



## *Sullivan Community Newsletter*

Vo. 33 Number 5

Sullivan, NH

March – April 2014

### **SCHOOL & TOWN ELECTION DAY**

**March 11<sup>th</sup> - 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

#### **Town & School Elections**

Elections for Sullivan School Board members and Town officials will take place on Tuesday, March 11 from 11 am to 7 pm at the town hall. When you vote you will receive 2 separate ballots—one for town officers including the planning board ballot questions and one for school district officers. A complete list of those running for office follows inside.

#### **Register to Vote**

If you have not registered to vote, you may do so at the polls on March 11, with the Supervisors of the Checklist on March 1 at the town hall between 11 and 11:30 am or with the Town Clerk at least 10 days before the election. You must be a registered voter to vote on Warrant Articles at the meetings on March 13. Registrations will not be accepted on March 12.

#### **Absentee Ballots**

If you are unable to attend the March 11th election day at the Town Hall then we want to let you know that Absentee Ballots are available at the Town Clerk's Office for both Town Elections and School Elections. Please contact your Town Clerk at 847-3316 or come in for an application.

#### **Photo ID's**

Please remember to bring your photo ID. 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.

### **SCHOOL & TOWN MEETING**

**March 12 - 7 p.m.**

Voting on the school and town warrants will take place at the Town Hall Wednesday evening beginning at 7 pm. The school district meeting will convene at 7 PM. The town meeting will convene at 7:30 PM. If the school district finishes after 7:30 PM, we will simply begin the town meeting when the school district meeting concludes. If you want to vote on the articles this evening, you **must be a registered voter**. The last day to register for this will be March 11 at the polls.

### **TOWN WEBSITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

Many of you may have noticed some items are no longer available on the town website. For this reason it will be "under construction" for a while to rectify the situation. In the meantime, don't let this stop you from visiting – many things can still be accessed. We apologize for the inconvenience.

**SEE INSIDE – CANDIDATE STATEMENTS, TOWN BALLOT QUESTIONS, SCHOOL NEWS, TOWN CLEAN-UP DAY AND MORE!**

## CANDIDATES FOR TOWN OFFICE

### Selectman – 3 years

**Laura Merrifield:** I am asking for your vote to continue as a member of the Board of Selectmen for the next three year term. In March of 2013 town folks wrote my name in to finish off the term left vacant on the passing of Bob Thayer.

It has been an interesting and fulfilling year. The Board of Selectmen have faced a variety of challenges. It has been a pleasure to work through them with both Gary Patnode and Mark Paquette.

For those of you who don't know me, I have lived on Jenkins Lane with my husband, Alfred, for over 20 years. In May of 2012, I retired from the City of Keene after more than 30 years of employment. After seven years in the finance department and eight years in the assessing department, I finished off my career as the City Assessor for more than 15 years.

I have a strong interest in municipal government in general, maintaining a safe and clean environment and implementing efficiencies that promote fiscal savings and quality services.

In the not too distant past, I served on the State of NH Current Use Advisory board, the Assessing Standards board, various municipal and legislative committees, the NH Association of Assessing Officials board of directors and the Keene Senior Center board of directors. I am a certified assessor supervisor, and enjoy a variety of activities.

I would be honored to continue as a member of the Sullivan Board of Selectmen. Please feel free to contact me at 847-3183 if you have any questions or would like to know more about my qualifications. Thank-you.

### Moderator – 2 years

**Chris Pratt:** This year I am standing for reelection to the position of Sullivan Town Moderator. For most people the moderator is the person who presides at the annual town meeting. While that is an important part of the job, moderators also supervise elections (local, special, state primaries, and the biennial federal election), oversee the vote count, and insure compliance with state and federal election laws and procedures. I ask for your support on March 11. Thank you.

### Town Clerk/Tax Collector – 3 years

**Mary Hull:** I have been your town clerk for seven years now and I look forward to going to work every day. I try hard to represent the town to the best of my ability and I hope you will agree and reelect me for another three years. Thank you.

### Supervisor of Checklist – 6 years

**Bob Switzer:** I have served as one of the Supervisors of the Checklist since 2008. I have enjoyed serving in this capacity and I consider it an important part of our election system. I'm up for re-election and I would certainly appreciate your vote.

