

Sullivan Community Newsletter

Vol. 45 No. 6

Sullivan, NH

March – April 2026

TOWN & SCHOOL ELECTIONS

March 10th, - 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Town & School District Elections will take place on Tuesday, March 10 from 11 am to 7 pm at the Town Hall. The procedure will be unchanged since the last election—enter using the ramp and door facing Centre Street. PLEASE, have your photo ID out and ready to present before you enter the hall. A complete list of those running for office follows inside this newsletter.

Register to Vote - If you have not registered to vote, you may do so with the Town Clerk before the election or at the polls on March 10. Bring proof of identity, age, residency and citizenship.

Examples of proof documentation include, but are not limited to:

Identity: Driver's license, government issued ID, US Passport

Age: Driver's license, government issued ID, US Passport

Residency: Driver's license, government issued ID, vehicle registration, property tax bill, government issued check (all with current domicile address listed)

US Citizenship: Birth certificate, US Passport/Passport Card or naturalization certificate.

1. **Absentee Ballots** - If you won't be able to vote in person on Election Day, contact the Sullivan Town Clerk to request an absentee ballot application. Absentee ballots are available for both the Town Election and School Election. There are 2 options to receive an absentee ballot: To complete the application and receive a ballot in person, visit the Town Clerk during normal business hours and present a qualifying photo ID to the Clerk. To receive a ballot by mail, send the completed absentee application to the Town Clerk with a copy of the voter's qualifying photo ID or include the voter's notarized signature on the application form. The requirements for a "qualifying photo identification" are defined in RSA 659:13, II(a). The Sullivan Town Clerk may be contacted in person, by phone at 603-847-3316 or by email townclerk@townofsullivannh.com.

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

The Sullivan web page will have sample ballots posted. <https://townofsullivannh.com>.

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

TOWN MEETING

March 11 – 7pm

Sullivan holds a traditional town meeting where voters vote on warrant articles, budgets and bylaws. It is generally the evening after Town Elections, as it is again this year, on March 11 in the Town Hall.

Note: Only registered voters can participate, and they must attend in person to vote on articles. New voter registrations will not be accepted at the meeting.

SEE INSIDE!

Candidate statements from those running for office.

Order your BURN PERMITS on line now!

Help Sullivan plan a Town Wide celebration for the 250th!

Town Clean-up Day - May 2

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Following are candidate statements - a little background of those running for office, especially written for new people in town. The Sullivan web page will have copies of the ballots posted. <https://townofsullivannh.com>

TOWN OFFICERS

Selectman (3 years)

Paul Bolduc - During this year's election period, as we weigh and consider the choices before us for the town-elected officers that serve our community, I would like to be considered for the position of Town Selectman, a position I have held for the past several years. My wife Sara and I have been Sullivan residents since 2002. Being a selectman has afforded me the experience of working on many challenges that our small town faces. Serving as a volunteer EMT and Firefighter as well as a Sullivan School Board member for the Sullivan School District has provided me with a unique and broad perspective of our town's citizens, its strengths and its needs. It is through these experiences that I am able to draw a balanced and thoughtful approach to conducting our town's business. It has been an honor to serve with other dedicated townspeople, working together on behalf of our families and community. I respectfully ask for your support and vote for Town Selectman.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul Bolduc

Town Clerk/Tax Collector (3 years)

Jason Taylor - I have lived in Sullivan for the past 8 years and served as your Deputy Town Clerk and Tax Collector for about 2 years until Mary retired, when I began to serve fulltime. I was the Tax Collector in Swanzey and have about 30 years experience in bookkeeping and accounting for various local businesses. One of my goals, if elected, is to bring a modern touch to the office with online tax payments and vehicle renewals. I ask you to consider voting for me as your Town Clerk/Tax Collector and if you have any questions for me, you can find me at the Town Hall during business hours. Thank you.

Town Moderator (3 years)

William "Will" Thorndike – Eight years ago, my wife Sarah and I moved to this wonderful little town. She has fully embraced retirement. I not so much. After 37 years of my teaching Middle School math and science, I am now in my eighth year at Keene High School as a Special Education teacher. I was extremely flattered when Chris Pratt asked if I would consider replacing him as moderator. His are very big shoes to fill, but I am looking forward to the challenges. I am running for the position of Moderator of the Town of Sullivan I would very much appreciate your vote. Will Thorndike

"Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting." FDR

Cemetery Trustee (3 years)

Kevin Wheeler – Hi, for those who don't know me, I'm Kevin Wheeler. I live on Boynton Rd. by Chapman Pond. I've lived in town for 58 years and have been a cemetery trustee for roughly 20 years. I would appreciate your vote for cemetery trustee on Election Day. I hope to meet all new residents and welcome you all to town.

Trustee of Trust Funds (3 years)

John "Chip" Woodbury - I am running for a three-year term as a member of the Sullivan Trustees of Trust Funds. I have lived here on South Rd. for the past 55 years with my wife, Kathy. We have both served on numerous Town committees and boards over the years. I have been involved with the Trustees of Trust Funds for the past several years, and have enjoyed helping out the Town. I would appreciate your vote on Election Day.

