



## ***Sullivan Community Newsletter***

Vol. 36 No. 4

Sullivan, NH

Jan. - Feb. 2017

### **PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN & SCHOOL BUDGETS!**

Sullivan Town Hall

Jan. 17 – 7:00 pm

*See inside newsletter for detailed information on the budget.*

### **LOOKING AHEAD TO TOWN ELECTIONS & MEETING 2017**

Town Election Day is March 14 with the Town & School Meetings on March 15.

Each year **several town offices come up for election**. The positions open this year are: selectman (3 years), selectman (2 years), town clerk/tax collector (3 years), road agent (2 years), trustee of trust funds (3 years), cemetery trustee (3 years), budget committee (3 years), supervisor of the checklist (6 years) and 2 positions on the zoning board of adjustment (3 years each). **New faces are encouraged & welcome - can you help?** Mary Hull, town clerk, can give you details of the responsibilities of each position. In addition to the elected offices, there are also openings on several town committees – conservation, planning board, zoning board of adjustment and also an opening for overseer of the poor.

**Filing period** for the elected offices is Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> through Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Town Clerk's office. The filing fee is \$1.

#### **Registering to vote:**

Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session at the Sullivan Library on **Tues., Jan. 24** between 7 and 7:30 pm and on **Sat., March 4** between 11 and 11:30 am. Bring proof of residency, citizenship and age. Residents may also register with the Town Clerk and on Town Election Day, but not at Town Meeting.

#### **Voting at Town Meeting:**

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

### **AWESOME SILENT AUCTION**

**&**

### **DESSERT BUFFET**

**Feb. 18 - 4 to 6 pm**

Take a break from the winter blues! Come and enjoy a silent auction and dessert buffet at the Sullivan Church on February 18 from 4-6 pm. Visit with friends and neighbors and bid on such items as small furniture, antique items including quilts & china ware, baskets of specialty items, a personalized CD of your photos, an elegant dinner, and much more! (Check the church's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/sullivanucc/> for photos of some items.) Desserts will be delicious and varied - and fruits and cheeses will also be available. Cost is \$5 per person. All are welcome. Proceeds to benefit the church maintenance fund. (Snow date is February 25<sup>th</sup>, same time.)

## **What to expect from the Board of Selectmen in the 2017 Budget Process**

Submitted by: Laura Merrifield, Chairman Board of Selectmen

It is hard to believe it is once again time to work on the Town budget for the coming year. For those unfamiliar with how the Town budget is prepared, here's the process in a nut shell:

- Department heads and committee chairs prepare their proposed budgets for review by the Selectmen.
- The Selectmen prepare their recommendations for the entire Town and submit a budget to the Budget Committee.
- The Budget Committee formulates its recommendations; a public hearing is held and then the Budget Committee finalizes its budget as part of the Town warrant.
- At March town meeting the registered voters of Sullivan ultimately decide on how the Town will proceed.

So far, the Board of Selectmen has met with department heads and committee chairs to hear of their budgetary needs for 2017 and to review the past year expenditures. From those meetings the selectmen prepare a recommended budget which is subject to review and revision by the Budget Committee. **The Budget Committee public hearing, for both the Town and School budgets, has been set for 7:00 PM on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Town Hall.**

As this article is written, the Budget Committee is meeting with department heads, committee chairs and the selectmen to formulate their recommended budget and resulting warrant articles to be voted on at Town Meeting in March 2017. They hold a public hearing to gain input from the public about the budget.

While it is still early in the process, the Board of Selectmen thought submitting an article in this newsletter edition might help the citizens gain a better understanding of how the Board arrived at its recommendations for the coming year. Bearing in mind the Budget Committee still has important work to conduct in reviewing the Town budget and School budget, the information presented here merely covers the Selectmen's recommendations and touches on a couple of significant issues considered by the Board (change of ambulance service providers, use of fund balance to pay for two significant acquisitions, possible introduction of a dog control law and a possible change to Veteran tax credits).

### **The Operating Budget:**

The operating budget funds day to day operations of the selectmen which includes elections, financial, legal/audit, assessing, personnel, building maintenance, insurance, ambulance services, fire mutual aid, health agencies and welfare as well as policing services, library, planning, cemeteries, fire/rescue, highway/special projects, recreation, conservation. The operating budget is approved at Town meeting and throughout the year the total cannot be overspent, except in extreme circumstances.

It is the town's policy that the total amount of a department's budget cannot be overspent. It is not uncommon to over-spend one line item and under-spend another so long as the total is not exceeded.

To provide a reference point:

- The approved 2015 operating budget was \$753,303
- The approved 2016 operating budget was \$715,224
- The department heads/committee chairs requested 2017 operating budget is \$739,202
- The selectmen's recommended 2017 operating budget is \$722,313.

### **How did the Selectmen come up with operating budget recommendations different from department heads or committee chairs requests?**

After meeting with the department heads and committee chairs, reviewing expense history, monitoring year to date expenses, finding alternative sources of revenue and considering tax rate impacts, the Selectmen draw various conclusions. While it would be great to give every department exactly what they ask for, or more, sometimes it just isn't possible when considering the budget in its entirety.

