



Sullivan Community Newsletter

Vol. 33 No. 2

Sullivan, NH

Sept. – Oct. 2013

Sullivan Tractor Run Planned – Sept. 14 Join Us!

On September 14th, there will be a Tractor Run in Sullivan sponsored by the Cast & Brass Antique Machinery Club. We will line up at the town garage at 8:30 AM and will go from the town garage, down Centre St. then down Valley Road and up Boulder Road to Perley Swett's homestead. From there we will come back up through Cross Road and back to the town garage. If you have a tractor, new or old and would like to join us then please do. If you don't have a tractor and would like to join us, we will have a seated trailer with limited seating, coming with us. Reserved seating only on the trailer. Non-members over 18 years of age will be charged a fee of \$10.00. During the 13 mile trek, we will be stopping for a picnic so bring your own lunch and drinks. Estimated time of the run is approx. 6 hours of FUN! Please give Mary or Ron a call at 847-9718, if you are planning on coming along.

Sullivan School District Special Meeting October 1st, 2013 at 7:00 pm Sullivan Town Hall

The Sullivan School District is currently seeking Court approval for a Special Meeting on Oct. 1st. Read the details on the last page of the news in this issue. As of this printing the meeting is **tentatively scheduled** – watch for more announcements.

FARM STAND OPENS IN SULLIVAN Welcome to the Sullivans of Sullivan!

Angel Wing Farm is owned by Steve and Carol Sullivan, who have been living at 282 Centre Street for 3 years (since August 13, 2010). In that time, they have created the beginnings of a small-scale permaculture-based farm. After clearing the fields of brush, rocks and trees, they planted 50 fruit trees, erected 2 greenhouses, planted almost an acre of organic vegetables and put in a rainwater harvesting system for irrigation. This year they opened a farm stand to offer their produce to the community. The farm is one part of a bigger project, co-owned by Steve and his brother Rich Sullivan, which is Sullivan Center for Sustainable Agriculture (SCSA). Its mission is to create, promote and educate about sustainability. To read more about the farm, visit their blog at <http://sullivancsa.wordpress.com>.

Stop by this Saturday (10 – 2) for their last day of the season - look for the "OPEN" flag across from the Sullivan School ball field and proceed up the driveway. Recently they have had broccoli, garlic, Swiss chard, cucumbers, tomatoes, purple cabbage, eggplant, parsley, Sungold cherry tomatoes, bell peppers and Steve's garlic basil pesto & garlic dill pickles. Watch for them next year!

“Library Footnotes”

Congratulations to Gilsum on winning this year's competition. The final weights were 288 pounds (Gilsum) to 227.5 pounds (Sullivan). Congratulations to all who read this summer. We celebrate you!

For those families preparing for the upcoming school year, I have posted the back to school links for the various public schools our students will attend on the [library's Facebook page](#). If you had been interested in borrowing any of the books reserved for our MRHS students over the summer, those will be available to all of our community on August 28 when school begins again.

Students attending **Nelson Elementary School are in need of Book Pals** from the community. Beginning September 24, students and Book Pals will read *Pollyanna* by *Eleanor Porter*, books to be provided by the school. Book Pals and students will write to each other several times and on the evening of October 24, everyone will gather at Nelson School to meet each other and celebrate. If you are interested, I have more detailed information at the library. Please stop in or call so I can let Martha Silk at Nelson School know. This is an exciting way to be able to support our students as they transition to their new school.

Divergent by Veronica Roth was the **MRHS Reads** book this summer. If you enjoyed it, we have its sequel, *Insurgent*. The third book, *Allegiant*, is on order, but won't be published until October 22.

The **Third Thursday Book Group** will discuss *The Warmth of Other Suns: the Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson on September 19 at 7 p.m. Copies of the book are available to borrow from the library, and it is in eBook format at [NH Downloadable Books](#). Sign in under Sullivan Public Library; call or e-mail the library to get your log-in information, if you don't know it.

The next **genealogy workshop** with Peter and Jeanne Jeffries is slated for September 23 at 2 p.m. The Jeffries are with the Walpole Historical Society and have researched genealogy for 35 years. They have been very helpful with both beginner and experienced researchers. Workshop size is limited, so please call ahead to reserve a place.

There are **many new books on the library shelves** just waiting to be held and read and enjoyed by you. When is the last time you were the first person to borrow a book from our collection?

Please note, the **library will be closed** September 2 and 28.

The **Friends of the Library** meet the first Thursday of the month at 7:15 p.m. New members are always welcome. There are no fees to become a member. This library gets by with the help of its Friends.