Thank you for your consideration!

Library Trustee (3 years)

C. Christopher "Chris" Pratt - I am a candidate for reelection to a three-year term as library trustee. There are three library trustees, and they are responsible for overseeing the operations of the Sullivan Public Library which is located at 436 Centre Street next to the fire station. The trustees work with the librarians on programs, policies and how best to provide library services for our town's population. I would appreciate your vote on Election Day—March 10, 2026.

Budget Committee (3 years)

BJ Wahl - I've finished my first 3-year appointment to the Budget Committee and have enjoyed the process. It's a great way to learn about all of the town's departments and expenditures. I'd be happy to serve another 3-year term.

Budget Committee (1 year)

Nancy Frye - I'm delighted to live in Sullivan, having moved here from Brattleboro in 2024. I am retired from traditional employment, after spending my career in advertising and marketing, most recently as a project management consultant for John Hancock Creative Services. Currently, as the proprietor of *Sweet Farm Bees, LLC*, I manage about 1.5 million honeybees in apiaries here in Sullivan, and in Vermont, producing honey, bees for resale, and queens, as well as providing pollinator services to local organic farms and orchards.

In January, 2026 I accepted an appointment to the town Budget Committee to fill a seat that was vacated mid-term, and I am a candidate for election to the remainder of the vacated term. I look forward to participating in the process of balancing the interests of the taxpayers of Sullivan with the operational needs of the town, and will take an open and thoughtful approach to that end.

Budget Committee (2 years)

Aimee Fador – I am running for one of the open seats on the Budget Committee. I have thoroughly enjoyed my work on our town's Zoning Board of Adjustment, having learned a tremendous amount, this past year! I am very excited to work with the Budget Committee, as I understand the important role it plays in helping the needs of the town, financially. From my time working with other members of our community on the ZBA, I have gained a sense of pride for the town employees and volunteers who work steadfastly for Sullivan, and I would love your support in granting me the opportunity to join them in this endeavor, as an elected member of the Budget Committee.

Budget Committee (3 years)

No candidate – write-in

The budget committee analyzes detailed appropriation requests from the Selectmen and various town departments to determine the annual amounts necessary to properly manage town affairs and still keep the tax load manageable. After conferring with the selectmen and department heads, the budget committee prepares a recommended budget and holds a public hearing. Meetings are generally held once a week or so in January with a public budget hearing in February.

Supervisor of the Checklist (6 years)

No candidate – write in

Duties of the Supervisors include determining if an applicant is legally qualified to vote and updating the checklist of registered voters. Updating the checklist consists of: entering newly registered voters, making name changes and corrections, making address changes and corrections, removing voters no longer eligible to vote in Sullivan and changing party affiliations as the law permits. Must have proficiency with computer databases and attention to detail.

SULLIVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Treasurer (3 years)

Brad Smith – I am running for Sullivan School Board Treasurer and respectfully ask for your support. This position provides oversight of the spending decisions made by the School Board within their approved budget. I currently also serve on the Town's Budget Committee and Zoning Board of Appeal. It is through volunteering for these Committees that I hope to give back to our great Town.

School Board (3 years)

Stephanie Milotte - I have been a resident of Sullivan since 2001. As a current member of the Sullivan School Board (since March 2015), I wish to continue and am running for another three-year term. My husband, Cory (local business owner of *Comic Boom!* in Keene) and I plan to stay in Sullivan as we continue to raise our two daughters, Troia and Zoey. I have a background in commercial insurance, sales and marketing, Information Technology and customer service, as well as community involvement as an alumnus of Up With People! I believe in representing our vested interest, our children and their future and look forward to continuing to serve our community as a school board member. I would appreciate your support by voting for me on Election Day. Thank you, Stephanie Milotte.

School Board (3 years)

Colleen Mathews – Originally from Maine, I moved to Sullivan in 2013. I work remotely as a tax accountant. My husband and I are very busy parenting a third grader at Nelson school. I volunteered for an open position in the fall of 2024 because I wanted to show my support the public educational system in our town. I have a vested interest in my son's education, as well as the education of all our children. I look forward to continuing as a member of the School Board should the voters support me.

**SPRING ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP & LUNCH!
May 2 - 9am**

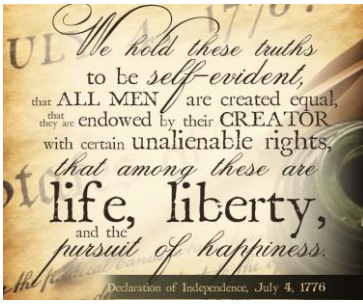


Hopefully, the snow will melt soon and temperatures begin to rise, but, discarded along our roadways - most likely lots of cans along with some Sullivan needs your help for our annual spring clean-up! If you could take one section of your road and pick up the rubbish, it would be a great help. Meet in the Town Hall/Church parking lot at 9 am for road assignments and to pick up a few of the familiar blue bags.

then we'll begin to see what's been bottles & miscellaneous refuse.

