

Local
 Postal Customer

The Suffield Observer

A Watchful Messenger

Vol XXVIII, No. 2

March 2026

Sullivan's Tobacco Plantation: Growers of Cigar Leaf Tobacco and more

By Robert Sullivan

The John Sullivan & Son Tobacco Farm was started by my grandfather, John L. Sullivan. Our farm was located at 432 East Street across from the Nicholson Funeral Home, which is now the Nicholson & Carmon Funeral Home. We lived in a two family farm house. My dad John, my mother Gen, my brother Jim, and I lived upstairs. My great-grandfather John Land and great-grandmother, Ellen lived downstairs. My grandfather James and grandmother Clara lived in the house north of our farmhouse. James was the first Constable in town. He was also a First Selectman for about 12 years.

Growing up on a farm in the 1940-1950-1960s kept me very busy. At age 8 I drove a horse drawn tobacco rack. We were the last farm in town to use horses. We used them for everything - plowing the fields, wheel harrowing, setting tobacco and haying the fields. We had twelve work horses and one riding horse. The last pair of horses we got were New England horse drawing champs. My father's friend, Fred Noble, gave them to my father. Their names were Doc and Diamond.

While driving a horse drawn tobacco rack being pulled by a New England pulling champ, Doc, I backed into the corner inside the shed to be



Photo by Joan Heffernan

Tobacco barns evoke fond memories of the past in Suffield.

unloaded. The fellow unloading the wagon put the hook that holds the sides together on the shed brace. When we moved up, Doc felt the resistance and started dancing up and down like pulling at the fair. When the hook was unhooked, Doc, myself, and the wagon shot to the other end of the shed. We went around the shed and waited until Doc calmed down.

Another experience I had with the horses involved a fall by the corn crib. I was sitting on the fence around the corn crib. I fell backwards and landed on my back and head. When I woke up three horses were standing over me breathing on

me to keep me warm. It was about 10 degrees. The ground was frozen. I guess horses will do anything for an ear of corn.

I had a great neighbor, Mr. Jenkins. He always planted a garden. He got me interested in growing different things, and also raising Banty chickens. I built a chicken coop with Mr. Jenkins to keep them in. I would feed them before I went to school and chop the ice out of the water barrel for the horses. On Sundays Mr. Jenkins and I would go fishing in the canal or look for arrowheads in the freshly plowed fields.

We raised broad leaf tobacco until 1953. In 1954 we switched to shade tobacco for

six years. When cigar makers homogenized the whole plant, they no longer needed the pristine leaves. This forced the small farmers like us out. I enjoyed plowing when we bought a 1955 Farmall H tractor. Chores on the farm also involved putting hay in the rack for the horses.

After school I would work at Sherwin Nicholson's Funeral Home, raking leaves and building stalls in his barn. If there was no work at Sherwin's, I worked at Jimmy Fleming's dairy farm unloading hay or hauling silage. If there was any time left, I worked on my 1932 Ford hot rod. There were lots of memories. I made many

friends, learned to grow other things, and developed a good work ethic. I wouldn't change any of it.

My senior year after I graduated, I got a job with Nicholson Brothers' Tobacco driving an old school bus, picking up the boys in Enfield who worked on the Nicholson Tobacco Farm. It was a great experience driving a bus across the old Thompsonville/ Suffield Bridge. It didn't look like farming was an option anymore. We eventually sold the farm.

After high school I got my first job at United Gear in Suffield. I was an apprentice machinist. I learned a good trade which stayed with me the rest of my career. My last stop was Hamilton Standard Experimental Test and Space and Sea. I still loved farming.

After work and weekends, my wife Val, and I raised Christmas trees on our small farm. We sold them for 35 years. Our two children, Michael and Karen enjoyed working with us during this time. We also had vegetable gardens, apple trees and blueberries. I don't think I would change any of it. You can take the farmer off the farm but you can't take the farm out of the farmer. Anybody who worked on a tobacco farm found that their next job was a step up! That's my story and I'm sticking with it! ☘

Interfaith Council Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Beth Chafetz

On Sunday, February 9 at Suffield's Third Baptist Church, many gathered to remember and celebrate the life and teachings of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Suffield Interfaith Council created a meaningful service of music, prayer and spiritual readings from members of different faiths reflecting on King's "I Have A Dream" speech. These thoughtful reflections and readings were given by Sec-

ond Baptist Church's Rev. James Leavitt, Third Baptist's Pastor Dr. Maurellis Powell, Anne Alleva of the Baha'i faith, Hana, Nassar and Sarah Saleh of the Islamic faith and Rabbi Alan Lefkowitz.

There was beautiful inspirational music by Jermaine Woodard, Jr., the Third Baptist Male Chorus, the choir from First Church of Christ, UCC, the Third Baptist Youth Choir and a rousing dance number by the

Third Baptist Youth.

Deacon Sonia Hill Przybylek, Chair of the Interfaith Council, opened the service and lead the way through to the powerful end as the congregation joined in singing "We Will Overcome." Then the congregation was invited to join in fellowship at a delicious buffet of American, Halal and Kosher foods. It was a small but important opportunity to meet as humans and share what makes us alike. ☘



Photo by Beth Chafetz

Deacon Sonia Hill Przybylek directs the Third Baptist Youth Choir in some inspiring music!

The Suffield Observer

Editorial

Letter to the Editor

Write to
Inbox@TheSuffieldObserver.com

100 Years From Now

These last elections have touched me in a different way as I looked around me on Election Day. I noticed many people coming and going. All were polite and smiling as they practiced their constitutional right, a right that people died for.

I was asked by a man to write an article and noticed that his brother was my friend. These two brothers were in different political parties and still got along.

I would like to remind people that 100 years from now, nobody will know who I was, or who any of us were. People we don't know will be living in our homes. As I fix one of my wonderful buildings that was erected in 1877, I ask myself, "Who built this?" I don't know the answer. I start to repair their work and begin to admire their craftsmanship -- an old barn scale that was installed like a work of art. Here I am removing it, because it is no longer useful. Years from now another person will be in my same position doing and asking the same things.

We are all residents and Americans in town, and it is politics that poison us. It's all about power and nothing else. We seem to have lost the will to do what is best for our community and neighbors, and we must start by acting on what is right and stop saying things that are not true. When we return to this state, we will understand that it is the power of love that is important, not the love of power, and we will all be much better to one another.

Look at how people acted when George at the hardware store started collecting goods to help out our fellow Americans in the south who were hit by disaster. There were no Republicans or Democrats, we were just people doing the right thing.

I ask all elected officials to put country and kindness before power and selfishness. I, for one, will start to plant trees at the new farm I bought knowing that although I will never benefit from their fruit or shade, I will leave a mark for future generations to come. Maybe one day a young person will figure out that all these different kinds of trees all in one spot were not a natural occurrence and will realize that someone in the past did something good for the future.

As we have new elected officials in town we see political posturing: Democrats that are voting with the Republicans to set themselves up for a bigger position in the future. We

have a Democratic Party that in some ways act more conservative than the Republicans but paint themselves as liberals. We have the Republican party that prides themselves on the party of the Constitution and yet violates the Constitution at will.

I will run again and again on the premises of doing what is right for the people, even if I am the only one voting for me. Look at what happened in the rest of the state and country this past election. Because people love our democracy, the Democrats won most everywhere...except in Suffield. Why? Because we have allowed the "Repdems," who value power over principles, continued control of this town. There is only one party in Suffield.

Let's start being better to each other and to ourselves by working to leave this world a better place for our children and future generations.

Rick Sotil
Editor of the Month

State Financial Aid

Dear Editor,

The December Editor of the Month article lamented that Suffield receives less financial aid from the State than it contributes in taxes, arguing that a disproportionate share of funding goes to cities. This situation is not unique to Suffield and is common across the United States. Major sources of state aid, such as ECS, are intentionally structured to support communities with greater needs and lower-income populations.

These funding disparities are designed to address inequities in property wealth and to prevent excessive tax burdens in less affluent areas. That is not to say the current system is perfect. Of course there is room for improvement. If Suffield hopes to receive increased state aid—an outcome I'm sure all residents would welcome—this year we have the opportunity to take the most effective approach by electing a new State Representative and Senator who can successfully advocate for, and secure, those resources.

We all belong to multiple communities: our town, our state, our nation, and the global community. Suffield does not exist in isolation. Improving the well-being of people and economies beyond our town ultimately benefits Suffield as well. This sense of shared responsibility and a moral duty to help those less fortunate would have been a more fitting message during the holiday season and is one worth keeping in mind throughout the year.

Neil Hornish



SUFFIELD SIDEKICKS

The Suffield Sidekicks - Teens Helping Seniors Program is looking for teens (ages 14-18) to join! Participants are paid to do light housework, chores and yardwork. It's a great opportunity to make connections with those in your community who need an extra hand. *The program is FREE for Suffield Seniors.

- ✓ GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY
- ✓ EARN MONEY WHILE HAVING FUN
- ✓ WORK WHEN YOU CAN. FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE
- ✓ COMPLETE COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS & RECEIVE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
- ✓ FEEL GOOD ABOUT HELPING OTHERS

Contact Joann Moriarty, Director of Suffield Youth Services
jmoriarty@suffieldct.gov or 860-668-3329
Program made possible by generous grant from the Suffield Greater Together Fund & The Hartford Foundation for Giving

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TOWN GOVERNMENT

First Selectman's Update



Commission is continuing its work to evaluate what the Town should consider—if anything—for a potential building project that could include renovations or a new construction option for the middle school and fire house headquarters.

Residents can stay informed and follow the discussion as updates and findings are presented at meetings of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Permanent Building Commission, Board of Education and Fire Commission. Meeting agendas, materials and schedules are available on the Town's website, and community input and engagement are encouraged as this process moves forward.

The Selectmen's budget was submitted to the Board of Selectmen at our last meeting in February. The proposal was for a \$680,094, or 3.62% increase to the budget. Most of the increase comes from wages that include contractually obligated increases for our unionized employees. Initial proposals include:

Police: \$231,271

The majority of this is two years of wage increases. At the time the budget was developed and approved last year, we were still in contract negotiations. A contingency was appropriated with an estimate in last year's budget but fell short of the actual negotiated amount.

Public Works: \$83,029

This includes wage increases, higher permitting fees for required testing at the Landfill and inflationary costs to operating expenditures.

Community Services: \$63,853
(Senior Center, Mini-Bus, Youth Services, and Parks and Recreation)

Library: \$65,143

Public Utilities: \$94,702

This includes trash, fire hydrant and electric costs.

These five line items make up \$540,998, or 80% of the requested increase.

Other additions include:

-1 P/T firefighter. Last year, the Town added two new part-time positions with the goal of eventually ensuring that no shift is covered by only one firefighter. Adding this new position should mean that only 2 or 3 shifts remain uncovered, unless time off (PTO) is taken.

-Increase to the Associate Library Director's salary to better align with the current pay structure of other employees

-Increase to Elections line item due to early voting costs

-\$30,000 increase due to the new radio system and required software

The Board of Finance will be reviewing these budgets during the entire month of March if you'd like to follow along.

I would like to extend a big thank you to our DPW department and staff for their long hours and hard work during the month of February plowing the roads and keeping them clear of any snow and ice.

The Summer Fair is officially scheduled for the weekend of June 26 and 27. This year, the Fair will be merged with America's 250th celebration for the entire weekend.

Don't forget to check out the calendar of events for the Library, Community Services, Trees for Suffield and the Sustainability Task Force for the month of March.

For those who of you live in West Suffield and use our food scrap dumpster behind Town Hall, there will now be one available for use at the Fire House by Ebb's Corner.

As always, my door at Town Hall is always open.

At this time of year, "budget" becomes the buzzword around Town Hall and across all municipal buildings. Each of our department heads—together with our board and commission members—has been working diligently to develop a town budget that meets the needs of our community and remains mindful of avoiding a significant increase to taxpayers.

Although the budget may be stealing the spotlight, there is still plenty of other work being done and many important initiatives underway throughout town.

The Board of Selectmen last month chose to opt-in to the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA) in hopes to further assist in our pursuit to meet the State mandated affordable housing requirements. The area we are looking to exclusively zone would include the former Bridge Street School property and available lot behind the Community Services building in order to expand upon the Housing Authority located next door. It will take approximately six months for the CMDA to review our zoning regulations, make suggestions, work with the Planning and Zoning Commission and then come back to us for final approvals. Ultimately, our desire to join would provide significant financial assistance from the CMDA for future expansion of the Housing Authority. The Permanent Building

March Commission Meetings

Please check the Town of Suffield website for time, location or schedule changes.

Assess. Appls., Board of
Wed., Mar. 4, 5-7 p.m.
Thu., Mar. 5, 6-8 p.m.
Thu., Mar. 2, 5-7 p.m.
Wed., Mar. 18, 6-8 p.m.

Conservation Comm.
Tue., Mar. 11 & 24
7 p.m., Town Hall

Economic Dev. Comm.
Thurs., Mar. 19
8:30 a.m., Town Hall

Education, Board of
Mon., Mar. 9
6:30 p.m., SHS

Finance, Board of
Mon., Mar. 2 & 9
(See Town calendar for B of F budget meetings)
7 p.m., Town Hall

Fire Commission
Tues., Mar. 10
6:30 p.m.
Fire Station
Ratley Road

Historic District Comm.
Mon., Mar. 2
7:30 p.m., Town Hall

KML Commission
Tues., Mar. 10
7 p.m., Town Hall

Parks & Rec. Comm.
Wed., Mar. 11
7 p.m., Town Hall

Perm. Bldg. Comm.
Thurs., Feb. 19
6 p.m., Town Hall

P&Z Commission
Mon., Mar. 16
7 p.m., Town Hall

Police Commission
Wed., Mar. 25
7 p.m., Police Station

Selectmen, Board of
Wed., Mar. 4 & 18
7 p.m., Town Hall

Social Service Comm.
Fri., Apr. 10
8:30 a.m., SCA Office

WPCA
Tues., Mar. 10, 7 p.m.
WPCA, 844 East St. South

Zoning Board of Appeals
Tue., Mar. 31
7 p.m., Town Hall



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Town News You May Not Know

Compiled by Kate Spoto

Too busy to look up what's going on in town? This article covers selected information from the minutes of various Town Boards and Commissions. If you want more details, it can be found by going to suffieldct.gov, Agendas, Minutes, Recordings.

Board of Education February 2, 2026

Recognition

The Board of Education recognized the Suffield Middle School Robotics Team for their notable success at the 2026 VEX Robotics Competition. Suffield Middle School Technology Education Teacher and Robotics Coach Kevin Mattia, joined by students Riley Dougherty, Isaac Lavoie, and Robert Snyder, provided an overview of the program and recent accomplishments. Superintendent Dunbar and the Board congratulated the team on a successful competition.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Dunbar reported that the bridge behind Spaulding School requires significant repair. He provided a preliminary esti-

mate of \$100,000-200,000 to bring the decking and railings up to code for vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

The superintendent shared that the district reviewed the annex building as a potential location for an alternative Special Services program. After evaluating the space, it was determined that the current layout would not adequately meet student needs without significant renovations or additions. As a result, the administration is exploring alternative options, including incorporating specialized program space into the specifications for a new or renovated middle school facility to better support long-term programming needs.

Superintendent Dunbar noted that discussions have begun regarding the possible implementation of cell phone holders in high school classrooms to reduce classroom distractions and support student focus during the school day. Administration is researching best practices and gathering feedback before making recommendations. He notified the Board that the high

school's NESDEC accreditation visit is now scheduled for the 2028-29 school year.

Business Manager's Report

Business Manager Eric Remington detailed the shift from asphalt shingles to a metal roof for the roof replacement project at Suffield High School. After evaluating options, the decision was made to pursue a metal roof system rather than asphalt shingles due to its longer life expectancy and lower long-term maintenance costs. The estimated cost of the project is approximately \$2.3 million gross cost (before reimbursement) and is expected to be included as part of the Town's upcoming bonding package. He also noted that the high school flooring replacement will be included in the same bonding effort.

The district is also exploring the potential for installing solar panels in conjunction with the new metal roof. Mr. Remington and Facilities Director Larry Plano recently met with the project architect to discuss feasibility and available incentives. In addition to state construction cost reimbursement, the solar project may qualify for a federal tax credit of approximately 30% if construction begins by the federal deadline this sum-

mer. Beginning construction before the deadline, rather than completing the entire installation, would allow the district to capture the available credit and reduce overall project costs.

Board of Selectmen February 4, 2026

Discussion of FY 26-27

Budget

First Selectman Moll reported that the proposed budget currently reflects a 3.65% increase, which is higher than the typical 3% increase. First Selectman Moll asked the Board if there were any specific areas they wished to consider for reductions at this time. A brief discussion followed, during which members reviewed figures and asked questions. It was suggested that department heads be contacted to determine whether any further reductions could be made. First Selectman Moll noted that salary information was still a moving target and he would be updating the spreadsheets as information becomes available.

Parks & Recreation January 14, 2026

Dancing with the Suffield Stars Fundraiser

The event will take place March 28 and tickets are limited. This is a fundraiser for the Special Needs Bowling Buddies program.

Youth Basketball Tournament

The youth basketball tournament will be held in the spring during March. The Middle School is not available, but community partner, Suffield Academy, is allowing the use of their gym. It will be a rec tournament, probably the 3rd and 4th grade boys' group. The plan is to start small and hopefully grow.

America's 250th Celebration Events

There will be many different events throughout the year to celebrate. The working group is not yet finalized.

Summer 2026

The Department is working on the Junior Team Tennis program that is being partially funded by the donation from Jay Bombard. The high school kids will join to travel to other towns. ☞



Correction

In February's *Observer*, the website information regarding Suffield's historic houses on the front page of section three (The Final Hoot) was incorrect. It should read historicbuildingsct.com ☞



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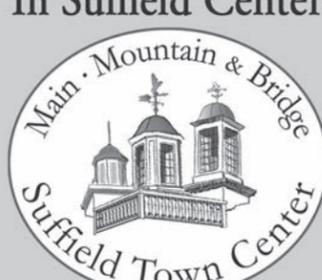
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SPD Citizen's Police Academy

From a press release

The goal of the Suffield Police Department's Citizen's Police Academy is to foster a better relationship between the community and the police department through training. It is envisioned that graduates will gain an understanding of the operation of the Suffield Police Department and develop an awareness and understanding of the various challenges and decisions faced daily by Suffield Police Officers.

Requirements for admission to the academy include:

1. Minimum age of 18 years; and
2. Must have a vested interest in Suffield:
 - A resident of Suffield
 - Owner of a Suffield Business
 - Involved with the Suffield Community, i.e., working with youth agencies/groups, or working in the Town of Suffield.
3. No felony convictions, violent crime convictions or the subject of an order of protection. Because of the sensitive nature of police work, a background investigation is completed on each of the applicants. This investigation includes a criminal history, driver's license status and a warrant check.