Where possible the Selectmen, with the help of our Administrative Assistant, strive to negotiate, contract and lock in prices of general goods and services when it means cost savings to the taxpayers. For the coming year we were successful in renegotiating fuel prices (propane, oil and diesel); locked in a three year contract for lawn maintenance that anticipates no increase in price; changed waste disposal vendors; will continue a contract for cleaning services; worked tirelessly with our insurance carrier in order to receive discounts on property liability insurance, workers' compensation and unemployment compensation and contracted with a new audit firm at a lesser annual cost.

In general, there is little change between what was asked for from the departments/committee chairs (\$739,202) and what is recommended by the Selectmen (\$722,313). However, it is important to note that two items, (1) acquiring new hose

and water supply equipment for the Fire Department and (2) finishing a small addition at the Highway garage, were considered by the Selectmen at the request of the respective department heads. Initially, the Fire Department requested a special warrant article, in the amount of \$8,000, and the Road Agent requested approximately \$10,000 in the building maintenance operating budget. In an effort to fund both of these requests without further increase to the tax rate, the Selectmen will be recommending the use of unexpended fund balance (unspent money from prior years).

**Other changes considered in the 2017 budget:**

One very significant cost reduction contemplated by the Selectmen, and suggested by the Budget Committee in 2016, is changing ambulance service providers. Right now the Town contracts with the City of Keene for stand-by ambulance services. Keene also provides educational training services to our volunteers at the fire house. Their service over the years has been excellent. Their service also comes at a projected cost of \$21,966 for 2017. The cost for ambulance stand-by services over the last few years has been:

2013	\$14,500
2014	\$15,400
2015	\$13,865
2016	\$20,283
2017	\$21,966

As directed by the Budget Committee, the Selectmen's office contacted five ambulance companies to determine alternative options. All but one provider either does not offer emergency ambulance services in this area or are unqualified to provide the type of service Sullivan requires. The remaining company, DiLuzio Ambulance Services, provided the Selectmen with a draft contract which provides very similar, though not exact, services to that offered by the City of Keene. The annual cost quoted by DiLuzio is \$9,000 per year versus \$21,966. Consequently the Board of Selectmen is recommending the change in service providers, though it is the voters who will decide the change. There will be more discussion and input on this issue at public hearing and town meeting.

Again, on the recommendation of last year's Budget Committee, the Cemetery Trustees are proposing to establish a Cemetery Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund. Funding for this reserve account would come from the sale of cemetery lots and would, in the future, be used to offset the cost of maintaining Town cemeteries. You will hear more on this and a proposed increase to cemetery lot fees at public hearing and town meeting.

The Selectmen are also considering adopting the "All Veterans' Tax Credit". Currently, certain Veterans or spouses of Veterans receive a \$250 property tax credit on their primary residence so long as they are a NH resident, served at least 90 days in the armed forces in qualifying conflicts and were honorably discharged. A new optional law passed by the Legislature expands the credit to residents who served at least 90 days and were honorably discharged. Because such a change would impact the tax rate, the Selectmen have attempted to ascertain, without success, how many individuals would qualify for the "All Veterans' Tax Credit". Under current law, there are less than 30 qualifying residents. Even if the number doubled under the latest law, the tax impact would not be significant.

While having no impact on taxes, the Selectmen are also considering adopting RSA 466:30-a, which makes it unlawful for any dog to run at large in the Town. The reason for this is due, in large part, to the number of dog related incidents this past year. There is a NH State dog control law (RSA 466:30-a) that states it is "unlawful for any dog to run at large except when accompanied by the owner or custodian and when used for hunting, for guarding, working or herding....". Any town can adopt the provisions of RSA 466:30-a at town meeting.

**Capital Reserves:**

Simply put, Capital Reserves are established for the purpose of saving money in order to make a significant purchase or an improvement in the future. Capital Reserve funds are an excellent way to avoid debt or the laying out of large sums of money in any given year for equipment or projects. Whoever had the foresight to implement, and the resolve to continue, Capital Reserves in Sullivan should receive a round of applause. Without them we would be hard pressed to afford to replace highway and fire equipment, preserve our buildings, construct or reconstruct roads and plan for costly projects.

**How did the Selectmen come up with capital reserve recommendations different from department heads or committee chairs?**

To provide a reference point:

- The approved 2015 capital reserve budget was \$55,400
- The approved 2016 capital reserve budget was \$98,350
- The department heads/committee chairs requested 2017 capital reserve budget is \$80,800
- The selectmen's recommended 2017 capital reserve budget is \$66,500

The 2016 capital reserve budget seems abnormally high but that is because there was \$38,200 intentionally moved into an existing Police Cruiser capital reserve. That \$38,200 was derived from the sale of two cruisers and was put there with the understanding that if our current arrangement with the Cheshire County Sheriff's Department is not continued, we would have money on hand to reacquire a cruiser or would be able to reallocate that money for another purpose with the blessing of the voters.

