

Sullivan Community Newsletter

Vol. 43 No. 3

Sullivan, NH

Nov. – Dec. 2023

HOLIDAYS IN SULLIVAN

28th Annual Poinsettia Sale to benefit Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS) – see page 2.

Letters to Santa! Page 2 has all the information for you and your child(ren) to write their letters to Santa – and get a reply!

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR - Nov. 11, 2023, 9am-2pm

The Friends of the Sullivan Library, in conjunction with the Sullivan Church, are hosting their annual Country Christmas Craft Fair at the Sullivan Congregational Church on Nov. 11th between 9 am and 2 pm. Featured items will include: crafts, a book sale, quilted items, knitted and crocheted articles, baked goods, barnboard creations, candles, decorations and more! If you wish to have a table at the fair, please contact Gaynelle Pratt at 603-847-3271.

Snacks and a luncheon of homemade soups, sandwiches, beverages and desserts will be available.

AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC FEATURING MONADNOCK BLEND! Dec. 4 – Sullivan Church – 7pm

Monadnock Blend will present a holiday concert at the Sullivan Church on Dec. 4th at 7 pm. The ensemble is a group of 12 men who sing 4 to 6-part a cappella music, from spirituals and classical to Christmas and a little country music, as well as a soft spot for oldies pop music. They have been together since 2016 and have performed around the Monadnock Region, including as an intermission act at the Colonial Theatre. Light refreshments will be served. The concert is free and open to all – donations will be appreciated.



SANTA DAY IN SULLIVAN for Children and Families – Dec. 9, 2023, 1-2:30pm

Santa is visiting Sullivan on **Saturday, December 9th from 1 to 2:30 pm** in the Sullivan Town Hall. Visit with Sullivan's own Santa Claus, here on a special trip just to see you! Do your holiday shopping – gifts only 25¢ each! There will be lots of gift items for you to choose from for family and friends. Select gifts and have the elves wrap them or wrap your own at the gift wrap table. Come and join the holiday fun!! Sponsored by the Friends of the Sullivan Library.

***Snow date is December 16, same time and place.**

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - Dec. 24, 6:30pm

Come and enjoy a country Christmas Eve service with a carol sing, meaningful message, luminaries and special music. Mark your calendar for this holiday happening! No Sunday morning church service on the 24th.

Regular Sunday services are at 9:30 am each week with Pastor Christopher Cornell. Music is provided by Phil Crotto and often Chip Woodbury on guitar and/or Leo Campbell provide special music.



ATTENTION KIDS - SEND A LETTER TO SANTA FROM SULLIVAN!

Any letters to Santa that are mailed from Sullivan will also receive a personal reply letter from Santa! The elves are dropping off a **special red North Pole mailbox** that will be on display in the lobby starting on November 1st. Children can place their letters to Santa inside the red Santa box in the lobby, in the outdoor blue box, or hand them to an employee over the counter. If there are any questions about Operation Santa, please feel free to reach out to us directly at the Sullivan Post Office by calling (603) 847-9720. You may also email melody.e.burdo@usps.gov.

Effective September 15, the Postal Service began accepting letters at all Post Offices as part of the 2023 USPS Operation Santa Program. USPS Operation Santa provides an online channel where people can safely and securely help children and families have a magical holiday when they otherwise might not— one letter to Santa at a time.

Participation in the program is easy! Participants simply write a letter to Santa, put it in an envelope with their full return address - apartment number, directional information (i.e., E Main St, Apt 103), ZIP Code, affix First-Class postage and send it to Santa's official Postal Service address at:

**Santa Claus
123 Elf Road,
North Pole, 88888**

All stamped envelopes sent to Santa's Postal Service address — or even stamped envelopes addressed to "Santa" or "Santa Claus" — are to be placed in the outgoing mail at every post office. They will be processed seamlessly at a central location where the letters will be opened, reviewed, coded, redacted and uploaded into the USPSOperationSanta.com website for the public to review and adopt.

We hope everyone has a magical holiday season!



HCS Offers Poinsettias to Support Care in Our Region

The 28th Annual Poinsettia Sale to benefit Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS) has begun. Pre-ordered plants will be available to pick up at the HCS offices in Keene and Peterborough in November and December. Proceeds from the sale benefit HCS home care and hospice services provided in southwestern New Hampshire communities. The poinsettias are grown in New Hampshire. These beautiful plants arrive in time for the holidays and make great gifts and decorations.

Poinsettias are available in red, pink, and white and in three sizes: a single stem plant in a 6" pot with 6 to 8 blooms (\$15); a double stem plant in a 7" pot with 12 to 15 blooms (\$25); and a triple stem plant with 20 to 25 blooms (\$40).

Mailed orders must be received by Tuesday, November 14, and online orders must be placed by Friday, December 1. To place an online order, print an order form, or for details on pick up options, visit www.HCSservices.org/shop. Printed forms may be mailed to: HCS Poinsettia Sale, 312 Marlboro Street, Keene, NH 03431. For more information or to request an order form be mailed to you, call Laurie at 352-2253 x4205 or email poinsettias@HCSservices.org.

APPLE HILL STRING QUARTET IN CONCERT!

