



Sullivan Community Newsletter

Vol. 35 No. 4

Sullivan, NH

Jan. – Feb. 2016

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY DAY Feb. 9

The NH Presidential Primary Election is February 9th. Polls in Sullivan will be open from 8 am to 7 pm. When available, sample ballots will be posted at the Town Hall and on the town website www.ci.sullivan.nh.us.

Absentee ballots are available from Town Clerk, Mary Hull. Stop by the Town Hall during regular office hours, email sullivantownclerk@myfairpoint.net or call 847-3316.

The Town Clerk's office will be closed on Election Day.

TOWN MEETING IN MARCH

Positions up for election:

Selectman – 3 years, Town Treasurer – 3 years, Trustee of the Trust Funds – 3 years, Cemetery Trustee – 3 years, Zoning Board of Adjustment - 2 positions, 3 years each, Town Moderator – 2 years, Supervisor of the Checklist – 6 years, Budget Committee – 3 positions open, 3 years each, Library Trustee -3 years.

Please remember that there are other boards (appointed) that would welcome new members.
Let the Town Clerk know if you are interested.

Filing for office:

The filing period for town offices begins January 20 and closes January 29. Filing fee is \$1.

Registering to vote:

Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session at the Sullivan Town Hall on **Tues., Jan. 19** between 7 and 7:30 pm for additions and corrections to the checklist. They will also be in session for additions and corrections on **Sat., Jan. 30** and **Sat., Feb. 27** between 11 and 11:30 am. Bring proof of residency, citizenship and age. Party changes will not be allowed at either session. Residents may also register with the **Town Clerk**. No new registrations for the Primary Election will be taken after the Jan. 30th session until Election Day.

Voting at Town Meeting:

Residents are reminded they must be registered voters to vote at Town Meeting.

Furry Friends:

Welcome 2016 and remember you can license that furry member of the family any time now. You do not have to wait until April when we hit the deadline for dog licenses.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE – FEB. 15 – In order to get the newsletter out before Town Meeting, the next deadline will be Feb 15th.

Yoga in Sullivan! See page 2.

"Library Footnotes"

Here we are entering the Christmas season and our Library is looking ever so spiffy with its new look. From curtains to rearranged furniture and the Kuerig coffeemaker.... it looks so nice!

We are offering free VHS movies to anyone who still has a VCR! Just come in and take your pick!

We have been having **Storytime** on a Saturday morning which is going really well! If you have Preschool aged children and would like to have a story read to them, bring them in! However, there will be no Storytime on Saturday, January 9 or Saturday February 13. Those dates are when the 2nd Saturday Book Group meets to discuss the latest book they have read.

Speaking of the **2nd Saturday book group**, they have just finished reading *Still Life* by Louise Penny. Next up is *The Unexpected Mrs. Pollifax* by Dorothy Gilman. You may join the group at any time or simply pick up one of the books to read on your own!

The **3rd Thursday Book Group** has been reading *Little Dorritt* by Charles Dickens. We will be renewing it for another month, so if you haven't read it yet, but would like to, you can still join this group, too! Or, if you prefer, take a copy home to quietly read on your own.

"Sullivan Likes" - More reading suggestions from our patrons...

The Wings of Invention by Sue Monk Kidd, *Still Life* by Louise Penny, *Losing Our Way* by Bob Herbert, *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nahisi Coates and *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman

Beginning in January, the Library will be hosting a **Gentle Yoga** class for anyone who wishes to participate. It will cost \$100 for the 10-week class. (See more detailed information below.)

Thank you to the following supporters for their generous donations of time, talent, and materials: Ginny Yawarski, Cheryl Woods, Leslie and Jim Casey, Chris and Gaynelle Pratt, Becky Cummings and Barbara Atwood.

Paulette Tuttle and Dott Miles,
Your Librarians

Public Notice

The Sullivan Public Library Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meetings on January 14, February 11 and March 10, 2016 at 2 PM at the library. (PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME.) 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.