The Citizen's Police Academy is held on Thursdays, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm, for eight weeks. The first class will take place on March 26, 2026 and go every Thursday until May 14, 2026. During the 8-week program, students are exposed to a variety of police topics including: 1. Criminal, Motor Vehicle and Juvenile Law 2. Traffic Enforcement 3.

SUFFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT INCIDENT REPORT

JANUARY INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE

Captain's Corner

Carbon Monoxide Safety *By Ron Carlson*

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.

- Choose a CO alarm that is listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

- Call your local fire department's non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.

- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.

- Domestic Violence Response
4. Crime Scene Investigations
5. Emergency Medical Services
6. Special Police Units
7. Use of Force
8. At the end of the academy, the students are invited to attend a graduation ceremony and photo session. For application, check the police website. ☞

- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department.

- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel declare that it is safe to re-enter the home.

- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.

- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.

- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.

- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside. ☞



SUFFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

JANUARY 2026

REASONS	# OF CALLS
911 Hang-Up	14
Abandoned Vehicle	0
Animal Complaint	45
Animal Impound	0
Arson	0
Assault/Fight	1
Assist Citizen	34
Assist Motorist	18
Background Investigation	0
Body Found	0
Breach of Peace	0
Burglar Alarm	22
Burglary	1
Car Seat	0
Cell Block Check	0
Civil Matter	3
Community Policing - School	25
Community Policing Contact	56
CVS Drop Box	1
Directed Patrol	422
Disorderly	0
Domestic Disturbance	2
Drone Use	4
DUI/Erratic Operation	5
Escort Transport	3
Fingerprints	20
Fire Dept. Box/Hazmat/ Still/Confirmed/Structure	27
Firearms Surrender	1
Follow Up	1
Fraud	1
General Information	43
Harassment	3
Hazardous Condition	21
Identity Theft	3
Indecent Exposure/Sex Offense	0
Intoxicated Person	0
Juvenile Matters	4
Larceny	3
Lost/Found Property	4
M/V Accident No Injury/Injury/ Evading	31
Medical	91
Mentally Disturbed Person	3
Missing Person/Runaway	0
Motor Vehicle Pursuit	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0
Motor Vehicle Violation	70
Narcotics Violation	0
Noise Complaint	3
Notification	2
Occupational Accident	0
Outside Assist	16
Parking Violation	0
Property Check	821
Pursuit Review	0
Robbery	0
Sexual Assault	0
Subpoena Service	0
Sudden Death	1
Suicide Attempt	0
Suspicious Activity	22
Suspicious Person	4
Suspicious Vehicle	17
Threatening	2
Town Ordinance	0
Traffic Control/School Traffic	87
Training	15
Trespassing	1
Use of Force - Admin	1
Vandalism	0
Warrant Service	1
Welfare Check	19

TOTAL: 1,994

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Community Calendar March 2026

Red, White & Suffield



For information on local America250 activities scan this QR code or go to the town website at:



www.suffieldct.gov/things-to-do/america250

- Mar 2 thru 31 **KML exhibits the macro photography of KML Librarian Amy Vessella in the Pinney Gallery.** Regular KML hours, Pinney Gallery, w/Suffield Arts Council. (pg 21)
- Mon, Mar 2 **Introduction to historic sites and gardens** - 12 p.m. at Second Baptist Church. Suffield Garden Club jhosts with guest speaker Laurie Masciandro. (pg 31)
- Tues, Mar 3 **Tuesday Morning Music Club** - 10:30 a.m., in Westfield at First Congregational, 18 Broad St. Two concerts a month, Oct to May. Info at TuesdayMMC.org. (pg 26)
- Mar 3 thru Apr 21 **Drafting the Drama** - A playwriting workshop with Matt Bissett. 6 to 8:30 p.m., Tuesdays. At Mapleton Hall. Register at SuffieldPlayers.org. Cost \$375. (pg 32)
- Fri, Mar 6 **First Selectman Coffee Hour** - 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., at Cafe Barista, 66 N. Main. 10% discount on your drink order.
- Fri, Mar 6 **Roaring 20's Party & Mock Casino Night** (music, bingo, crafts and activities for all ages) - 5:30 to 8 p.m., at the Senior Center. Register at SuffieldRec.com. (pg 27)
- Fri, Mar 6 **Poker Night** - Texas Hold'em - First Fridays. Doors open at 6 p.m., game starts at 7 p.m. Upstairs at the VFW hall on Sheldon Street. \$40 buy-in. Must be 21 or older.
- Fri, Mar 6 to Sun, Mar 8 **Les Misérables - The School Edition** - 6:30 p.m Fri & Sat, 2 p.m. matinee Sun - SHS auditorium by the SHS Drama Club. Tickets at the door. (pg 19)
- Sat, Mar 7 **Veterans Breakfast** - 9 to 11 a.m. All Veterans and family members are welcome. At the VFW Hall, 972 Sheldon St., West Suffield.
- Sat, Mar 7 **Book Collection for the Annual Library Book Sale** - 9:30 to noon. Drive up to the Mary Anne Zak entrance where volunteers will help you.
- Sat, Mar 7 **Music Bingo Fundraiser for Suffield EMS** - doors open at 6 p.m. American Legion Post 80, 566 Enfield St., Enfield. SVAA@suffieldems.org for more info. (pg 14)
- Sat, Mar 7 **Acoustic Thunder** - 7 p.m., at the Suffield VFW. Tickets \$25 - 100% to benefit for the Suffield PMC Kids Ride (The Jimmy Fund). Venmo: @Chris-Nikolis.
- Thur, Mar 12 to Sat, Mar 14 **Finding Nemo Jr.** performed by the SMS Drama Club - 7 p.m. p.m Fri & Sat, 2 p.m. matinee Sun - Suffield Middle School auditorium. (pg 22)
- Fri, Mar 13 **Trivia Night** - 6 to 8 p.m. in the SHS Commons. Junior class fundraiser. Food on sale from the Fat City Kids truck. Teams of 6 to 8 people. \$10 per person. (pg 18)
- Sat, Mar 14 **Get started with food scrap collection** - 9 to 11 a.m. at the Ebbs Corner fire house at Mountain Rd. and Copper Hill. Coffee & donuts while supplies last! (pg 6)
- Sat, Mar 14 **Spring & St. Patrick's Weekend Hike/Walk** celebrating America's 250th Anniversary - 1 to 3 p.m., at Sunrise Park. Guided hike and workshop for all skill levels. (pg 27)
- Sun, Mar 15 **Samplers with Alexandra Peters** - 2 p.m. at the Suffield Police meeting rm. Hosted by the Historical Society, collaboration with the Phelps-Hatheway House. (pg 12)
- Mon, Mar 16 **Summer Programs and Camp REGISTRATION** opens at 9:00 a.m. Programs and camps fill quickly each year. Rarly registration encouraged. Suffieldrec.com. (pg 27)
- Tues, Mar 17 to May 12 **Cold-Case Christianity Video Series** (9 weeks). - 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays. At Kent Memorial Library. Register at Suffield-library.org or call 860-668-3896. (pg 21)
- Thur, Mar 19 **Overdose Prevention Seminar** - 6 to 7:30 p.m. at theZak Ambulance Center. Attendees will receive an overdose prevention kit. Free. (pg 14)
- Fri, Mar 20 **First Selectman Coffee Hour** - 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., at Cafe Barista, 66 N. Main. 10% discount on your drink order.
- Sat, Mar 21 **Alternative Health Fair** - 9 a.m. to noon, at West Suffield Congregational Church. Practitioners to offer services in short sessions in an open-clinic setting. (pg 11)
- Thurs, Mar 26 to May 14 **Suffield Citizens Police Academy** - 6 to 8 p.m. Thursdays at the Suffield Police Department. Contact gminer@suffieldct.gov or call 860-668-3870 to register. (pg 5)
- Fri, Mar 27 **Comedy Night at VFW Post 9954.** Doors open at 6 p.m., raffles at 7 p.m., comedy show at 8 p.m. Snacks available and cash bar. Tickets \$25 at the door.
- Sat, Mar 28 **Sustainable Suffield Repair Café** - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Senior Center. NEW! We can help switch your old Windows 10 operating system to free LINUX! (pg 8)
- Sat, Mar 28 **Dancing with the Stars of Suffield** - 6 p.m., at the Fred Astaire Dance Studio, 68 Bridge St. Desserts and Dancing tickets at recreation@suffieldct.gov. (pg 27)
- Wed, Apr 1 **Spring & Easter Egg-stravaganza** - 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Indoor community egg hunt with crafts, snacks and the Easter Bunny. \$5 pp. (pg 27)
- Sat, Apr 4 **Revolutionary Era Suffield Mini-Bus Tour** - 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. email rsvphistory@gmail.com to reserve. Historical Society with Parks & Rec. \$10 per person. (pg 12)
- Sat, Apr 11 **History Made Here** - 1 to 3 p.m. 18th Century Ladies' Worktables with Robert VanDyke at the Phelps-Hatheway House & gardens.
- Tue, Apr 14 **America250 Commemorative Process** - Bill Sullivan's American Studies Class will present on Suffield's preparations, at the Suffield Police meeting room.
- Sat, Apr 18 **Mobile Mamography** at McAlister Intermediate School. Please call SCA to register for your appointment today: (860) 668-1986. (pg 16)
- Wed, Apr 22 **Town Litter Clean-Up Day** - 8 to 9 a.m. to pick up supplies at town hall. A light lunch follows at the Senior Center. Sign up on the town website. (pg 8)
- Fri, Apr 24 **Dedication of the Liberty Tree** in celebration of the 250th anniversary of American independence - 4 p.m., in veterans memorial park south of the library.
- Fri, May 1 to Sat, May 16 **20th Century Blues** performed by the Suffield Players - 8 p.m. Fri & Sat, Sun matinees 2 p.m. Subtitles May 2, 18, 16. At Mapleton Hall. Tickets at SuffieldPlayers.org.
- Sat, May 2 **Craft Fair** - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Hilltop Farm, 1606 Mapleton Ave. Email info@hilltopfarmsuffield.org to sign up. The Hilltop Farm Store & Creamery will be open!
- Sat, Sun, May 2 & 3 **Community Tag Sale** - Set up in your own yard! Coordinated by Sustainable Suffield. Registration opens in April. Rain dates May 9 & 10. (pg 8)
- Sat, May 9 **Mother's Day Tea and "The Ladies of Phelps-Hatheway" Tour** - 2 to 4 p.m. at the Phelps-Hatheway House & gardens.

Food scrap bins for West Suffield residents.



Photo by Tony Peterson

From 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 14, West Suffield residents can pick up free bins to collect their food scraps at the Ebbs Corner fire station.

West Suffield Food Scrap Dumpster; Free Collection Bins

By Tony Peterson, Co-chair of Sustainable Suffield

Thanks to a generous donation from the Suffield Garden Club, West Suffield residents can now drop off their food scraps into a dumpster at the Ebbs Corner fire station. Up till now, residents had only one drop-off location, behind the Town Hall.

To help West Suffield residents get started with food scrap collection, Sustainable Suffield will be handing out appropriate collection bins and biodegradable bags on Saturday, March 14, from 9

a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Ebbs Corner fire station on the corner of Copper Hill and Mountain Rds.

We'll explain the dos and don'ts of food scrap collection and what happens to the food scraps you collect. We'll also provide free coffee and donuts while supplies last.

The Suffield Garden Club funding covers the rental and hauling of the dumpster at Ebbs Corner for three years. We appreciate their gift and dedication to keeping food scraps out of the landfill. ☘



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Food For Thought

Compiled by Beth Chafetz

Yellowstone National Park established March 1, 1872

"There can be nothing in the world more beautiful than... the Canyon of the Yellowstone... and our people should see to it that they are preserved for their children and their children's children forever, with their majestic beauty all unmarred."

- Theodore Roosevelt, 1905

"Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit."

- Edward Abbey

Read Across America Day March 2

"Some books are so familiar that reading them is like being home again."

- Louisa May Alcott

"We read books to find out who we are. What other people, real or imaginary, do and think and feel... is an essential guide to our understanding of what we ourselves are and may become."

- Ursula K. Le Guin

International Women's Day March 8

"Every woman's success should be an inspiration to another. We're strongest when we cheer each other on."

- Serena Williams

"Feminism isn't about making women strong. Women are already strong. It's about changing the way the world perceives that strength."

- G.D. Anderson

"She has a voice. If you can't hear it, it's because you're too busy talking."

- Amani Al-Khatahtbeh

National Procrastination Week, second week in March

We'll talk about that tomorrow!

Anniversary of the death of Anne Frank



March 12, 1945

Quotes from Anne Frank

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

"I can shake off everything as I write; my sorrows disappear, my courage is reborn. I've found that there is always some beauty left -- in nature, sunshine, freedom, in yourself; these can all help you. No one has ever become poor by giving. I don't think of all the misery, but of the beauty that still remains."

Uranus discovered March 13, 1781

"When Uranus, the seventh planet from the Sun, was discovered in 1781, it expanded the known limits of our solar system. It was also the first planet to be discovered using a telescope, as Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn were all bright enough to be easily visible to the naked eye."

- sciencemuseum.org.uk

"Uranus was discovered by William Herschel, an astronomer and musician. The

seventh planet from the Sun and the third largest planet in our solar system - Uranus is about four times wider than Earth. Uranus is very cold and windy. It is surrounded by faint rings, and more than two dozen small moons.

"Uranus is made of water, methane, and ammonia fluids above a small rocky center. Its atmosphere is made of hydrogen and helium like Jupiter and Saturn, but it also has methane. The methane makes Uranus blue."

- science.nasa.gov

National Clean Out Your Closet Week - March 17-24

"I'm going to start Spring cleaning today. And by Spring cleaning, I mean spraying everything with Febreze."

- Unknown

"Excuse the mess, but we live here."

- Roseanne Barr

"Normal person's weekly chore list: clean kitchen, clean bathroom, clean rest of domicile. Cleaning impaired person's weekly chore list: Don't get peanut butter on the sheets."

- Dave Barry

St. Patrick's Day March 17

"For you can't hear Irish tunes without knowing you're Irish, and wanting to pound that fact into the floor."

- Jennifer Armstrong

"There are no strangers here; Only friends you haven't met yet."

- William Butler Yeats

First Space Walk March 18, 1965

"When I first looked back at the Earth, standing on the Moon, I cried."

- Alan Shepard

"There is just one thing I can promise you about the

outer-space program - your tax-dollar will go further."

- Wernher von Braun

Single Parents' Day March 21

"Being a single parent is twice the work, twice the stress, and twice the tears, but also twice the hugs, twice the love, and twice the pride."

- Anonymous

"When my kids become wild and unruly, I use a nice, safe playpen. When they're finished, I climb out."

- Erma Bombeck

Music in Our Schools Month

"Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul."

- Plato

"...there is little doubt that regular exposure to music, and especially active participation in music, may stimulate development of many different areas of the brain...In terms of brain development, musical performance is every bit as important educationally as reading or writing."

- Oliver Sacks, Neurologist

National Woman's History Month

"Tremendous amounts of talent are lost to our society because that talent wears a skirt."

- Shirley Chisholm

"Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn't be that women are the exception."

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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Sustainable Suffield

March 14: Sweets & Scraps!

Drop in between 9 - 11 at the Ebbs Corner fire station to kickoff our **NEW West Suffield food scrap recycling drop-off location!** We will be giving away donuts, coffee, countertop food scrap bins, and lidded 6 gallon buckets to participating residents.

March 28: Repair Cafe

10-2, Suffield Senior Center
NEW: we can help switch your old Windows 10 operating system to free **LINUX!**

April 25: Community Clean-Up Day (rain or shine)

Invite your friends, neighbors, or family to join you! Get outside, enjoy each other's company, fresh air, and also help beautify Suffield by cleaning-up around town. A volunteer appreciation lunch follows at noon at the Senior Center. Details and registration here:



Townwide Tag Sale:

Save the Date(s)

May 2 & 3 (rain date May 9th)
Registration will go live in April!

Repair Cafe News

By Tony Peterson
Sustainable Suffield Co-Chair

The next Sustainable Suffield Repair Cafe will be Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Senior Center. At the event, we'll also be collecting new, gently used, and worn-out sneakers, as well as small pieces of scrap metal, such as utensils and horseshoes. We'll recycle the sneakers and donate the scrap metal to local introductory welding classes.

At our free Repair Cafes, we make electrical appliance repairs, mend torn seams, hem and sew on buttons, sharpen kitchen and garden tools, and repair bicycles, jewelry, woodworking, ceramics, and computers. For ceramics and woodworking, try to arrive early so glues can set up for a few hours before we close. You can leave the items and return before 2 p.m. to pick them up.

Free Windows 10 migration

If you have computers running Windows 10, which is no longer supported by Microsoft and leaves them vulnerable to security threats, we have a team of experts who can migrate your operating system to open-source Linux, a free, reliable alternative. They'll provide instructions, too. So, there's no need to throw away your Windows 10 computers. Please remem-



Photo by Ellen Peterson

At our January Repair Cafe, we hosted a special Urgent Care Clinic for stuffed animals. Our seamstresses literally had their hands full.

ber to bring charging cords with your laptops and towers. We'll have a monitor on site.

Our repair record

At our previous Repair Cafe on January 24, we ran a special Urgent Care Clinic for stuffed animals, drawing loads of happy, giggly children armed with their stuffies. We hosted 50 free repair sessions and successfully completed 40 or 80%.

- 18 were for sewing, including 14 stuffed animals
- 18 for electrical
- 11 for sharpening
- 1 for computers
- 1 for woodworking
- 1 for jewelry

Two of our fixers made the extraordinary effort of taking home items for repair. We have 16 exceptional fixers who freely offer their services.

Visit from prospective Repair Cafe hosts

We met with six visitors from West Springfield and three from West Hartford, who plan to establish their own Repair Cafes.

Start collecting items that need fixing now, and bring along your new, gently used or worn-out sneakers and small scrap metal pieces. See you on March 28 at the Senior Center. We provide free coffee, pastries and baked goods throughout the day to visitors. ☘



Observer Scholarship Available

By Beth Chafetz
The Suffield Observer Board of Directors will sponsor a scholarship to Suffield residents who will be entering an accredited two or four-year college in September 2026. The scholarship is in memory of Samuel S. Fuller, the

founder of the paper, and Robert O.Y. Warren, a former chairman of the board.

The \$2,000 scholarship can be applied for by contacting the guidance department at Suffield High School or Suffield Academy, by requesting a form from

the *Observer* office or online at www.thesuffieldobserver.com. Scholarship applications must be completed and submitted to the *Observer* at inbox@thesuffieldobserver.com or the *Observer* office at P.O. Box 424, Suffield, Conn. 06078 by May 15, 2026.