Saturday, November 4, 7:30 pm

Bass Hall at The Monadnock Center for History and Culture, Peterborough, NH

The Apple Hill String Quartet presents an exciting program including Philip Glass's *Quartet No. 3 "Mishima"*, *String Quartet No. 1* by the Polish-Lithuanian composer Grazyna Bacewicz, a new composition by a student in the Native American Composers Apprenticeship Project (NACAP), and Frank Bridge's lush *Piano Quintet*. The String Quartet will be joined by guest artists Sally Pinkas on piano and cellist Jacob MacKay. Tickets: \$20-25

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/monadnockcenterforhistoryandculture/1029716>

Sullivan Housing Update

Submitted by Leslie Casey, Sullivan Housing Task Force

A series of public informational events on housing topics was hosted by the Sullivan Housing Task Force at the Sullivan Church Friendship Hall. The goal was to foster understanding of housing issues and choices to inform future discussions of Sullivan's Community Planning Ordinance (CPO). Based on your feedback, possible changes to the ADU ordinance may be the one thing the Planning Board proposes this year.

We all learned a great deal from the expert presenters about ADUs, subdivisions, house shares and villages. It was also really heartening for the Task Force to see the degree of community engagement on these housing-related topics. "Thank you!" to all who took the time to attend. Our discussions often focused on how to protect Sullivan's rural character while exploring more housing choice. Links to information on these topics can be found on the Master Plan Update page (under "Planning and Zoning") on the Town of Sullivan website. If there is a resource you can't find, please stop by, email or call the Sullivan Planning Office, and we will try to help! planning@townofsullivannh.com 603-847-3100

Here are a few highlights:

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). A presentation on ADUs was given by James Vayo, a NH-based planner, who explained that ADUs are small houses or apartments that exist on the same property lot as a single-family dwelling (the "primary dwelling"). This traditional home type is reemerging as an affordable and flexible housing option that meets the needs of older adults and young families alike. Among the reasons someone might consider creating an ADU are: to provide a home for a loved one in need of care, to provide housing for relatives or friends, to feel safer by having someone living nearby, to have a space for guests, to increase the value of their home, to create a place for a caregiver to stay, and/or to earn extra income from renting to a tenant.

The Planning Board will be taking a look Sullivan's current ADU ordinance (Article IV.H in the Community Planning Ordinance) and may recommend some changes to improve homeowners' ability to add ADUs. Any proposed change would be voted on at Town Election in March 2024. Stay tuned for a public hearing announcement before the end of this year.

Better Subdivisions. The presentation by architect and planner Tom Emerson from Kittery, ME was well-received. It focused on ways to protect Sullivan's rural agrarian character and provide more housing choice in the face of development pressure through better subdivision ordinances. Appealing examples of alternative types of housing and neighborhoods were presented, a link to which is on the Master Plan Update page.

Our current ordinance requiring 2-acre lots, 200-foot road frontage and large setbacks tends to create a suburban development pattern, which is not what most residents want. It was recommended that we consider amendments to our ordinance to allow patterns of development that result in more housing choice and better preserve our small-town character. The financial strain on a small town of having almost exclusively low-density, large houses was also pointed out.

House Shares. The Sullivan Housing Needs Assessment showed that our town has a high percentage of people living alone, many of them elderly. A house share arrangement can help an elderly homeowner with aging in place, and it is an arrangement that can be entered into without involvement of the town. Ric Cengeri from HomeShare Vermont presented his organization's experience in Vermont with facilitating house sharing matches. There are several potential benefits of sharing one's home such as rental income, companionship, housekeeping and/or pet care. Services may be provided by the guest in lieu of some or all of the rent. It was interesting to learn that the guest's income does not count toward a statement of household income (rent paid is counted as the income, however). Detailed terms of agreement should be developed with both parties before finalizing the arrangement.

A link to the HomeShares Vermont do-it-yourself guide is available on the Master Plan Update page on the Town of Sullivan web site. New Hampshire is soon expected to have its own house shares program. Annamarie Pluhar (Share Housing, Inc.) is leading that effort. The Sullivan Housing Task Force will keep you updated on its progress!

Villages. This presentation was given by the town's planning consultant, Ivy Vann. Villages are characterized by clusters of buildings (3 to 4 minimum) on lots with small road frontages and reduced setbacks. In the days prior to automobiles and zoning, villages were a naturally-occurring development pattern. Sullivan still has vestiges of a "hill village" and a "valley village," similar to those of many towns in NH. Villages are economic powerhouses because they have more assessed value per foot of road, and village property taxes help offset infrastructure costs in lower density areas of town. The fact that paving does not last as long as it used to for a variety of reasons means that town roads will continue to be more costly to maintain.

Sullivan's CPO currently does not allow villages. Different regulatory options were presented for consideration, including ordinances limiting the size of houses that can be built in a village, and allowing shared wells and sanitary systems. Village houses are attractive options for anyone who wants to spend less on a house or live closer to other people.

Reminder: The Sullivan Planning Office is located in the lower level of the Sullivan Town Hall and is open during normal Town Hall hours. You may also contact the Planning Board by email Planning@TownofSullivanNH.com or by telephone (603) 847-3100.

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

Reminder: Ordinance Amendment Process

Submitted by: C. Christopher Pratt, Sullivan Planning Board Chair

The Sullivan Planning Board is making progress on updates to the Master Plan, and is now turning its attention to ordinance changes (also called “amendments”). A prioritized list of recommended housing-related changes was prepared by the Sullivan Housing Task Force with the help of a planning professional who reviewed our current ordinance. The process of bringing the recommended changes to Sullivan voters will happen over the course of a few years. The first of these changes you will be asked to consider and vote on will be to the **Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance** (Article IV.H of the Community Planning Ordinance) and to **Areas and Dimensions for Buildings** (Article III.C of the CPO). Look for the announcement for a public hearing on proposed amendments in December of this year.