In closing, I'd like to thank the following people for their recent support of the library: Cliff Dempster & Sarah Colson, Peter & Jeanne Jeffries, Ginny Yawarski, Chris & Gaynelle Pratt, Sara Bolduc, Mary Parker, Stephen Parker, Becky Cummings, Dennis Noonan, the family of Christa Patterson, Donna Philbrick, Carole Little and Chip & Kathleen Woodbury. Your gifts of time, monies and gently used items are very much appreciated.

Denise McFarland
Librarian

Public Notice

The Sullivan Public Library Board of Trustees will hold their monthly meetings on September 12, October 10 and November 14 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

On October 26, 1941 Fanny Davis noted in her diary, "Electricity turned on probably yesterday." She resided at what is now 183 Valley Road and the comment was made among other news such as wood gathering and the comings and goings of her extended family. The terse remark is one piece of evidence that tells the story of electricity arriving in Sullivan—an event that had long been anticipated. As I noted in the last issue, the story of electricity is more complicated than the coming of the telephone. It was complicated by the technology involved as well as the story of building a system that generated and delivered electricity for home use. First, the background.

Knowledge of electricity has been around since ancient times. Early scientists commented on static charges that could be generated by rubbing fur over amber. It wasn't until the 18th century, however, that we began to understand exactly what electricity was. It was clear that an electric spark could be made using certain "generating machines" but how did one harness the energy and what practical use did it have? First, Alessandro Volta invented a battery that could store energy for future use. This showed that the force was controllable. Then Michael Faraday proved that electricity could be harnessed to drive machinery with his generating and transmission devices. As the 19th century progressed Faraday's idea was refined into the generation machinery principles that we still use. At first the generators were driven by water power and then, after 1884, by steam. This allowed for the generation and transmission of electricity to distant industrial plants and for the powering of trolley street cars.

The problem with the system, however, was that the voltage generated also dissipated rapidly as the electricity flowed through the lines. Often it would only travel a few miles before the voltage was too low to power an engine. Thus, the early electric plants, such as Keene Gas & Electric Company, generated power for use over short distances and for mostly industrial applications. Connecting rural areas of Keene (let alone Sullivan) was impossible. If they wanted to expand their area of coverage, they needed to build more generating plants which was usually too expensive.

This dilemma was resolved around 1886 with the invention of the transformer and the adaptation of alternating current instead of direct current. Now generators could produce high voltage electricity that could be "stepped down" by a transformer to proper (and consistent) voltage for use at any location. Not only did the new idea make electricity go further from the generator, it also meant that electricity could be provided for businesses, street lights and home use.

By 1900, Keene Gas & Electric was providing service to most of the city. In addition to its own generators, the company also got power from the Connecticut River Power Company which had completed a large dam on the Connecticut River near Vernon, Vermont in 1912. This was the first local example of the concept of an electric grid using multiple generation systems to provide consistent service over great distances. Power was soon extended to most of Swanzey and Winchester. In 1912 the line was constructed to Spofford and Westmoreland where it powered the Cheshire County Farm. The rest of Chesterfield had power by 1916. The company acquired plants in Marlborough, Dublin and Peterborough and joined them to their grid by 1917. Power was then extended to Harrisville in 1915 and Chesham in 1923. Surry had electricity by 1924 and the line was extended into Gilsum in 1926. The line from Harrisville was extended into Nelson in 1934, Munsonville by 1937, and Stoddard in 1939. 1939 was also the year that the local power company in Marlow was purchased and joined with the line from Gilsum. This enabled the entire town of Marlow to receive electricity.

As you can see, the power grid was extending all over the county but by-passing Sullivan. Electric companies had a natural reluctance to expand into rural areas since they believed that the cost of constructing poles and lines could not be recovered because of the sparseness of the customer base. Towns like Sullivan would have to wait.

In 1926, Keene Gas & Electric began construction on a high voltage transmission line to link Keene with Hillsborough and the new state-wide grid. This line was the ancestor of the transmission line that still crosses the southern part of Sullivan from Ferry Brook to Warren Hill. However, a transmission line was not the same thing as a distribution line which meant that the only electric lines in Sullivan were carrying electricity somewhere else.

1926 also saw the merger of a number of local electric companies in Keene, Laconia, Manchester and elsewhere to create the Public Service Company of New Hampshire. This gave New Hampshire a statewide electric grid, however, it provided no coverage to the northern counties and to "pockets" like Sullivan. There was hope that a larger company might expand into areas like Sullivan, but that hope would not be fulfilled for another 15 years.

DO YOU HAVE A TELEPHONE OR ELECTRICITY STORY?

Chris Pratt would be interested to hear it. When did electricity come to your place? What changes did it bring? You can call him or leave a message at 847-3271 or visit him at the archives in the library on Thursday evenings.