FREE LUNCH! - The Sullivan Conservation Commission will serve lunch in the church hall after the pick-up, anytime between 11 and 12. For those new to town, it's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors! The food is good and the company even better. Chip Woodbury will provide music on the guitar for a sing-along and your listening pleasure.

If you can't make it on the 2nd but would like to help, trash bags will be available at the Town Hall, Library and Post Office. The filled blue bags can be left at the town barn in the salt shed on Church St.



Sullivan Is Planning a Town Wide Celebration for the 250th Signing of the Declaration of Independence!

Since the idea of holding a town wide celebration marking this year's special July 4th was raised, there have been a number of people who have noted their interest in helping to plan this year's celebration. The Selectmen and Budget Committee have provided some monies to help plan and support this year's effort. Although still in a brainstorming phase, we will be holding our first meeting in the Town Hall on **Thursday March 19th at 6:30PM**. Some of the interests shared thus far are a public reading of the Declaration by town residents as Jefferson intended, fireworks, a tractor parade, an outdoor movie, craft show and more. With the wonderfully renewed Jewett Park and the layout of our town's center, it really does offer a great deal of potential for our town's families and friends to enjoy. This event will hopefully help bring our community together and highlight the offerings and needs of our Town's organizations from the Library, Fire Department, Conservation Commission, Church, Food Pantry and more. If you have some good ideas and are interested in helping to plan this year's special July 4th, please reach out to me at pspsbolduc@gmail.com 603-498-2578; or, call the Town Hall at 603-847-3316 and let them know you're interested in helping!

A Free Gift Awaits Community Members Who Attend !

From the Archives by Chris Pratt

Here is another story about a road that was never built. There is a quiet section of Stoddard known as Chandler Meadows in the town's southwest corner. It is where several small streams and the outlet from Center Pond (Chandler Stream) come together to form Otter Brook. In the late 1840s, there was a cluster of sawmills and a shingle mill built at the southern end of the meadow. Even then, this area was remote from the main part of Stoddard and shipping finished products was difficult. One of the mill owners, Cummings Moore, thought he had found a solution.

The completion of Valley Road in 1849 meant that much of the southern end of the Otter Brook watershed was now opened to exploitation by timber men and mill owners. In 1854, Moore and 31 others filed a petition with the Cheshire County Commissioners to lay out a new road from Valley Road that would follow a course along Otter Brook to the new mill built by Dauphin Spaulding in 1852. From there, the road would continue along the brook to the Ellis Mill (built in 1820), cross a small portion of Nelson, and then into Stoddard. It would continue following the brook to the Chandler Meadow mills. Moore also proposed continuing the road to the northeast as far as the Mt. Stoddard Road which would provide a connection to several points in Stoddard. This was an ambitious project and required the approval of the commissioners since it involved more than one town.

While it may have seemed like a good idea to the petitioners, both the towns of Stoddard and Sullivan were opposed. The matter ended up in court which sent the matter back to the commissioners. In August of 1855, they finally decided not to lay out the road.

Not to be deterred, the petitioners requested a new layout that only went as far as the mills at Chandler Meadow. Once again, the matter went to court and once again the matter went back to the commissioners. The shortened route met with their approval, and they ordered the towns to layout the road on 28 August 1856. At a special town meeting in Sullivan on 1 December 1856, it was voted to discontinue the road. We have no information on any action by Stoddard, but without the Sullivan connection, the proposal was moot.

So, it was back to court for the petitioners. The court, once again, ordered the commissioners to take up the matter. On 6 October 1859, they voted to uphold the Sullivan's vote to discontinue the road. Moore's mill and others failed not long after that ruling. However, much of the road in Sullivan was built by private interests.

In our time, a hike along Otter Brook shows many signs of the road. At the junction of Otter Brook and Spaulding Brook, there is evidence of where the old road connected to Valley Road—including grading and a substantial bridge abutment. The roadbed appears and disappears as it follows the brook through land now owned by the Nature Conservancy. It passes the foundation of the Spaulding mill and leads past Otter Falls to the end of Ellis Road. There it connects to another road that led to the Ellis mill.

The road provided a direct connection for products from both of the mills to East Sullivan, but probably declined after the Spaulding mill burned in 1898. While it's always interesting to speculate on what "might have been," the proposal came at a time when our town did not want any more roads built. While this road might have benefited many landowners and mill owners, the majority of our voters feared increased costs to maintain our roads.

BITS & PIECES

Food Pantry Thank You! We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to **Cocoplum Appliance of Brattleboro VT** for their generous donation of detergent to our community. Their kindness and continued support help make a real difference for local families, and we are truly grateful for their commitment to giving back! In addition, continued appreciation goes to Feeding Tiny Tummies for their donations of fresh produce, frozen meat and other items critical to the pantry. Please help support them by donating and/or shopping at the Tiny Tummies shop on Moran Ave in Keene. And, kudos to our townspeople who generously donate to the pantry to help others in town.