When a planning board decides to alter an existing land use ordinance or create a new one, there are specific steps that must be taken in a particular order. Regardless of whether the change has come at the recommendation of the planning board, the board of selectmen or arises out of the concerns of a group of voters, the process remains largely the same after it has reached the planning board. Note that voter-initiated recommendations for changes must meet all the requirements of the **Enactment by Petition** statute NH RSA 675:4. Amendments by petition first go to the Board of Selectmen, who then give it to the Planning Board.

Once a recommendation for a change is with the Planning Board, the steps to put it in front of voters are as follows:

1. For changes recommended by the planning board or the board of selectmen, the planning board (or a professional planner) creates draft language for the ordinance change. Amendments by petition cannot be altered – they will appear on the ballot as is.
2. A public workshop to discuss the proposed change is scheduled. Notices for meetings are posted at least 24 hours in advance. The planning board discusses the proposed changes thoroughly and after they have done so, and possibly made edits to the proposed ordinance, they may open the meeting up to public comment. After the public comment period the board may make additional edits to the proposed ordinance.
3. When the board is satisfied that the ordinance will perform as they wish it to, they schedule a public hearing. The hearing notice is posted in accordance with NH RSAs 675:2-4 and 675:6, at least 10 calendar days before the hearing. Public comment must be heard at the public hearing. The board may or may not make changes at the public hearing. If any changes other than spelling corrections or other minor changes are made, a second public hearing must be held.
4. Once the board is satisfied with the language of the proposed ordinance, it is “moved to ballot” and the language, as it is written at this point, will appear on the printed ballot for the entire town to vote on in the March town elections.

Voting on the zoning amendments will take place by ballot on Town Election Day. Sullivan is a traditional March meeting town, so in 2024, town elections occur on Tuesday, March 12th, one day before the Town Meeting. This is a calendar of important deadlines per the statutes:

- Wednesday, December 13, 2023, Last day to accept petitions to amend zoning ordinance.
- Thursday, January 11, 2024, Last day to post and publish notice for first hearing on proposed adoption or amendment of zoning ordinance.
- Monday, February 5, 2024, Last day for planning board to hold final public hearing on adoption or amendment of zoning ordinance.
- Tuesday, February 6, 2024, Last day for official copy of final proposal to adopt or amend zoning ordinance, historic district ordinance or building code to be placed on file at the town clerk’s office.

WITH SADNESS...

It is with sadness we learned of the recent passing of Richard “Rick” Hotchkiss. Rick was known to many in town – at one time a selectman and also serving on various other boards in town. Rick will indeed be missed.

TOWN FOOD PANTRY OPEN TWO NIGHTS EACH MONTH! NOTE – Date Changes with Holidays!

The Sullivan Food Pantry, located in the rear, lower level of the Sullivan Congregation Church, is usually open on the second and last Thursdays of each month from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. **However, due to the holidays, the dates in November will be Nov 9 & Nov 21. December dates will be Dec 14 & 21.**

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

From the Archives

by Chris Pratt

For this issue of the Newsletter, I present a rewrite of an article that appeared in 2002. It was about what we discovered when our old barn was dismantled.

We knew the barn needed work when we bought our home on Valley Road in the fall of 1985. However, we decided that the house needed our attention first and the barn would have to be placed on the “deferred maintenance” list. The winter of 1999-2000 was one of almost constant snowfall. The weight of the snow pack on the barn roof provided more than the usual amount of stress on the structure. In late March, a bulge appeared on the north side roof. The entire roof frame had shifted and an old, make-shift, repair had failed. I spent almost a week trying to find a construction company that would (1) return my calls and (2) could look at it immediately.

The efforts to find a repair crew were rendered moot, and the next weekend when a brisk wind shifted the roof enough, I heard pieces of beam dropping to the floor. I shut off the electricity to the barn and was about to take a closer look when I heard a loud crash. The entire roof on the north side had fallen into the barn. There were more phone calls and estimates on what a new roof would cost. However, the next weekend brought more wind. The stress of the wind on the balance of the roof finally snapped the ridge beam and the entire roof structure fell in. Any thought of saving the building was gone when the cellar was inspected. The combination of age, dampness and odd repair jobs had made the sills and floor beams unstable. The irony of all of this was that the sills and roof were gone but the middle part of the barn was in excellent shape.

Dauphin Spaulding II built the barn. In 1852, he purchased land along the newly laid out Valley Road (called North Road in those days). He built a house on Spaulding Brook and a sawmill on Otter Brook. He used timbers and windows salvaged from the dismantled Second Meeting House—including the staircase that served the pulpit. On 4 July 1854, the house and barn were lost in a fire.

For the new barn, Mr. Spaulding sawed out 6 x 6 and 8 x 8 hemlock and spruce posts and beams. The tongues were sawn rather than hewed and held in place with pegs carved from a very hard wood—possibly hornbeam. The post and beam structure formed the main part of the building. However, the roof rafters—including the ridge beam—were 4 x 4 rather than the heavier beams traditionally used in post and beam structures. This might reflect a type of building construction coming into use around the time of the Civil War called balloon framing. This technique used smaller dimension lumber spaced closer together and made construction easier and cheaper. The hybrid design used by Mr. Spaulding might have been a flaw, but it held up the roof for almost 150 years.