### Trustee of Trust Funds – 3 years

**John "Chip" Woodbury:** As a member of Sullivan's Trustee's of Trust Funds for the past three years, I believe that we have made good progress in terms of organization, record keeping, and financial return on our town trust funds. I would like to continue this work and would appreciate your support.

### Cemetery Trustee – 3 years

**Ron Hull:** I have been a trustee for the cemeteries for many years now, and I have enjoyed the job. I would appreciate your vote to keep our cemeteries well maintained,

### Library Trustee – 3 years

**Chris Pratt:** This year I am asking for your support for another three-year term as a trustee of the Sullivan Public Library. The board of trustees consists of 3 people who oversee the operations of the library, create and expend the library budget and receive gifts and donations on behalf of the town's library. When our family moved to Sullivan in 1985, we were pleased to discover that the town had a library that offered a number of services to the community. As I have researched Sullivan's history, I have found library services of some sort going back to 1869. A formal public library was established in 1893. We have come a long ways since the days when the public library was a collection of books in a room off of Sarah Ann Nims' kitchen. Today we deliver information to the community with books, programs and electronic services. Overseeing all of this on behalf of the town is the job of a trustee. I ask for your support on March 11. Thank you.

**Overseer Public Welfare – 1 year      No candidate – write in**

**SULLIVAN SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE STATEMENTS**  
**Two Seats Open**

**Risa Keene:** My husband and I have lived in Sullivan for approximately 19 years. We raised our 3 children here and they attended MRHS. I am running for one of the School Board positions because I believe that a quality education is vitally important for all our children. I have had experience working within the schools as a speech/language therapist and as a parent. I became a member of the school board in September of this year in order to complete the term of a board member who left. I would appreciate your support in the up coming elections. Thank you, Risa

**John "JJ" Prior:** Since being appointed to the school board last year, I have been responsible for the recording and distribution of meeting minutes, maintaining records of student enrollment, and administration of social media. I have also acted as a liaison between Sullivan families and our contracted school districts. My job as an elementary teacher has given me insight into the workings of schools and education law. I've been involved with the transition of Sullivan's students since participating in the school study nearly four years ago. I consider myself very fortunate to be able to serve my community on the school board, and I would appreciate your vote on election day.

**BALLOT QUESTIONS FOR MARCH 11 TOWN ELECTION**

At the request of the Board of Selectmen, the Sullivan Planning Board has worked with the selectmen's representatives to the planning board to clarify the language in several parts of the Community Planning Ordinance which have seemed inconsistent or inadequate. A public hearing, at which the following were approved, was held December 19, 2013.

The January/February issue of the newsletter published the proposed changes with reasons for them. Below are printed the questions as they will appear on the ballot.

1. Are you in favor of amending the Community Planning Ordinance Article XI to add the following definition: **Seasonal Dwelling Unit: Any structure intended for shelter or housing, meant for casual and intermittent occupancy (not greater than nine (9) consecutive months); not the principal place of abode for owner, tenant or occupant. Any seasonal dwelling may be converted to a permanent dwelling unit provided that local and State sewage disposal regulations and all other local regulations are met. Applicants should also consult Article III. C for the property dimensions, setbacks, and density requirement; and Article V. A for building permit requirements.**

Yes you are in favor \_\_\_ O

No you are not in favor \_\_\_ O

2. Are you in favor of amending the Community Planning Ordinance **Article V, Building Permits, A, When Required, to read: A building permit shall be required for all dwelling units, seasonal or permanent. A building permit shall also be required to erect or place any type of building or other structure which will be over 700 square feet.**

Yes you are in favor \_\_\_ O

No you are not in favor \_\_\_ O

3. Are you in favor of amending the Community Planning Ordinance, **Article V, Building Permits, F, Temporary Permits to read: The temporary permit may be renewed by the Board of Selectmen or their agents for additional incremental periods if the applicant demonstrates satisfactory progress toward compliance.**

Yes you are in favor \_\_\_ O

No you are not in favor \_\_\_ O

4. Are you in favor of amending the Community Planning Ordinance, **Article V, Building Permits, by adding I. Expiration, to read: Building Permits expire one (1) year from the date of issuance. If construction is not complete within the stated time frame, a temporary permit may be applied for. In cases where building permits have expired and no temporary permit has been given, it will be necessary to reapply.**