Gentle, Restorative Yoga

Beginning Thursday January 14th, the Sullivan Public Library will offer 10 weeks of Yoga classes from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. with Aggie Mark, registered Yoga instructor, conducting the classes. The "gentle, restorative" yoga classes will be adapted for all levels of ability and experience with the aim of improving breathing, balance and alignment, and increasing strength and flexibility with deep relaxation at the end of every practice. The classes will be between 65-75 minutes in duration. The first class (January 14) is free with \$14.00 per person drop in fee after January 14, or \$100.00 in advance for the 10 weeks ending on or about March 24, 2016. For more information about the class, check <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sullivanyoga/> or contact Aggie at 847-3330 or amark@myfairpoint.net ..

From the Archives

by Chris Pratt

Sullivan is famous for its hills and rocks. The settlers who arrived here in the late 18th century probably used the term “rough and broken” to describe the land. The farming wasn’t that great, but some crops could be raised in abundance or at least enough to enable survival. To supplement their income, farmers cared for timber lots. Converting the timber into useful products took water power. It turned out that all of those hills produced sufficient runoff to power early mills.

Defining watersheds is often in the “eye-of-the-beholder” depending on what you define geographically. Technically, Sullivan is in the Ashuelot Watershed which is part of the Connecticut River Watershed. However if one is looking at a map of Sullivan, one sees two watersheds—the Ashuelot River and Otter Brook. The divide begins roughly where Gilsum, Sullivan and Stoddard share a boundary. It extends in a southwesterly direction toward Boynton Mountain and then westerly to Bear Den Mountain.

The Ashuelot water shed contains numerous small streams that eventually become either White Brook or Hemenway Brook. White Brook flows out of the Bear Den area and joins the Ashuelot River below Gilsum Village. Hemenway Brook flows mostly off Boynton Mountain. It is named for the Hemenway family. Luther Hemenway had a blacksmith shop and small mill on the Sullivan—Gilsum boundary. He made wooden tool handles—particularly an awl handle that became the standard design.

The Otter Brook Watershed is more extensive and consists of at least 5 major tributaries. Thus it was far more important to our history. The first is Ferry Brook which rises in the wetlands to the south and east of Bear Den Mountain. It drains the area around Jenkins Lane and picks up several other brooks before leaving Sullivan. It joins Otter Brook in Keene. Ferry Brook had several saw mills over the years most of which were owned by the Spaulding family who specialized in all phases of house and barn construction.

Hubbard Brook rises in a wetland between the North Road and Gilsum Road and flows toward the Houghton Ledge area. Along the way it drains the area west of Center Street and east of South Road before flowing into Roxbury to join Otter Brook.

Granite Lake Brook (also known as the North Branch) begins in Munsonville at Granite Lake and flows through some wetlands before entering Sullivan. It flows steadily for most of the year and thus could be used for water power. The Felt Brothers built a mill on Concord Road near the Nelson boundary. They manufactured hoe and rake handles and stepladders until their deaths ended the company.

Bolster Brook drains the area around Seward Mountain. Several seasonal streams flow into Bolster Pond which forms the brook at its outlet. There is a dam that was constructed—apparently to regulate its outflow—but there are no documented mills on the pond. The Bolster Pond beavers have added several more feet to the top of the original dam.

Spaulding Brook probably drains the greatest amount of territory. It begins in the northeast corner of town in a large area of wetlands and small ponds. It flows south until it joins Chapman Brook at a place called “the junction.” Chapman Pond, like Bolster Pond, captures water from a number of sources. Chapman Brook once had a small mill owned by Asa Wait. From the junction, Spaulding Brook flows under Cross Road. At that site, Jacob Spaulding owned a saw mill and grist mill for many years. The foundation and the dam can still be seen. Further down is the location of the Norcross Mill which was the last water powered mill built in Sullivan. It burned in 1930.