After our barn roof collapsed, the demolition of the barn was accomplished with the help of friends, neighbors and relatives. As we pulled the structure apart, many small stories emerged. Most of the people who owned the building over the years kept small numbers of animals—horses, cows, sheep, etc.—so the south side (warmest) of the barn was more than adequate for the animals. The north side (coldest) seems to have been used as a haymow. It had two layers of floor planks—a sub floor of 1 x 6 boards and floor of 2-inch thick planks. The south side, however, was more complex. The subfloor had 2 x 2 pieces spaced about two feet apart with the 2-inch planks on top. This created an air space that contained a combination of sheep manure, straw and other detritus. At first, I thought that it was simply accumulated stuff that had settled over the years. Then I found that the walls were filled with the same stuff. I had heard of using sheep manure as an insulation, but had never seen an example of it. It works well, its relatively odorless, compacts well, thus providing an excellent way to keep the wind out. So, the animals must have been fairly comfortable in the winter months with an insulated floor and wall as well as a good load of hay in the loft over the stalls. The walls also contained human artifacts such as newspapers, the remains of a homemade rag doll, and a silver butter knife.

The loss of the building was not ours alone. The south side contained a badly rotted sill that had been home to countless animals. As the demolition began, several agitated chipmunks began trying to salvage their caches. A few snakes had to find new locations as well. When the roof was dismantled, I found a dead bat near what had been the ridge beam. A hornet had attached a paper egg chamber to the body. A red tag was attached to the right wing. Unfortunately, I was unable to trace the tag using websites of different bat conservancy groups. As we removed the beams in the cellar, we found they were filled with the delicate passageways carved out by generations of carpenter ants. These small corridors laboriously chewed by tiny insect mandibles would have doomed the building in a few years had the snow not acted first.

There was another function to the barn—the privy. Few New England farms used the traditional half-moon outhouse. Most of our privies were located in sheds or barns. Our ancestors endured hardship, but they lightened their circumstances where possible. At first, I wondered what Dauphin Spaulding was thinking when he located his privy on the north side of the barn. However, the room was surrounded by hay storage areas. There was a triple wall on the outside which provided some insulation. Other owners had added a linoleum floor, shelving for reading materials, and had papered the walls with pages from children’s coloring books. The privy had not been used for at least 40 or 50 years and some archeological finds were made in the cellar underneath. Privies were often used at the final resting place for unwanted or broken items. It yielded some old medicine bottles, a whiskey bottle, broken China, and a small toy fire truck. It had survived all those years because it was made out of rubber which was common practice in toy-making after World War II. I couldn’t help but wonder what this represented. Was it a childhood tragedy of losing something precious down the privy? Or was it an act of spite from some sibling rivalry, or was it simply thrown away as part of growing up? The simplest things are often the most intriguing.

The materials that Dauphin Spaulding had used were stacked up on the lawn and given over to other uses. The old boards became kindling wood. Some friends and neighbors took a few beams for their projects. (continued next page)

Most of the rotting beams were taken by a local mushroom farmer to be used for growing his crop. There are few things left to remind us of Mr. Spaulding's barn—mostly foundation stones. A new barn was built in its place, but it is smaller and better serves our needs. By keeping a record of the barn's demolition, we have preserved some of the information about a building that served different families for 147 years.

"LIBRARY FOOTNOTES"

From Your Big Free Library

As we are nearing the end of another year, let's reflect on all the good things that we've accomplished together. We have had 5 new people sign up for library cards, had lots of people using the Libby app to listen to audiobooks, read e-books and magazines, and had good patronage in the library proper. We are truly thankful for all of the support our community has shown to the library throughout the year.

Our book group that meets on the 2nd Saturday is going strong. We always have room for more members, so if you are looking for a group to discuss mysteries with, this is the group for you. Meeting time is 11 a.m. in the Library, or you may Zoom in to a discussion as well.

If you are looking for some winter escapism into a bygone era of classic Hollywood glamour and sophistication, check out *Marlene Dietrich: Life and Legend* by Steven Bach. This critically acclaimed biography, with 626 substantial pages and hailed as "what a star biography should be but rarely is," will whisk you away to Berlin in the '20s, Hollywood in the '30s, wartime drama in the '40s and more.

Some books we have just added to our collection are:

The Running Grave by Robert Galbraith

The Happy Place by Emily Henry

Death Knells and Wedding Bells by Eva Gates

Just a reminder that the library will be closed November 11 for Veteran's Day, November 23 and 25 for Thanksgiving, and December 26, 28, and 30 for Christmas.

Thank you to our volunteers and those who have donated items throughout the year. We really appreciate the time and effort you give to us.

Your librarians,

Paulette Tuttle and Sara Bolduc

Library Trustees Change Their Meeting Time.

Beginning with our November meeting, the Trustees of the Sullivan Public Library will hold their meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM.

Public Notice.

The Sullivan Public Library Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meetings on November 9, December 14, 2023 and January 11, 2024 at 11:30 AM at the library. The purpose of the meetings will be to formally receive any donations, hear reports, and conduct any business related to the administration of the library. As always, the public is welcome.

From The Little Free Library at 312 Centre Street

The Little Free Library on Centre Street has been busy. I want to thank all the people who stop by; I truly enjoy seeing you use the library. Recently, I saw some great children's books on Facebook Marketplace for sale and when I contacted the seller to meet up, they donated the books to me since they were for the Little Free Library. I had one person actually donate the 10 books I was going to purchase and a box full of other books as well. This shows that the Little Free Library is a community effort for everyone to enjoy.

Be sure to stop by the Little Free Library on the Valley Road as well, I have seen some good books in there!