Emergency housing for pets - Temporary housing and warming shelters usually do not allow pets, so the Monadnock Humane Society is offering help during this very cold winter. If anyone is unable to access warm housing or warming shelters because they have an animal, Monadnock Humane Society can temporarily take in the pet at no cost, if doing so will help the person find a safe, warm shelter for several days or longer. For inquiries or to make arrangements, call 603-352-9011. If no answer, leave a message, and they will call you back.

Public Notice - The Sullivan Public Library Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meetings on March 19, April 16 and May 21, 2026 at the 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.

Local Mail Deliveries – If you can't reach your mailbox over the snow piles, neither can the postmen. Clear enough snow from curbside mailboxes so mail trucks can safely pull up, deliver mail, and drive away. If he or she has to back up or get out of their vehicle to deliver your mail, it makes for a dangerous situation.

Weight Restriction on Town Roads - March 1 through May 15 In accordance with RSA 231:191, the Board of Selectmen, on advice from the Road Agent establishes the max. seasonal weight limit of 6 tons, effective March 1 to May 15 for all Town of Sullivan roads. Violations shall be subject to a fine of \$1,000. For exceptions and questions to the 6 ton weight restriction, contact the Road Agent at 603-847- 3366 between the hrs. of 7am & 3pm Mon. – Fri. or email highway@townofsullivannh.com .

Walk-In Wednesdays at HCS - Come to Walk-In Wednesdays for a free, confidential discussion of services available for you and loved ones from Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services. From Healthy Starts to Hospice care, HCS has services for all ages! Stop by for free, no-commitment advice on any of HCS services, or questions about local resources! Every Wednesday, 1 - 3 PM, at the Keene & Peterborough offices. <https://www.hcsservices.org/>

Hospice Volunteers needed! Hospice at HCS is hosting a six-week training series for compassionate individuals looking to volunteer time with patients and loved ones. Registration is due February 27, and classes are held March 13 - April 10, Fridays, 9 AM - 12 PM. 603-352-2253.

HELP WANTED! – We need your ideas, time and input – what could Sullivan do to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence? Call or email Paul Bolduc at pspsbolduc@gmail.com 603-498-2578 or leave a message at the Town Hall 603-847-3316. A Free Gift Awaits Community Members Who Attend !

SENIORS – DON'T FORGET TO CLAIM YOUR ADDITIONAL DEDUCTION!

For the additional \$6000 deduction, taxpayers HAVE to file Schedule 1-A in order to get it. Attach it to Form 1040, 1040-SR, or 1040-NR. See your local tax preparer and/or <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f1040s1a.pdf> for more information.

[RS Schedule 1-A \(Form 1040\)](#) is a new form effective for the 2025–2028 tax years used to claim 4 specific deductions: taxes on tips, car loans, overtime and an additional \$6,000–\$12,000 deduction for seniors (age 65+). It applies for the 2025 tax year (filed in 2026), allowing seniors to claim this "below-the-line" deduction regardless of whether they itemize or take the standard deduction.

Key Details for the Senior Deduction on Schedule 1-A

- **Eligibility:** Individuals age 65 or older by the end of the year.
- **Deduction Amount:** \$6,000 per eligible filer (\$12,000 for married filing jointly if both are 65+).
- **Phaseout (MAGI):** The deduction begins phasing out at \$75,000 for single filers and \$150,000 for married filing jointly.
- **Where to Claim:** The deduction is calculated in Part V of Schedule 1-A (Form 1040).
- **Requirement:** It is in addition to the regular standard deduction for seniors.

How to File: The form (Schedule 1-A) must be attached to Form 1040 or 1040-SR to claim this deduction starting with 2025 returns.

Note: the [IRS Form 1040-SR](#) (U.S. Income Tax Return for Seniors) is available for the 2025 tax year and can be used by taxpayers age 65 or older, mirroring the standard Form 1040 but with **larger print and extra tips for seniors**.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Our Pay-It-Forward Board! Sullivan Country Store

One of the greatest gifts of living in a small town is the way people look out for one another. We see it every day at the Sullivan Country Store, in quiet gestures, friendly conversations, and simple acts of kindness that often go unnoticed.

Over the past few years, we've been continually moved by the generosity of our neighbors. We were also inspired by the community board at the Drewsville Store, which showed us how something simple, built on trust and care, can make a real difference. From that inspiration and from the spirit of this town, our Pay-It-Forward Board was created.

The idea is straightforward. Community members who are able can purchase a meal, sandwich, coffee or snack and place it on the board. Anyone who may be experiencing a difficult time is welcome to take a card, no questions asked.

There are no forms to fill out and no explanations required. You can find cards at the Sullivan Food Pantry also, if they are out, please let us know. The board exists as a quiet way for neighbors to support one another with dignity and respect.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributes and to everyone who feels comfortable using the board when they need it. Your trust means more than we can say.

Our hope is that this small effort continues to remind us that no one in our town has to feel alone or go without essentials or a meal.