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Where to Recycle Sneakers in Suffield

By Tony Peterson, Sustainable Suffield Co-Chair

How many pairs of sneakers do you wear out annually or discard because they've gone out of style?

A 2023 footwear survey estimated that Americans will own 256 pairs of shoes in their lifetime, with sneakers being the most popular.

The U.S. Department of the Interior estimates that Americans throw away at least 300 million pairs of shoes and sneakers annually, most of which end up in landfills. Some decompose in 30 to 40 years, whereas synthetic components can take centuries. Shock-absorbing midsoles can last up to 1,000 years. And more damaging, while the sneakers slowly decompose, they release

toxic chemicals, such as dyes and adhesives, into the soil and groundwater.

So what should you do with your used sneakers?

For new or gently used sneakers

If you have new or gently used sneakers - or any footwear or clothing for that matter - you can donate them to Suffield's Second Chance Shop in the Dunkin' Plaza on Mountain Rd. This all-volunteer-run second-hand clothing and accessory store helps fund The Village for Families and Children, a large nonprofit in Hartford.

If your passion is helping the less fortunate worldwide, consider companies like Soles4Souls, GotSneakers, Sneakers4Good, and Sneaker Im-

pact. Depending on their mission, they provide new and gently used sneakers to developing countries, distribute them during disasters, and help build sustainable businesses by selling them at low prices to micro-entrepreneurs in countries like Haiti and Honduras, who, in turn, sell them at a profit. Some companies send prepaid shipping bags and boxes to you and even pay for sneakers, which attracts fund-raisers. Others like Soles4Soles provide drop-off boxes in DSW and Famous Footwear stores.

For worn-out sneakers

If your sneakers are shot and have no second life, Sustainable Suffield is launching a pilot drop-off program at its popular Repair Cafes. The next Cafe is

scheduled for March 28 at the Senior Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., so you can bring your sneakers then.

Sustainable Suffield will ship the collected sneakers to GotSneakers. They partner with a company that grinds the spent sneakers and separates the pulverized remains. Then the firm manufactures products from the remains, such as athletic mats, carpet padding and playground turf.

Other companies also grind up worn-out sneakers, such as Sneaker Impact and Nike. Sneaker Impact collects sneakers through drop-off boxes at stores, sporting events, and schools. They'll also mail you prepaid shipping bags for free, as will GotSneakers. Select Nike stores



Photo by Tony Peterson

Suffield offers several options for sneaker recycling, so you needn't throw them away.

collect all brands of worn-out sneakers through their Recycling + Donation program. The closest I found were its Factory Stores in Clinton, Conn. and Somerville, Mass. ☚

Sustainable Suffield Seeks Neighborhood Advocates

By Tony Peterson, Sustainable Suffield Co-Chair

In a world of growing screen-facing interactions, wouldn't you like an excuse for you or your family to get out and talk to your neighbors face-to-face? If you're interested in preserving Suffield's environment, but don't have the time to participate in the Sustainable Suffield task force, there's another way to help, according to the group's Co-chair Anna-Kristin Daub-Murphy.

"We're looking for block leaders who can spread the word about our many initiatives. A block leader can represent a small neighborhood, apartment complex, business district or

condo community," said Daub-Murphy.

Responsibilities would include informing neighbors about recycling do's and don'ts and the benefits of the town's food scrap program, leaving instructional flyers at doorsteps, and distributing free supplies, she said. "We know many residents are busy, so we'll provide all the talking points and information required."

"A block leader can be one person or an entire family," said Daub-Murphy. "If you have little kids, it's a way to teach them how to interact with others, build self-confidence and acquire leadership skills. If you have older children, the tasks could be counted

as community service."

Daub-Murphy said the group intends to hold optional block leader meetings, so available members can ask questions, trade tips on what works best when educating neighbors, and get to know each other. She'd also like to arrange a trip for block leaders to the \$42 million Berlin, CT recycling facility that processes Suffield's recyclables. "Its sophistication is truly amazing," she said.

If you'd like to become an environmental block leader, scan the QR code in the accompanying graphic to complete the registration form. Daub-Murphy said a representative from Sustainable Suffield will contact you. ☚

Graphic by Anna-Kristin Daub-Murphy

Interested in promoting sustainability in Suffield? Scan the QR code to become a block leader.

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March at First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC

By Amber Bigley

First Church welcomes all to join in weekly Sunday worship at 10 a.m., in-person or virtually through the church YouTube livestream, continuing on the journey "Together for Joy!" All are welcome at First Church of Christ, Congregational UCC of Suffield. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Pastor Chris Hart continues leading worship as Interim Minister. Pastor Chris preaches Sunday mornings and offers faithful engagement for all ages during worship services.

The Lenten offering collection supports Heifer International once again! Since 1944, Heifer International has helped families in over 125 countries, promoting self-sufficiency through livestock. Families are encouraged to share their animals, empowering communities and supporting education. With your contributions, we can provide various animals, such as a flock of chicks for \$20, a hive of honeybees for \$30, a pig, sheep, or goat for \$120, a water buffalo for \$250 and/or a heifer for \$500! We encourage you to consider increasing your gift to \$1.00 or more this season!

Each year, First Church takes up a collection of supplies for Church World Service Hygiene Kits. Hygiene

kits are assembled supply kits designed to provide basic hygiene essentials to people in the U.S. and globally, following disasters, or for those in need, such as refugees or the homeless. They are designed to help people maintain cleanliness and health in difficult circumstances, often distributed in 1-gallon plastic bags. Monetary donations are accepted to support the purchase of supplies for the kits. CWS collection runs through the month of March.

Holy Week begins on Sunday, March 29, with Palm Sunday worship at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, April 2 First Church hosts a Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, and Good Friday, April 3, brings a 12 p.m. opportunity to worship at First Church. Easter Sunday offers two services; A sunrise community worship at 6:00 a.m. held at Sunrise Park in Suffield, and an Easter Celebration Service at 10:00 a.m. at First Church. All are welcome to join us in worship in-person or through YouTube.

The Blessing Box, located right in front of First Church, is open to our neighbors and community members to "take what you need; leave what you can". First Church encourages our community to donate shelf stable food and self-care items any time. Oft-needed items include

powdered milk, just-add-water potatoes, microwaveable whole grain rice, whole grain pasta, sauces, peanut butter, cereals, and sweets! Deodorant, 3-in-1 body wash, toothpaste, and other basic hygiene items. Please refrain from donating perishable foods or expired foods.

First Church hosts Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous in our building weekly. Stay connected to meetings, upcoming news, events and more through the church website www.firstchurch-suffield.org.

General inquiries can be directed to office@fc-suffield.org. For Pastoral needs, contact Pastor Chris Hart PC@pastrchris.faith. God bless! ☩

Greetings from The Second Baptist Church

From a press release

We welcome the arrival of spring with the new life that comes forth following the long winter months. Crocuses have bloomed, daffodils are poking up through the soil, trees are budding, and we welcome the longer hours of daylight.

As we deal with the issues that confront us on a daily basis, with deep divisions within our society, let us take the time to remember that we are all part of this human family. We have been created in the image of God and that is shared by all of us. We can celebrate the hope that comes to us through the Easter story, even in the midst of uncertainty.

As we end March and enter April, we also enter Holy Week, a very special time

within the Christian faith, beginning with Palm Sunday on the last Sunday of March this year. In our Christian tradition, this represents the final week of Jesus' life, beginning with his entry into Jerusalem.

On Maundy Thursday we remember the Last Supper of Jesus with his Disciples. We will be holding a service on Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7p.m. Anyone is welcome to join us either in-person or on-line through the link on our website.

Continued on Page 11



Sacred Heart News

By Fr. Joe Keough

March, the month of Lent! March, like Lent, is a mixed blessing for many Catholics. The winter is almost (but not quite) over. There is a hint of spring as maybe a few crocuses are spotted and then the next day they could be covered in snow. The days are a bit brighter but not too much warmer. The wait is almost over but not over yet.

Our parish theme for Lent this year is "Return to the Lord with all your heart". In part it is a follow up to our Advent and Christmas "Come Home for Christmas" ministry where we pray for family and friends to return to the practice of the faith. In Lent we focus more on ourselves and our need for continual conversion. Bringing our hearts back to the God

who created them. In what would be his final encyclical, Pope Francis reflected on the Sacred Heart of Jesus and reminded us that the heart is more than a bodily organ: it is where our love, hopes and memories are found. This Lenten season is filled with the hope of the coming Easter Season as we make time to prepare our hearts to love God more and our neighbors as ourselves.

The Lenten Schedule includes daily Masses (except Thursday) 8:00 a.m. Stations of the Cross are prayed every Friday evening at 6:30 p.m. Confessions will be Mondays from 3-4 p.m. and Saturday afternoons from 2:30-3:30 p.m. A special "Young Artists" series of Lenten themed coloring pages are available in the

vestibule for our little ones to either color and decorate their own home or to share with the parish on our video boards and social media.

A presentation on grief through the eyes of faith is being prepared. More information will be available in our bulletin and social media. Let us set our hearts free from grief and deepen our awareness of God's love and mercy in this Lenten season.

For a full list of events and happenings the Lenten month of March, and all the details for Holy Week, please follow us on Facebook or visit our website <http://www.sacred-heartct.com>

A better Lent, a better heart, a better life!

God bless,

Fr. Joe Keough, Pastor ☩



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For more information visit our website
www.SacredHeartCT.com

West Suffield Congregational News

By Denise Peterson

West Suffield Congregational Church has some exciting new things happening. On March 21 from 9 to 12 a.m. we are opening our church to the first of our Alternative Health Fairs. We are very excited about this for a number of reasons. It will allow people to experience different modalities in healthcare that they might not be able to access or learn about elsewhere.

Alternative methods of health, healing and wellness have gained attention across the Western world. More people are exploring practices such as reiki, acupuncture, meditation, breath work, shamanism, sound healing and energy work in addition to the widely known practices of yoga and massage. These alternative modes of healing are sometimes sought in conjunction with professional medical procedures to offset the side effects of chemotherapy, radiation and to facilitate one's natural healing process after injury or illness.

For those who would like to explore different types of healing modalities, you are invited to experience short sessions of reiki, acupuncture, chair massage and other types of energetic healing with volunteering professional practitioners from the area.

This event will be open to the public and geared towards those who are curious about alternative health and wellness and those who

may not normally be able to afford regularly scheduled treatments. Volunteering practitioners will offer their services in short sessions in an open-clinic style setting; attendees will choose which modes of healing they would like to try on a first come, first served basis. There will also be the opportunity to purchase products such as flower essences and herbal teas from the volunteers. The Alternative Health Fair will occur every four months in the same location, and future dates will soon be available.

Admission to this event will be donation-based to give back to the community. Attendees are invited to bring a donation of non-perishable food, or a monetary donation of your choice to raise funds for the West Suffield Congregational Church.

Soulscape Reiki + Wellness, a small reiki practice located at 124 Mountain Road in Suffield, is organizing this event. Any questions can be sent to Courtney Petrucci at (860) 254-2546 or soulscape-reiki@gmail.com. If you are an energy practitioner or other alternative health and wellness professional who would like to volunteer their services at this event, please contact Courtney at the above information.

Another exciting thing coming our way is a special program on Palm Sunday. On that day, music will be our focus, with sung scripture and special music. Our

Second Baptist

Continued from page 10

The week concludes with the Tridium of Good Friday, Holy Saturday, culminating on Easter Sunday. We wish you all a very blessed season. And to our Jewish brothers and sisters, a blessed Passover. - Rev. James Leavitt - Interim Pastor.

Several other special services/events are scheduled for March:

- **Sunday, March 15** - Lenten Breakfast/Worship Service - Fellowship Hall - 9:00 a.m.

- **Sunday, March 22** - Hot Cat Jazz Band during Worship Service - Sanctuary - 10:00 a.m.

- **Sunday, March 22** - Spring Community Choral Concert - Sanctuary - 3:00 p.m. Join in the blending of voices from the Suffield High School Chorus, Cetto Chamber Singers, and Second Baptist Sanctuary Choir.

- **Sunday, March 29** - Palm Sunday Worship Service - Sanctuary - 10:00 a.m.. The cantata "Palms, Passion and Alleluias" by Lloyd Larson featuring the Second Baptist Sanctuary Choir, professional musicians, and a narrator will highlight the service.

Regular scheduled outreach opportunities include:

10 a.m. Easter service will include a new tradition for us, called the flowering of the cross. In celebration of the day, we will adorn a wire cross with hundreds of beautiful flowers in order to

- **Monday, March 9** - Fellowship Time - 6:30 p.m. - This monthly outreach program is for our friends with cognitive limitations to give them a safe environment for crafts, singing, and fellowship.

- **Tuesday, March 10** - American Red Cross Blood Drive - Noon-5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

- **Friday, March 13, 27** - Prayer Shawl Ministry - 10:00 am to Noon - Parlor. This is an opportunity for individuals to come together for a time of fellowship while creating shawls that are intended to provide love and comfort to their recipients. Please call the church office (860-668-1661) for more information about this ministry.

- **Saturday, March 14** - Soup Kitchen Ministry - Help serve a meal on the 2nd Saturday of the month for anyone in need at the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen at South Congregational Church in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Additional information for all service and program opportunities at the church are available on secondbaptistsuffield.org as well as our Facebook and Instagram sites. ☩

recognize all the beauty of a bright Easter morning when we wake to find our Lord is risen!

May there be many blessings on your days, I hope to see you soon. ☩

In Memoriam

Pacifico "Chris" Salvati

December 28, Age 92

Mary P. Elmore
December 28, Age 92

Richard F. Barnett
January 4, Age 90

Lawrence A. "Rick" Carter
January 5, Age 81

Joseph Adam Osowiecki
January 11, Age 86

Denise M. Egan
January 12, Age 86

Dolores A. McLaughlin
January 14, Age 92

Charles A. Torre
January 15, Age 76

John Stanley Mrosz
January 17, Age 82

Georgios K. Tartsinis
January 18, Age 87

Frank F. Maiolo Jr.
January 21, Age 82

Susan Jane Molander
December 22, Age 78

James S. Viola Sr.
February 2, Age 88

Denice Elaine (LeClair) Donnelly
February 5, Age 52

Nicholas A. "Nick" Bovee
February 5, Age 62

Dawn Ellen Lancour
February 8, Age 66



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FaceBook: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Suffield CT LCMS
email: gslcsuffieldct@gmail.com
860-668-2790

Worship
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Adam Moore

The Second Baptist Church of Suffield
100 North Main St. on Rt 75
www.SecondBaptistSuffield.org
(860) 668-1661

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Week

Suffield Historical Society Upcoming Programs

By Jackie Hemond

**ABCs of Samplers:
History Made Visible:
The Legacy of Thousands
of Schoolgirl Samplers**
Presented by Alexandra
Peters

Sunday, March 15, 2 p.m.
at the Suffield Senior Center. In collaboration with the Phelps/Hatheway House/Connecticut Landmarks. In-Person and Zoom
Zoom Meeting
ID: 850 0422 3650
Password: **History!**
Zoom link also provided on SuffieldHistoricalSociety.org.

Where are the women in history? Rarely visible. But in the United States there exists an extraordinary legacy of American history: samplers stitched by girls, from the earliest arrival of western settlers on the Mayflower until the Industrial Revolution made sewing less critical. The samplers touch on everything from revolution to abolition, great literature and the westward movement, as well as births, death and family records.

Alexandra Peters, a collector and historian of schoolgirl needleworks, will talk about how these needleworks made before 1850 show us life before the Industrial Revolution, from the often-surprising perspective of young women. Remarkable for their inventiveness and beauty, needlework samplers are appreci-



Photo provided by the Suffield Historical Society

Historical Society King House Sampler

ated now as historical documents written by girls on silk and linen with needles. Because these samplers were always highly prized by families, thousands of them have survived, documenting the lives, education and creativity of girls.

Using slides from her own collection, Alexandra will show us the fascinating history of samplers, as well as touching on Suffield's exceptional group of samplers.



Mini-Bus Tour: Revolutionary Era Suffield

Saturday, April 4

Learn about some of the houses in the center of town which were standing during the Revolutionary War and when the Declaration of Independence was signed 250 years ago.

\$10 per person collected before boarding the bus. Two sessions at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Limited Registration.

RSVP required at rsvphistory@gmail.com

In collaboration with Suffield Parks & Recreational Department. ☘



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Phone: 860-668-8773

Email: mnathlawyer@yahoo.com



Suffield Observations

By Andy Sauer

My war with squirrels

I have a long-running feud with squirrels.

It started when I first moved to Suffield more than 20 years ago and had to evict a family of seven of them, one by one, from my new home. It has continued as one furry interloper after another takes up residence.

My neighbor has an enormous tree that pumps out a bumper crop of black walnuts for the local *sciurus carolinensis* population. Starting in late summer, we're treated to an endless symphony of rodent teeth scratching the husk of the drupe to get to the walnut. Once they acquire their prize, they scurry away and stash it somewhere safe – as in the ceilings and walls of my house.

I have trapped (and relocated) dozens of squirrels. I have repaired endless numbers of holes in my house. I have become an expert in the use of insulation foam as a countermeasure. My ears have become so fine-tuned to any noise that indicates the presence of a squirrel, that one scratch or bump in the wall can wake from a sound sleep a cat-like, wide-eyed, hunter's instinct within me. Squirrel!

So, when it comes to these critters, I don't see cute, furry busybodies. I see the enemy.

Which is why last fall, I was surprised this plucky red squirrel came up to me in my yard, apparently unaware of my long-standing antipathy towards his kind, with a hey-buddy-can-you-spare-a-nut expression. I told him I had nothing to give and to beat it.

The next day, he ran up to me again. "I told you, already, I've got nothing for you," I said out loud to a tiny mammal.

This guy was relentless. He approached me so often that I started taking pictures of him with my phone to prove to my family that I was being harassed by this literal pest.

Then, things got weird.

He started to leave a single husked black walnut in the most unusual places: on a table, next to the grill, and the arm of a lawn chair.

"Look," my wife would say, "your little friend left you something!"

"He's not my friend!"

As if to emphasize his message and to whom it was addressed, he left me last month a walnut on the welcome mat by the front door.

What do you do when an enemy is undeterred in its quest for peace? There are a number of dark paths that can be taken (and I have contemplated them), but even the most bellicose, in whatever conflicts they are enmeshed, yearn for tranquility if, for no other reason, to finally relax. If the gestures are genuine (and dozens of precious nuts from a squirrel in winter do constitute a sincere overture), then peace must be contemplated.