Otter Brook rises in Stoddard at a place called Chandler Meadows. It flows into Sullivan at what is named on maps as Ellis Reservoir. In 1869, a group of mill owners built a dam on the site in order to regulate the flow of water downstream. Ellis is also where Bolster Brook empties. Today the dam is long gone and the reservoir has become a good example of a beaver meadow. From Ellis the brook begins to fall in elevation. The first beneficiary of the increase in pressure was the Ellis Mill which made lumber and other wood products. From there Otter Brook flows through a beautiful series of cataracts known as Otter Falls. At the base of the falls the brook powered Dauphin Spaulding’s lumber mill. After racing through a narrow gorge Otter Brook joins the Spaulding Brook and flows toward East Sullivan.

At East Sullivan, Otter Brook is joined by the Granite Lake Brook. The convergence of water power led to the development of several mills as well as the village. Starting in 1797, the mill complex grew to include a tannery, a lumber mill, a turning mill and factory to produce chair stock and tables. Below the village, Leslie Goodnow constructed yet another mill to produce chair stock and furniture pieces.

The “golden age” of Sullivan water power was over by 1910. Soon steam powered “portable” saw mills replaced the stationary mills. Today the forests have grown back and support a great variety of wildlife. The brooks are still flowing as they always have, but I doubt a time traveler from the 19th century would recognize the place.

Archives Has New Hours

The Sullivan Town Archives is now open on Saturday morning at the Sullivan Public Library. Drop by if you have a question about your property's history, the families that once lived in your house, or that funny looking pile of rocks in the woods behind the barn. The archives will be open from 9 to 11 on Saturdays.

Interested in forming a "Sullivan Trail Group"?

Several members of the Sullivan Conservation Commission and other folks in the community have expressed interest in forming a trail group here in town. Some of the goals of the group could be: to create and maintain trails in the Town Forest, create and maintain connector trails between the existing trails within our town and with neighboring town's trails and to host walks on these trails. If you think this would interest you and would like to join us, please email Eric White at mudlr@aol.com or leave a message at 847-3038.

From the Energy Committee

The Energy Committee learned in November that the selectmen had installed, as recommended in the energy audit performed by Margaret Dillon last spring, a new, efficient furnace with programmable thermostats. The committee is eager to compare propane use this winter with last year's consumption.

The Energy Committee very much hopes that the selectmen will find funds for insulating the town hall in order to keep more of the heat in the building and to save money.

They also finalized the report to New England Grass Roots Fund on the town's use of the \$1,000 grant to help pay for the town hall energy audit.

The committee considered ideas for saving energy at home that are low cost. One suggestion is that homeowners can make rigid, removable insulated panels to fit into windows during the night to retain heat in the room. Another suggestion is to lower the thermostat, because every degree lower reduces fuel cost about two percent. A programmable thermostat can reduce the temperature automatically.

Members also expressed interest in helping the fire station examine options for saving energy.

Can you help? The Energy Committee is seeking new members. For information, please call Ann Sweet at 847-3463.

Planning Board Update: Shaping our town's future

Sullivan is a great town, whose townspeople justifiably take pride in it. The town's planning board is responsible for developing the Sullivan Master Plan, a document designed to articulate the townspeople's vision for the future and provide a roadmap for realizing that vision. The Master Plan is completely updated every 10 years with input from residents. The 2015 update was completed at the end of last year, thanks to an incredible amount of time and hard work volunteered by a few individuals. The planning board has begun to implement as many of the new Master Plan's recommendations as possible.

But we need your help! Are you someone with a passion for keeping Sullivan great, who wants to be part of creating an even brighter future for all residents? The planning board is seeking new members to serve as alternates. If you are interested, or just want to check us out, please come to one of our meetings – we meet the first Wednesday of every month at 7 pm in the Town Hall. We hope to see you there! If you would like more information, minutes of past meetings and the Master Plan can be found on the town website, or you may contact Leslie Casey: 847-3154 or lcasey29@hotmail.com. Thank you.