With appreciation, Megan and Will
Sullivan Country Store

“Library Footnotes”

You heard him! Punxsutawney Phil said that we had more winter coming...do you know what that means??? That you get more reading time!!! Come into the library and your friendly librarians will help find just the right book (or movie, or DVD) for you!

Speaking of books... a recommendation for you is “The Mountain Between Us” by Charles Martin. *When a blizzard strands them in Salt Lake City, two strangers agree to charter a plane together, hoping to return home; Ben Payne is a gifted surgeon returning from a conference, and Ashley Knox, a magazine writer, is enroute to her wedding. But when unthinkable tragedy strikes, the pair find themselves stranded in Utah's most remote wilderness in the dead of winter, badly injured and miles from civilization. Without food or shelter, and only Ben's mountain climbing gear to protect themselves, Ashley and Ben's chances for survival look bleak, but their reliance on each other sparks an immediate connection, which soon evolves into something more.*

Days in the mountains become weeks, as their hope for rescue dwindles. How will they make it out of the wilderness and if they do, how will this experience change them forever? Heart wrenching and unputdownable, “The Mountain Between Us” will reaffirm your belief in the power of love to sustain us.

Our **2nd Saturday Book Group** will be meeting on March 14 to discuss “The Antique Hunter’s Guide to Murder” by CL Miller. The next book to be handed out will be “How To Age Disgracefully” by Clare Pooley. *A senior citizens’ center and a daycare collide with hilarious results in the new ensemble comedy from New York Times- bestselling author Clare Pooley*

When Lydia takes a job running the Senior Citizens’ Social Club three afternoons a week, she assumes she’ll be spending her time drinking tea and playing gentle games of cards.

The members of the Social Club, however, are not at all what Lydia was expecting. From Art, a failed actor turned kleptomaniac; to Daphne, who has been hiding from her dark past for decades to Ruby, a Banksy-style knitter who gets revenge in yarn; these seniors look deceptively benign—but when age makes you invisible, secrets are so much easier to hide.

When the city council threatens to sell the doomed community center building, the members of the Social Club join forces with their tiny friends in the daycare next door—as well as the teenaged father of one of the toddlers and a geriatric dog—to save the building. Together, this group’s unorthodox methods may actually work, as long as the police don’t catch up with them first.

Your Librarians, Sara Bolduc and Paulette Tuttle

Little Free Library on Centre St.

Finally, we got snow for all of you who enjoy outdoor winter activities! And for those of you who may not love the cold outdoors, the Little Free Library on Centre Street has been accessible after every snowfall! I have seen so many of our neighbors stop by on a regular basis all winter long, Thanks!

Hopefully all the kiddos stopped by to pick up Valentine's Day goodies and a new book or two.

St. Patrick's Day surprises are on the way and then comes Springtime fun 😊.

There are over 175,000 Little Free Libraries which have shared 400 million books in more than 121 countries. That's a lot of books! 150,000 of the little free libraries are in the US.

There are approximately 17,000 Public Libraries in the US, just over 250 in New Hampshire, according to the Library Technology Guides site.

Fun Fact: Free Library became a nonprofit on May 17, 2012, launching our journey to make books accessible to everyone. Before 2012, Little Free Libraries were in local neighborhoods offering a fun, free way for anyone to find a new book to enjoy. Our Little Free Library opened in August 2021 and has grown so much because you are using it.

FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT On-line Burn Permits!



The State of New Hampshire has an online burn permit system up and running, and Sullivan has opted into it. This time around we will be going over what this means, as well as going over some of the rules for outside burning.

With the online system you can apply for a permit any time of the day or night. Permits are \$5 a piece, and you can apply for a one-day category I or II permit, or a seasonal category I or II permit. As with the seasonal permits issued in person by a warden, they are valid until Dec 31st of the year they were issued (a one-time fee for the permit, not for each time you burn). Category III (bonfires) are not available online, and can only be issued in person by a warden. Wardens can still issue any type of, or category of permit in person (there is no fee for permits issued in person).

Permits obtained online are subject to the same rules for open burning. This includes inspection by one of the wardens in town. Whenever you are issued an online permit, a copy of the permit is sent to all the town wardens, so you can expect one of them to show up to inspect the site.

Sullivan does not allow burning on days that the State of NH declares the fire danger as high, very high, or extreme. All permits are invalid on days that meet those conditions. Online permits cannot be purchased on days that burning is not allowed due to high fire danger. If you have a seasonal permit, and need to check the fire danger, it will be listed on the NH Department of Forests and Lands website on any day that does not have snow cover (permits are not needed on those days).

Wardens can revoke permits for rule violations. Below are some important FAQ's.

Materials that may be burned with the permit include untreated wood, untreated pallets, campfire wood, brush or charcoal. Wood can be NO GREATER than 5 INCHES in DIAMETER.

Materials not allowed: 1. painted, stained, or pressure treated building materials, 2. flammable liquids (i.e. gasoline), 3. cardboard, and 4. household trash. However, using a propane torch to start your fire is authorized.