On March 7, 2016 the last payment for the Fire Department Pumper was made. This payment ended the lease with option to purchase agreement authorized by the voters in 2006. Over the course of the ten years, between interest and principal, the Town paid \$253,000 for the pumper.

This year it was requested that the capital reserve for the Fire Department Vehicle be increased from \$5,350 to \$25,000 in order to replace the rescue vehicle and continue saving for other eventual fire vehicle acquisitions. Currently the Fire Department Vehicle reserve account has about \$57,000 set aside. The rescue replacement vehicle is expected to be about \$45,000.

In considering the upcoming budget and still reeling from the latest tax increase, the Selectmen felt it was reasonable to reduce the request from \$25,000 to \$10,700. The reasoning behind it is the current capital reserve balance is already sufficient to purchase a replacement rescue vehicle and there is still about \$13,000 in reserve toward future acquisitions. While it would be great to throw \$25,000 more into the reserve, the Selectmen are doing its best to reduce the Town's portion of the tax rate.

**In closing:**

It is important to impart that the Town's department heads and committee chairs do a great job in submitting reasonable budget requests. When the Selectmen's budget recommendations, differ it isn't meant as a reflection on those individuals, the services they provide or the goals they have. The Selectmen's objective is merely trying to keep a balance between how to provide the best services possible and planning for the future yet keeping the budget affordable to the citizens of Sullivan.

It is very possible this article might cause more questions than it answers. It is hoped that those of you with questions come to a public hearing or Town meeting to bring your thoughts forward or learn more about how your tax dollars are spent at the Town level.

## **Community Planning Ordinance Amendments To Be on Ballot**

The planning board has been working on updates and amendments to the Community Planning Ordinance (CPO). A public hearing on the proposed amendments is scheduled for the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board, beginning at 7 pm in the Town Hall. Draft amendment language will be posted in advance. The final language will be made available on the Sullivan web site prior to the Town Election in March, where the proposed amendments are expected to be on the ballot.

One set of changes to the ordinance will pertain to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). There is a growing need for more diverse affordable housing opportunities for New Hampshire citizens, and a State law was recently passed to address this, allowing one attached ADU per single-family primary dwelling unit "by right." Sullivan's CPO should reflect that change. The CPO also should be updated to specify any additional requirements that the town wishes to put on ADUs.

Another key area of the CPO for the public to consider is building codes. The State has adopted building codes to ensure safety of the public. Some modest changes and updates to relevant parts of the CPO will be proposed that we believe are a step in the right direction and are consistent with our Master Plan.

In other news, in October the planning board approved the site plan for a proposed wireless telecommunications facility to be built off of Old Concord Rd. We appreciate those who took the time to participate in the public hearing!

**Are you interested in helping make Sullivan better? Join us!** The planning board is seeking additional members. We currently have slots for 3 alternates. We meet only once a month for 1 to 2 hours in the evening and you will find that we deal with a lot of interesting issues!

**REMINDER –** Your dogs can be registered anytime now. You don't have to wait until the deadline in April.

## "LIBRARY FOOTNOTES"

Here we are at the start of a brand new year. The Library has seen many new patrons come through its door over the past year, and we are hoping for many more throughout this year, as well.

The Library's re-categorizing is complete! So we now have sections for Suspense, Mystery, Science Fiction, Fantasy and General Fiction. Now if we know which genre you would like, it will be easier to find.

We have added quite a few books into the collection last year and they are just waiting to be taken out and read by you! One of the new books is called *As You Wish* and it was written by Cary Elwes. It is a book about the making of *The Princess Bride* and some of the fun the cast had in making the film.

We have also tried to complete some of the series we have. We are now up to date with the Maisie Dobbs series written by Jacqueline Winspear, the Inspector Ganache series by Louise Penny and the Gunther series by Archer Mayor.

The books groups are doing well. They are always open for new members of the groups!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people for their contributions to the Library: Joan Ames, Barbara Atwood, Libby Beede, Ed Csenge, Peter Eisenstadter, Virginia Howard, Kris Kleine, Leon's Auto Center, Peter Miles, Margery Moore, Gaynelle Pratt, Marie Robinson, Dan Tuttle, Ginny Yawarski and those supporters who wish to remain anonymous. A special thank you to Jim Casey for shoveling.

Paulette Tuttle and Dott Miles,  
Your Librarians

**MOVIE NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY** – January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. *The Big Short*, rated R. Story of the banking crisis.

### **Public Notice**

The Sullivan Public Library Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meetings on January 12, February 9 and March 9, 2017 at the 2 PM 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 Archives** **by Chris Pratt**

As many of you know, on my property, we have had resident beavers since last spring. The dynamic-rodent-duo has constructed a large dam, rebuilt an old lodge and have clear cut the willow and alders in our wet land. One of the consequences of their presence is a certain amount of erosion. My first clue came when I saw three cobalt-blue bottles slowly floating toward the dam. I immediately recognized them as old containers for Phillips' Milk of Magnesia. Other bottles followed and I knew that the old dump in back of our barn was giving up its secrets.