November & December are always busy with the holidays coming up. If you are traveling for any holidays look up a Little Free Library in the area you are going to. Take a selfie at their library. Take some time and enjoy the few moments when you stop by with your family or just to get a book for yourself. Look for Thanksgiving and Christmas books and maybe a fun item for the kiddos. If there is a type of book you would like to see in the library over the winter, let me know, in case Santa needs a wish list from me.

Have a good Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas from Echo, Clover and dog parents.

From The Little Free Library at 426 Valley Road

We've always got a new selection of books for you. And don't forget – books make great gifts!

A LITTLE TRIVIA - GENERATIONS DEFINED

- The Greatest Generation – born 1901-1924.
- The Silent Generation – born 1925-1945.
- The Baby Boomer Generation – born 1946-1964.
- Generation X – born 1965-1979.
- Millennials – born 1980-1994.
- Generation Z – born 1995-2012.
- Gen Alpha – born 2013 – 2025.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS!

By Risa Keene

Meet Ginger DeAngelis

Want to feel happy and light, hear good stories or have an interesting conversation from a different perspective? Well, if you haven't met Ginger DeAngelis then you're missing a golden opportunity. She's funny, bright, warm, creative, has a wonderful smile & is always on the go! Ginger is our newest Selectman in Sullivan. I interviewed her for this issue of the Sullivan Newsletter and had a wonderful time!

The DeAngelis' (Ginger and Edson) have had a vacation house near Granite Lake for a long time and fell in love with this area. In 1996 they saw a gorgeous piece of land for sale on Apple Hill Road. They were quite taken with the name of the road and so decided to take a look with their dog Winnie. As soon as they pulled up to the land, Winnie jumped out of the car and wouldn't leave. This was obviously a good sign, so they purchased the property. They moved to Keene in 2001 and in 2016 they moved into our lovely town, right here on Apple Hill Road. More recently they have purchased some acreage near their current property, put it into current use and are presently working with the Protection of NH Forests to preserve it in perpetuity.

About 2½ years ago Ginger began getting involved in Sullivan by volunteering at our library, working each Saturday. Edson is her biggest fan, as you'll see later in this article, and volunteered her for the job! Even though she rolls her eyes when she mentions this, you can tell she loves every part of the job, whether it be sorting the DVDs, helping Chris Pratt with the archives, working with librarians, Paulette and Sara, reshelving new books, meeting residents of our town or developing a friendship with a teenage library volunteer. On Earth Day, you can always find Ginger picking up litter on Apple Hill Road, getting both the adults and kids involved.

One day Dave Jakway called the DeAngelis' home and asked to speak with Edson. Ginger explains, "I answered the phone and Dave asked for Edson, I said, 'Oh, hang on a minute.' I went to get Edson and I told him, 'It's for you.' He asked who it was and I replied, 'I don't know.' He starts talking to Dave, who explained to him that the town has a position open. 'It was just vacated & we really need to fill it.' Dave stated that the town needs a 3rd person for a selectman, so that they can have a quorum to approve anything that comes up. 'It won't be a vote-in position because it was vacated so quickly.' He asked if Edson could help them out. 'We'd really appreciate it.' he stated. Edson replied 'You don't want me, you want Ginger.'" Ginger continues, "And Edson comes back into my office, and says, 'Oh, they really want you!' And he leaves. I got on the phone, Dave explained to me what he wanted. I sat there and thought, but I volunteer at the library on Saturdays, I have a full-time job, my weekends are full and sometimes I have to travel! Dave told me 'the position would only be until March, then you'd have to get voted in again, or we could look for other people.'" Ginger asked Dave what the job entailed. He told her and she said that she could help for a few months. Dave needed to get approval from Paul Bolduc, who, as soon as he heard that Ginger was thinking of it, immediately said, "Yes!" And that's how it happened. At her first meeting she was sworn in. Thanks for helping the town, Edson!

Ginger explains that the other selectmen have helped her along with procedural protocol, state and local laws, along with the intricacies of small-town management and town history. Because of Ginger's full-time job, she comes to this new one with a very different perspective. When asked what has surprised her about the new job, she noted that it did NOT surprise her that everyone in town has been very supportive and cordial to her. She was surprised however, that Kathleen Rowe, the administrative assistant, is such an integral part of the team. She takes on a variety of roles to support the selectman that are incredibly important, such as taking notes at meetings, following up on items from the weekly meetings and payroll to name just a few.

Ginger grew up in a family of 4 girls in the Bronx, NY, a borough in NYC. I forgot to ask if she's a Yankee's fan. She went to elementary, middle and high schools in the Bronx.

Originally Ginger was a licensed radiographic technologist and got her training at Westchester Community College in NY. She worked for 10 years in that capacity at a hospital in White Plains NY, then became a radiology administrator. Later she went on to get her BS and an MBA at Iona College in NY. She was then recruited into a sales position. "I enjoy sales," she explains. "It's fun, I'm a people person and radiology is a field I know a lot about. I try to coach other salespeople in the company, and I do instructional training by talking about our products and product development with the buyers." Ginger does a lot of public speaking for her professional job. She is presently the Director of Sales with Del Medical, a manufacturer of radiographic equipment in Chicago. Ginger has worked for a couple of other companies that make radiographic equipment for a total of 37 years. She states that, "The job required me to travel a lot up until COVID; then everyone was grounded." Now she does travel on occasion.