Yes you are in favor \_\_\_ O

No you are not in favor \_\_\_ O

5. Are you in favor of amending the Community Planning Ordinance **Article V, B. 8. to add the following: or alternative waste disposal system**

Yes you are in favor \_\_\_ O

No you are not in favor \_\_\_ O

6. Are you in favor of amending the Community Planning Ordinance, **Article V, Building Permits, to add to E. Issuance of a Building Permit, to read: Building permits are valid only to the owner at the time the permit is issued: the permit is not transferable.**

Yes you are in favor \_\_\_ O

No you are not in favor \_\_\_ O

7. Are you in favor of amending the Community Planning Ordinance, **Article V, H. Revocation of a Permit, the following language: (for example, violation of setbacks).**

Yes you are in favor \_\_\_ O

No you are not in favor \_\_\_ O

8. Are you in favor of amending the Community Planning Ordinance, **Article XI, Definitions, by replacing the definition of dwelling units to read: A building or part thereof designed for residential occupancy providing complete independent living facilities for one or more persons that includes permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.**

Yes you are in favor \_\_\_ O

No you are not in favor \_\_\_ O

9. Are you in favor of amending the Community Planning Ordinance, to add a new section to Article V called **J. Occupancy Permits for New Construction to read as follows: Before any newly constructed dwelling or structure intended for human habitation can be occupied or utilized, an occupancy permit shall be approved by the Board of Selectmen or their designee. The occupancy permit is not to be construed as an expressed or implied legal warranty that the applicant has complied with all applicable requirements of building codes. Its purpose is to confirm safe and adequate disposal of sewage, well installation, minimum setbacks, driveway and apron installation meet the town's regulation.**

Yes you are in favor \_\_\_ O

No you are not in favor \_\_\_ O

## INFORMATION FOR SULLIVAN TAXPAYERS

### TAX EXEMPTIONS & CREDITS

The Town of Sullivan offers a variety of personal tax exemptions and credits to eligible property owners. The deadline to file for an elderly or disabled tax exemption, a Veteran tax credit or a service connected total disability tax credit is April 15<sup>th</sup>.

If you want to know if you are eligible, please stop by Town Hall during business hours to review the criteria or give a call at 847-3316. We hope to have a summary of exemptions and credits, along with the criteria and applicable forms, on the website soon.

### PROPERTY VALUATION UPDATE

For tax year 2014, all property values will be updated to market value as of April 1, 2014, as required by State law. With the real estate market declining over the past few years, most of you will see your property values decrease. However, because values decrease, it DOES NOT mean your property taxes will decrease.

Taxes are based on the combined budgets for the Town, school and county. The tax rate is determined by taking those budgets divided by the overall value of the Town to arrive at a tax rate to "pay the bills". With values decreasing, the tax rate will likely increase to offset the overall loss in value.

Your new values will be calculated as of April 1<sup>st</sup> but will not be implemented until the final notice of tax or what is commonly referred to as the December tax bill. Your first tax bill uses your prior year's assessment (unless you had altered your property recently for example: a new addition, new shed, finished basement etc.) and ½ of last year's tax rate, as this is required by State Law.

As part of the update process, you will receive in the mail a notice of new value, which will include a phone number that you can call to arrange to meet with an Avitar representative to discuss your assessment. Instructions will also be provided to access the on-line database and review the information about your property and every other property in Sullivan, including the sale properties that were used to help establish the new values. We strongly encourage you to review your data online to be sure you are being assessed reflective of the accurate attributes for your home. If the physical data is incorrectly shown, it could lead to an erroneous assessment.

Avitar expects to start work in Sullivan shortly which will continue through August. Their vehicles will be marked and employees will have photo identification. Questions may be referred to the Selectmen's office at 847-3316.

## SPRING ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP

April 26

Everyone's help is needed to clean Sullivan's roadsides again this spring. Unfortunately, spring and snow melt generally means many cans, bottles and "you name it" become visible along our roads. If you could take one section of your road and pick up the rubbish, it would be a great help.