Ever since humans began to roam our planet they have left behind their trash. Archeologists call them midden piles and love to examine them for their pottery, meat bones and broken tools which often reveal a great deal about the people who discarded the stuff. Our midden pile was located behind our old barn (which collapsed in the winter of 1999-2000) and consisted of bottles, rusted cans, pig jaws and parts to a 1930 Dodge. We have removed the remains as they have surfaced, but otherwise left things be.

As I waded out into the pond retrieving the various bottles, I thought about how people simply discarded their trash at home until about the 1930s or 1940s. Then, perhaps as our modern society developed, we had more trash than could be thrown out the back door. This led to centralized town dumps. As the effects of pollution from the dumps became apparent, we then concentrated our trash into regional, sealed landfills. In Sullivan, we either take our trash to the Keene landfill or pay someone to take it there. However, I wondered, how did such a system evolve?

Many long-time residents have told me about a dump located at the junction of the New Road and Gilsum Road. It was used only for cans and bottles as it existed long before the age of plastic. Paper waste would most likely have been burned in the family stove, a burn barrel or other open fire.

In fact, a search of the town records shows that public attention to a town dump does not appear until the 1952 town meeting. Article 23 of the warrant asks what action and how much money the town was willing to raise and appropriate for a town dump. This seems to have been prompted by a letter to the Sullivan Board of Selectmen dated 21 September 1951 from the N.H. Department of Health. It makes no mention of the dump on Gilsum Road, but refers to a dump in Sullivan used by residents of Nelson. After some investigation, it appears that the dump was located in East Sullivan across from the store. Like its counterpart on Gilsum Road, it was used primarily for cans and bottles. The point of the letter from the State Health Department was for the towns of Sullivan and Nelson to take joint ownership of the dump and publically fund it. The letter was prompted by the passage of a law regulating town dumps passed by the state in 1949. The letter asked, politely, for compliance.

The Town Meeting responded by requiring the Selectmen to "...find a location for a town dump away from the village within 60 days..." and to find the money within their budget. The following year, article 30 allowed \$60 for the Selectmen to cover expenses regarding a town dump. Then in 1955, the town meeting authorized the Selectmen to reach an agreement with Keene regarding the dump. After that it is not clear what happened from the town records, but apparently nothing occurred as the issue surfaced again at the 1961 town meeting.

The town meeting's conclusion was to raise and appropriate \$200 for a town dump. The clerk does not record any other instructions, but subsequent events showed that the Selectmen moved to resolve the issue once and for all. By July of that year, an agreement was signed with Keene after a search for a dump site in Sullivan failed. The Selectmen's expenditure report for the next year indicated that it cost \$128.40 to cover the old dumps. According to an article in the Keene Sentinel, that expense included both East Sullivan and Gilsum Road.

The saga of our local dump, however, was not concluded. I'll write about that at a future date.

## **A Tribute to Leslie Goodnow**

With heart in hand, I wish to publicly recognize my lifelong neighbors who lived a few steps up the road from my home in the village of East Sullivan.

Leslie Hardy Goodnow slipped away from us on September 8th, a few months into his 100th year of life and only weeks past his and Alma's (Smith) 70th anniversary. He was born in 1917, when Yanks were being sent "Over There" to fight in the Great War. His parents were Walter and Helen (Wiswall) Goodnow; in good time he was joined by his brother Walter Lawrence "Lonnie". Their Aunt Minnie lived at the Heritage in East Sullivan, the Goodnow home for generations. During their childhood, both boys often visited in the summer when Minnie was on vacation from her teaching career in Billerica, MA.

In the late 1920s, my parents rented the north apartment from the Goodnows. In 1931 they bought our home from Reuben Dunn. Only recently Leslie told me about his friendship with Reuben Dunn, who enjoyed the bright, well-behaved young boy. Together they tapped a few trees, made maple syrup and worked on other projects during Leslie's visits.

By the time I was born in 1933, Leslie was at Keene High School and Aunt Minnie was close to retirement. She returned to the family home where I was blessed to know her for the rest of her long life. She was quietly a mentor and an advocate for the village children. She ordered books from the State Library for us to select and read. On holidays, she often gave me one of her treasured books with a poem enclosed. Later, she hired me to houseclean, feed the birds in her absence and sit next door with Mrs. Nettie Foster for whom Minnie took responsibility. She also looked after her tenant in the north apartment, Mrs. Marietta Ware. "Etta" Ware had been close to the Goodnow family for many years. She taught school, married late in life, traveled to the Holy Land and was a legislator. These strong independent women instilled in me the values of education and self-sufficiency.

During World War 2, Leslie and Lonnie, now grown up and in the service, would visit "Auntie" whenever possible. Following their marriage, Leslie and Alma settled in Keene where they brought up their four sons. Lonnie, his wife Polly and their toddler son John lived for several years in the north apartment where they added youth and zest to us village teenagers. When Leslie's father Walter became a widower and in need of assistance, he moved in with Minnie. The Goodnow siblings shared their ancestral home for several years, until Walter laid his head on the table one noontime and did not wake up. The indomitable Minnie continued to live in her home until weeks before her death. As her eyes failed, she purchased a typewriter and taught herself to touch type. She remained alert and interested in world affairs as she watched her grandnephews grow up. She hired local ladies to live in and care for her as she became frail.