I have inspected my house. There are no signs of squirrel destruction. The walls and ceilings have been free of any rodent noise. I have slept well.

The other day, my wife took an almond and in the spirit of reciprocation put it on the deck railing.

I guess we'll give peace a chance.

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The Way We Were

HISTORIC SUFFIELD



100 Years Ago in Suffield

Selected from the pages of the Windsor Locks Journal and lightly annotated by Wendy Taylor of Kent Memorial Library.

March 5

Arrangements have been made by the Bridge street school for a novel entertainment to be given in the school auditorium...a demonstration will be given of the operation of a telephone switchboard. The school has secured the co-operation of the telephone company and this demonstration, which has been given in several places of the state, has met with favor everywhere because it helps to explain to the telephone using public how to make the most of their telephone service and is highly entertaining and amusing. Twelve persons take part in the demonstration. A miniature switchboard is set up and in the first part of the program the operators show how a telephone call from one subscriber to another is handled. Other operators demonstrate on the switchboard how toll line calls are handled and there is also a complete explanation and demonstration of the so called A-B service.

The town's snow removal expense thus far this winter amounts to about \$3,000 more than has been expended in recent years. This was all used to clear the snow of the two heavy storms in February. Last year although the appropriation for snow removal was \$1,000, only about \$150 was used and that during March.

March 12

The annual sign-up meeting of members of the Connecticut Milk Producers' Association took place in Union hall..., attended by sixty dairymen of this town. Charts showed ways of cooling milk and gave ideas of milk rooms and barns. In the sign-up of members more than fifty again signed agreements to furnish milk through the same channels as for the last three years. This so far has proven satisfactory to the milk producers here who have received from 7 1/2 to 10 cents a quart for their milk. These prices have compared better the last four

years than ever before for the cattlemen.

At a meeting of the legislators of Hartford county..., consideration was given to the condition of the Suffield and Thompsonville bridge, and it was voted to recommend the expenditure of \$50,000 to put the bridge in proper shape, with the understanding that the work be started as soon as possible. The structure will be strengthened and other improvements will be made, and in the opinion of the law-makers the bridge can be made to last at least twenty more years before being replaced by a new bridge.

The horse sheds of the First Congregational church which were built over a hundred years ago and were used not only Sundays, but every day before the advent of the automobile, have been sold to Frank Orr, who is tearing them down and removing them.

March 19

Winter still seems to linger and the farmers report that the season is two weeks later than last year. The seed was planted in the tobacco beds by a number of growers last year on or before March 20th. To-day very few of the beds are sufficiently thawed out to sterilize. Farmers are looking forward to continued warm weather when the winter breaks.

Most important in the mechanical changes are the improved brakes.

March 26

Many of the trout brooks in and near this town have been stocked heavily with trout the past two or three years and ought to furnish some sport this year not many of the local fishermen are planning to spend much time at Congamond this year, owing to the fact that a non-resident license in Massachusetts costs \$15.75. The brooks leased by the state and open to all fishermen will remain closed until April 15th and on these streams women will be required to have licenses in order to fish.

A Moment in Time

Old Photos Invited from Our Readers



Submitted by Art Sikes

Post Card of Terrett House, after 1869

The building shown was built in 3 sections, the oldest and smallest facing Mountain Road was built as early as 1718, but for sure by 1728, it was removed in 1960. It had many owners. The 1855 Suffield Map just called it "Hotel". The 1869 Suffield map called it "Gruendler Hotel". In 1869 it was sold to Benjamin Franklin Terrett.

Treasure Hunt at the King House

By Sara Zak

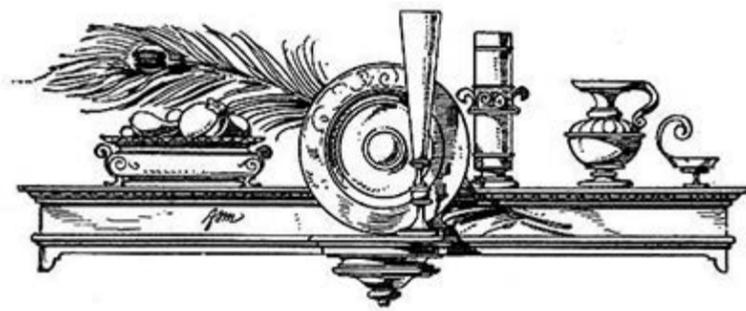
Have you ever experienced the feeling of delight when you discovered something that you forgot had been stored in the bottom of a chest for years? Or wondered about the history of an item that you found when you cleaned out your grandparents' attic?

The Suffield Historical Society is about to start a treasure hunt, of sorts. There are thousands of artifacts, wrapped or stored in

boxes, throughout the King House. They have been catalogued, but many have not been photographed. Many items have not been seen by anyone other than the Society's curators. There are dozens of samplers, paintings, prints, posters, calendars, maps, and many books waiting to be discovered. We believe these items will spark interest in Suffield's history, which is a key part of the Society's mission.

As with most things, the

more the merrier! The Society welcomes volunteers of all ages to join the treasure hunt at the King House, and we document community service credit hours for high schoolers. This would be a great parent-and-child activity. You don't need any experience—just be careful with the items, as many are delicate. If you are interested, please contact Sara Zak on Facebook, at www.suffieldhistoricalsociety.org, or by calling 860-668-5256. ☞



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Suffield Volunteer Ambulance Association Celebrates 50 Years

By Chief John Spencer

In 2026, the Suffield Volunteer Ambulance Association (SVAA) proudly marks 50 years of service to the Suffield community. For five decades, SVAA providers have delivered high-quality, compassionate, and progressive emergency medical care to our residents. As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, we invite the community to join us for two special events in March that both honor our history and invest in our future.

Music Bingo – March 7

Kick off the celebration with a fun and energetic evening of Music Bingo on Friday, March 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion in Enfield.

Gather your friends, test your music knowledge, and enjoy a lively night out while supporting your local ambulance service. Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door.

All proceeds from the event will go directly to the SVAA Capital Endowment Fund, which supports future capital needs such as ambulance replacement, lifesaving equipment and facility improvements. As emergency medical technology continues to advance, maintaining modern, reliable equipment

ensures we remain ready to respond 24/7 with the highest standards of care.

To purchase advance tickets, contact any SVAA member or email our office at svaa@suffieldems.org.

Free Overdose Prevention Seminar – March 19

On Thursday, March 19 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., SVAA will host a free community seminar on overdose prevention at the Zak Ambulance Center, located at 205 Bridge Street in Suffield.

This important educational program will be presented by our community partners at Amplify and will focus on recognizing the signs of overdose, understanding risk factors, and learning how to respond effectively in an emergency. Substance use continues to impact communities across the country, and proactive education remains one of the most powerful tools in saving lives.

Every attendee will receive a free overdose prevention kit. This seminar reflects SVAA's ongoing commitment not only to emergency response, but also to prevention, education and community partnership.

50 Years of Service – Looking Ahead

Since 1976, SVAA has

1. When the Police Department was set up in 1942, 11 Supernumerary Officers, including Harold Hill who became the Police Chief, were sworn in and subsequently sent to Police School taught by the County Detective from the State's Attorney's Office. How long was the training?

- a. 3 months
- b. 1 year
- c. 12 days

2. What is the age range to be a Suffield Police Cadet?

- a. 13-17
- b. 13-18
- c. 13-20

3. When was the Police Cadet program formed?

- a. 1965
- b. 1970
- c. 1975

4. How many police officers are in the Suffield Police Department?

- a. 15
- b. 25
- c. 21

5. Does the Police Department have a drone?
Yes or no

6. When was the first female police officer hired in Suffield?

- a. 1955
- b. 1949
- c. 1961

7. When was the current police station built?

- a. 1988
- b. 1978
- c. 1998

8. Where was the police station previously located before its move to its current location?

9. What was the new addition that the police got in Fall 2025?

- a. On the bottom floor of the current Town Hall.
 - b. On the bottom floor of the old Town Hall which was located on Main Street.
 - c. In the First Center School on Bridge Street which was closed as a school in 1939 when McAlister School was opened.
 - a. A motorcycle
 - b. A Police Dog named Rico
 - c. A Tesla truck
- Choose all that are correct.
- a. Sheriffs
 - b. Constables
 - c. Vigilantes

evolved alongside the needs of our community—embracing innovation, strengthening training, and building a team of dedicated providers committed to excellence. These anniversary events celebrate our past while

reinforcing our commitment to the next 50 years of service.

We hope you will join us in celebrating this milestone. Whether you come out for Music Bingo or attend the overdose prevention semi-

nar—or both—you are helping strengthen emergency medical care in Suffield for generations to come. We look forward to many more celebrations and events throughout the year! ☘

Suffield Trivia

By Jackie Hemond

1. c. 12 days
2. c. 13-20
3. b. 1970. It was instituted by Police Chief Frank Suttula.
4. a. 21
5. Yes. The Suffield Women's Club donated it in 2023.
6. b. 1949. Margaret (Peggy) Butler was the first female police officer. At first, she worked part-time on enforcing laws, collecting taxes, overseeing elections and

Answers

traffic duty but after a few years became full-time with more responsibilities.
7. a. 1988. The station was built under the helm of Chief Murray Phelps.
8. a. On the bottom floor of the current Town Hall.
9. b. A Police Dog named Rico
10. All are correct. Sheriff Butler was responsible for en-

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The Tree Committee

By Dana Gauntner

The Tree Committee administers funds of the Helena Bailey Spencer Tree Fund and the Val Gallivan Tree Fund for the planting and care of shade trees along roadways and streets in Suffield. The Tree Committee is in its 4th year of a 10-year Tree Planting Plan for historic Main Street and the Town Greens. Follow us on social media treesforsuffield

The members of the Helena Bailey Spencer Tree Fund Committee are:

Back Row -Kacy Colston, Anita Wardell, Judy Hamner, Joyce Zien

Front Row - Danna Gauntner, Todd Mervosh, Sue Mayne, Connie Murray, Not pictured; Colin Moll. ☞



Tree Fund Committee

Photo by Sue Mayne

Food Support for the Suffield Community

Submitted by Mary Curtin

Suffield Community Aid

- 450 South St – Monday-Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Meals on Wheels / Food Pantry
- Outdoor 24hr/7day Food Cabinet
- suffieldcommunityaid.org 860-668-1986
- MaryC@suffieldcommunityaid.org
- Requirements: Suffield Resident, Income documentation
- Food Pantry by Appointment
- No financial requirements for Meals on Wheels
- No requirements for Outdoor Food Cabinet

Foodshare Mobile Food Truck (Suffield Site)

- 1408 Mountain Rd (W. Suffield Congregational Church)
- 860-668-2271 - Every other Tuesday 1:15 – 1:45 p.m.
- CTFoodshare.org for schedule
- Requirements: Connecticut Residents Only

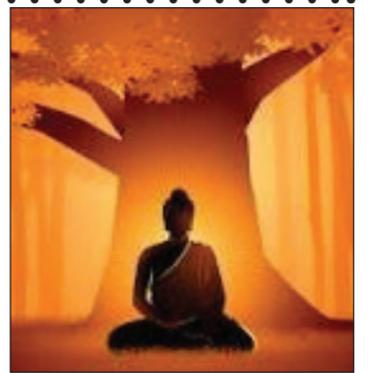
Suffield Senior Center

- 145 Bridge St.
- \$5 Lunch Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday 12 p.m.
- Suffieldct.gov / 860-668-3862
- Pleclerc@suffieldct.gov
- Requirements: Reservations – (860) 668-8830

First Church of Christ

- 81 High St. Outdoor 24 hr/7 day Food Cabinet
- 860-668-7223
- No Requirements

A special thank-you goes to the North Central Chamber of Commerce for assisting with the ribbon-cutting ceremony and for providing photographs. Their partnership continues to strengthen connections between local organizations and new businesses in town. ☞



Meditation Center Opens In West Suffield

By Chad Kuzontkoski, Economic Development Specialist

Suffield is pleased to welcome Nalandabodhi Connecticut – Northern Branch, an international Buddhist organization dedicated to promoting wisdom, compassion, and mindful living. The center recently opened its doors at 1380 Mountain Road. The former Peoples Bank build-

ing has been thoughtfully renovated under the guidance of Lucy McMahon.

Nalandabodhi, founded under the spiritual direction of Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche, offers meditation, study and community-based practices grounded in the Buddhist tradition. Their mission is to support individuals in cultivating awareness, kindness and inner resilience.

Their motto is: Be Wise, Go Kind, Live Fully.

Sunday Morning Practices at Nalandabodhi:

- 8:30 a.m. – Doors Open
- 9– 9:30 a.m. – Prayers for Peace
- 10 – 11:30 a.m. – Joining NBCT Bloomfield on Zoom
- 10 – 10:50 a.m. – Chants and Shamatha Meditation
- 11 – 11:30 a.m. – Lojong Discussion

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Suffield Community Aid

By Mary Curtin, MSW
Director
860-668-1986

Did you know SCA offers scholarships?



What SCA is Spotighting this Month:

Thank you to all our volunteers and sponsors:

We simply could not have the impact we do if it weren't for our volunteers. This is particularly true during the holidays. We are grateful to the numerous Suffield residents that support us with their time to shop, organize, deliver, donate and more! You make a huge difference in our community.

In-Person Bereavement Support Group Starts Up Again:

Masonicare is partnering with Suffield Community Aid to offer a six-week, in-person support group for people who are grieving the loss of a loved one. The group will meet at SCA, 450 South Street, Suffield, beginning Friday, April 3 from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. This program is offered at no cost. Registration is required. Please call SCA for more information, 860-668-1986.

Mobile Mammography—Reserve Your Appointment Today!

The Mobile Mammography van will be at McAlister on Saturday, April 18 providing screenings for women. Please call SCA to register for your appointment today: (860) 668-1986.

Applications Open for Generation Power:

Generation Power grants open March 2-10. Please contact SCA to apply at 860-668-1986. More information on eligibility is available at: <https://gpct.org/>

Camp Scholarships Available to Suffield Youth!

SCA has funding available to subsidize participation for financially eligible households to send their child to any camp(s) of their choosing. For more information or to apply, give us a call: (860) 668-1986.

Ask the Social Worker at the Suffield Senior Center: Social Services Consultations at the Senior Center with Lauren Marino, LMSW the last Wednesday of the Month. In March, meet with Lauren on March 25.

Scholarships Offered in 2026



James F. Coggins, Jr. Community Service Award—Open to Applicants:

In memory of our late volunteer and Board member, James F. Coggins, Jr., Suffield Community Aid (SCA) offers a \$1,500 award to a graduating Suffield high school senior who demonstrates selflessness, generosity, and concern for the Suffield community through their volunteer activities. Jim was highly engaged and passionate about the Suffield community and neighboring towns. Applicants for this award must live in Suffield but do not need to

attend Suffield High School for consideration (e.g., may attend Suffield Academy, Loomis Chaffee, etc.). Applicants are required to submit a 500-word (max.) essay supporting their selection to SCA at 450 South St. Suffield, CT 06078 or by email at maryc@suffieldcommunityaid.org. The deadline to apply is: Monday May 4th by midnight.

Jane Purtill Fuller Scholarship for Nursing or Social Service Candidates:

To recognize the many contributions of our past employee and long-time supporter of Suffield Community Aid, the Board of Directors dedicates an annual needs-based scholarship in memory of Jane Purtill Fuller. This \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded to a graduating Suffield high school senior pursuing a nursing or social service field of study (e.g., social work, psychology, criminal justice, counseling, etc.). Applicants must live in Suffield but do not need to attend Suffield High School for consideration (e.g., may attend Suffield Academy, Loomis Chaffee, Northwest Catholic High School, etc.). Applicants wishing to apply are encouraged to complete the common application at Suffield High School or call SCA at (860) 668-1986.

Kathy Ostrowski Memorial Nursing Scholarship:

Kathy Ostrowski was a beloved Suffield resident and former SCA Board member who had a passion for helping others within and beyond her commitment as a nurse. SCA



Photo by Mary Curtin

The Suffield Fire Fighters Association donated \$500 to support SCA this holiday season. Pictured: Roger Dubiel, President of the Suffield Fire Fighters Association and Alan Fahrenholz, SCA Board Member.

awards a \$1,500 needs-based scholarship to a graduating Suffield High School senior pursuing a nursing or social service field of study. Seniors who do not reside in Suffield but attend high school in Suffield will be considered (e.g., VoAg Program at SHS, Suffield Academy, etc.). Applicants wishing to apply are encouraged to complete the common application at Suffield High School or call SCA at (860) 668-1986.

Suffield Community Aid "Forward Focus" Scholarship

Created in 2024, the SCA Board of Directors established this \$1,500 scholarship to offer graduating Suffield High School seniors financial support as they pursue job and educational goals post-graduation. Applicants must live in Suffield but do not need to attend Suffield High School for consideration (e.g., may attend Suffield Academy, Loomis Chaffee, etc.). This needs-based scholarship is offered to seniors who have

committed to a trade or vocational school, 2-or 4-year college, or other identified job readiness program. Applicants are required to submit a 250-word (max.) essay supporting their selection to SCA at 450 South St. Suffield, CT 06078 or by email at maryc@suffieldcommunityaid.org. The deadline to apply is: Monday, May 4th by midnight.

Ongoing Programs:

- SCA is still accepting applications for the State of CT's Energy Assistance Program.
- SCA sponsors blood pressure screenings on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month, from 11-12, at the Suffield Senior Center.
- March 10th: Parkinsons Peer Support Group from 11-12 at SCA. Call SCA to register.
- March 18th-Social Services Consultations at KML with Lauren Marino, LMSW (register on KML's website through the Library calendar). If that day is not possible feel free to call SCA to schedule an alternate time. ☘

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Schools and Library



Photo provided by the author

Hazel Qua celebrates her record-breaking scoring: (l-r) Gabe Qua, Becky Kline, Hazel Qua and Jason Qua.



Photo provided by the author

The Girls' Basketball team congratulates Hazel Qua on her significant accomplishment as a junior!

SHS Girls Basketball New Record Set

By Amy Muska, Director of Athletics and Student Activities

Junior Hazel Qua broke the Suffield High School Girls Basketball High School scoring record on Friday, February 6 against the Rockville Rams.

Prior to the game, Hazel needed 19 points to break the record. At the buzzer of the third quarter, Hazel drained a 3-point shot surpassing the record of 1399.

The previous record was held by Kelly Heath, 2006.

Congratulations to Hazel on this outstanding accomplishment.



In other action, our winter teams are winding up the regular season and heading into conference and tournament play.