All outside fires must be attended at all times. Fires are not considered attended, if you are in your house watching TV.

Do not kindle a fire too close to a structure (Category I no less than 25 feet, Category II 50 feet, and Category III no less than 100 feet).

It is a violation if you have a permit for a Category I fire (3 feet or less in diameter), but you are burning a pile of brush that is 15 X15 feet.

Violations include unsafe conditions, such as excessive intoxication, burning under powerlines, or burning in a place where fire spread is very likely (near bushes, the wood line, etc.).

Important to know - you must be the legal owner of the property where you are burning. Renters must have the legal property owner obtain a permit for them. You must have a permit to conduct outside burning, even when it is raining. There are only two times when a permit is not required: 1) When there is complete snow cover (at least 4 inches for 100 feet in all directions). 2) When using a propane or charcoal grill or fire pit that is up off the ground. Lastly, dispatch no longer tracks burn permits, so it is no longer necessary to call in before you light your fire.

To obtain an online permit go to <https://nh.burnsafeamerica.com/>. The customer fills out the permit and makes payment. As always, if you have questions, contact a warden or the fire department. Phone numbers are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

Annual Sullivan Center Yard & Plant Sales! May 22 & 23

Once again, the center of Sullivan will host 3 sales on Memorial Day weekend!

FIRE DEPARTMENT

It's almost time to start spring cleaning! The Sullivan Fire Department plans to hold their annual yard sale on May 22nd and 23rd at the Fire Station, 9am to 3pm, rain or shine. Keep in mind "one man's trash is another man's treasure" as you clean. Donations will be accepted starting May 1st. To arrange a donation, pick up or drop off, please contact Bonnie Blanchard at 847-9680 or leave a message at the fire station at 847-9020.

SULLIVAN CHURCH

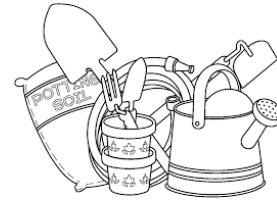
The church will also have a yard sale on May 22nd and 23rd and will begin collecting items in May. Call Becky Cummings at 847-3477 or Gaynelle Pratt at 847-3271 for help with pickup or drop-off of any items you might have to donate.

LIBRARY

The library will host their annual plant and book sale on Saturday, May 23rd. More on all to come in the next newsletter!

More to come in the next newsletter!

**Tips from a Master Gardener:
Better Lawns & Gardens with Less Work**
Submitted by Leslie Casey



It is hard to believe, but winter is starting to lose its grip on us! This is the perfect time to begin to think about our yards and gardens, and even get a jump on things to make the growing season more enjoyable when it arrives! Here are some early spring tips from UNH Extension.

March

Limit foot traffic on lawns and gardens: During mud season, wet soil is prone to becoming compacted by being walked on. Compacted soils have a reduced ability to absorb water, making erosion and pooling water more likely. Also, give the soil time to drain before using heavy equipment.

Do a "lazy" spring cleanup: Relocate thick matted leaves to less visible areas like garden edges, under shrubs, or compost piles. Lighter leaves can remain in place. Trim dead stalks from perennials to 12-15" from the ground; native bees can still find them to use as vital shelter next winter, and those remaining stalks will quickly be hidden by new growth!

Disinfect plant containers: Soak used pots in a solution of 1 part chlorine bleach to 9 parts water for 10 minutes. Scrub off any stubborn debris and rinse with clear water. Using fresh, sterile potting mix will help prevent insect and disease issues.

Apply lime or wood ash based on soil test results: Our soils tend to be acid (low pH), which is often not ideal for lawns and gardens. Have your soil tested every 2 to 3 years to get recommendations as to what and how much to add to correct the pH. Pelletized and granular/agricultural lime are both economical sources and take about the same amount of time to break down and adjust the pH. Wood ash is fast-acting but, like lime, should only be applied as recommended based on test results.

Prune woody plants: Make sure your pruning tools are clean and the blades are sharp (use a file or sharpening stone to sharpen as needed). Disinfect tools between cuts to prevent spreading disease -- a spray bottle of 70% isopropanol works for this. When in doubt, start pruning by removing any branches that are dead, diseased, or damaged. Next, look for limbs that are crossing or rubbing. Aim to remove no more than 1/3 of the total living branches from a tree or shrub in a single year.

Start cold hardy vegetables indoors from seed: Cold hardy seedlings such as onions, lettuce and broccoli can often be planted out 2 to 4 weeks before the last frost (usually just before Memorial Day in Sullivan). After germination, give seedlings plenty of light during the day and cool conditions at night.

April

Remove winter protection from perennials and shrubs: Rake away winter mulch to allow soil warming and encourage shoots to emerge. Burlap wrappings on shrubs can be taken off evergreen shrubs once spring bulbs begin blooming.

Install birdhouses: Bird species that nest in cavities such as house wrens, Eastern bluebirds, black-capped chickadees, and tree swallows will often use birdhouses that have been properly constructed and placed (Mass Audubon's web page has a good guide to get you started). Birdhouses should be set up by early April, before the start of the breeding season.