Ginger and Edson have family in France; a daughter, son-in-law, and four grandchildren. This past summer their granddaughter Leelee came to visit, so Ginger took her granddaughter and a teenager she knows very well from Sullivan, on a trip to New York City. Neither of the girls had been there before. Who better to go with than an energetic New Yorker, Ginger! I wish I could have gone too. They stayed with Ginger's sister who lives in New York City and took the subway into Manhattan each day. The 3 of them visited bookstores, the Statue of Liberty, saw Wicked on Broadway, ate in Korean Town, visited the Museum of Natural History, the Hayden Planetarium, the Empire State Building, and walked through Central Park.

When asked to share something that might surprise us about her, Ginger noted that when she was a child she wanted to learn to play the piano. On her 50th birthday she got a player piano, but when she retires she WILL learn to play the organ!

I record my interviews so that I may listen to make sure that the information I include is accurate. While writing this article I noticed I chuckled to myself frequently, it was a fun interview to do and listen to! I hope you enjoy it as much as I did while conducting it. Once again, it is a delight to do this job.

If you know someone who would be willing to be interviewed, or if you would like to be interviewed, please drop me a line. Thank you. risaqueene@gmail.com

SEWING, QUILTING, CRAFTING, KNITTING GROUP

Monday afternoons, from 1 pm to 2:30 pm in the Sullivan Church, the upstairs meeting hall is busy with people doing all sorts of handiwork. One might quilt, others crochet, cross-stitch, work on mending, make Christmas gifts and some come just to visit! If you're new in town, it's a great place to meet other people and if you've been here a while, it's just fun to get out and visit. For more information, contact Mary Hull at the town hall or 847-9718 or Becky Cummings 603-847-3477. The group does not meet the Mondays before Election Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

From Sullivan Fire & Rescue



We have all seen, if not personally quoted, the commercial. “Help me, I’ve fallen and I can’t get up.” Even though it was sort of corny, and poorly put together, that commercial did point out a very important fact. Monitored alarm systems can save lives. Unfortunately, the extent of training that people get from just about every company that installs a monitored system goes something like this: “You need to send the check to this address every month (or year) for your monitoring fee. Thank you for your patronage.” This means alarms systems get misused or underutilized, which also means lives and property are not protected as well as people might think. This time around, we will be covering monitored systems and some of the things you may not have been told. There is a lot of information on this topic, so this will be a two-part article. This first part will cover terminology, and the article in the next newsletter will be geared towards usage.

The first thing we need to do is define a monitored alarm system. This is a system when activation of the alarm sends a signal out to a monitoring station (also known as monitoring point or call center). The monitoring station then notifies the appropriate responding agency to investigate. This is a step up from a “local system” where the owner or occupant needs to call for help on his or her own. The most common example of this is the smoke detectors in your house. The smoke detector is a local alarm that goes off to let you know there may be danger in your house, but they do not notify the fire department.

There are several ways to classify different alarms. The first would be by what the alarm systems are protecting. The general groups that systems can be placed in are residential and commercial systems. Residential monitored systems are geared towards the average home. They tend to be simplistic systems for single structure dwellings, possibly with a few out buildings. Commercial systems are set up for larger buildings or complexes. They tend to be more robust, complex, and have lower thresholds before the alarms are activated. A good example of this would be to compare a burglar system for the average home to a system at a bank. The bank system will be more comprehensive and aggressive in its function. As the saying “you get what you pay for” goes, commercial systems tend to be more expensive, particularly the higher-end systems.

Another way to classify alarm systems is by function type. There are four basic types: fire, burglar, medical and supervisory. A system can be dedicated to one function, or can be a combination of some or all of them. Anyone planning to get a monitored system should do some research on which (monitoring) company is the best fit for your needs. Some companies are oriented towards one type, but not very proficient with the other types. If your main concern is for a medical type alarm, it would not be wise to contract with a monitoring company that specializes in security systems.

Here is a quick rundown of what each type of alarm does. The first three (fire, burglar and medical) are considered emergency alarms and the monitoring company will contact the appropriate emergency dispatch center. Fire alarms may involve alarm signals from smoke detectors, heat detectors, carbon monoxide alarms and gas detectors. Burglar alarms are security-based alarms that can trigger signals from door and window intrusion alarms, motion detectors and vibration detectors. Additionally, hold up and panic alarms are also considered part of this group. Medical alarms are generally activated with a pendant or alarm keypad to notify a monitoring company that there is a medical emergency. Most medically base-monitoring companies will have a way to talk directly to the subscriber upon activation of the alarm to try and get details about the emergency. Many non-EMS based companies will just request an ambulance to respond which means the responders do not know the priority level or if they need any specialized equipment.

As for supervisory alarms, they are considered non-emergency alarms. Monitoring companies will notify the alarm subscriber to have them correct the problem or requested service personnel, like electricians or plumbers, to fix it. Examples of supervisory alarms include low/high temperatures alarms, flooding, power loss, equipment failure (pumps, furnaces, refrigerators, etc.), and phone line problems. Some supervisory alarms let you know that there may be a problem with the alarm system itself. A “self-test” or “24-hour test” is one such alarm where the subscriber’s equipment attempts to make contact with the monitoring company each day. It does this to ensure that if there is an emergency, the signal can get out. If your system is set up to do this function, but fails to do so, the monitoring station will let you know there may be a problem with your system.

A pass-card holder, or authorized person, is someone who has permission to be at the site where the alarm system is located. They will normally be given a pass-card number or an authorization code. This is so the monitoring company can verify to whom they are talking, and that they are allowed at the location in question. These are particularly important when dealing with burglar alarms. The codes should not be shared, or left in obvious places where a burglar can find them and call off the police (like written on the alarm system’s panel).