Winter regular season play has been incredible, with all teams advancing to the state tournaments. See the schedule below:

Boys Basketball:
2/24-3/1 NCCC Conference
3/6 State Tournament
Division IV

Girls Basketball:
2/4-3/1 NCCC Conference
3/6 State Tournament
Division III

Boys Ice Hockey:
3/9 State Tournament
Division III

Girls Ice Hockey:
3/2 State Tournament

In February, Boys/Girls Indoor Track teams participated in the Class M State Tournament and the State Open.

Also in February, the Wrestling team participated in the NCCC Conference Meet, the Class S State Tournament and the State Open.

Good luck to all our Wildcat teams!

Information regarding state tournament times and games may be found on our Suffield High School Athletic webpage, once it is available. ☘

Dowd Realty Spotlight on Suffield

SUFFIELD YOUTH CENTER

March Hours

Play games, hang out, meet up with friends, have a snack, Make something crafty, laugh, just be YOU!

Who: Grades 6 - 8
Where: Youth Center
145 Bridge Street
(located behind the Senior Center)
Time: 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Dates: Tuesdays
March 3 Youth Center closed
March 10 Special: St. Patrick's Day cupcake decorating with Sugar Magnolia Bakery
March 17 Special: St. Patrick's Day crafts
March 24 Just Play Day



REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR EACH DATE



SUFFIELDREC.COM

YOUTH SERVICES



JOANN MORIARTY
SUFFIELD YOUTH SERVICES
DIRECTOR
jmoriarty@suffieldct.gov
(860) 668-3329

Transportation from SMS to the Youth Center is provided! (12 student limit for transportation.)

Parent / Guardian, please come into the Youth Center to sign your child out. Thank you!

Schools of Thought

Suffield High • Suffield Middle • McAlister Intermediate • Spaulding • Suffield Academy

Understanding the 2026–27 Board of Education Budget

By the Suffield Board of Education

Each year, the Suffield Board of Education develops a budget designed to support student learning while remaining responsible to taxpayers. The annual process is now underway.

Board members have heard presentations from district leadership and school principals across all major budget areas. The Board's Finance & Facilities subcommittee has met regularly to review details, ask questions, and evaluate options. The Board expects to adopt a final budget in March and submit it to the Board of Finance. The BOF will then incorporate the education budget into the Town's full budget, which will be presented at a public meeting at the end of April and voted on at Town Meeting in early May.

We encourage all residents to stay informed and participate in this process, as the Board of Education budget accounts for more than 60% of the Town's total budget.

What last year's investments delivered

The Board remains focused on investing in areas that improve student outcomes. Over the past year, several budget-supported initiatives produced meaningful results:

- New elementary math and literacy programs, combined with improved data platforms, strengthened progress monitoring and instructional decisions.

- McAlister Intermediate School was recognized by the Connecticut State Department of Education as a School of Distinction for overall growth in mathematics.

- Place-based education strategies increased student engagement and strengthened learning connections.

- Continued development of intervention programs improved alignment and individual student support across schools.

- Professional development investments supported staff engagement and retention, improving outcomes for students.

- The district saw a decrease in absenteeism and increased student engagement.

- Suffield's Agricultural Science program produced 11 graduates earning the American FFA Degree, representing 42% of all recipients in Connecticut.

- Our preschool program earned NAEYC accreditation, a rigorous national standard achieved by only a small percentage of early childhood programs.

Budget drivers for 2026–27

While final figures are still being reviewed and will be shared in a follow-up article, Suffield's education budget is generally aligned with comparable school districts and is primarily influenced by a few major cost areas:

- Contracted salary increases

- Benefits, including health insurance

- Required special education services

- Increased transportation costs related to re-contracting with the district's school bus provider.

Because these categories make up the vast majority of the education budget (over 90%), there is limited flexibility for significant reductions in other areas without affecting services.

As always, the Board remains committed to balancing fiscal responsibility with its core mission: providing high-quality educational opportunities for all Suffield students.

Suffield Board of Education members include Chairperson Maureen Sattan, Vice Chairperson Debra Dudack, Secretary Gianna Rossi, Melissa Finnigan, Brian Fry, James Mol, Dustin Rose, Greg Sparzo and Sam Toksin. ☘

THE CLASS OF 2027 PRESENTS

Trivia Night

WHEN? March 13th 6:00- 8:00 pm

WHERE? SHS Commons

TEAMS? 6-8 people

PAYMENT? \$10 per person

Payment will be collected at the door!
Scan the QR Code below to sign up!
Burgers and other food are for sale from Fat City Kids food truck!
Large Raffle- lots of opportunities to win!



SHS Trivia

From a press release

Think you've got what it takes to outsmart your classmates and neighbors? The Suffield High School Junior Class invites you to our exciting Trivia Night! It's the perfect chance to gather some friends and show off your smarts! Our Trivia Night offers a great mix of challenging questions and friendly competition. Plus, your participation helps support the Junior Class as we raise funds for our senior activities. Best of all, you can enter raffles for amazing prizes, ranging from home furnishings to sporting tickets!

The Trivia Night will take place on Friday, March 13, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Suffield High School Commons. There

will be a food truck from Fat City Kids parked outside during the event where participants can grab a bite to eat. Teams of 6 to 8 players are encouraged to come up with a creative team name and designate a Team Captain to serve as the main contact person. The entry fee is \$10 per person, payable at the door, and teams can sign up through the QR code in the image above.

Don't miss out on an evening that brings the Suffield community together! Sign up and mark your calendars now, and get ready for a night full of brain-teasing fun and fantastic rewards. Please email Kyle Candia-Bovi at kcandiabovi@suffield.org with any questions or for more information about the event. ☘

Suffield Veterinary Hospital March 2026 Patient of the Month

Meet Mickey, an 8-year-old male mixed breed, owned by Melissa Lemanski of West Springfield. We have been privileged to care for Mickey since he was adopted as a wee puppy back in 2017, and he's been a joy ever since. When he got off the rescue bus from Arkansas, Melissa sat down in the grass with him, he snuggled right up in her lap and he's been by her side ever since. Melissa characterizes Mickey this way:



"Mickey was described as a spaniel mix when he came to me, but his DNA test later revealed many breeds, with an emphasis on terrier, which I fully believe as he has a lot of terrier characteristics. He's got a big personality, a mind of his own, and he can't ignore a squirrel."

In February 2022, Dr. Burke discovered a heart murmur at Mickey's yearly routine exam. The first cardiology consultant reviewed his echocardiogram and felt that as his condition was quite advanced, he needed to start medication right away, and he likely didn't have much time left. Since he hadn't been showing any symptoms and he had plenty of energy as always, Melissa decided to get a second opinion from Dr. Nancy Morris, a veterinary cardiologist who had cared for a previous family pet. She confirmed Mickey's condition, but concluded that Mickey was only in the early stages of the disease and medication was not yet necessary! So how is Mickey doing today? We asked Melissa:

"It's been 4 years now, and he's still doing great. He goes once a year for his cardiology checkup, and still shows no symptoms and no medication is needed so far. At 8 years old, Mickey still loves his toys, especially tugging and unstuffing them. His other favorite items are blankets, and he's claimed many of mine for himself over the years. When he's ready to take it easy, he'll cuddle right up with me."

For reminding us that, just like humans, dogs get a variety of serious heart diseases that sometimes need the care of specialists, we are happy to name sweet Mickey the March 2026 Suffield Veterinary Hospital Patient of the Month.

Suffield Veterinary Hospital

Dr. Ann Huntington ♦ Dr. Anita Sabellico ♦ Dr. Dawn Burke
Dr. Daniel Rothbart ♦ Dr. Emilie Laston ♦ Dr. Shannon Moran

577 East Street South (Route 159), Suffield, CT 06078 (860) 668-4041
View all of our Patients of the Month on our web site, www.suffieldvet.com

SOTIL

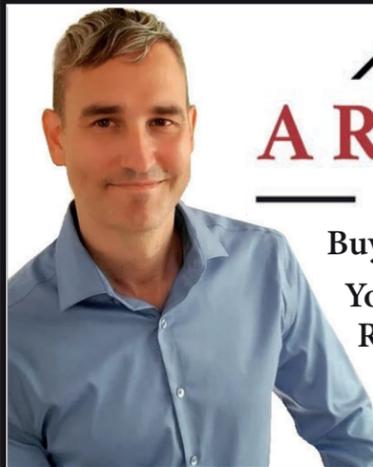


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Schools of Thought

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Cast and crew of SHS's *Les Mis* at SHS

Les Misérables

From a press release
 “Do You Hear The People Sing?” Suffield High Students Bring ‘Les Mis’ to Life
 The Suffield High School Drama Club is proud to announce its upcoming spring musical, *Les Misérables*, to be performed by Suffield High School students on March 6 -7 at 6:30 p.m., and March 8 at 2 p.m.

The story follows ex-convict Jean Valjean (played by Junior, Jack Tautic) as he seeks a new life, constantly pursued by the relentless police inspector Javert (Senior, Nayandeep Tummalapally), all set against the backdrop of the 19th-century French student uprising. *Les Misérables* tells a powerful story of justice, sacrifice and hope. Audiences can look forward to iconic musical numbers such as “I Dreamed a Dream”, “On My Own”, “One Day More”, and “Do You Hear the People Sing?” brought to life through the dedication, talent, and passion of the students.

“Our students have put an incredible amount of work into this production,” said Anthony Ferreira, Musical Director. “Taking on *Les Misérables* is an ambitious, life-changing experience for young artists. This show offers not only stunning music but also profound lessons on

resilience, love, and the ability to change for the better”.

Students have been working tirelessly for months—rehearsing after school, refining vocals, choreography, and staging—to deliver a moving and memorable production. From the performers on stage to the students running lights, sound, costumes, and set design, this production is a true student-led effort.

This year’s performances will be dedicated to the memory of Lyle Pearsons, former mentor and director of Suffield High School, who passed away earlier this year. In his honor, a special donation will be collected during the performances, with proceeds donated to Parkinson’s research in his name.

Tickets will be sold at the door:

\$10 for seniors, students, and veterans and \$15 for adults.

The Suffield High School Drama Club invites the community to join them for an evening of powerful storytelling, unforgettable music, and a heartfelt tribute that celebrates both artistic excellence and community spirit.

For more information, please contact Suffield High School (860) 668-3810. ☞

McAlister’s One Book, One Community

By Joy Tierney, McAlister Intermediate School Media Specialist

In January and February, the McAlister community - students, families and staff members - participated in its annual One Book, One Community read. One Book, One Community is a program designed to create a shared reading experience within a school community. This year’s selection was *Tree. Table. Book.* by Lois Lowry.

Tree. Table. Book. tells the story of the remarkable friendship between eleven-year-old Sophie and her elderly next door neighbor Sophie G. When young Sophie learns that Sophie G.’s son plans to move her far away because her memory is failing, young Sophie makes it her mission to prove her best friend’s memory is just fine. Through daily memory tests, Sophie G. shares stories of her life during World War II, all while strengthening her friendship with Sophie.

To ensure that every family could participate, every McAlister household received a copy to read together courtesy of the Meghan Voisine Kindness Matters Foundation. Throughout the six-week experience, classrooms engaged in discussions and activities that promoted and enriched the shared reading experience.

This year, the program expanded in a meaningful



way by inviting Suffield Seniors to join us in our reading experience. Twenty-one seniors answered the call. Every Friday, they visited a classroom to discuss the book. These intergenerational conversations sparked thoughtful dialogue, fostered genuine relationships and broadened perspectives. During their final visit, seniors shared personal stories from their own lives, helping launch McAlister’s upcoming Living Library.

McAlister will host a Living Library on Wednesday, March 11 to continue our study of *Tree. Table. Book.* In a Living Library, participants gather for a “live” story shared by a community member. Those interested in serving as a storyteller are encouraged to contact Joy Tierney, McAlister Library Media Specialist at jtierney@suffield.org

Fourth grade students also extended their learning beyond the classroom with a visit to Kent Memorial Library where they rotated through stations to enhance the reading experience. Miss

Wendy read aloud some of young Sophie’s favorite stories. Miss Anna led students in telling stories that began on a day that was different. Ms. Marino, Suffield Community Aid Social Worker, allowed students to play memory games to simulate dementia. Community member Beth Chafetz gave a presentation on the Holocaust in Poland, enhancing students’ understanding of the historical context of the novel.

The benefits of reading together are remarkable. Studies have shown that reading to children helps them to listen better and longer, to build larger vocabularies, to understand concepts better, to feel positive about both books and learning, and much more! When an entire community reads the same book, the buzz and excitement around the book augments these benefits.

Most importantly, reading together builds connections. Through One Book, One Community, McAlister strengthened bonds among students, families, teachers, and Suffield Seniors - reminding us all that stories have the power to unite us.

A heartfelt thank you to our senior book buddies for the generous gift of their time, wisdom, and stories. And a heartfelt thank you to the Meghan Voisine Kindness Matters Foundation for their generous purchase of the books for each family. ☞

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Kent Memorial Library

Director's Corner



By Amy Vessella,
Library Director

Spring Forward: The Time Change We All Love to Hate

March is finally here, and after a long, snowy winter, its arrival is a welcome sight for sore eyes. Crocuses emerge through melting snow, birds are returning, and warmer days beckon. But with spring also comes a familiar ritual that you may (or may not) be as excited about: setting our clocks forward for daylight saving time. Every March, we trade an hour of sleep for an hour of daylight,

and although many of us are quite certain, and often vocal, about our feelings regarding the time change, we may not be aware of how we came to collectively experience a mild case of jet lag each spring.

The history of daylight-saving time is an interesting one. I have often heard people say that it started because of farming practices—a fitting idea in agricultural communities like

Suffield. However, the reality is quite the opposite. In fact, the agricultural industry rallied against the implementation of daylight-saving time in 1918 because it disrupted their schedules. Their efforts paid off, and the short-lived national daylight-saving time was repealed in 1919.

However, the practice didn't completely go away. Some states and cities continued to adjust their clocks after the 1919 repeal, resulting in a confusing patchwork of practices. It wasn't until World War II that daylight saving time was reintroduced on a national level. Again, the practice was short-lived as it was repealed just weeks after the war ended, ushering in the return of the time chaos. Would

you believe that in 1965, the state of Iowa had 23 different sets of start and end dates—a truly confusing situation! Fortunately, the enactment of the Uniform Time Act of 1966 standardized daylight-saving time, bringing a sense of cohesiveness and order to our nation's time observances.

Since then, the exact dates have changed to meet changing needs and laws. Notably, date changes occurred during the energy crisis of the 1970s, again during the mid-1980s, and after the Energy Policy Act of 2005. In 2007, the dates changed to start on the second Sunday of March and end on the first Sunday in November. This is still the practice today, except in most of Arizona and Hawaii,

which remain on standard time year-round.

The extra hour of daylight in the evenings is a perfect opportunity to visit the library. We'd love for you to join us for one of our upcoming spring programs or stop by to pick out a good book. You can find all our programs on our website at <https://suffield-library.libcal.com/>. We look forward to welcoming you soon!

Sources:

https://aa.usno.navy.mil/faq/daylight_time

<https://agamerica.com/blog/myth-vs-fact-daylight-saving-time-farming/>

<https://www.history.com/articles/8-things-you-may-not-know-about-daylight-saving-time> ☘

Library Activities

For more information or to register for a program, please stop by or call the library at 860-668-3896 or go online to suffield-library.org. Follow us on Facebook. All programs are free.

KML Programs for March Programs for Adults Movies at the Library

KML is showing movies. Visit our website at www.suffield-library.org/ for more information, including this month's movie showtimes.

Rise to the Challenge Book Group-Monday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us in reading and discussing books that have been challenged and/or banned. March's book will be *1984* by George Orwell. Copies of both books will be available at the library. Please be aware that this group discusses books which may include sensitive topics. Registration is not required.

Thursday Readers Book Discussion Group - Thursday March 26 at 1 p.m.

Get together on the last Thursday of the month with other readers to discuss a book. Books are available at the library. Registration is not required.

Rabble Readers Escapist Lit Book Club -Tuesday, March 17 at 7 p.m.

Rabble Readers is an Escapist Lit book club at KML

for adults. We'll read fantasy, sci-fi and horror, anything that takes us away! We will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. Copies of the books will be available at the library, no registration required. The March title is *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy.

Mahjong -Thursday mornings from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Join us for a morning of American Mahjong!

Make new friends as you play one of the world's oldest tile-based games. For Adults -Basic knowledge of the game required. Please bring your 2025 NMJL (National Mahjong Junior League) card. Registration required.

Books & Beyond with author Annie Hartnett - Thursday March 26 at 7 p.m. via Zoom

Join us for a live discussion with the author of the book *The Road to Tender Hearts* by Annie Hartnett. Copies of the book will be available for pick up at the library. Registration is required.

A darkly comic and warm-hearted novel about an old man on a cross-country mission to reunite with his

General Programs

high school crush—bringing together his adult daughter, two orphaned kids, and a cat who can predict death.

Ireland in a Jar - March 26 at 6 p.m.

At our next installment of Craft Night for Adults, we will construct a faux terrarium that brings the enchanting feel of the Irish countryside to your home. We will have some tasty Ireland-themed treats, music, and some great craic! Registration is required.

Kids and Teens Programs

Rhyme Time - 10:30 a.m. Fridays: March 6, 13, 20,

Ages 0-5 / Families/Drop in

St Patrick's Day Sensory Time - Tuesday, March 10 and Wednesday, March 11 from 10 a.m. to Noon

Ages 2-5/Drop In

We'll have some St. Patrick's Day sensory bins out to play in. Stop by!

Lunch Bunch - Tuesday, March 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ages 2-5

Registration Required

You bring your lunch -- we'll bring a craft! We'll make a small craft first, and then

hang out and eat lunch at the library. See you then!!

Wildlife on Wheels with the Zoo at Forest Park - Saturday, March 7 at 10:30 a.m.

Families/All Ages

Join us in learning about animals from the Forest Park Zoo! Animal ambassadors may include mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians, and arthropods! For the sake of the animal ambassadors, this program has a firm limit of attendees; registration is required. Each attendee must register separately, including parents/guardians.

Outside the Box: Neurodivergent & Friends Club - Second Thursday of Each Month from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 12 at 3:30 p.m.

Open to Kids 10+ (under 12, adult must remain in the building)

Welcome to our club, where neurodivergence is celebrated! If you are neurodivergent, or you have a friend that is, come hang out with us! All kids 10+ are welcome, regardless of diagnosis. We'll have snacks, play games, do crafts, and generally celebrate being ourselves. (This

is a social group and will not provide diagnosis or therapy.)

Irish Dancing with SRL Irish Dance Academy - Saturday, March 14 at 10:30 a.m.

Celebrate Irish culture and heritage through traditional dance with Scoil Rince Luimni Irish Dance Academy and KML! While Irish dancing is done all year long, SRL Irish Dance Academy loves to share Irish dancing with the wider community throughout the month of March in celebration of St. Patrick's Day!