**Meet at the Town Hall at 9 am** for road assignments and to pick up a few of the familiar blue bags. Afterwards, meet back at the Town Hall for lunch at noon, sponsored by the Sullivan Conservation Commission. The food is good and the company even better. For those new to town, it's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors!

If you can't make it on the 26<sup>th</sup> but would like to help, call Roger Sweet at 847-3463 to get bags ahead of time.

## 10th Annual Sullivan Fire Department Yard Sale

It is not too early to think about spring!!

Once again the Sullivan Fire and Rescue can help you with your spring cleaning! They are accepting items for a yard sale fundraiser which will be held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Donations of all types (except oversized furniture and televisions) are being accepted. To arrange donation pick up or drop off please contact Bonnie Blanchard at 847-9680 or leave a message at the fire station at 847-9020.

## "LIBRARY FOOTNOTES"

I am sitting here, looking out my window at over a foot of snow and it's hard to picture green spring grass and leaf buds, but the calendar assures me the spring equinox begins on March 20, 2014 at 12:57 pm. Speaking of the equinox, did you know an egg can be balanced on its end not only on the equinox, but on ANY other day of the year? It is more challenging to balance an egg on its short end, but it can be done with patience and a steady hand. Go ahead. You know you want to try it.

While you're in the mood to try things, you may want to take home some of the new titles just waiting to be read:

*The Bully Pulpit* by Doris Kearns Goodwin  
*The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt  
*Dog Songs* by Mary Oliver  
*The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt  
*I Could Chew on This and Other Poems by Dogs* by Francesco Marciuliano  
*Lowland* by Jhumpa Lahiri  
*The Men Who United the States* by Simon Winchester  
*Sycamore Row* by John Grisham  
*The Valley of Amazement* by Amy Tan  
*What Does the Fox Say?* by Ylvis

If the idea of trying something new appeals to you, we could always use more **Friends of the Library**. The Friends meet on the first Thursday of the month at 7:15 pm. You can go home again at 8. The Friends support the library in a number of ways. Some of the things our Friends have done over the years include: providing refreshments for our programs, prizes and parties for summer readers, funds for video purchases, purchase tiles for our roof, helping pay for storm windows and energy efficient lighting and hosting the ice cream social. Want to know more? Join us March 6.

If the past is more your style, Peter and Jeanne Jeffries of the Walpole Historical Society have been holding **Genealogy Workshops** for us. They have over 3 decades of experience helping people discover their heritage and are able to help people of all levels of experience and interest to search their families' pasts. Check with the library (847-3458) for the next workshop or the Sullivan Public Library Facebook page.

Maybe you'd like to try our **Third Thursday Book Group**. Our book for March is *The Destiny of the Republic* by Candice Millard. Extra copies are available at the library and this title is also available at the NH Downloadable Books site in eBook and audio formats. Our group meets at 7 pm for an hour and is very informal. Book selections are chosen by group members and we fluctuate between fiction and non-fiction.

In closing, I'd like to thank those of you who support the library regularly just by using our services. I'd also like to

thank the people in our community who support us with their time, talents and gifts of materials: Becky Cummings, Cliff Dempster, John and Jean Hoffman, Virginia Howard, Ron and Mary Hull, Gail Hummel, Nancy Jakway, Tom Mattock, Dott Miles, Tom Morrone, Mary Parker, Stephen Parker, Donna Philbrick, Chris and Gaynelle Pratt, Paulette Tuttle, GinnyYawarski and those who leave anonymous gifts in the book drop. I'd also like to especially thank Randy & Paul for having our driveway plowed and steps cleared after all of these snow storms so we can be open and ready for you. You guys are awesome!  
Denise McFarland  
Librarian

### **Public Notice**

The Sullivan Public Library Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meetings on March 13, April 10 and May 8, 2014 at 7 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

It is time once again for town meeting and the annual look at the archives collection of annual meetings from the past.

**10 years ago.** The 2004 warrant contained 27 articles signed by selectmen Michael Carney, Richard Hotchkiss and Richard Labadie, Sr. The cover of the town report featured the new fire engine purchased the year before. The emergency management report noted that the town had received a number of grants for equipment and training. New emergency detour signs came in handy when a truck pulled down some power lines on the Gilsum Road and another overloaded truck collapsed a section of Centre Street. The highway department reported that a number of ice storms had resulted in tree damage that required a tree service to clean up Hubbard, South and Rugg Roads. The spring repairs to unpaved roads in town used up some 677 cu. yds. of gravel. The town meeting passed a vote of thanks to Elva Frazier for serving as the town treasurer for twelve years. An announcement was also made that Bob Switzer was designing the town's first website.