After Minnie's death, the old home underwent another family change. Leslie retired. When he and Alma moved to East Sullivan, they became our neighbors. It's when I got to know and feel affection for the humble man who was a natural leader all his life: at KHS, UNH, in the Pacific Theater during the war, in the insurance business, as a Selectman in Sullivan, as a fellow member of the East Sullivan Cemetery Association; his accomplishments were many, understated and unassuming. I especially admired his deep sense of place, the affection he felt for his ancestral land, home and village, his quiet sense of humor and the constancy of his neighborliness. When he and Alma moved to Concord to a life care community, he was always available when I had questions about East Sullivan history.

I no longer can ask Leslie questions, which will keep cropping up, I'm sure. However, in my mind and heart I can summon dozens of vignettes of him and of the Goodnow family as they touched my life. May he rest peacefully in the East Sullivan cemetery among his ancestors.

## **GREETINGS FROM FRIENDS IN LESOTHO AFRICA**

### **PART 3**

*Risa and Doug Keene are residents of Sullivan  
who are spending two years in Lesotho Africa (a country within the borders of South Africa).*

Dear Friends,

It is the beginning of summer here in Lesotho. The weather is hot (high 80's but as summer progresses it will get into the 90's and possibly 100's), and the air is dry. The schools closed for summer vacation at the end of November and now as the Christmas holiday gets closer people are traveling to their "haeno," home of origin. At Christmas time people go back to gather with their families and celebrate. Usually there isn't an exchange of presents, however children get to wear their new clothes on the Christmas Day. There's lots of traditional food, particularly meats. Some people go to church and some don't, but everyone gathers with their family members. The roads are crowded and "taxis" (mini vans that are supposed to carry only up to 15 people) are packed with at least 25 people in each. The roof of each "taxi" is piled high with everyone's large bags that contain clothes, blankets/bedding and other things. This is the form of public transportation usually used to travel to other villages. The "taxis" are usually hot, but filled with lots of energy (as well as traditional music).

We have completed our first year in Lesotho and are looking forward to seeing what our second year will bring. I have decided to work at Help Lesotho for another year. Right now I am running a number of Book Clubs for primary school children. I usually read a book aloud in English and Sesotho (with someone helping me with the Sesotho) and then the following week, we do a craft activity that has to do with the book. We once read a story that had lots of animals in it and the following week we made animal masks out of paper plates. For the craft projects I try to use whatever we have in our homes (e.g. empty toilet paper rolls, empty juice boxes, egg cartons etc...), since we don't have many craft materials. Sometimes I have as many as 80 kids in one group! I also lead a group called English Tutorials for the students in their senior year who are going to school part time. At the end of the school year, seniors must take a leaving exam, and I attempt to help them prepare for the English portion of that exam.

Help Lesotho's goal is to educate people in this region of Lesotho about life skills (HIV/AIDS, early marriage/pregnancy - sometimes as early as 14 years - and making good decisions). Unfortunately there has been little education of people with disabilities in the area of life skills. Right next door to Help Lesotho is a school for the deaf. I have been actively advocating for a workshop designed for deaf adolescents. Well, in November we had our first workshop for the students from St. Paul School for the Deaf. Three of us at Help Lesotho facilitated the workshop with the assistance of 4 sign language interpreters. It was a success, and I look forward to seeing the relationship between the two organizations continue to grow.

Let's talk a little about what people eat here (other than makoonya, the fat cakes). As I noted in my previous post, everyone has a garden. They grow primarily green leafy vegetables, which they call "moroho." Moroho is prepared by sautéing the green leaves in oil with onions, and sometimes a spicy sauce is also added. Sorghum, wheat and maize are the grains grown here and a large part of everyone's diet. With the ground white maize they make "papa," which is cooked on the stove by adding water. It's white and looks like a gritty mash potato. Papa is very bland and served with almost every food. Meat, including chicken, beef and mutton, are eaten as are fish (if you live close enough to a lake). In the morning most people eat porridge made of sorghum, again it is bland but filling. Although there are eating utensils here, many people eat with their hands, scooping up the moroho with a clump of papa. I have planted a small garden this spring with our guard Ntate Patrick. We planted lots of moroho, some maize, carrots, marigolds, potatoes and small pumpkins. We have used a lot of the moroho already, and I think that soon we will need to replant it. Since we don't have a hose to water the garden, we collect the water in large 5-liter jugs and pour some of the water into a can into which we punched holes. It's our watering can.