WAYS TO CONSERVE ENERGY: A SULLIVAN HOMEOWNER'S EXPERIENCE TOLD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 IN THE TOWN HALL AT 7:00 P.M.

The Sullivan Energy Committee invites you to listen to the experience of Tom Scherpa in incorporating energy-saving ideas into the building of his and Malinda's home on Valley Road.

Come to get ideas you might use in making your home more energy-efficient.

In the meantime, here are some general suggestions for reducing energy costs, now that fall is coming, and the price of fuel is high.

1. Weatherize your home. Contact the website of the NH Dept. of Energy and Planning for advice: <http://www.nh.gov/oep/energy/programs/weatherization/highlights.htm>
2. Contact the Monadnock Energy Resources Initiative (MERI) at monadnockenergyresources@gmail.com for programs on weatherization and possible help installing low-cost solar panels for heating water in your home.
3. Replace your older refrigerator or freezer with an energy efficient model. PSNH will pick up your old appliance for free and pay you \$30. Call 1-877-545-4113.

HIKE UP BOYNTON MOUNTAIN: OCTOBER 16

Cheshire Walkers is sponsoring a walk up Boynton Mountain in the Piper Forest (belonging to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests) on Wednesday, October 16. Meet at the Sullivan Town Hall at 9:45 to car pool to the Piper gates. The hike will start at 10:00 and end before noon. It is an easy climb through lovely woods. Any questions? Call Roger Sweet @ 847-3463.

HCS Offers Flu Clinics

Sullivan- Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS) will hold flu immunization clinics at the following locations:

- Keene - HCS Office, 312 Marlboro Street on Friday, Sept. 20th from 10am-6pm
- Stoddard - James Faulkner Elementary School on Tuesday, Sept. 24th from 11:30am-1pm
- Gilsum - Library on Monday, Oct. 7th from 1pm-2pm

These clinics are open to the public ages 19 years or older. No appointment is needed. Medicare, Anthem BCBS, Harvard Pilgrim, and MVP insurances will be accepted or there is a \$25 fee for the vaccine. People are encouraged to wear loose sleeves.

Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services provides wellness services throughout southwestern New Hampshire. For a complete listing of clinics, visit www.HCSservices.org or call 352-2253.

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Just Round the Corner – Nov. 9

The Sullivan Library's Country Christmas Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, Nov. 9th. If you are interested in securing a table to sell your crafts, maple syrup, honey, etc., contact Gaynelle Pratt at 847-3271.

QUILTING/SEWING GROUP TO RESUME!

The Sullivan Sew and Sews will resume their weekly get-togethers on Monday, Oct. 7th from 6:30 pm to 8 pm in the basement of the Sullivan Congregational Church. Entrance is at ground level at the rear of the building. It's a great chance to learn to quilt, work on whatever project you may have (knitting, crocheting, clothing repair, etc.) and meet new people. There are always extra sewing machines and people there who can help, if need be.

Sullivan School District

August updates from the school board...

Members of the school board have voted to appoint JJ Prior of Bowlder Road to fill the vacancy on the board. According to state law, an appointed individual will serve until the next school district election in March, at which point the seat will be opened for election for the remaining years of the term.

The **sale and financing of the school building** is actively being worked on by the school board, budget committee and our very dedicated town administrator and town clerk. Many options are being explored and our efforts to work through this next stage of our transition are in forward motion. We will deliver more news as we have it available.

Bus routes have been released by First Student, the local contractor for student transportation. We have provided the bus schedules as of August 18, but please note they **are subject to change**.

Donations needed: The school district is looking for a computer to perform its functions more efficiently and more centralized. If anyone has a newer computer (1-4+ years old) they are willing to donate, please contact Stephanie at stephaniejacques@masiello.com. We are also looking for a copier to use in the lower town hall room.

Would anyone offer before-school care?

Does anyone wish to offer before-school care in their home to child(ren) grades K-6? Screening of these providers would be the responsibility of the families who are needing AM care and not the liability of the school board.

Does anyone need before-school care?

The Nelson school day begins earlier than Gilsum and so there may be few, if any, who need before-school care but I would like to help connect those who need it with those who would like to offer it. The bus company would also need to be notified of these placements so children may be picked up at the correct location.

The board would not be recommending childcare but could put you in touch with people whom you could speak with/screen as suitable AM childcare if you need it.

Nelson School offers after-school care. Please contact Nelson School (847-3408) this week or next to arrange for this.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please bring them to the board meeting. The school board meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month in the lower level conference room of town hall. The next meetings will be Sept. 4, Sept. 18, Oct. 2 and Oct. 16.