**25 years ago.** The 1987 warrant contained 28 articles signed by selectmen Leslie Goodnow, Joe Mosley and Harvey Swett. Attendees of the 1987 meeting were largely pleased that a bathroom had finally been installed in the town hall. (That would be the former Community Hall in East Sullivan that is now 30 Centre Street). However, there was as yet no water to operate it. That problem was resolved a few weeks later. The planning board reported that they had completed a town-wide survey with the aid of the local Girl Scout Troop. Excitement over the coming celebration of the town's bicentennial was noted. The committee co-chairs John Allen and Brenda Parker reported on the major events planned for the August 14<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup> celebration. They noted that the committee had already raised \$2500 on its own (in addition to the town's appropriation). Road agent Jim Robinson reported that heavy rains over the summer had washed out several roads in town. The time and money taken to repair them had forced the postponement of other needed highway projects until the next year.

**50 years ago.** The 1964 warrant contained 16 articles signed by selectmen Armand Dube, Harvey Swett and Gardner Turner. The meeting was unique in that it had been selected to be covered by the three major radio networks—CBS, NBC and ABC. In addition to reports, CBS brought its own mobile field unit to broadcast portions of the meeting live. Moderator Ed Jewett stated, "I am informed that Sullivan is the only town in our entire state of New Hampshire so favored. Therefore, I feel I am honored to be privileged to extend them and the other radio networks a most cordial welcome." The meeting voted to discontinue what is now White Brook Drive as a public highway. The meeting also voted to require that the selectmen hold their meetings in a public place with a time and place posted in advance. This was long before the passage of New Hampshire's "right-to-know" law.

**100 years ago.** The 1914 warrant contained 13 articles signed by selectmen Eugene Marston, Winfred J. White and Herbert S. Currier. The meeting voted to discontinue the last remnant of the road that originally connected Sullivan Center to Valley Road via Winch Hill. The road had not been used for general traffic in a long time. The school board reported it had begun replacing geography text books with more up-to-date versions, "...the same as used in Keene."

They also noted repairs had been completed to the District #2 School (Sullivan Center). "We hope the children will be taught to use it carefully and take pride in having a neat school room and yard."

**200 years ago.** The 1814 warrant contained 11 articles signed by selectmen Roswell Hubbard, Samuel Seward, and John Mason. Town appropriations that year were \$80 for town expenses, \$250 for the schools, and \$250 for the highways. The occasional question of whether or not revise the state's constitution came up that year. The Sullivan vote was 69 to 0 against revisions. The meeting also voted to widen the road to Roxbury and extend it all the way to the Sullivan-Roxbury town line. This road went from Centre Street to the Houghton Ledge Road. The town would discontinue it 50 years later. Land owner Zadok Nims was compensated for the land taken to widen the right of way.

## **SULLIVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS!**

The Sullivan School Board has been very busy working on various projects this winter. Preparing the budget, managing enrollment status changes, collaborating with the different schools, preparing for the closing of the Sullivan school building from MRSD to acquire a "clean title", and looking at improving the efficiency of the board overall. These are just some of the things we are working this month. Please stay informed by visiting the town website or our Facebook page for additional news.

### **Here are some recent updates!**

**The Sullivan School building** payment for capital improvements was made to MRSD in February 2014 and a clean title was granted. This means that the property title is ready to be transferred to any qualified, interested buyer. The facility grounds and building will continue to be maintained under the school board and/or assigned and qualified party. It has been kept in compliance with the state by MRSD, to date. For further explanation to those who may be unclear, a loan was obtained to assist the district in making this payment and to minimize tax impact. It is the intent of the school board to pay off the loan or to minimize it as soon as the district is able. More details to come.

**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.

### **KMS students-**

Interested in Spring sports? Want to learn more about clubs/activities? Visit <http://kms.sau29.org/sports> for details on seasonal sports at KMS.