The Kids Who Read Books Book Club - Thursday, March 19 at 3:30 p.m.

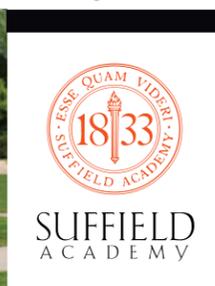
Join us for the next meeting of The Kids Who Read Books Book Club! We'll be discussing *Percy Jackson: The Last Olympian* by Rick Riordan (Book 5). Books will be available to check out at the library. Open to all people in grades 5-12. Registration is not required.

Chick Hatching - Keep an eye out for the incubator this month as we hatch more library chicks! This year we will be hatching four different breeds of chickens, Light Brahmas, Buckeye, Salmon Faverolles, and Welsummers! ☘

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Free Library Audiobooks: Have You Tried Them?

By Tony Peterson

Download these apps and enter your Kent Memorial library card number to get free audiobook loans.

Whether you exercise regularly, spend time in the car, or prefer occasional relaxation without Netflix or television, listening to digital audiobooks can be a pleasant accompaniment.

You can download or stream audiobooks for free with your Kent Memorial Library card via three apps they recommend, Libby, Hoopla and The Palace Project. All are available for Apple and Android devices.

Although I'll be discussing audiobooks, some of the apps also offer free downloadable ebooks, magazines, comics, and movies. So, if you want that digital content, check each app.

You can also search the Kent Memorial Library catalog for audiobooks, but I've found it isn't as sleek as the apps they recommend, requiring multiple steps and limiting you to listening in your browser.

Ease of use; long loan period-I've used all three apps and find them straightforward. They all offer audiobook loans for up to three weeks.

Each differs in its collections and available audiobooks, so you might need to try all three if you're after a particular title.

With the Hoopla app, all audiobooks are available for immediate download, and you're allowed up to three loans per month. It offers a Kids Mode that only shows content suitable for kids 12 or under. You can add audiobooks to a Favorites folder

for future listening by clicking a heart icon. The app does not offer a sampling feature, which is a common complaint aired on Reddit and Facebook.

Libby, owned by OverDrive, offers a huge selection, many new and popular titles, and lets you filter searches by multiple criteria, such as subject, language, age group and availability. It has a Play Sample link. You can borrow seven audiobooks at a time and save titles by tagging, which lets you set up separate categories, such as "summer listening." Libby is available through Bibliomation, a Connecticut consortium of over 60 libraries to which Kent Memorial belongs.

The Palace Project, a national nonprofit created by libraries for libraries, consolidates titles from Libby, other library systems, special collections, independent presses, some Amazon Publishing and Audible titles and others. It lets you sample audiobooks through a Preview button.

The Connecticut State Library offers The Palace Project to Connecticut municipalities at no cost. Using federal grants, it also purchases some audiobooks and distributes them at no cost. Suff-

ield residents have access to 4,850 of them, and the town pays nothing, according to Brad Bullis of the state library.

Titles aren't always immediately available with Libby or The Palace Project, so you can request holds. But beware: I've waited months for popular titles on Libby.

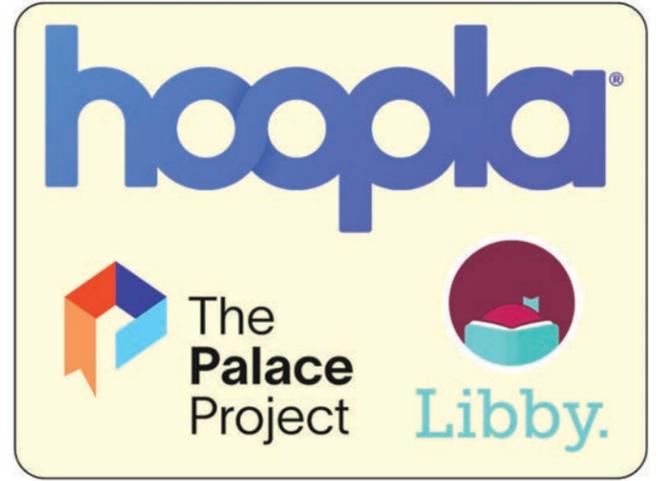
With all three apps, you can sync your listening across multiple devices.

Not all audiobooks are created equal. I've found some audiobooks more inviting than others.

Narrators can be hard to understand. For my wife and me, British narrators are not always clear, nor are those playing multiple male and female roles or imitating accents.

Some audiobooks offer chapters that you can select from; for others, it's one long stretch from start to finish. Then you need to be careful not to move the slider on their progress bars, or you'll spend time easing it back and forth to find where you left off.

A 300 to 400-page book can take 10 to 12 hours to listen to. All three apps let you adjust the narrator's pace. ☞



Photos by Amy Vessella

Bug - up close and personal

Macro Photography Exhibit on Display at KML

From a press release

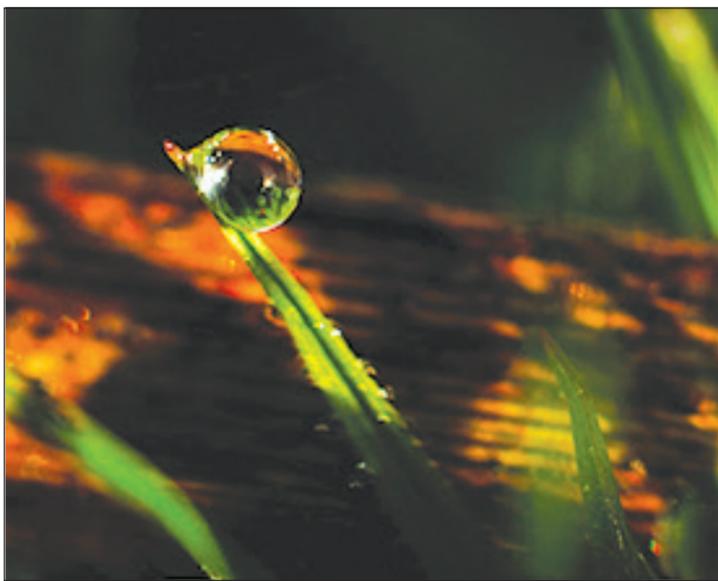
This month, our Library Director's talent is on display in the Kent Memorial Library. Amy Vessella is displaying her macro photography in the William Pinney Gallery.

Amy is an award-winning macro photographer whose work reveals the intricate and often overlooked beauty of our natural world. Her work has earned her multiple county fair blue ribbons. She captures the delicate details of flowers, insects,

and organic textures. Her vibrant images invite viewers to slow down, take a closer look, and discover the extraordinary within the ordinary.

You can see her unique work on display March 2 through 31, and you can also follow her on Instagram @macro.moods.

This distinctive show is made possible through the combined efforts of the Suffield Arts Council, Amy Vassella, the artist and the Kent Memorial Library Staff. ☞



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Turning Ourselves Inside Out Over Amphibians

By Abby Wolcott

March is here, and the local amphibians are awakening and calling their mates. They are announcing their arrival by their distinct calls. And that in turn, is amping up all the folks who love them. The gauntlet has been thrown down. So from the west side to the east, the annual swamp entourage mobilizes. These are people from all over town who are into all things slimy as they gravitate towards swamps and marshes and vernal pools with one thing on their minds....frogs. And, to make things even more fun, if that is possible, a little friendly competition has been bubbling along and ramps up each March. So, for about four weeks, this group fans out in their wellies hoping to be the first to hear and record the peepers, or perhaps they will catch the wood frogs quacking in their vernal

pools or toads taking to the water and trilling. Be still my heart. Some of the entourage operates only when the sun goes down, some are cagey about revealing the locale of the calling frogs. But they are all in. A few are lucky enough to have their own personal swamps and sunny shacks which skirt the swamps, giving them a definite leg up in the competition. There is a rush across town of who will hear what and where are these swamps and vernal pools that have come alive as the temperature creeps up.

Many of these amphibians do not make it easy on us as the peepers are tiny and tan with a small x on their back, and they are most often heard but not seen. The wood frogs are a little bigger but also very wary. They sport a fetching mask a la raccoon and quack like little ducks in their favorite vernal pools,



A Gray Treefrog enjoying the spring warmth after hibernating through the bitter cold of winter under rotting logs, rocks or leaf litter.

but they clam up if one does not tread lightly. Before long, the toads will head to the water trilling and mating, which seems like such a wonderful combination. Closer to summer, the grey tree frogs, largely solitary, will chime in, and their calls often foreshadow a thunderstorm or rain event. They too are more often heard than seen.

And to make us appreciate these diminutive amphibians even more, it helps to admire their ability to withstand freezing temperatures after they have emerged from the deep freeze of winter. This is largely thanks to a glucose cryoprotectant which keeps cells from freezing. It is also helpful to add that

vocabulary word to your arsenal if you are hoping to fit in with the swamp entourage.

If I am lucky enough to come face to face with one of these Spring Peepers, believe me an apology will be forthcoming. I'll be thinking back to Dr. Fell's Zoology 101 class when frog dissection was the order of the day. And there on our lab tables awaited frogs, kin folk to these delicate Peepers, their calls silenced. I was poised with a sharp instrument as we opened their chest cavity. I still have not forgotten that day and all those tiny organs spilling forth. I am afraid my apology is late and many times removed. Perhaps it will be met with glassy eyes or a turned head, but it sure is worth trying.

An attempt at an apology is always worth it. ☘

Finding Nemo Jr. Brings Students Together at Middle School

By Kenneth M. Smith,
SMS Principal

During a recent rehearsal in the Suffield Middle School auditorium, students moved across the stage with exaggerated sways and sweeping arm motions, carefully practicing how to transform themselves into underwater creatures. As voices filled the space and choreography took shape, one line surfaced again and again — delivered by eighth-grade student Evan Monahan in his role as Bruce the Shark.

"Fish are friends, not food."

Repeated throughout *Finding Nemo Jr.*, the line

speaks to the importance of belonging, trust and finding a place where everyone fits. That message resonated deeply with the students involved in the Suffield Middle School production of *Finding Nemo Jr.*, where a cast of 36 students and a 16-member crew came together to form a close-knit community both on and off the stage.

The three-show production, which will run March 12, 13 and 14, 2026, is directed by Chelsea Macedo, with musical direction provided by Jack Flanagan. Together, they have led more than 50 students through a collaborative rehearsal pro-

cess that emphasized connection, inclusion and mutual support.

"It's nice to work with an experienced director like Chelsea," Flanagan said. "She has created a family environment and sets such a calm tone in everything we do."

Macedo said building that atmosphere begins from the very start of the process.

"It just kind of happens naturally," Macedo said. "Right from the first day of tryouts, we stress to the students that it's OK to make mistakes. No one wants any of you to fail — we all want you to succeed."

Throughout rehearsals, students consistently shared how the production allowed them to build relationships beyond their usual social circles. Performers and crew members worked closely with peers of different ages

and experiences, forming bonds that may not have developed within the structure of a typical school day.

"It's really cool getting to interact with people outside of the grade or classes you have during the day," said Gianni DeLucco, an eighth-grade student who has participated in the drama club all three years at Suffield Middle School and plays the role of Gil in the production. "I see a lot of friendships building and getting stronger."

That sense of collaboration was echoed by younger cast members as well.

"It's cool to see everything come together," said Anna Bielonko, a sixth-grade student who plays the role of Anchor, one of the sharks featured in the production. "I like working with the other students to bring the whole play together."

Flanagan noted that the inclusive nature of the program allows students with a wide range of interests to find a place within the group.

"One of the awesome parts of this experience for kids is that students with all different interests come together in the Drama Club," Flanagan said.

Students also explained that *Finding Nemo Jr.* presented a unique artistic challenge compared to previous productions. Portraying fish and other underwater creatures required cast members to think intentionally about movement and expression, pushing them outside of the familiar experience of playing human characters.

"It's been a unique experience being a non-human character," DeLucco said. "Learning to move like a fish is hard."

Continued on Page 23

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Book Review

By Jane Shipp



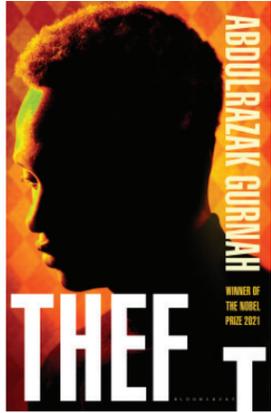
Theft

By Abdulrazak Gurnah

2025 368 pages Riverside Books

Theft was written by the winner of the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature. Despite its honorable credentials, it is not a long book, and not a terribly "heavy" reading experience. It takes place partly in Tanzania and partly in surrounding areas. It centers on the relationship between Karim, a university educated and successful young professional; Fauzia, a bright and ambitious college student; and Badar, a shy, inexperienced, and uneducated younger character whom they befriend. Although on the surface the plot seems to be a domestic one, its circumstances and location in place and time carry greater meaning than just a coming-of-age tale.

There are political overtones in the book, but they



remain more or less secondary. The real focus is the juxtaposition of the cultural background of a country just coming into its own and adapting to modern customs and stresses, while its inhabitants also struggle to preserve their traditional values and ways of living. The characters, though different in some ways from the people we meet every day, face challenges that will not be unfamiliar to us. They are challenged by classic questions: What is success? What is

love? When do young people need to abandon families and determine who they are and where they are going? What do we owe to those who have helped us along the way? How do we build resilience?

The writing itself is exemplary, as one would expect. The characters are clearly drawn, and we watch them grow and develop--sometimes in admirable ways and sometimes not. The book resounds with echoes of a world rapidly vanishing, inhabited by some who are out to get what they can no matter what, some who try valiantly to maintain a foot in each world, and some who are merely bewildered by the diverse range of change, even though it presents opportunities. The fact is, the reader has some sympathy with all of these stances, and special sympathy for two of the characters; which two? Read and find out! ☞

Finding Nemo, Jr.

Continued from page 22

Behind the scenes, that same spirit of collaboration extended to the visual elements of the show. The production's vibrant set was designed and built by students under the guidance of Rachel Santostefano, the long-term substitute art teacher at Suffield Middle School. The art students created a colorful underwater world that transforms the stage into the Great Barrier Reef.

Several set pieces were designed with dual purposes, allowing them to be

turned and reconfigured to seamlessly transition from the open ocean to the fish tank scenes, immersing the audience in the story.

As opening night approaches, the cast and crew are focused not only on final preparations, but also on appreciating the experience they have built together. For Macedo, that sense of pride and confidence is at the heart of the production.

"My favorite part is having the students get the opportunity to shine," she said. "I want them to be in the spotlight and show off their talents to create something they are proud of."

For students like DeLucco, the experience has also helped shape confidence and future aspirations.

"Drama Club has opened a door for me," DeLucco said. "I express myself more now, and I think I will continue performing in the future — singing and joining the Suffield High School Drama Club."

Much like the characters in the play, the students involved discovered that the journey is more meaningful — and far easier — when no one swims alone. ☞

Kindness Award Winner

From a press release

Olivia Grenier was nominated for the North Central Act of Kindness Award by middle school teacher Mrs. Michelle Killam.

This award is part of the North Central Connecticut Chamber of Commerce Program.

Olivia is an exceptional student and a highly valued member of the community. Her kindness and dedication are evident in her many roles and interactions, consistently going above and beyond to support her peers.

As Student Council sec-

retary. FCCLA Club member, yearbook Chief Editor and Photo Club president, Olivia is a leader who embodies compassion.

She has taken on the crucial responsibility of personally messaging students to remind them of upcoming meetings, volunteer opportunities and club obligations to ensure that no one is left behind and all students participating feel connected and informed.

Olivia is an all-round wonderful human who makes the Suffield Middle School community a better, more supportive place. ☞



Photo submitted by Chris Kellogg

Kindness Award Winner Olivia Grenier

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SFES Tournament a Huge Success

By Johanne Presser

While it was brutally cold on Sunday, February 8, the camaraderie of the 32 pickleball teams entered into the 2nd Annual SFES Pickleball Tournament at the indoor Suffield Pickleball facility on Kenny Roberts Drive warmed everyone up. The tournament and accompanying raffles raised about \$5,000 for the Suffield Foundation for Excellent Schools grant coffers.

SFES President Keith Woods was lavish in his praise for Windsor Federal Bank, which was the overall sponsor, as well as to XGT Fitness, Resilience Physical Fitness, Suffield Village Market, Suffield Village Dental and Advanced Wheels, each of whom sponsored one of the five playing courts.

The format guaranteed each team a minimum of five games. In all but the beginner division, semifinals and finals were held to determine the winners and runners up. Partway through the morning, video of the teams playing went live on Facebook. Raffle sales were brisk online and throughout the five hours with people hoping to win one of the



Photo provided by Johanne Presser

The Advanced Winners were, (left to right) Champions Coach Bobby (Bobby Defray, Cinely), Keith Woods from SFES, Runners-up Greenwood crew (Kelly Canniff and Stacey Fortin).

three fabulous, grouped prizes. In addition to tournament play, a brief skills clinic was held for the beginner teams, and a skills competition was held at the end of the day with the opportunity to win raffle tickets.

The Sporty raffle was won by Kelly Alexander and consisted of memberships to XGT Fitness complete with yoga mat and tote bag, and Suffield Pickleball, two tickets to a UConn Women's bas-

ketball game donated by Alexa Woods, a golf foursome at Suffield Country Club and an American Hockey League merchandise pack.

The Taste of Suffield raffle consisted of gift certificates to Tosca, Zantos, Three Figs, Suffield Pizza and Café Barista and included a private cooking class for four with Daniel Mahoney. Trish Danielson was the lucky winner of this gastronomic prize.

The Elegance Package

raffle was won by Robert Kleczewski and consisted of a photo session with RF Photography owned by Rob Faber, and gift certificates to Cara Mia Medical Spa, Norris Barber Lounge and Karenough Crafts and Boutique.

The 50/50 raffle brought in \$210 and Megan Hastings, the winner, graciously donated her half back to the SFES.

And while one could say that everyone who got out and had some fun was

a winner, the official winners were as follows:

Advanced Division – Bobby Degray and Cinely-----Runners up: Kelly Caniff and Stacy Fortin

Intermediate CoEd – Vicky Sheehan and Alex Shligersky - Runners up: Cindy and Stuart Davis

Intermediate Women - Maggie Collins and Kelly Alexander – Runners up: Kim Wurm and Nicole Vargas

Intermediate Men- Ken Goldstein and Brian Fee- ney - Runners up: Chip Dyer and Steve Petrolati

The SFES wishes to thank all the sponsors who gave so generously to help make this a success as well as those who braved the blustery winds to come out to play! To see more pictures of the day, please visit the SFES Facebook page and to learn more about the SFES, go to www.sfes.org. ☚



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- Suffield Country Club – past membership committee co-chair
- Sacred Heart Church parishioner
- March of Dimes Play it Forward Annual Golf Tournament at Suffield Country Club – committee member
- March of Dimes Hartford Signature Chef's Auction – past co-chair



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The Final HOOT



Organizations

Troop 260 Celebrates Eagle Scout Jack Ryan

By Krystal Holmes

Troop 260 is thrilled to congratulate Jack Ryan on earning the rank of Eagle Scout—an achievement that represents years of dedication, leadership and adventure. From the moment Jack first joined Scouting as a Cub Scout to his crossover into Troop 260 in February 2020, he has embraced every opportunity the program offers, always bringing enthusiasm, curiosity and a strong sense of service to everything he does.