Fertilize vegetable garden beds: If you are using slow-release fertilizers, the entire amount of fertilizer that you need can be applied right before planting. If using a quick-release source of nutrients, apply 1/2 of what is needed before planting, and the remainder 4 to 6 weeks later around plants as a "side-dressing."

High phosphorous levels are common in New England gardens amended with manure and compost. Phosphorus runoff can harm water quality and aquatic organisms. If soil test results indicate high phosphorus and more than 8% organic matter, hold off on these amendments. Instead, use fertilizer low in phosphorus, such as a 10-0-10, to get plants the nutrients they need.

Start seeds of warm season flowers and vegetables: Start seeds for most warm-weather plants 6 to 8 weeks before the last frost, which will put you in early April. Cucumbers can be started 4 to 6 weeks before planting date, while peppers and eggplant may require at least 10 weeks of time indoors.

Treat lawns for crabgrass: To prevent crabgrass, pre-emergence herbicides should be applied slightly prior to peak forsythia bloom. If using an herbicide, make sure to follow all instructions on the product label. And remember, establishing a dense and healthy lawn is the best way to keep crabgrass and other weeds at bay.

Plant a raspberry bed: Raspberries are a popular bramble crop that can yield an abundance of fruit when properly cared for. They prefer full sunlight and grow best in well-drained, sandy loam soils rich in organic matter and with a pH of 5.5 to 6.2. Fall-bearing (primocane) varieties have the advantage that the canes can be mowed to the ground after fruiting, which simplifies pruning and reduces pressure from pests like cane borers.

Do you love learning about stuff like this? Subscribe to Granite State Gardening (<https://unhoutreach.tfaforms.net/217751?CID=701G000000Fc5p>), a monthly newsletter from UNH Extension for gardeners, homesteaders and plant-lovers.

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.

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.

WHAT'S COOKIN'?

By Bonnie Blanchard



Recipes that can be adapted to fit your needs and likes are always a plus. changed from rustic to impressive with slight tweaks. The Irish Beef Pie can Stew by eliminating the puff pastry. The Carrot Cake can be baked in two vanilla or cream cheese frosting. I prefer to bake and serve the cake from a rectangular pan without frosting but with a light sprinkle of powdered sugar. Enjoy!

Both recipes below can be quickly become Irish Beef layers and frosted with

Irish Beef Pie

3 tablespoons olive oil (divided)	1 pound beef stew meat cubed
2 slices bacon chopped	1 medium white onion chopped
2 carrots sliced	1/3 pound baby bella mushrooms sliced
1 clove garlic crushed	1 teaspoon white sugar
1 ½ tablespoons all-purpose flour	1 cup Irish stout beer (Guinness)
1 ¼ cups beef stock	½ teaspoon ground thyme
2 bay leaves	½ teaspoon cornstarch, or as needed
1 teaspoon water	1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
1 egg beaten	

Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add beef and brown on all sides. Remove beef from pan and set aside. Heat remaining tablespoon of olive oil, add bacon and cook until it begins to brown. Stir in onion, carrots, mushrooms, garlic and sugar. Cook and stir until vegetables are soft and browned, 10 to 15 minutes. Stir in flour until smooth and incorporated. Gradually mix in Guinness and beef stock. Mix in thyme, bay leaves and reserved cooked beef. Cover and bring mixture to a boil. Reduce heat to simmer and cook until beef is tender, about 1 hour and 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove the cover and turn heat up to medium. Let the stew boil for about 15 minutes until slightly thickened. Mix cornstarch with water and stir into the stew and reduce heat to simmer and cook for 30 more minutes. Remove from heat and discard bay leaves. Preheat oven to 350° F. Spread the filling into a 9" pie plate. Trim the puff pastry to form a 10" circle and place on top of the filling. Pinch and crimp the edges of the pastry with a fork, sealing it to the dish. Cut 2 steam vents into the pastry with a sharp knife. Brush the pastry with the beaten egg. Bake in the preheated oven until the crust is golden brown, 30 to 40 minutes.

Carrot Cake

6 cups grated carrots	1 cup brown sugar
1 cup raisins	4 large eggs
1 ½ cups white sugar	1 cup vegetable oil
2 tsp. vanilla extract	1 cup crushed pineapple drained
3 cups all-purpose flour	4 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1 ½ tsp. baking soda	1 teaspoon salt
1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans	

Combine grated carrots and brown sugar in a medium bowl. Let sit for 1 hour, then stir in raisins. Preheat the oven to 350° F. Grease and flour either two 10" round cake pans or one 9.5" x 13.5" pan. Beat eggs in a large bowl until lighter in color. Gradually beat in white sugar, oil and vanilla. Stir in pineapple. Combine flour, cinnamon, baking soda and salt in a separate bowl, then stir into egg mixture until absorbed. Stir in carrot mixture and nuts. Pour evenly into prepared pan(s). Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 45 to 55 minutes. Cool for 10 minutes before removing cake from the pan. If serving directly from the pan, place pan on a baking rack to cool. Cool both completely before frosting. Top with your favorite vanilla or cream cheese frosting, a sprinkle of powdered sugar or nothing at all!

