined the Nelson School Board on November 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 pm for their annual joint meeting. The Nelson district had their regular meeting starting at 4 pm that day at which time the current 6<sup>th</sup> grade students were invited to speak on their transition to the middle school.

Malinda Sherpa, for the Sullivan School Board

### **Nelson School**

We began COVID-19 pooled testing with Ginkgo Bioworks on September 18th. We will continue this pooled testing each Monday for the foreseeable future. Results are reported within 48 hours of the tests being sent to the lab. So far, all results have been "negative" which is great news! Others interested that have not signed up yet are able to at any time. This is a free, voluntary program. We are also starting to perform rapid tests for students who begin showing COVID-19 symptoms at school. This is also free and voluntary. Students whose families have provided consent can have their test done at school, and we have the results in 15 minutes. This allows us to determine if a student needs to be out for an extended period of time following the COVID-19 guidelines, or if they are cleared to come to school once their symptoms improve. Everything is done right here in school which eliminates the need for families to find a provider in the area that performs rapid tests and schedule an appointment.

Our 5th graders had a successful, fun-filled trip to Ecology School in Maine. Students spent 5 days and 4 nights in Maine with lessons including Food Systems, Living On The Edge, Our Place In Space and many more. We are fortunate and thankful to be able to send our students to Ecology School. Thank you to Ms. Whippie-Prior for organizing and chaperoning this trip as well as Mrs. Wilber. Also, thank you to Mr. Popovic for being our parent chaperone.

We have hired a Title I Tutor, Mrs. Dubois, who has begun working with students. Welcome!  
Kelsey Kilburn, Principal

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**SULLIVAN SUPERVISORS OF CHECKLIST**

**Nov. 18 11 to 11:30am**

Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session at the Sullivan Town Hall for additions and corrections to the checklist as well as change of party affiliation

**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 1/2 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 December.**

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](mailto:bcummings@myfairpoint.net)

Editor: Becky Cummings 603-847-3477 Assistant Editor: Gaynelle Pratt

**VETERANS DAY – Nov. 11**

Town Offices closed during the day.  
Library closed.

**Town Clerk open 6P to 8P!**

**TOWN PHONE NUMBERS**

Town Hall 603-47-3316  
Town Highway Dept. 603- 847-3366

Fire Station 603-847-9020  
Al Henry, Chief & Warden 603-847-9598  
Mike Blanchard, Deputy Warden 603- 847-9680  
Erik Kazlouskas, Deputy Warden 603- 903-2881

Sullivan Church 603-847-9030  
Sullivan Library 603-847-3458  
Sullivan Post Office 603- 847-9720  
Nelson School 847-3408  
Keene Middle School 603- 357-9020  
Keene High School 603-352-0640  
Sheriff (non-emergency) 603-352-4238

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