Jack's Scouting résumé reads like a highlight reel. Along the way, he earned the Arrow of Light, accumulated an impressive eleven palms, and received numerous distinguished honors, including the BSA World Conservation Award, Religious Knot Award, Triple Crown National High Adventure, Grand Slam of High Adventure, Paul Bunyan Woodsman Award, National Outdoor Award, Den Chief Service Award and International Spirit Award.

Leadership has also been central to Jack's jour-

ney—he currently serves as Troop 260's Assistant Patrol Leader, President and founding member of Venturing Crew 261, and Vice Chief of Program for the Tschitani Lodge, where he is also a Brotherhood member. For the past three summers, he has shared his knowledge and energy as a staff member at Camp Workcoeman. He has also completed National Youth Leadership Training and returned twice as staff, helping guide the next generation of youth leaders.

Adventure has been a defining part of Jack's Scouting experience. He has sailed an 80-foot schoo-



Eagle Scout Jack Ryan

ner through the Florida Keys at Sea Base, trekked for 21 days at Philmont Scout Ranch, built trails and paddled the Boundary Waters at Northern

Tier and attended both the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea and the National Scout Jamboree in West Virginia. Add in multiple canoe expeditions on the Allagash Waterway and rivers throughout Connecticut, cave exploration trips, long-distance hikes, scenic bike rides, and even a recent troop expedition to Iceland, and it's clear that Jack never passes up the chance for a new challenge.

Jack's determination is perhaps best reflected in his merit badge record: he earned the 14 required Eagle badges plus an additional 64 electives—far exceeding

the 21 badges needed for the rank. For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Jack led a team in building a new trailhead center at the McLean Outdoor Educational Preserve on Sheldon Street, complete with a kiosk, picnic table and stone border. This project will serve visitors for years to come and stands as a lasting reminder of his commitment to community service.

Despite a calendar packed with Scouting activities, Jack still finds time to excel in other areas. He is an honor student at Suffield High School, an active member of the Drama Club and Concert Choir and a junior who plans to attend college while remaining involved with Scouting in the future.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank in the Scouts BSA program, achieved by only about four percent of Scouts. Jack Ryan's journey to Eagle reflects perseverance, leadership, and a genuine desire to make the world a better place. Troop 260 is incredibly proud of Jack and excited to see where his talents, determination, and adventurous spirit will take him next. ⌘



Photo by Kevin McCormick

Proof that Troops 260 and 262 are cooler in January weather at the Butternut Ski Resort.



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EPIC Day of Service

By Natalie Donais

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, May 16

Join Suffield Rotary and Friends of Hilltop Farm for an EPIC Day of Service

On Saturday, May 16 at Hilltop Farm from 8 a.m. until completion, Suffield Rotary and Friends of Hilltop Farm invite you to participate in a rewarding community service project. The goal is to finish repainting the iconic white fence—a project delayed due to last year's rainy weekends. Join us as we come together to make a tangible difference! (We finish painting the white fence.)

Be Part of a Global Movement

On this day, you are invited to join a worldwide movement of action, impact, and unity. The EPIC Day of Service will bring together over 2,500 Rotary clubs and 75,000 Rotarians, community volunteers, and partners from around the globe. United in purpose, we dedicate this day to making the world a better place.

From bustling city centers to remote rural areas, the EPIC Day of Service calls people of all ages, back-



grounds, and cultures to come together and address some of our communities' most pressing challenges. Through thousands of coordinated acts of service, we will showcase the true power of collective goodwill and service above self.

A Day That Spans the Globe

Every project—big or small—will contribute to a mosaic of impact that transcends borders, cultures, and languages.

Why May 16 Will Matter

May 16, isn't just another Saturday—it's the day we prove what's possible when people unite for a greater good. Join the movement and help improve lives, strengthen communities, and create a better future for generations to come.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE IT EPIC!

So, what are we doing in Suffield? Suffield Rotary has

partnered with Friends of the Farm at Hilltop (FOFAH) in Suffield, CT to paint the iconic white fence surrounding the farm, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The farm was originally owned by George Hendee, founder of Indian Motorcycle. We invite other local groups and organizations to participate in an Old-Fashioned Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn Fence Painting Event. This is a family-friendly event with all materials—paint, brushes, and rollers—provided, as well as a cookout lunch. Individuals and community groups are encouraged to join the fun!

Suffield Rotary will also provide students who need Community Service Hours with signed documentation of their participation and time volunteered.

***Due to all the rainy weekends last spring (2025), we were unable to complete this task. So bring on the sunshine and—

Mark Your Calendars

Save the date of May 16 for Suffield's EPIC Day of Service!

Registration information will be in the April *Observer* and posted online soon. ☘

The Tuesday Morning Music Club

By Larry Peters

There is a wonderful secret just over the border that few in Suffield seem to know about. I had lived in Suffield for 30 years before I did. The Tuesday Morning Music Club has for over 100 years offered the best in live music at a very low price in nearby Springfield. As the name indicates, most of the concerts happen at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings. The players are professional musicians from around New England who are chosen by knowledgeable TMMC staff. The price? The best deal in town, at \$10 per concert or only \$20 for the remaining six concerts this season. Up next is March 3, with pianist Margarita Nuller, then soprano Carol Adams-Maggi with uber accompanist Clifton

Noble. The rest of the spring schedule ranges from organ and harpsichord performances to opera, Broadway, and jazz. You can find the details at Tuesday-MMC.org. Refreshments are provided after the concerts and are free.

For only the next few months the concerts have been relocated from our usual venue at the Trinity Methodist Church in Springfield due to extensive construction work on the church. Instead, concerts are for now at First Congregational Church, 18 Broad Street in Westfield, which is on the town green. Parking is behind the church at the Stop & Shop parking lot on Rte. 20 (Main Street) and is plentiful.

We look forward to seeing you there! ☘



Photo courtesy of the Tuesday Morning Music Club

TMMC's Champlain Trio – Letitia Quante, Hiromi Fukuda and Emily Taubl

Sophomores Invited to Apply for Rotary Youth Leadership Award

By Natalie Donais, Suffield Rotary Club

Each year, the Suffield Rotary Club extends an invitation to Suffield High School sophomores to apply for the prestigious Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA). The program for this year will be held on the last Saturday

in May or first Saturday in June, at Springfield University. Applications are available from Mrs. McCluskey or at the Guidance Office at Suffield High School. Students must submit their completed applications NO later than Thursday, April 9 to Mrs. McCluskey. Please note that this

deadline is the day before April break begins.

Rotary District 7890 encompasses clubs from across Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. Through the RYLA program, the district provides unique leadership opportunities and fosters personal growth among young adults.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is a program for young people that was offi-

cially adopted by Rotary International in 1971. At the district level, RYLA enables local clubs to play an active role in developing leadership qualities and citizenship in young adults. The program is designed to accomplish several important objectives:

- Demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth.
- Encourage and assist young adults in effective lead-

ership methods by providing them with valuable training experiences.

- Publicly recognize the high qualities of young adults who are serving their communities as youth leaders.

Each year, Suffield Rotary selects two to three students who have applied for the RYLA award. These students may be chosen by their peers at the district RYLA to participate in a week-long Rotary RYLA Leadership Conference with other students from around the world. This conference will take place in June 2027 at Carroll University in Wisconsin, and all expenses are covered by Rotary.

If you are a sophomore student or know someone who is, please encourage them to apply for this exciting opportunity. Past participants from Suffield High School have returned enriched and energized by the program and through collaboration with other participants, often forming lasting relationships.

For more information about the Rotary Youth Leadership Award, please contact Natalie Donais from the Suffield Rotary at: ndonais@snet.net ☘

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PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

By Peter Leclerc/Donna Carney-Bastrzycki/Pam Cocca/Dan Leonard 860-668-3862

It's Time to Register for Spring Programs with the Parks and Recreation Department

Spring is arriving with energy, creativity, and community spirit in Suffield, and the Parks and Recreation Department is inviting residents of all ages to take part in a full slate of seasonal programs and special events that celebrate togetherness, inclusion and **America's 250th Anniversary**.

One of the most anticipated events of the season is the **3rd Annual Dancing Stars of Suffield Spectacular**, to be held on **Saturday, March 28**, in partnership with **Fred Astaire Dance Studio of Suffield**. This popular fundraiser pairs local "celebrity" dancers with professional instructors for an entertaining evening of performances before a panel of judges and a live audience.

All proceeds from the event will benefit Suffield Parks and Recreation's **Bowling Buddies program**, which provides inclusive recreational opportunities for participants of all abilities. Community members are encouraged to attend, sponsor a dancer, volunteer, or donate. Tickets are expected to sell out quickly and are available through Eventbrite. The department extends sincere thanks to **PeoplesBank**, the event's Title Sponsor, for its generous support.

Families are also invited to step back in time during the **Roaring 20's Casino and Bingo Night Fun**, scheduled for **Friday, March 6, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.** at the Suffield Senior Center. This all-ages celebration blends the glamour and excitement of the 1920s with a local tribute to **America's 250th Anniversary**. Guests will enjoy casino-style tutorial games, lively music and dancing, themed crafts, and exciting rounds of Bingo with prizes. Adults can participate in casino games in a relaxed setting, while children enjoy games and activities in the Youth Service Game Room. Period attire is encouraged but not required. The cost is \$10 per person, with children two and under admitted free.

Outdoor recreation and history come together during the **Spring and St. Patrick's Weekend Celebration Hike/Walk Workshop** on **Saturday, March 21**, from 1 to 3 p.m., at Sunrise Park Upper Pavilion. This special program is part of the community's recognition of America's 250th Anniversary, highlighting how local landscapes played an important role in shaping the nation's early history.

Just above Sunrise Park lies the **New England Trail**, formerly known as the Metacomet Trail—a route traveled for centuries by Native peoples and later by early settlers

and colonists in the years leading up to the American Revolution. These ridgelines and pathways supported travel, trade, and communication long before modern roads existed. In recognition of its national importance, the trail was designated in 2009 as one of only 11 **National Scenic Trails** in the United States.

The hike and workshop will be led by a team of experienced outdoor and recreation professionals with strong ties to the Suffield community: **Mat Jobin**, owner of **Reach Your Summit**; **Stephan Bastrzycki**, **Suffield Parks and Recreation volunteer**; and **Donna Carney-Bastrzycki**, **Director of Special Programs** for the Suffield Parks and Recreation Department.

Participants may choose between a beginner-friendly walk suitable for families, younger children, and those preferring a shorter route, or a moderate hike for those looking to go farther. A specially planned route featuring the **Whites Pond Loop**, with an optional out-and-back on the Orange Spur Trail, allows participants to experience the New England Trail without its typically steep climb.

In addition to the guided hike, participants will take part in a brief educational workshop covering spring hiking safety, proper layering for New England weather, trail awareness, and photography tips for capturing seasonal scenery. Light refreshments will be provided,



Photo by Donna Carney Bastrzycki
Easter Bunny with Rocco Marotta and Debbie Chevalier

ed, and the program is open to all ages and abilities. The event is free, with donations to the Parks and Recreation Department kindly accepted.

Family fun continues with the **Spring & Easter Egg-stravaganza**, a **town-wide indoor community egg hunt** taking place on **Wednesday, April 1 (April Fool's Day)** from **5 to 7:30 p.m.** at the **Suffield Senior Center**. Families can enjoy spring and Easter crafts, games, activities, a visit from the Easter Bunny with photo opportunities, and plenty of pizza, snacks and sweet treats. With surprises hidden throughout the egg hunt, the evening promises fun for participants of all ages. The cost is **\$5 per participant**.

Looking ahead, **Summer Programs and Camp**

Registration will open at **9 a.m. on Monday, March 16**. Programs and camps fill quickly each year, and early registration is encouraged. The department is also accepting applications for seasonal summer staff, including camp leadership roles, counselors, lifeguards, gate attendants, and event staff. The application deadline is **Friday, March 13**. Additional information is available at **suffieldrec.com**.

Suffield Parks and Recreation looks forward to welcoming residents and families to a spring filled with meaningful experiences, community connection, and opportunities to celebrate **America's 250th Anniversary** together. The department thanks the community for its continued support. ☘

Is Spring coming?



Photo by Joan Heffernan
Snow Drops

A Homeownership Dream Come True

"I dreamed of owning a house to raise my daughter in, but as a single mom, I didn't think it would ever be possible. Windsor Federal's first-time homebuyer program turned that dream into a reality." - Sierra

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The Suffield Observer

P.O. Box 424, Suffield, CT 06078

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and ads@thesuffieldobserver.comWebsite: www.thesuffieldobserver.comA volunteer, non-profit publication established in 1999
and published ten times a year.

Founder, Sam Fuller

The Observer is delivered free to all Suffield households.

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Submissions for articles should include the author's name, address, telephone number and email. If applicable, include photographer's name. Please send by email to: inbox@thesuffieldobserver.com**Submissions for ads** should include the contact person, business name, billing address, telephone number and email. All ads must be submitted as high-resolution images in .pdf (preferred), or .tif format. Please send by email to: ads@thesuffieldobserver.comFor either articles or ads, if unable to use email, submit a flashdrive or hardcopy (articles only) to the office on the lower level of the Suffield Village or mail it to our post office box. For articles, please use MS Word. All submissions will be considered to be property of *The Suffield Observer*.

Op-Eds	Email	Deadline:	March 12
Articles	Hard-copy only	Deadline:	March 10
Articles	Email	Deadline:	March 12
Ads	All Ads	Deadline:	March 10
Photos	All Photos	Deadline:	March 12

Publish Date: April 1, 2026

The Suffield Observer

P.O. Box 424
Suffield, CT 06078
Tel: 860-668-7442email: Inbox@TheSuffieldObserver.com
and Ads@TheSuffieldObserver.com**Our Mission:** To build a sense of community throughout the town of Suffield and to provide a forum where all sides of issues may be addressed.**Our Organization:** The *Observer* is written by, for and about the people of Suffield. We are an independent, non-profit, non-partisan organization seeking to provide information and news about the town of Suffield.**Donations:** There is no charge for the *Observer*, but we welcome donations to help pay for our rent, printing and mailing costs.**Advertisers:** To advertise in *The Suffield Observer*, contact our advertising manager, at 860-668-7442, and we will be glad to help. We thank our advertisers for their support. We feel strongly that one way to build a sense of community is to support our local businesses.**Volunteers:** If you would like to be a part of publishing *The Suffield Observer*, you would be most welcome. No previous experience necessary. Call Ray Dalrymple, 860-668-7711.**Guidance for all submitted articles:** All *Observer* submissions must conform to the following criteria: They must be reasonable and civil, free of libelous or slanderous content, timely and of community interest. Any criticism must be directed at ideas, actions or decisions, not people. When writers don't adhere to the criteria, the *Observer* will attempt to contact them. If writers do not agree to make necessary changes, the *Observer* reserves the right to reject the article. Articles attacking the actions of an individual or organization must be submitted by the 9th of the month to allow for the affected parties rebuttal, or that party is allowed a rebuttal in the following issue. The choice is up to the affected party. Responses must be in kind.**Letters to the Editor/OpEds:** The *Observer* accepts letters/OpEds that are factual and of interest to the community. We strive to print a balance of all sides of an issue. Letters should not exceed 250 words, OpEds should not exceed 500 words. Only one letter /OpEd per writer is allowed every three months. We do not accept Letters to the Editor endorsing political candidates.**Business Articles:** *The Suffield Observer* does not accept articles written by owners of a business that could be considered self-serving. Advertising space is available for such purposes.**Political Ads:** In the interest of maintaining a level playing field, we accept no political ads but do print at election time a Suffield Voters' Guide with input from the local candidates.**Articles:** We look forward to content on community issues or topics which would contribute to the benefit of residents of the community. Contributions include poetry, community interest articles, short stories, personal profiles, etc. Article length typically ranges from 100 to 600 words depending on the subject.**Photos:** Photos enhance articles, and sometimes a stand-alone photo with a good caption beats a short article. Please send photographs as attachments (not embedded in a document). For quality printing send good resolution of 300 pixels per inch or higher.**Suggestions:** We are a volunteer organization and we truly welcome suggestions that would improve the newspaper.

Senior Center & Mini Bus News

By Peter Leclerc, Director of Community Services 860-668-8830

Senior Center Lunches

Lunches are \$6 and include tea, a cold beverage, and dessert.

Please make reservations by noon the day prior.

Please bring your own container for leftovers.

Menu is subject to change.

Tues, March 3 - Mozzarella corn bread pizza, chips, cucumber salad

Wed, March 4 - Cheesy mashed potato and ham bake, vegetable

Thurs, March 5 - Chicken parmesan with pasta and sauce, salad, roll

Tues, March 10 - Mexican casserole, salad, roll

Wed, March 11 - Pretzel & mustard crusted pork tenderloin sliders, roasted potatoes & vegetables

Thurs, March 12 - Tortellini alfredo with baked chicken, vegetable

Tues, March 17 - Corned beef and cabbage casserole, rye bread, salad

Wed, March 18 - Glazed ham slice, scalloped potatoes, vegetable

Thurs, March 19 - Parmesan crusted chicken breast, baked potato, vegetable

Tues, March 24 - Ham and bean soup, corn bread, Caesar salad

Wed, March 25 - Stuffed pepper casserole, salad, roll and butter

Thurs, March 26 - Swiss cheese, mushroom, and onion burger on a roll, coleslaw, chips

Tues, March 31 - Two hot dogs, baked beans, baked potato

Mini Bus Trips

Mini Bus trips require five passengers and are weather permitting. Reservations for March trips will open on Feb. 20. Call 860-668-3844 to make a reservation.

Lunch at Take Five

Tuesday, March 3 - Pickups begin at 11:30 a.m.

Lunch at Francesco's

Friday, March 6 - Pickups begin at 11:30 a.m.

Shop in Vernon & Lunch at Rein's Deli

Tuesday, March 10 -

Pickups begin at 9:00 a.m.

Shopping at Walmart Thursday, March 12- Pickups begin at 8:30 a.m.