The school board posts updated information to Facebook for the public's benefit. To follow our district on Facebook, like the "Sullivan School District" page or check the Sullivan website <http://ci.sullivan.nh.us/>.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection!

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

Fall 2013

Saturday, September 14
Wednesday, September 18
Saturday, September 28
Saturday, October 12
Wednesday, October 16
Saturday, October 26

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

Keene Recycling Center, 55 Old Summit Road, Keene

What to Bring

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

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

Other Information: Containers must be labeled as to their contents. No containers larger than 10 gallons will be accepted.

Collection takes approximately 10 minutes from time of arrival.

DO NOT MIX PRODUCTS!!!

QUESTIONS: Please call 352-5739

WHAT ARE HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD MATERIALS?

Look in any storage cabinet in your home. Do you see products such as paint thinner, spot remover, oven cleaner, furniture polish, drain opener, pool chemicals and hair spray? These products are hazardous because they contain chemicals that are corrosive, explosive, reactive, flammable or toxic.

When you look at these products you might not immediately recognize hazardous products by their name. When you see words like pesticide, acid, fungicide, caustic, herbicide, or solvent, you know they are hazardous. But, sometimes the name may not tell you anything about the product. Read the label, especially the instructions, carefully.

Unfortunately, the absence of these words does not guarantee the product is without hazards. For example, methyl alcohol (found in some glass cleaners) can cause blindness if ingested, but may not require a warning if it makes up less than 4% of a product. Additionally, health effects from long-term exposure may not even be considered in the labeling requirements.

WHAT ARE MERCURY CONTAINING PRODUCTS?

As of January 1, 2008, the disposal of mercury containing products at landfills, transfer stations and incinerators is prohibited. This means these items may not be disposed of as a solid waste with the "normal" garbage. The ban covers products including: thermometers, compact fluorescent light bulbs, fluorescent lamps, thermostats, mercury button cell batteries, switches and relays.

Homeowners and businesses alike are subject to this ban. However, the ban does not include the recycling of these items at our facility and we encourage consumers to bring them for recycling along with their other recyclables. Legal disposal options include:

- Collection and Recycling at Municipal Facilities
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

Sullivan School District Special Meeting – Pending Court Approval
October 1st, 2013 at 7:00 pm
Sullivan Town Hall

As many of you are aware, the Sullivan School Board and Budget Committee have been working on a solution to the anticipated tax liability that the Elementary School will have on our tax rate come November. The \$185,000 in capital improvements to the school must be paid back to Monadnock School District. The building is currently for sale and we were hoping that it would sell to make up for this shortfall. Back in March, at our town meeting, we appropriated the money to pay for these capital improvements, but we are now seeking a loan from a bank to distribute the tax burden over many years until the building sells. **We are currently requesting permission from the Superior Court to hold this special meeting and anticipate a favorable ruling.** To align this effort with all RSAs regarding public notification we are announcing the meeting now. The purpose of the meeting is simply to seek public support to seek a bank loan to help lessen the impact of our tax rate. Below is the wording of the Special Meeting. If you have any questions or ideas of your own, we would love to hear from you. There are many people in town who have been working following many different paths with the goal of protecting citizens from the economic impact of a high tax rate upon our town.

Sincerely,

Paul Bolduc

Sullivan School Board

"The Special Sullivan School District meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 2013 at 7 p.m. will be to discuss and seek public authorization for the borrowing of up to \$185,000 to fund the reimbursement of the Sullivan Central School building, already appropriated at the March 13, 2013 annual district meeting."

SUPERVISORS OF CHECKLIST
SULLIVAN

Supervisors of the Checklist will be in session at the Sullivan Town Hall on Sat., Sept. 21st between 11 and 11:30 am for additions and corrections to the checklist for the Special Sullivan School District Meeting. Bring proof of residency and age.

TOWN HALL FLOWER BEDS LOOK GREAT!

Todd Smith recently took it upon himself as a gift/contribution to the town to weed and clean up the Town Hall flower beds. What an improvement – thank you, Todd! It was a lot of work.

THE MESSY GARDENER

As many of you may know Christa Patterson died in an automobile accident shortly after the last newsletter came out. Through her columns over the years Christa shared her passion for gardening with us. Often sprinkled with humor, she brought her boundless gardens to life on the page, writing about her disappointments & frustrations along with her successes & delights. We will miss you, Christa - may your flowers bloom endlessly.

As long as one green and growing thing shall have survived that which is to come, I shall not have failed at my task.

Read the Sullivan Newsletter and other Sullivan news on line at <http://ci.sullivan.nh.us/> .