You can't talk about produce/food without talking about the weather. Up until recently Lesotho's biggest resource was water. There are several dams up in the mountains, and the water is not only used for the Basotho people in Lesotho but is also purchased by South Africa and piped down to our South African neighbors. Unfortunately, over the past several years the rainy seasons aren't very rainy! Last year we had a terrible drought, although it did rain a little. Last summer it was so bad that there was no city water in Leribe (the district we live in). That meant people had to buy their water (and many were not able to afford it). The gardens died, animals had little to drink, and of course people became very sick and died. Even the hospital did not have any water for several months! Think of all the ways we use water in our lives! Of course Doug and I were able to purchase water in the stores but there were times when no water was available to purchase. When there was water available, many people were unable to afford it. Sometimes as we were walking back home from the store, people would pass us asking if we had any water we could give them. So we did. It is more available now, and we have had more rain so far this season than we had in all of last year! Unfortunately we are still behind in the amount of rain that is in the lakes etc...

Seasons Greetings to all, Risa

A bit more from Risa...

I have attempted to learn some of the songs we sing before each meeting at work (hymns), and the young women are trying to teach me how to do some of the traditional dances. People here have an incredible ability to sing, harmonize and have great rhythm! The Basotho people are on the whole very friendly and positive. It makes me realize how much I have to be grateful for.

Primary schools are "free" here, however each student must purchase a uniform for school as well as paper & pencils and books. The secondary schools (8-12) are not free, one must pay tuition to attend with the additional expense of books. This can be quite costly for those who are not working, and even those who are. As you would expect some students don't go to primary school and many don't go to secondary school because of the money. Classes are very large, upwards to 40-50, and information is taught in a call and response fashion. This makes it very difficult for those who do not learn well by listening.

## **Getting to know you...**

**By Marsha Cook**

Welcome to winter in New England. Welcome to winter in Sullivan!

As I am learning winter here is different than what is on the Weather Channel on all my electronic devices. They may say 20 degrees, but now I know better. That reading is from Keene, down in the valley. We are about 10 degrees colder up here in the hills. No wonder I feel cold. It really is about 0 degrees when I wake up. I think I really do have to buy those long johns and warm boots.

This time of year comes with my annual plea to check on your neighbors. Look out the window and make sure you see some activity. Knock on the door and make sure all is well, especially after a storm. Please don't take anything for granted, make sure. About a month ago, my paper person stopped bringing my paper to my deck and was leaving it on my driveway. For some stupid reason, I just let it lay there. When the third paper arrived, I had phone calls from neighbors checking on me. While part of me laughed and agreed to pick up my paper, part of me was grateful for living in a town where folks would check on me. So, I thank them and hope you will check on your neighbors.

January and February are slow months in town. Not a lot going on outside. We all hibernate inside where many start planning for spring. Seeds are ordered. Root cellars are raided for some vegetables. Gardens are planned, paying attention to rotating crops so you get the most use of your soil. I have seen evidence of sewing, knitting, quilting, woodworking, larger carpentry projects, machinery fixing, etc. Lots of quiet activity. Many of you come to coffee and conversation at the Library on Saturday mornings to see how everyone is doing as well as compare those spring plans.

Community is what Sullivan is all about. If you choose to participate, there is a lot going on. Book Groups (three of them!!!) Sewing. Conservation. Trails. Snowmobiles. Church. Library. Town Committees. Others I have forgotten to mention. Or maybe you want to start a group for stamp collecting. Sharing computer skills. Flying drones (I just got one and am afraid to get started!!). Start a musical group. I bet if you put a small note in the newsletter, you would find some souls who are interested in the same things. If there is a group already going you may be interested in, just drop in to a meeting. Everyone is welcome. And we mean EVERYONE!!!

I have been here three years now and have tried everything I am asking you to try. It works and I now have new, wonderful friends. Come join us.

## **SULLIVAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**

**Sunday Worship 9:30 am**

The congregation of the Sullivan Congregational Church, UCC, bid farewell and best wishes to Rev. Debbie Hill as she entered retirement at the end of December. Pastor Debbie was honored with a Sunday brunch, a DVD (made by Stephen Parker) commemorating her time at the church, many words of gratitude and several gifts including a book of her favorite Celtic prayers. During her 15 months at the church Pastor Debbie initiated the removal of 3 pews in the front of the sanctuary, held Vacation Bible School & led adult study groups.

While the church embarks on a search for a new pastor, supply ministers and lay people will lead services. January will bring Rev. Emily Preston (Jan. 8 & 15), Rev. Susan Tarolli (Jan. 22) and Mary Parker on Jan. 29 with her memories of her aunt, Elsie Priest, missionary to China. Elsie was chosen in 1920 by the Presbyterian Board of Missions to work as a missionary in China and she continued until 1961.

**Come to the auction!** Take a break from the winter blues! Enjoy a silent auction and dessert buffet at the Sullivan Church on February 18 from 4-6 pm. Cost is \$5 per person. All are welcome. (Snow date is February 25<sup>th</sup>, same time.)