### **Middle School registration:**

Dottie Frazier, school principal is your contact for all questions regarding registration, transitioning, visitation and orientation for your middle school student. More information will be communicated as we have it.

### **KHS students-**

Spring tryouts are in March, check out the schedules at: <http://www.keene.k12.nh.us/athletics>

### **High School registration:**

All high school students who will be attending Keene High School are encouraged by KHS to register before May 1<sup>st</sup> to ensure best selection of classes. You are invited to contact the school principal to discuss registration and any questions about orientation, transitioning and class selection.

### **Sullivan Student Satisfaction Surveys**

Surveys were sent out to Sullivan School District families. Please return your completed surveys if you have not done so already. The responses we've gotten so far have been extremely helpful and very positive, and we've passed along any comments to the respective schools.

**Important dates** to remember for Sullivan families: (all at upper town hall)

March 11 voting day. Please come vote for town and school officials between 11am-7pm

March 12 -7pm. Town Meeting/Sullivan School District meeting combined. \*\* It is ok for children to attend the meeting and they can bring quiet activities and snacks to keep entertained.

## **Student Success Stories!**

(The following are success stories sent to the board by their families):

Hannah W. is in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at KMS. This is her first year attending KMS and she has been very successful so far, according to her Mother, Julie Wilber. Congratulations, Hannah on earning High Honors and also on your first performance playing the flute in the KMS Advanced Jazz Band! Way to go, Hannah!

Troia M. attends the Nelson Elementary School as a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader. Being her first year at the Nelson School, she speaks very highly of her new teachers and classmates. Most importantly, she "loves school," says her mother. She sometimes misses her old teachers and classmates at the Gilsum School but has quickly adjusted. Troia has engaged in several new activities this year at the Nelson School, including snowshoeing, sledding and taking up fiddle classes after school. She is very excited for this opportunity and is proud of her ability to play an instrument. She is now able to "skip monkey bars" and climb up the poles to the bars with ease...Keep growing, Troia! Her mother comments proudly that "Troia takes pride in her work", has greatly improved in her reading and math skills this year, and loves teaching her little sister, Zoey, in preparation for her start into kindergarten next year.

**Please forward more comments about your SSD student for the next newsletter!**  
[stephaniejacques@masiello.com](mailto:stephaniejacques@masiello.com) (Include: name/school/grade/success stories)

Thank you to Risa Keene of Sullivan for her willingness to host the CSA team for the theatre residency at Nelson School in February.

## **COMING EVENTS IN NELSON**

Saturday, March 8 - **Monadnock Milers Chiller Race** around Granite Lake from Nelson School

Saturday March 8th, 5-7:00 pm – **Corned Beef Dinner**  
Nelson Congregational Church  
Charlie Lang and his staff cook up this traditional feast!  
Corned Beef, cabbage, carrots, onions, Irish soda bread, beverage and dessert  
Two seatings: 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm  
Live music provided by Celticladda (playing later at the Saturday night Contra Dance)  
Wear your Green! Adults \$9.00 and children under 10 \$6.00

Wednesday, March 12, K-2 to **Colonial Theatre** to see snippets of Leo Lionni's *Swimmy* and *Frederick* through puppetry  
9:45 am.

March 12 – **Art Show** (tentative)  
Nelson School

Saturday, March 15 **pancake breakfast**, Nelson School 8 to 11 am \$5  
3/4 Fund Raiser

Saturday, April 12 - **7th Annual Live PTO Auction**  
Children's auction 5:30 pm  
Live auction 6:00pm  
Nelson Town Hall  
Preview 10:00am - 5:00pm  
Auctioneer Ckris Wallenstein  
Art, local crafts, services gallore!  
Supports the PTO budget for 2014-2015 school year!  
Donations and volunteers welcome!

## **MONADNOCK PONY CLUB**

Equestrian Group Kicks off Membership Drive

The Monadnock Pony Club invites new members from age 6 to 25 to join the fun in 2014! Members of the club meet throughout the year for instruction in horse care and riding skills including; dressage, show jumping, eventing, games, foxhunting, and tetrathalon. Un-mounted meetings are held on Sundays throughout the winter months, and Mounted meetings begin in the Spring. The French Farm in nearby Nelson, NH hosts the club and has a large outdoor ring area abutting scenic Center Pond.

