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# The Suffield Observer



Vol XXVIII, No. 3

A Watchful Messenger

April 2026

## Bringing Endless Joy to Kids: a 43-year-old Tribute

By Tony Peterson

The next time you visit Kent Memorial Library and hear giggling from the children's department, it could be from kids transfixed by a puppet show.

The sturdy wooden puppet theater, about the size of a standard refrigerator, has been entertaining residents of all ages for 43 years.

Lynne Markwell, a library clerk, noted in an email, "The puppet theater is used daily! The kids love it!! It's not uncommon to see parents, grandparents and caregivers pulling up chairs to watch their child perform in a show." Children's Librarian Wendy Taylor elaborated further in an email, saying, "Even the middle schoolers will put on plays. The little kids love being around the older kids and watching them."

So how did the library come to own such an enchanting stage for kids?

It all started in 1982 with a cheerful nine-year-old named Susan Marie Lathrop.

### Who was Susan Lathrop

Susan was born to Jackie and Dick Lathrop of Newgate Road in 1973. Dick, now 89, has vivid memories of Susan, recalling dates, details and conversations as if he were half his age. Jackie



Photo by Dick Lathrop

Susan and her precious smile outshines the garden of flowers.

passed away in 2020.

Dick said Susan was a happy, fun little girl, not bratty at all, who loved to laugh. Her best friend at the time, Julie Haas (now Julie Ansart), also remembered her laughing. She said, regardless of the time of the year, the two would dress up in Halloween costumes, skip to the end of the driveway and wave to cars driving by on Newgate. She recalled Susan's mom smiling and laughing behind the front window.

They would sleep over at each other's houses nearly every weekend. Since their parents didn't allow them to invite themselves over to the

other's house, they would phone each other when their parents weren't around, and one would ask the other to call back with an invitation.

The two drew Spirographs constantly. "That was like our favorite thing to do," Julie said. And, they played outside often.

Susan also enjoyed puppetry. Dick and Jackie would drag the living room couch away from the wall and get behind it with makeshift puppets, as Susan enjoyed their improvised shows in front.

### Illness strikes

When she was six, inexplicably, Susan started vomiting and having headaches.

One doctor thought she had an ulcer. When one of her eyes started turning in, the Lathrops took her to an eye doctor, who told them to take her to Hartford Hospital at once. There, they faced the grim diagnosis that Susan had a fast-growing brain tumor and only a 25% chance of survival.

She was operated on and underwent rounds of radiation. Dick remembered her being in the hospital on Christmas Day when a benevolent fellow church member brought them a small Christmas tree.

Susan lost her hair and wore a wig. She was also fitted with a shunt running

down the back of her head, which she wore for the rest of her life, Dick said.

Miraculously, she got better. Her hair grew back, and once again, for 3 ½ years, she enjoyed a joyous childhood of drawing, running outside with friends and laughing—always laughing.

Then, in the summer of '82, the tumor returned with a vengeance.

Dick remembered asking Susan's Hartford neurosurgeon if the specialists at Boston's Dana-Farber hospital might help. He said no.

Nine-year-old Susan was dying, although her parents didn't tell her.

Dick recalled Susan saying, "Daddy, I don't want to go back to intensive care." He replied, "Susan, you're never going back to intensive care. Don't worry about that. I'll take care of you." She remained at home.

Dick and Jackie did tell her 11-year-old brother, Doug, that she was dying, and naturally, he was devastated.

Dick worked at Travelers Insurance and remembered Jackie calling to tell him that Susan had passed. A co-worker drove him home.

In Susan's *Hartford Courant* obituary, a brain tumor

*Continued on Page 2*

## 7th Annual Dustin Doyon Memorial Road Race

By Karen Doyon

After seven meaningful years, this year's Run for Dustin will be our final race.

As we come to this seventh and final race, we invite you to join us one more time—to run, walk and remember together. Your presence over the years has meant more to us than words can express.

We hope you will join us for this special final Run for Dustin as we honor his memory together.

Please register or donate at: [runfordustin.com](http://runfordustin.com).

**"Don't Stop. Keep Pedaling."**

"An adventurous quote

from one of the most adventurous people I have ever met. Whether it was competing in a road race, joining the Navy, or a simple trip to the gas station back in Suffield, Connecticut, there wasn't one moment that Dustin didn't turn it into a crazy memorable experience. The mindset made him so unique and loved by every person that

crossed his path. The support that we have as a community should continue to grow and hopefully inspire others of all ages to set goals, whether they are big or small...and to never give up, to never stop, and to keep pedaling in this race of life." ~Annette Doyon

### Where:

350 Mountain Road, Suffield, Conn. [Suffield Middle School].

### When:

Saturday, May 23  
5K run/walk starts at 9:30 a.m., 10K run starts at 9:25 a.m.

### Cost:

Registration for the 5K run

and walk is \$30.