Key-holders are authorized personnel that have keys for the alarm site. They may be called to let emergency responders into the building where the alarm is sounding. They should have a basic working knowledge of the alarm system, and be made aware they may be called at any time (even the middle of the night). Each alarm site should have multiple key-holders, and they should be relatively close to the alarm site location.

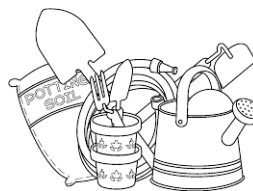
A Knox Box is a box the fire department installs at a location. The keys for the house or facility are then locked inside the Knox Box. Only the fire department can get into the Knox Box and retrieve the keys. Even though the fire department can now get into the building, they are not considered key-holders, and will not handle supervisory alarm issues. There are commercially available lock boxes owners can place at the monitored site. However, when using these, the owner must arrange to get the lock box code to responders beforehand or through the alarm company at the time of the alarm.

These are some of the basic definitions and terms you should be familiar with if you have a monitored system. The next time around we will use some of them to help explain usage of the system.

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.

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

Submitted by Leslie Casey



The season is really turning now. Here are a few tips from UNH Extension lawn and garden “to bed” before the ground becomes frozen and snow-covered.

experts for putting the

Leaves:

Raking up fallen leaves and turning them into compost is a good way to recycle nutrients. Leaves also make a wonderful mulch for annual, perennial and vegetable gardens. A thick layer of leaves can be just as effective at suppressing weeds and conserving soil moisture as bark mulch, and they usually break down within a season and build soil organic matter.

Even easier, mulch the leaves in place with a lawn mower. This not only cuts down on labor, but also returns nutrients to the soil as the shredded leaves decompose. If a thick layer of leaves builds up in an area, you can spread them out before shredding so the mower can chop them up more efficiently.

Leaves under trees and shrubs can just be left as nature intended. The leaf layer makes a safe place for small creatures such as native bumblebee queens and moths to hide for their winter snooze.

Lawn:

This is a good time of the year to send soil samples to UNH Extension for testing to determine if lime (or wood ash) and/or fertilizer, in what amounts, are needed for optimal growth of turf.

Once grass stops growing but before the snow flies, mow it short. That will make it easier for the grass to green up in the spring.

Another thought – if lawn maintenance has been taking too much of your time and effort, take another look at your yard and consider giving some of the area over to field or wildflower meadow that needs mowing just once a year, or to native shrubs.

Winterize the mower before storing it away: empty the fuel tank, disconnect the spark plug, remove & sharpen the blade, drain the oil reservoir, clean the undercarriage, refill the oil reservoir, change the air filter and replace the spark plug.

Garden:

After the first killing frost it's time to remove annual flowers and vegetable plants from the garden. Not only is this debris unsightly, but if left in place it can potentially contribute to disease issues next year. Cut the dead plants off at the soil line so the roots decay and return nutrients to the soil. The seedheads of hardy perennials can be left for winter interest and as a food source for birds.

Tender (not winter-hardy) bulbs such as cannas, dahlias, and gladiolus should be dug up. Wait to dig up bulbs until the top growth dies back or is killed by frost, then rinse them off and dry them for a few days. Store between 60 and 70° F in moistened shredded newspaper or fine wood shavings until it is time to re-plant.

Hardy bulbs such as daffodils can still be planted. And don't forget garlic! “Hardneck” varieties do best in our cold climate. Garlic is one of the easiest crops to grow, and it is wonderful to see those leaves poking up in the vegetable garden in the spring. Mulching with straw or shredded leaves will keep weeding chores to a minimum.

Some annual plants can be successfully saved from season to season by either digging them up or taking cuttings before frost.

Some examples are coleus, geraniums, fuchsia, lantana, and begonias. You also even pot up pepper plants to overwinter in a bright window, for an earlier crop next summer!

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.

NHSaves: Your Source for Energy Efficiency in New Hampshire

NHSaves offers tools and tips to help NH residents and businesses save money, energy and the environment, including appliance rebates & recycling, energy audits & weatherization and more. Take a look - <https://nhsaves.com/about-nhsaves/> .

Note: No Sullivan Conservation Commission meetings in November or December.

BRUSH PILE TO BURN THIS WINTER?

You will need a permit.

Permits are required for all outside burning except gas grills or charcoal fires up and off the ground. Fire Permit Regulations can be found on the town website under “Fire and Rescue”. At the lower left of that page, you will find the link to detailed regulations.

For Burn Permits Call:

Al Henry, Chief & Warden 603-847-9598
Mike Blanchard, Deputy Warden 603- 847-9680
Paul Bolduc, Deputy Warden 603-498-2578
JR Guyette Deputy Warden 603-852-2815
Erik Kazlouskas, Deputy Warden 603- 903-2881

SULLIVAN SCHOOL NEWS

From Nelson Elementary School

Greetings, Sullivan Community!

We have had a wonderful and busy start to our school year. Our students have been working on building community, showing Nelson School SPIRIT, and diving into their academic learning for the year. Students are excited to be back at school with all of the opportunities that we offer. Thanks to our work with **The Harris Center, our fourth-grade students will again be learning about and caring for two painted turtles, who they have voted to name Destroya and Boom. Other classes will be engaging with similar hands-on learning through our Harris Center partnership over the course of the year. We are endlessly thankful for the community support that we receive for this programming**, and look forward to expanding our outdoor learning in different ways as the year progresses.