## Nelson Agricultural Commission 2017 Lecture Series Free and Open to the Public

- January 28 - **Wild Edibles with Al Stoops**  
Ever wonder what is there to eat in the woods and fields? Al will share his knowledge of our NH woods and wild edibles in this engaging discussion.
- February 18 - **Fencing Garden and Poultry with Tiger Batchelder**  
Tired of woodchucks eating your garden and foxes taking chickens?  
There are options and Tiger knows about fencing!
- March 18 - **Growing Mushrooms with Dave Wichland**  
Learn about varieties and the proper conditions for success when growing your own mushrooms.
- April 15 - **Pruning Blueberries with Ted Lenk**  
This will be a hands on demonstration pruning blueberry bushes at the Nelson Library.
- May 20 - **Wattle Fencing Basics with Kathy Schillemat**  
Learn the basics of wattle fences and put these new skills to practice while building a small wattle fence around a demonstration garden.

All lectures are free and open to the public and take place at **11am** at the **Olivia Rodham Public Library**, 1 Nelson Common Rd, Nelson, NH.

### RECIPE CORNER

with Ginni McByrne

This is a great recipe for the cold nights of winter. And it is great as a left-over. Please email your recipes and a brief story and/or helpful hint to [sullivanrecipecorner@gmail.com](mailto:sullivanrecipecorner@gmail.com).

#### Kielbasa Casserole

2 14 oz. links of Polska Kielbasa	10 slices bacon
1 2 lb. bag of sauerkraut (drained)	mashed potatoes

Although the kielbasa is cooked due to it being smoked, I always boil mine for about 10 minutes. While kielbasa is boiling, cook bacon in fry pan until crispy. Remove bacon, add sauerkraut to the bacon grease. If too much grease, remove some but leave about 2 tbsp. Cook sauerkraut until slightly browned. Slice kielbasa and put into a casserole dish (I use a 2 ½ qt. dish). Crush up bacon and put into the casserole. Add sauerkraut and mix all together. Top with mashed potatoes. I use Ore Ida 24 oz. Steam n'Mash Cut Russet Potatoes (make according to directions on package). Bake 350 degrees for 35 minutes. ENJOY!

#### \*\*\*HELPFUL HINT\*\*\*

A couple helpful hints for winter

**Ice-proof your windows** with vinegar! Frost on its way? Just fill a spray bottle with three parts vinegar to one part water & spritz it on all your windows at night. In the morning, they'll be clear of icy mess. Vinegar contains acetic acid, which raises the melting point of water---preventing water from freezing!

**Prevent car doors from freezing shut** with cooking spray! Spritz cooking oil on the rubber seals around car doors & rub it in with a paper towel. The cooking spray prevents water from melting into the rubber

*Virtually nothing is impossible in this world if you just put your mind to it and maintain a positive attitude.*

Lou Holtz

### PANCAKE BREAKFASTS AT NELSON SCHOOL

January 14, 8 – 11 am

March 4, 8 – 11 am

# Nelson School News

Our school website has been updated, and we are learning more and more about how to edit the site daily. We will make every effort to keep it up to date and full of current information about our school. Our events calendar is posted for the rest of the school year, and any changes in dates or times will be revised in a timely manner. Teacher websites are being worked on and should be current by the first the year.

We are excited about our residency this year which will take place Feb. 6 - 10. Troy Wunderle of "Wunderle's Big Top Adventures" will be working with our students during this week with a public showcase of their talents scheduled the following week, Feb. 16th at 6:30 at the Keene Middle School. Mrs. Judy Durbriske, our PE teacher, will be working collaboratively with Mr. Wunderle, and she is going to direct the "Big Show" for us.

In other news, our collaboration with the Harris Center continues to be successful. Mr. Michael Hightower brings his expertise along with the many resources provided by the Harris Center into each of our classrooms each week.

Our PTO has recently elected a president, Mrs. Tammy Rondeau. The group meets the first Thursday of each month at 4:30 pm. The group recently organized an evening where students were entertained while parents were able to enjoy a night without the children to shop or relax. This was very successful, and as a result, future events are being planned. Work on our annual auction has already started as well, and volunteers for this huge event will be welcomed and needed to ensure continued success.

## Coming Events for January & February

- PTO Meeting Jan. 5 (4:30PM - 5:30PM)
- Spirit Day-TBD Jan. 10 (All Day)
- K & R Pancake Breakfast Jan. 14 (8:00AM – 11:00AM)
- No School-MLK Day Jan. 16 (All Day)
- No School-Workshop day Jan. 23 All Day)
- Delayed Start Jan. 24 (10:00AM - 2:45PM)
- Progress Reports go home Jan. 27 K-5 (All Day)
- PTO Meeting Feb. 2 (4:30PM - 5:30PM)
- Residency-Wunderly's Big Top Adventure Feb. 6 All Day - Feb 10, 2017)
- Spirit Day-TBD (All Day) Feb. 14
- Evening Performance (6:30PM - 8:00PM) Feb. 16
- Feb. 20 - 24 February Break (NO SCHOOL)
- Mar. 4 2 & 3 Pancake Breakfast (8-11 am)

Thanks to all of you for spreading the word about our wonderful school! Please don't hesitate to call if you ever need anything. Happy holidays!  
Ron Upton, Principal

## SULLIVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

In preparation for our fifth year as the Sullivan School District, an independent district, the Sullivan School Board is currently working on verifying enrollment figures and preparing the budget process for the 2017-18 school year. The school board typically meets in the lower town hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:30. Any changes and additional meetings or budget related hearings will be posted. Members of the public are invited to attend to discuss any school district related matters.