The Monadnock Pony Club was founded in the 1960's and is part of the United States Pony Club, the largest non-profit youth equine organization in the world. Many members of the US Olympic Team formed their riding foundation through Pony Club and several renowned National riders spent their formative years with the Monadnock Club. Pony Club competitions are team-based, and Monadnock has sent several successful teams to compete at national competitions in the past several years.

The club encourages members to have access to an appropriate pony or horse, tack, equipment and transportation to attend the mounted lessons, but interested children without a horse can participate in all un-mounted activities. Yearly cost is approximately \$150 for new members, with a discount for multiple members from the same family. This includes 12-15 weekend meetings throughout the year and preparation for local, regional, and national competitions. For information: Kathy Blandschun at 603-847-9082 or Bud French at 603-THS-FARM (847-3276).

### **Hospice at HCS Offers "Grieving...After the Loss of a Parent" Support Group**

*Keene-* Hospice at HCS will offer "Grieving... After the Loss of a Parent," a bereavement support group in Keene starting on March 20 and continuing on Thursdays from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm through April 24. This group is open to anyone who has recently lost a parent. Come talk with others, find support and share your own experience and wisdom. The group will meet at HCS, 312 Marlboro Street, in Keene.

There is no charge to participate, but registration is necessary. Call Lynn Anne Palmer at 352-2253 for more information or to register.

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.

## **CONSERVATION PLANT SALE**

The Cheshire County Conservation District is holding its 2014 Conservation Plant Sale and is accepting orders through March 12<sup>th</sup>. Offerings include deciduous and evergreen trees, mushrooms, fruiting trees and shrubs, wildlife and landscaping shrubs, perennials and medicinals. Sign up for Pick-up Day Workshops that include Getting Started with Fruit Trees & Shrubs and/or a Backyard Mushroom Demonstration. For details or to place an order call 603 756-2978 x 115 or email [info@cheshireconservation.org](mailto:info@cheshireconservation.org) or visit 11 Industrial Park drive in Walpole.

### **2014 NH Maple Weekend March 22 & 23, 2014!**

At the time we went to print, complete information had not yet been posted. For more information, call 603 225-3757 or visit <http://www.nhmapleproducers.com/mapleweekend/>. It's a time that is fun for all ages to visit a local sugar house and see the syrup being made. Some places offer sugar on snow too!

## **SULLIVAN CHURCH NEWS**

### **Pastoral Search Continues**

The Sullivan Congregational Church continues the search for a new pastor. In the meantime we're fortunate to have a wonderful variety of supply pastors to fill the pulpit each Sunday and invite you to come hear them and share their messages. Services are at 9:30 a.m. Guest pastors for the months of March and April are:

Mar. 2 - Nancy Wood (Cheshire Hospital Chaplain)

Mar. 9 - Don Hashem

Mar. 16 - Lew Stone

Mar. 23 - Ivy Merrill

Mar. 30 - TBA

April 6 - Lew Stone

April 13 (Palm Sunday) - Nancy Wood

April 20 (Easter) - Don Hashem

April 27 - Don Hashem

### **EASTER SERVICES**

**Maundy Thursday** Tenebrae service, preceded with a soup and bread meal will be held on April 17 at 6:00 pm in Friendship Hall at the church.

**Palm Sunday**, April 13 will include traditional palms. This service with Nancy Wood will mark a return to the sanctuary after the cold winter season.

**Easter Sunrise Service** will be held on April 20 at 6:30 am in the field in front of Seward Mountain Farm overlooking Bolster Pond. It will be followed by a light breakfast back at the church in Friendship Hall. There is no charge for the breakfast but donations will be gratefully accepted.

A traditional **Easter Service** will be at 9:30 am in the sanctuary with Don Hashem. Please join us for any or all services – **everyone is welcome!**

### **SUPERVISORS OF CHECKLIST**

Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session at the Sullivan Town Hall on Sat., March 1<sup>st</sup> between 11 and 11:30 am for additions and corrections to the checklist. Bring proof of residency and age.

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Editor: Becky Cummings 847-3477

Assistant Editor: Barbara Livengood

Printing: Mary Hull

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