September and October have been rich with community engagement and learning. We took an all-school hike and had a very successful Open House in September. Thank you to all of the families who were able to attend. To kick off October, our Grade 5 students had a very successful trip to The Ecology School in Saco, Maine. School-wide, our students carved pumpkins for the Keene Pumpkin Festival and celebrated Community Week. Our K-3 classes took field trips into the community to learn about different locations in Sullivan and Nelson, and we hosted a few programs at the school to learn about our wetlands and how to make healthy choices for drug-free living. Special thanks to the Sullivan Store, the Sullivan and Nelson libraries, the Sullivan Post Office, Officer Joe Filipi, Kathy Schillemat and many others for making this week possible. Our week was capped with a successful Pancake Breakfast, hosted by our 4th and 5th grade classes. Thank you to everyone who donated goods, joined us for breakfast and supported our students!

We have an equally busy November and December coming up. We will have children's author Susie Spikol visiting in early November - thanks to the Children's Literacy Foundation and the Olivia Rodham Memorial Library in Nelson. Tuesday, November 21 marks our annual harvest feast. We are also looking forward to having our First Friday Friends visits in November and December. Friday, December 8th is our Parent-Teacher Conference Day, and we will also be hosting our annual clothing swap. We have a winter concert scheduled for Monday, December 11th, and many other community activities to engage with each other across grade levels alongside our learning.

As a reminder to our school families, students do not have school on Tuesday, November 7th (SAU 29 Workshop Day); Friday, November 10th (Veteran's Day); Wednesday, November 22-Friday, November 24 (Thanksgiving break); and Friday, December 8 (Parent-Teacher Conference Day). Friday, December 22 is an Early Release Day, with students dismissed for break at 11:30. Students are off for the holidays during the week of Monday, December 25-Friday, December 29. We are looking forward to welcoming our students back to school on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support,

Nicole Gordon
Principal/Curriculum Integration Specialist
Nelson School

****Sullivan Conservation** is happy to help sponsor Harris Center Education at Nelson School.

From Sullivan School District

The Sullivan school board is in the process of updating and revising its policies. New policies will be uploaded to the website when approved.

The state has increased its adequacy funding this year. As this increase came well after budget season and our budget was already finalized, the Sullivan school board has made the decision to return the additional funding to taxpayers in order to lessen the increase in taxes with the new budgets.

The Sullivan School Board will be joining Nelson School Board November 6th at 5:30 pm for our annual joint meeting. The Nelson School District has their regular meeting starting at 4:30 pm that day at which time current 6th grade students have been invited to speak on their transition to the middle school.

Malinda Sherpa,
For the Sullivan School Board

SOME HELPFUL LINKS

Mutual Aid - <https://www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/16009> Click on "listen" (non-subscribers will get a 30 second ad)

Power Outage Map - <https://outagemap.eversource.com/external/default.html>

Traffic Reports including road conditions & accidents – www.newengland511.org

Keene Recycling Center - <https://keeneenh.gov/public-works/rates-fees>

Bird Songs - https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine/bird_songs_interactive.html

Flight Tracker/Status – www.flightaware.com

JUSTICE of the PEACE
and
Notary Public
Mary Hull 603-847-9718

SULLIVAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Sunday service 9:30 am 847-9030
Pastor Christopher Cornell
Phone 603-852-0895
Facility Rental: Wendy Pelletier
603-209-0333

Life changes causing a shift in insurance needs?
603-209-4151

Stephanie Jacques, Senior Benefits Advisor
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Stephanie@dragonfinancialservices.com
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1-603-821-0569
<https://www.cvtc-nh.org/>

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

TOWN FOOD PANTRY REMINDER

OPEN TWO NIGHTS EACH MONTH!

DATE CHANGE FOR NOV. & DEC.

The Sullivan Food Pantry, located in the rear, lower level of the Sullivan Congregational Church, is open two nights each month from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. Upcoming dates are Nov. 9 & 21 and Dec. 14 & 21. Any town resident may stop by and pick up food and paper goods. If you would prefer home delivery, please contact the Town Hall (603-847-3316) or Gaynelle Pratt, Food Pantry Coordinator, at 603-847- 3271. If you, or someone you know is in immediate need, feel free to call anytime. Donations of paper goods or nonperishable food or the pantry may be left at the Sullivan Post Office, the Town Hall or the Library. Many thanks to all who help their neighbors by donating food and/or financial assistance to the pantry.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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

Deadline for the next newsletter is Dec. 20. 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

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selectmen@townofsullivannh.com

Town Clerk 603-847-3316

townclerk@townofsullivannh.com

Town Highway Dept. 603- 847-3366

highway@townofsullivannh.com

Sullivan Planning Brd 603-847-3100

planning@townofsullivannh.com

Sullivan Fire Station 603-847-9020

Sullivan Library 603-847-3458

sullivanpubliclibrary@gmail.com

Sullivan Country Store 603-847-3853

Sullivan Church 603-847-9030

Sullivan Post Office 603- 847-9720

Nelson School 603-847-3408

Keene Middle School 603-357-9020

Keene High School 603-352-0640

Sheriff (non-emergency) 603-352-4238

EMERGENCY 911

For Burn Permits Call:

Al Henry, Chief & Warden 603-847-9598

Mike Blanchard, Deputy Warden 603- 847-9680

Paul Bolduc, Deputy Warden 603-498-2578

JR Guyette Deputy Warden 603-852-2815

Erik Kazlouskas, Deputy Warden 603- 903-2881

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