Public Notice

Sullivan, NH Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Review

A copy of the Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan Update is available for public review and comment from January 14, 2016 to January 24, 2016 at the Sullivan Town Office during regular business hours; at the Town Library during regular business hours or by going to the Town's website at www.ci.sullivan.nh.us.

Written comments may be addressed to Neil Henry, Jr. Emergency Management Director, and mailed to: Sullivan Town Office, P.O. Box 110, Sullivan, NH 03445 or by e-mail to n.henry@northeastemergencyapparatus.com or lmurphy@swrpc.org.

Getting to Know You...

Marsha Cook

Happy New Year! Another year gone and another year beginning. What are your plans for the new year? Have to admit I don't make resolutions cause I just feel terrible when I don't do them. So I simply try out things and see if it sticks.

One thing I tried and so far it has stuck is Yoga. I go once a week to a gentle class so there is no way I am overtaxing myself. In an attempt to exercise more, I tried a gym membership and that failed. Turns out going out in the cold is not on my list of likes. Hate group exercise as I am a klutz and cannot remember the routines. Then again, finding the right clothes is not fun when you are not a size 2.

I like rowing so may get a rowing machine. For rowing in my own house, shorts and a t-shirt work just fine (old shorts and a torn t-shirt is more like it!). Biking is a good exercise. I already own a bike (even a helmet 'cause I am a klutz on a bike also). Still trying to find a bike ride that does not include long, steep hills. Cannot even get back up my own driveway! So based on my past history, I don't think exercise in any form is going to be continued too far into the future.

Last year I tried canning. It was fun but it is more fun to purchase it from someone else! I am addicted to Grace's jams & jellies as well as her canned beets. Actually thought about making bread but turns out John at the Country Store makes wonderful bread. So none of those things lasted.

My attempts at planting flowers in raised beds was fairly successful. I managed to keep them alive and pulled weeds a couple of times. I do love hosta so will probably plant more of them around the edges of the lawn. Shall we call that something I will continue? Maybe I am not a total flunky at resolutions. But I have not planted them yet!

If you make resolutions, I hope you keep them. If you don't make them, maybe we can meet for a margarita one evening and discuss what we are thinking about trying.

NEED AN ODD JOB DONE?

Mary Hull, Town Clerk, has a list of people who are available to do odd jobs in town. If you need some help with something, one of them could give you a hand. Stop by and see Mary or give her a call at 847-3316.

If you would like to get your name on the list of available people in town, let Mary know.

DO YOU WALK AFTER DARK?

Please remember to wear reflective clothing and carry a flashlight. Numerous motorists have mentioned they cannot see people who are walking unless they take these precautions.

RECIPE CORNER

with Ginni McByrne

I got this recipe from a cookbook and changed a couple things. It made my kitchen smell soooo good. Hope you enjoy it! Please email your recipes and a brief story and/or helpful hint to sullivanrecipecorner@gmail.com.

MAPLE WALNUT OATMEAL BARS

¾ cups (1 ½ sticks) butter or

¾ cup shredded coconut, opt.

margarine
2 ¼ cups oats (quick or old fashioned)
uncooked
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 ½ cup firmly packed brown sugar

1 tsp baking soda
¼ tsp salt, opt
1/3 cup maple syrup
1 egg, lightly beaten
1 tsp vanilla

Topping:

1 ½ cup chopped walnuts
¼ cup firmly packed brown sugar

1/3 cup maple syrup

Heat oven to 350°. Lightly spray 9x13 inch baking pan with nonstick cooking spray.

For bar: melt butter, set aside to cool. In large bowl, combine oats, flour, brown sugar, coconut, baking soda and salt. Mix well. In small bowl, combine melted butter, syrup, egg and vanilla. Mix well. Add to oat mixture. Mix well. (Dough will be stiff.) Press dough evenly onto bottom of pan. **For topping:** combine walnuts and brown sugar, sprinkle evenly over dough, press down lightly. Drizzle syrup evenly over walnut topping. Bake 35 to 38 minutes or until edges are set but middle is soft. (Do not overbake.) Cool completely in pan or on wire rack. Cut into bars. Store tightly covered. Makes 32 bars.