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Begins this Month!

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

Spring 2026

Sat. Mar. 21	Wed. Mar. 25	Sat. Mar. 28
Sat. Apr. 4	Wed. Apr. 15	Sat. Apr. 18
Sat. May 9	Wed. May 13	Sat. May 30

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

Keene Recycling Center, 55 Old Summit Road, Keene 603-352-5739
<https://ci.keene.nh.us/public-works/household-hazardous-waste-schedule>

What to Bring

Products marked toxic, poison, corrosive, irritant, hazardous, flammable, danger. If you think it's hazardous, bring it up.

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

Other Information: Containers must be labeled as to their contents. No containers larger than 10 gallons will be accepted.
Collection takes approximately 10 minutes from time of arrival.

SULLIVAN SCHOOL NEWS

Greetings, Sullivan Community!

It is hard to believe that we are getting ever-closer to springtime already. This school year is flying by, and all of our students have been busy at work learning and growing. We are officially past the halfway point of the year, with a lot of exciting events that have happened recently and will be coming up as spring draws nearer.

In January, we had our Circus Residency, thanks to Troy Wunderle of Wunderle's Big Top Adventures. Students spent the week learning different circus skills, which culminated in a fantastic performance in the auditorium at Keene High School that Friday night. We also had our annual Nelson School Spelling Bee. Classroom winners in Gr 1-5 competed in our spelling bee as the rest of the school cheered them on. Congratulations to all of our participants, and especially to Hugh Bullock, who was the school champion. Hugh will go on to take a test to see if he is among the top 30 spellers in the state, who will compete in the state-wide spelling bee in March. Our Kindergarten and Grades 3 & 4 classes also had a wildly successful pancake breakfast. Thanks to all of our families and community members that made it such a success!

February was a bit busier, as it was Reading Month! Our theme was "Reading with HeART", with a focus on art and reading. We had a visit from Marek Bennett, a NH-based cartoonist whose work includes a graphic novel series that is written entirely from accounts of Freeman Colby, a NH teacher who served in the Civil War. Marek worked with all of our students over the course of his visit, and is going to be returning to work specifically with our Grade 5 students when they start their study of the Civil War this spring. Students completed their Reading Choice Boards and worked as a class toward art-themed prizes, such as felt-tip pens, origami paper, and more! We had good participation overall in our activities, and we are excited to continue to grow our students' love of reading throughout the spring.

In March, we will take our annual trip to Toadstool Books to build our classroom libraries, thanks to the generosity of Friends of Nelson School. We encourage you to join us for the Friends of Nelson School Spaghetti Dinner on Tuesday, March 3rd from 5:00-6:30. Dinner will be by donation, and will benefit the Toadstool Books trip and other student activities. We will also have a visit from Ribby, the Swampbats mascot, as a kickoff for our participation in the Reading with Ribby Program! Students who fill their bookmarks with reading for a certain amount of time will receive a free t-shirt and a family pass to a Keene Swampbats game in June. In April, we will celebrate Math Month, which will include our Math Bee. Our 5th graders will also take their annual trip to The Ecology School in Saco, Maine. We look forward to all of our learning to come during these months.

It is officially time for us to start planning for the 2026-2027 school year! If you have a child who you anticipate being in our Kindergarten class in Fall 2026, please reach out to the office, so we know to keep you informed about enrollment and upcoming events. Our administrative assistant, Joy Birdsey, can be reached at jbirdsey@sau29.org or at 603-847-3408. We are so excited to welcome our new students and their families into our school community.

As a reminder to our school families, students will be released from school at 11:30 on Thursday, March 19th and will not have school on Friday, March 20th, which is our Spring Parent Conference date. Students are off for April vacation during the week of Monday, April 27th-Friday, May 1st. Our second trimester officially ends in mid-March. We will be sending home Trimester 2 report cards during the last week of March.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support,

Nicole Gordon
Principal/Curriculum Integration Specialist
Nelson School

SULLIVAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Sunday service 9:30 am 847-9030

Pastor Christopher Cornell

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.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; one time ads of \$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 April 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

SULLIVAN NEWSLETTER

PO Box 110

Sullivan, NH 03445

SULLIVAN INFORMATION

<https://townofsullivannh.com/>

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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 607- 258-3439

Nelson School 603-847-3408

Keene Middle School 603-357-9020

Keene High School 603-352-0640

Sheriff (non-emergency) 603-352-4238

EMERGENCY 911

For an ONLINE BURN PERMIT go to

<https://nh.burnsafeamerica.com/>

Sullivan's Forest Fire Wardens:

Al Henry - Warden 603-762-4231

Mike Blanchard - Deputy Warden 603-762-0941

Erik Kazlouskas - Deputy Warden 603-903-2881

Robert "JR" Guyette - Deputy Warden 603-852-2815

Paul Bolduc - Deputy Warden 603-498-2578

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