Lunch at Keltic Table & Tap Tuesday, March 17 -

Pickups begin at 11:30 a.m.

Shopping at Trader Joe's Tuesday, March 24 - Pickups begin at 8:30 a.m.

Lunch at Maine Fish Market

Friday, March 27 - Pickups begin at 11:30 a.m.

MGM Casino in Springfield 0

Tuesday, March 31 - Pickups begin at 9 a.m.

AARP Tax Aide

Thursdays, by Appointment Call 860-668-8830 to make an appointment.

Art Hour

Thursdays 10—11:30 a.m. FREE!

March 5 — Make a "hat" for St. Patty's Day

March 12— Fabric Wrap Bangles

March 19 — Suncatcher Creation

March 26 — Mod Podge

Vases

Roaring 20s Party

Friday, March 6 - 5:30 - 8 p.m.

\$10 per person. Come to our mock speakeasy with casino-style tutorial games, bingo, music and more! Register on myrec.com

Armchair Travel to India

Monday, March 9 - 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

FREE! We will be virtually traveling to India while trying Indian food.

Card Making Class

Tuesday, March 10 - 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Hosted by Karenoughcrafts. \$15 per person. Call 860-836-1326 by the Sunday before.

St Patty's Day Lunch

Tuesday, March 17

Included with lunch sign up on this day. Come read a few of Bethany's favorite Celtic myths and find what the leprechaun has brought us!

Retirement Planning Seminar

Thursday, March 19 -

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Free! Sign up on myrec.com to attend this important seminar by American Senior Benefits.

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

Monday, March 23 - 12 p.m.

Please sign up to attend with Bethany by March 13th if you have volunteered within the past year!

AARP Safe Driver Courses

Upcoming Classes: March 25, May 20, July 22, September 9, November 18

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. \$20 AARP Member; \$25 Non-Member Payment by cash or check to the Instructor. \$5 per person Facility Fee is paid directly to the Senior Center. By cash or check on the day of the class.

Ask the Social Worker

Last Wednesday of each month, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

SCA's Lauren Marino will be here each month!

For more information visit suffieldseniorcenter.com or call 860-668-8830.

DAR National Award

By Judy Hanmer

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution has presented a First Place Award to the Sibbil Dwight Kent Chapter representing both Suffield and Windsor Locks. This award was presented to the Chapter for their work on identifying the Revolutionary Soldiers who are buried in the Old Cemetery in Suff-

ield and the work the Chapter is doing in the cemetery. The importance of recognizing the Patriots who are buried there has been supported by many Suffield residents. A grant from the Greater Together Fund from the Hartford foundation for supplies and equipment to appropriately clean and restore the grave markers in the Old Cemetery along with small

gifts of supplies and time from other residents have made the cemetery a welcome and interesting place to visit for those interested, particularly in this 250-anniversary year of the Declaration of Independence

It was also determined

that for the safety of some of these grave markers two very old trees should be removed so that falling branches and possible storm damage would relieve that possibility. The Amiel and Mary Anne Zak Public Service Fund at the Hartford Foundation

for Public Giving graciously gave the Chapter a grant so that they could be removed.

Our Chapter is looking forward to continuing its work in the spring and will have the Old Cemetery and its patriots ready for a celebration. ☸

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By Kathy Werth

The Observer offers online advertising. Unlike the print edition, where ads appear beneath articles on specific pages, ads in the digital edition appear beneath articles that our readers are actively viewing.

For advertisers with an online presence, such as a website or a Facebook page, we can include a link to it so readers can access more information by simply clicking on an ad.

To upgrade to online advertising, contact Ann Kannen by email at ads@thesuffieldobserver.com or by phone at 860-668-7442.

SpiritHorse Therapeutic Riding Center of Canton, Inc.

By Fred Sweitzer, Chair, Suffield Community Fund

The Suffield Community Fund at Greater Hartford Gives Foundation (formerly known as the Suffield Greater Together Community Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving) awards grants to nonprofits that directly support the Suffield community. The Suffield Community Fund committee is led by Suffield resident volunteers, with a shared commitment to strengthening the Suffield community through

grantmaking. Periodically, the committee highlights the work of one of our grant recipients. Today, we highlight SpiritHorse Therapeutic Riding Center of Canton, Inc., for their work supporting Suffield residents in the Summer Equine Therapy Program.

SpiritHorse Equine Therapy provides private, equine-assisted therapeutic riding lessons tailored to the specific needs of the individual. The grant provided summer equine therapy to five Suffield children and adults

with special needs. The average age was 17 years old; one rider was a veteran. The five riders shared 16 grant lessons during the summer break. The disabilities of the people who participated in this grant included Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, Depression, Anxiety Disorder, Impaired vision, PTSD, intellectual disability, traumatic brain injury, and developmental delays.

The summer program included a 30-minute therapeutic riding lesson, developed to each participants' ability and individual needs. The 30-minute mounted lesson focused on movement and skills on the horse. In an unmounted session, each student, with guidance and to the best of their ability, could lead, groom and saddle their horse before their lesson. While riding, each student's individual needs, such as speech, sensory, balance, behavior and cognitive processing are addressed through horse therapy. This year Spir-

itHorse introduced the Equicizer, which is a mechanical horse that simulates live horse movement in the safety of the therapy room. Each of the grant lesson recipients used "Lucky" to practice riding and build strength that ultimately transferred to riding a live horse with confidence. This was the first time many had experienced horseback riding movement and the benefits from the horse simulator.

The Suffield Community Fund grant not only helped special needs participants in an engaging therapy program, but it also encouraged community participation in volunteering. The response of the Suffield community, including both volunteers wanting to help and parents seeking Therapeutic Riding for their children and adults with disabilities, to their therapy programs has been extremely positive.

SpiritHorse Therapeutic Riding Center provides weekly therapeutic riding lessons

for people of all ages with disabilities. SpiritHorse has developed a research-based program of equine-assisted health care, which has a different goal than that of recreational therapy. All lessons are private and taught by certified SpiritHorse International Therapeutic Riding Instructors who volunteer their time with the organization. The support staff of instructors, sidewalkers, administrative and barn help are also volunteers. Check out their website <https://www.spirithorsect.org/> Email: SpiritHorseCT@gmail.com

The Suffield Community Fund is funded by the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation (formerly known as the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving). For more information on Community Funds, the Board, the Foundation, and the grant application process please visit <https://greaterhartfordgives.org/about-the-community-funds> or email us at suffield@greaterhartfordgivescf.org ☘

A Quiet Day at the Barn



Photo by Joan Heffernan

One of Suffield's many tobacco barns.



Photo credit: CTHistoricGardens.Org

Lovely gardens grace historic Roseland Cottage in Woodstock, Connecticut

Suffield Garden Club Presents Historic Program

By Lisa Parker,
Suffield Garden Club

We New Englanders love our history and our landscape, and Connecticut is home to many beautiful and unique gardens. In fact, fifteen historic sites dotted throughout the state, with historically significant gardens, have joined to form Connecticut's Historic Gardens. Guest speaker Laurie Masciandaro will introduce attendees to the history and beauty of these fifteen distinctive historic sites and gardens that have charmed and inspired visitors for a century or more.

Laurie originates from Washington State, and holds a Master's Degree in American history from UConn. She is current-

ly Site Manager of Historic New England's Roseland cottage (pictured) in Woodstock. She is a frequent speaker and was a featured presenter at the 2025 CT Flower Show. Learn more at historicnewengland.org.

The program is free and open to the public starting at 12 noon, Monday March 2, at the Second Baptist Church, 100 North Main Street, Suffield. Parking and entrance are in the rear of the building.

The Suffield Garden Club, organized in 1934, is a non-profit organization. New members are always welcome. To become a member or to learn more, visit www.SuffieldGardenClub.org. ☿

From a press release

As we enter our second century of serving as the community foundation for the Hartford region, we have changed our name to the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation. This includes the creation of a new logo, a new tagline "A strong foundation for all," and a new website at

GreaterHartfordGives.org.

These changes come on the heels of Foundation's recent announcement of our plan to construct a new headquarters at the intersection of Albany Avenue and Main Street in Hartford's Clay Arsenal neighborhood.

"We hope that this new name and brand will bring

Suffield Garden Club

www.SuffieldGardenClub.org

Garden Club Awards Grant to Sustainable Suffield

By Anita Wardell

The Suffield Garden Club has awarded the town's environmental task force, Sustainable Suffield, a \$9,000 grant to cover the rental of a food scrap dumpster in West Suffield.

Currently, town residents have access to only one food scrap dumpster, located behind town hall. The grant is to fund three years of rental and hauling for an additional dumpster. "We plan to place a two-yard dumpster near Ebbs Corner, so West Suffield residents don't have to drive to the town center to drop off

their food waste," according to Sustainable Suffield Co-chair Tony Peterson.

The grant was made possible through a donation by the late Betty Jean Stroh of Suffield to the club. Stroh was a longtime member who, along with her husband, Charles, was the second owner of Hilltop Farm.

Her interests were multifaceted. She was a trained landscape architect who also bred champion German wire-haired pointers and thoroughbred horses. For many years, she served on the town's Planning and Zoning Commission

and as a Connecticut trustee of the Eastern States Exposition.

Through the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the Suffield Garden Club has also established a scholarship award to be given to a high school student annually in Stroh's name.

The all-volunteer non-profit was founded in 1934 and is dedicated to preserving Suffield's beauty through programs such as tree plantings, the sale of perennials at its popular annual May Market, and educational programs that instill respect for the environment. ☿



Photo by Ellen Peterson

Tony Peterson, co-chair of Sustainable Suffield, flanked by Suffield Garden Club members, (L to R) Anita Wardell, chair of the Betty Jean Stroh Committee, Jackie Hemond and Lisa Parker, vice president of the club. Missing from the photo are Jean Matejek, a Betty Jean Stroh Committee member, and Joyce Zien, Garden Club President.

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

more people into our mission, those who are already giving their time, talent and treasure in their communities as well as future changemakers who care deeply about the region," said Jay Williams, President and CEO. "We believe Greater Hartford Gives

Foundation is clearer, more welcoming, and better represents our vision of supporting the entire region."

While our name and brand are changing, we are more committed than ever to our priorities of dismantling structural racism and ad-

vancing equity in our region. We look forward to continuing our work alongside our donors and non-profit partners — and hopefully connecting with more Greater Hartford residents who care about improving our community. ☿

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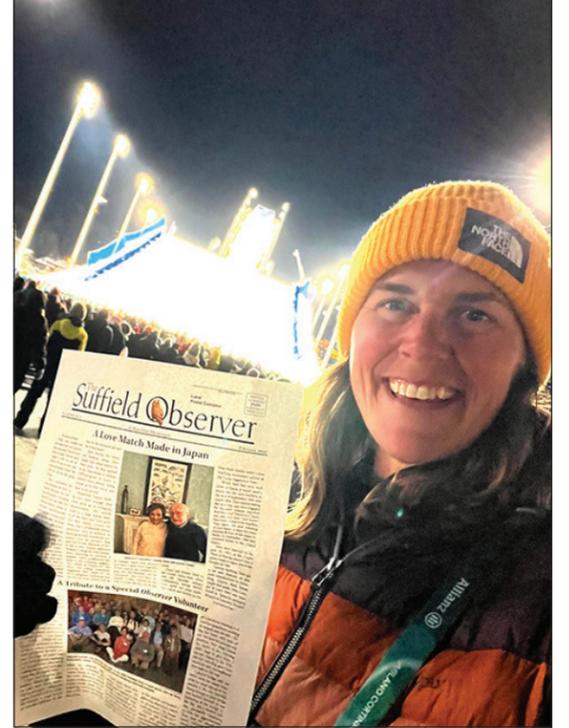
Where in the World is the *Observer*?



Janeine Kirwan-Ward is holding the *Observer* on the South Perth foreshore with the Swan River in the background in Perth, Western Australia.



Karen Jason and Rick Kirschbaum with the *Observer* at Victoria Falls, Zambia.



Deedee Presser is working at Lavigno, Italy for the Winter Olympics and reads the *Observer* between races.

Suffield Players

An Eight-Week Playwriting Class

From a press release

Open to anyone ages 18 and up No Experience Necessary! Cost: \$375. Eight Tuesdays starting on March 3 from 6 p.m. — 8 :30 p.m.

Instructor: Matt Bessette

This 8-week workshop is the perfect place for you, whether you are just looking for a place to start or you are a playwriting veteran.

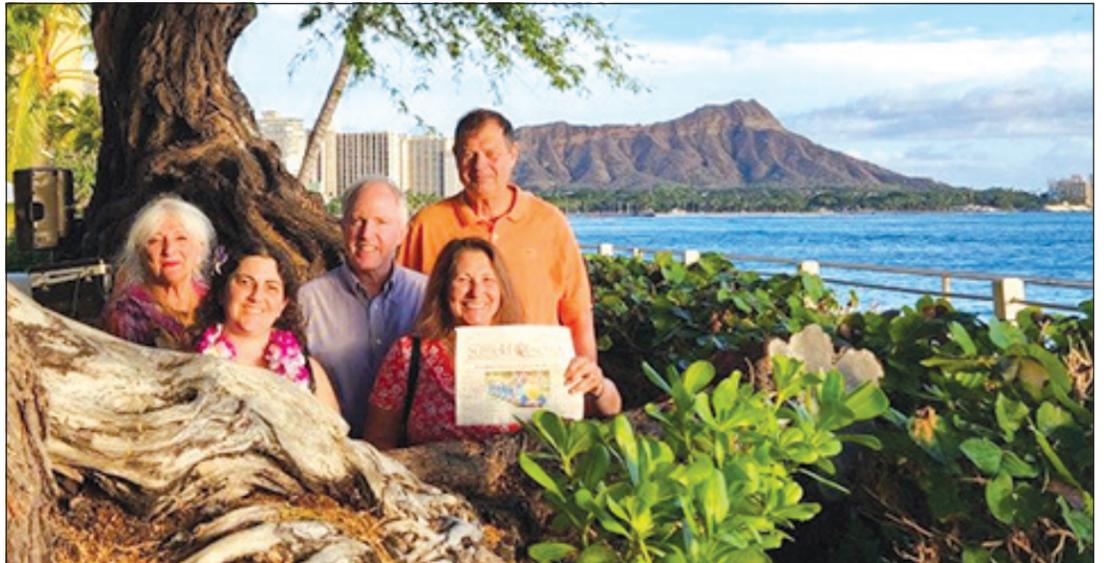
Each class of this unique intensive workshop is designed to open new horizons and insights for the experienced and neophyte alike.

Learn practical and subtle techniques used by professional playwrights, gain confidence in your writing abilities, and bring your ideas to life on the page in an engaging and supportive environment.

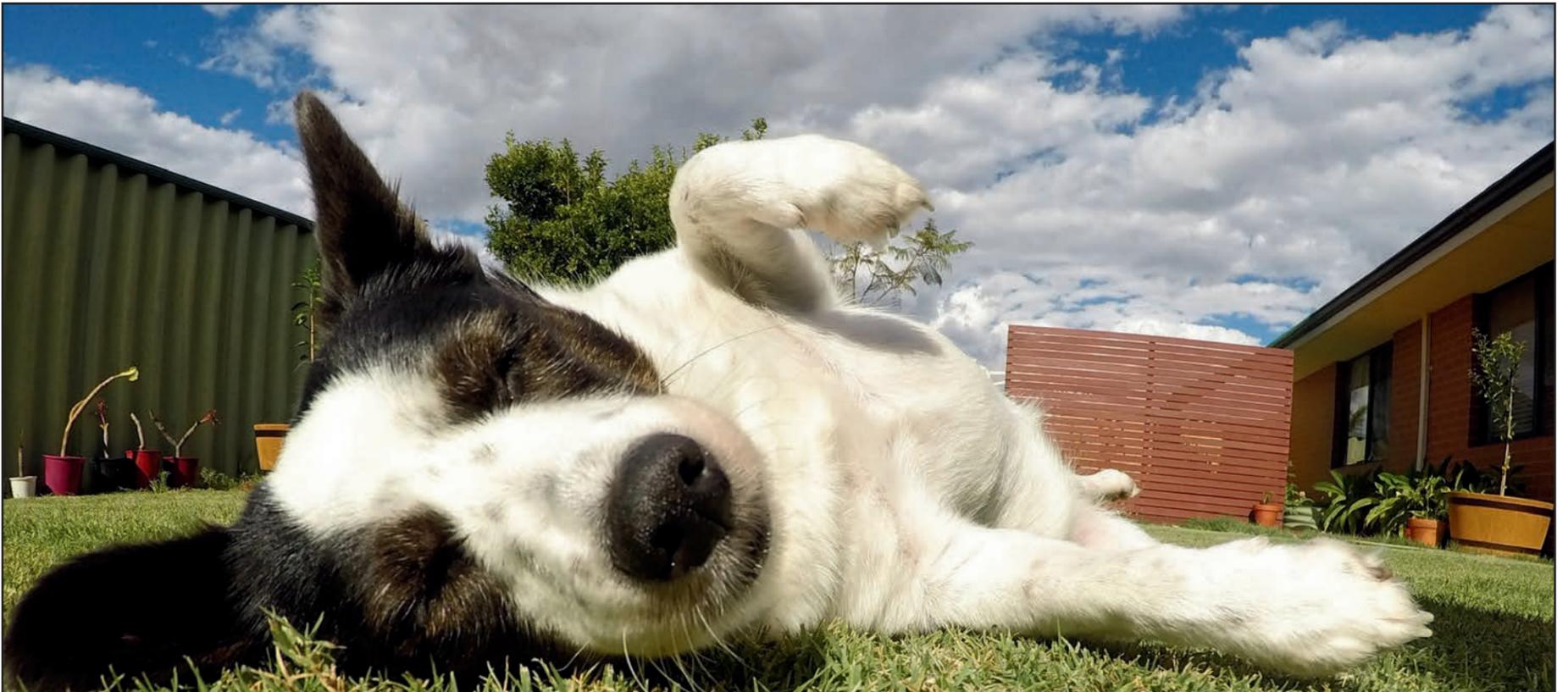
For more information on the application form, please visit our website: The Suffield Players -- Class Schedules

About the Instructor: Matt Bessette is a playwright, teacher, poet, and editor with over a decade of storytelling experience. Of the 15 scripts he has written—ranging from 10-minute shorts to a tragic verse play—five have been published, and all have been produced. He has directed dozens of theatrical productions and edited full-length novels, bringing both artistic and practical expertise to the classroom.

Questions? Email Bradbury Stearns csabrads@gmail.com or call: 617-549-7609 ☞



Carol Dembek, Diana Dunn, Steve Dunn, Ann Borracci and Zig Dembek with the *Observer* enjoying a vacation on Oahu. Diamond Head monument is in the background.



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