*****HELPFUL HINT*****

****A roast, with the bone in, will cook faster than a boneless roast—the bone carries the heat to the inside of the roast quicker****

“Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.” – Joshua J. Marine

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

January 16 – Nelson School

On Saturday January 16, 2016 from 8 - 11, Nelson School's K/R Class will be hosting our first Pancake Breakfast of the year. Breakfast is \$5 per person and includes pancakes (plain or blueberry, gluten free also available), sausage, coffee/tea and juice.

Please join us for a wonderful meal and help sponsor our future 5th grade trip.
We hope to see you there!
Cindy Benner and the K/R Class

SULLIVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

“Education is the power to think clearly, the power to act well in the world's work, and the power to appreciate life.”
Brigham Young

In preparation for our fourth year as the Sullivan School District, an independent district, the Sullivan School Board has been busy preparing next year's school district budget and we will be coordinating a date with our town budget committee to hold a budget hearing in early January (be on the lookout for our postings about upcoming meetings). The school board typically meets in the lower town hall on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, though recently our times have varied; any changes will be publicly posted. Members of the public are invited to attend these meetings to discuss any school district related matters.

Nelson School News: 6th Graders will attend Keene Middle School next year.

A recent decision was made by the Nelson School Board to send next year's 6th graders to the Keene Middle School. The Nelson School enrollment capacity was exceeded this year. Efforts by a subcommittee of the Nelson School Board have begun to conduct a feasibility study to look into adding a portable classroom to the Nelson School. Should the expansion proposal be accepted by Nelson voters, it will allow future 6th graders to remain at Nelson School. Should the proposal be turned down, Sullivan and Nelson 6th graders will continue to attend Keene Middle School. It is the interest of both the Nelson and Sullivan School Boards to be able to revisit this decision if/when enrollment decreases in future years. The Sullivan School Board reviewed our contract with Nelson at our last meeting. The portion relevant to sending sixth graders to Keene appears below. The school board will continue to monitor the situation and encourages parents and residents to contact us with concerns or thoughts on the matter.

"Nelson reserves the right to send grade 6 students to Keene Middle School if they deem the Nelson school's capacity is exceeded. If the District sends Nelson students to an alternate school for building capacity relief, Sullivan would then be responsible to find an alternate placement for their 6th grade students and Nelson would no longer be responsible for Sullivan's grade 6 students. The Nelson School Board will notify the Sullivan School Board of any such decision by November 15th of the school year prior to reducing the school to a K to 5 setting."

Late Bus Schedule: Students of Sullivan at KMS and KHS may opt to take the late bus to the Sullivan Country Store on Mondays and Wednesdays as it heads up to Nelson and Stoddard. The student will be responsible for notifying the bus driver of their attendance on the bus and requesting the stop at the Country Store. Parents/guardians are responsible for picking up their children at this location. The purpose of the late bus is to accommodate the needs of students who would like to meet with a teacher after school. It does not accommodate students who wish to participate in sports due to the time that it leaves Keene.

Incoming Kindergarteners for next year: If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten next year, please contact the Nelson Elementary School for a registration form or email Sullivan School Board Chair Stephanie Kleine at stephaniejacques@masiello.com. It is never too early to register and if it is known by early January by the Sullivan School Board, a more accurate enrollment count can be reflected in the budget.

Where Sullivan Students attend school: K-6th graders attend the Nelson Elementary School, 7-8th graders attend the Keene Middle School and 9-12th graders attend Keene High School. An aftercare program exists at the Nelson School. - **CHANGE:** 2016-17 Sullivan 6th graders will attend Keene Middle School.