This year, Sullivan and Nelson 6<sup>th</sup> graders attend Keene Middle School, a change that was made as the Nelson School enrollment reached its capacity last year. Thus far, the experience of the 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the middle school has been positive and the school board is looking further into a long term agreement between Keene and Sullivan to continue educating 6<sup>th</sup> graders at KMS. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders have also successfully made the transition this year with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders. It is wonderful to hear such positive feedback from so many families whose children are attending KMS.

Sullivan and Nelson School boards have had friendly discussions recently about creating a longer term agreement between the districts. This would provide more security to both districts should the request for an expansion be approved by Nelson voters. An architectural design was completed recently, and the Nelson school board will be holding hearings in Nelson to discuss the plans. More details to come on this exciting news. The Nelson School continues to be a welcoming start in education for Sullivan residing students, and the relations between the towns is woven by its children!

**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 students 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 as soon as possible, or email Sullivan School Board Chair Stephanie Kleine at [stephaniejacques@masiello.com](mailto:stephaniejacques@masiello.com) .

**Complete enrollment information** can be found on the town website <http://sullivanh.weebly.com/> . Also listed are the names and email addresses of Sullivan's School Board members and administrators.

*Please feel welcomed to attend our monthly school board meeting or to contact Ken Dassau, Superintendent 603-209-3315/[krdassau@gmail.com](mailto:krdassau@gmail.com) or Stephanie Kleine, school board chair 603-209-4151/[stephaniejacques@masiello.com](mailto: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](mailto:Stephaniejacques@masiello.com) with any news, achievements and stories about your children which we can share in next month's newsletter!**

## **FOR THE KIDS - READ TO A DOG...**

### **It's fun!**

**Too Cold to Go Out? Too Boring to Stay Inside?** Come read to a dog Saturday, January 14 and Saturday, February 11. at Monadnock Humane Society in Swanzey, NH. The dogs will be waiting for you from 12:30-1:30. Our friendly, clean, and cuddly Reading Dogs will help you practice reading, or just keep you company while you get your homework done. Free and open to the public. FMI:[Motherapypets@gmail.com](mailto:Motherapypets@gmail.com) or (603) 352-9011 ext 135.

### **Hospice at HCS Offers**

#### ***"Coping with Unexpected Loss" Support Group***

Hospice at HCS will offer "Coping with Unexpected Loss," a bereavement support group for individuals who have experienced the traumatic loss of a loved one. This group provides support with an emphasis on understanding and coping with the effects of traumatic loss. The group will meet at Home Healthcare, Hospice & Community Services (HCS) at 312 Marlboro Street in Keene starting on January 10 from 2:00pm to 3:30pm and will continue on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays monthly through March 28.

There is no charge to participate, but registration is necessary. Please call Marguerite Cheney at 352-2253 to register, or for more information.

Hospice at HCS is a comprehensive non-profit hospice program, providing end of life care to patients and support to family members. Care is offered in the home, in assisted living facilities or in nursing homes throughout southwestern New Hampshire.

### **GET A RIDE!**

#### **"No-fee" Transportation**

CVTC (Community Volunteer Transportation Company) provides "no-fee" transportation to non-emergency medical and support services through our Volunteer Driver Program. Monadnock region residents who lack access to transportation due to age, disability or other limiting circumstances are encouraged to contact us. 1-877-428-2882, ext. 5 [www.cvtc-nh.org](http://www.cvtc-nh.org)

### **SEWING, QUILTING, CRAFTING, KNITTING GROUP**

Monday afternoons, from 1 pm to 2:30 pm in the Sullivan Church lower meeting hall, are busy with all sorts of handiwork being done. Quilts are being made for new babies in town; sweaters knitted; clothing mended; cross-stitchers are stitching; crafters are crafting, and those who just come to visit are thoroughly enjoying the afternoon. If you're new in town, it's a great place to meet other people and if you've been here a while, join the group to find out what's happening in Sullivan and the area. For more information, contact Mary Hull at the town hall, at 847-3316 or 847-9718.

**We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of information in this newsletter. However, you should always call ahead or check the website to confirm dates, times, location and other information.**

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**SULLIVAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**Sunday service 9:30 am**

Minister of Music: Phil Crotto (847-3217)  
Diaconate Chair: Libby Beede (847-3269)  
Trustee Chair: Phil Crotto (847-3217)  
Facility Rental: Chip & Kathy Woodbury (357-3445)  
Church Phone: 847-9030

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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. Political ads are \$25 (up to 1/4 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 20 February.** 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 847-3477  
Assistant Editor: Gaynelle Pratt  
Printing: Mary Hull

**SULLIVAN NEWSLETTER**

PO Box 110  
Sullivan, NH 03445



**POSTAL PATRON  
SULLIVAN, NH 03445**