Registering your child for public school: In order to register, you must establish residency through our district/town clerk, Mary Hull prior to enrollment. If you have a shared guardianship agreement/custody agreement, you will need to provide a copy to Mary Hull at the Town Hall in Sullivan or mail directly to Sullivan School District, PO Box 111, Sullivan, NH 03445 as you register for school. **Each school will request a copy of your proof of residency and of your legal guardianship agreement/custody agreement for themselves.

Anyone moving OUT of town must notify the school board chair, Stephanie Kleine, at 603-209-4151 or Mary Hull, district clerk, of the move, if you have children in the school system. This is also required if you have a child currently attending KMS or KHS and are moving to Keene, so that the appropriate town can be fiscally aware of where that child resides.

Homeschooling families- Even if your children are homeschooled, it is required that you send a letter to the Sullivan School District Superintendent, Ken Dassau, to inform the District that your children are being homeschooled. If you have never done this and are homeschooling in Sullivan, please mail your letter to Ken Dassau at PO Box 111, Sullivan, NH 03445.

Please feel welcome to attend our monthly school board meeting or to contact Ken Dassau, Superintendent 603-209-3315 or krdassau@gmail.com or Stephanie Kleine, school board chair at 603-209-4151 or stephaniejacques@masiello.com should you have any questions along the way.

We would love to hear about your children! What great things have they done so far this year? Please email Stephaniejacques@masiello.com with any news, achievements and stories about your children which we can share in next month's newsletter!

Check out the Sullivan School District's Facebook page for current news items and the town web page for Sullivan School Board minutes.

THE LITTLE WHITE CHURCH AT THE TOP OF THE HILL WELCOMES YOU!

The Sullivan Congregational Church is a caring and welcoming church. More than going to church once a week, we live our faith by reaching out with help for our own community and beyond.

Sunday worship services led by interim pastor, Rev. Debbie Hill, are at 10 am in Friendship Hall at the church for the winter months. Access is through the regular front door, the side door or the downstairs rear entrance. We share in communion on the first Sunday of each month and all are welcome. A wonderful coffee hour with refreshments is available after worship. The church is handicap accessible via the side door.

Service projects include but are not limited to: a community food pantry, help when neighbors are in need, 100 Nights Shelter, Kurn Hattin and Church World Service Kits (health, school & infant supplies to disaster and poverty-stricken areas and places),

A book discussion group will begin on Sunday, Jan. 17 at 11:30 in the parish hall. The book title is: "*Getting to the Heart of Interfaith: The Eye-opening, Hope-filled Friendship of a Pastor, a Rabbi, and an Imam.*" The cost of the book is \$16.99 and anyone in the community is welcome to join us. Please call Becky Cummings at 847-3477 to sign up.

New ideas are always welcome and as we move forward into 2016 we hope you will join us and look forward to seeing you!

Rev. Debbie Hill
revdehill@gmail.com
Cell 313-9010
Home 354-3412

QUESTIONS ABOUT SULLIVAN AND THE SURROUNDING AREA?

Town Hall Offices – 847-3316
Sullivan Library – 847-3458
Nelson School – 847-3408
Keene Middle School – 357-9023
Keene High School – 352-0460
Little Country Store – 847-9383
Or on the internet:
Town Website – www.ci.sullivan.nh.us
Sullivan Public Library Facebook Page
Sullivan School District Facebook Page
A Sullivan Blog – www.sullivanfun.com

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Sunday Services 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Debbie Hill
Cell 313-9010 Home 354-3412
Church rentals - Chip & Kathy Woodbury 357-3445

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and
Notary Public
Mary Hull 847-9718

Box, mailed to PO Box 110 Sullivan 03445 (labeled Newsletter) or e-mailed (preferred method) to: bcummings@myfairpoint.net .

Editor: Becky Cummings 847-3477
Assistant Editor: Gaynelle Pratt
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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 or \$45 per page. Mail to PO Box 110; Sullivan, NH 03445 or drop it off at the town hall with town clerk Mary Hull or administrative assistant. **Deadline for the next newsletter is 15 February.** News items may be left in the Sullivan Library Book