Registration for the 10K run is \$35.

T-shirts for the first 225 registrants are free. 15\$ to purchase.

### Awards:

5K 1st place age brackets for both male and female: Up to 20 / 21-35 / 36-50 / 51-over

10K 1st place age brackets for both male and female: Up to 20 / 21-35 / 36-50 / 51-over

All first-place winners receive fifty [\$50] cash prize. 1st place overall male and female winners of 5K and 10K will receive an additional award.

*Money raised will help*

*sponsor the Dustin Doyon Memorial Scholarship Fund [a registered 501C3 nonprofit organization], for high school graduates. ☸*



U.S. Navy ET2 Dustin Doyon

# The Suffield Observer

## Editorial

### Cut The Cord

If you are tired of paying high cable TV prices then you might want to consider switching to an internet streaming service.

**Step one.** Buy a flat hang on the wall TV antenna (50-mile range, \$25) for local stations. In Suffield you should receive channel 22 NBC Springfield, channel 40 ABC Springfield, channel 3 CBS Hartford, channel 61 FOX Hartford, channel 30 NBC New Britain and channel 24 PBS Hartford. Most of these stations are located north or south of Suffield, so place the antenna on a north/south wall.

**Step two.** Find an internet provider in your area. The following link provides a good overview of the internet providers available in Connecticut. <https://www.cnet.com/home/internet/best-internet-providers-in-connecticut/> In Suffield the following providers are available:

**Frontier.** Check if the fiber cable is available on your street. \$50/mo., 200Mbps.

**Cox.** Check if the cable is available on your street. \$50/mo., 100Mbps.

**Verizon 5G.** Internet speed depends on the distance to the cell phone tower. \$50/mo., 100Mbps.

**T-Mobile.** Internet speed depends on the distance to the cell phone tower \$50/mo., 100Mbps.

**Starlink.** \$90/mo., 100Mbps, \$249 equipment cost. How much bandwidth do you need?

100 Mbps. Suitable for HD (1080p) streaming two devices at a time.

200 Mbps. Supports 4K streaming two devices at a time. 4K requires 4k Smart TV and premium streaming services. Netflix premium plan is \$24/mo. If you plan on buying a 55+ size TV then 4K is recommended.

300 Mbps. Supports 8K streaming and gaming on two+ devices at a time. 8K requires 8K Smart TV or monitor. If you plan on buying an 85+ size TV then 8K is recommended. However, at this time very few streaming services support 8K. High end gaming supports 8K.

The Internet Service provider will provide a cable modem. However, they typically charge \$10/mo. for the router. You can buy a good dual band router at Walmart or BestBuy for \$50. Make sure that it's compatible with your internet service provider. The TP-Link Archer C54 router is compatible with most internet service providers.

**Step three.** Choose the internet interface to your TV. Smart TV Wi-Fi or an Ethernet CAT6 connection. A hardwired Ethernet connection is less susceptible to dropout. Wi-Fi is good enough for simple streaming. The Amazon Fire Stick or Roku is best for older TVs without Wi-Fi.

**Step four.** Choose streaming services (HD pricing is shown here). Apple (\$13/mo.), Amazon Prime(\$16/mo.), Netflix(\$8/

mo.), Paramount (free with Walmart+), HBO max(\$10/mo.) look for sale price during Black Friday, Disney ESPN (\$30), Tubi(free), Discovery(\$6/mo.), YouTube (Free), YouTube TV(\$83/mo.), Hulu (\$10).

**Be careful,** you could end up spending more than your cable TV bill depending on your Smart TV, Internet provider/bandwidth and streaming services. Good luck!

**Bill Rogers**  
Editor-of-the-Month



### Endless Joy

*Continued from page 1*

research association and the Kent Memorial Library were listed as suggested donation recipients.

The library received over \$1,300.

#### Birth of the puppet theater

Dick said the idea for a puppet theater came from then Library Director Eugene Biggio. His assistant co-directors at the time, Anne Borg and Francine Aloisa, talked warmly about Biggio's enthusiastic, forward-thinking personality. In particular, Aloisa remembered his drive to make the children's department "more appealing to kids."

Dick and Jackie fully endorsed the project, considering Susan's love of puppetry.

The library hired Suffield craftsman Walter Winkler, a retired German master cabinet maker, according to his *Hartford Courant* obituary. He had worked 22 years at the Hitchcock Chair company in Riverton, Connecticut.

Winkler built a full-size cardboard mockup of the

theater to obtain the Lathrops' approval. Dick recalled viewing it on the craftsman's front lawn and has a photo of it.

Winkler completed the actual wooden theater in the spring of 1983, and the library hosted a series of special puppetry events that summer, according to the *Suffield Southwick Advertiser/News*.

When Dick visits the library now, he likes to walk up to the children's department and view the theater with its brass plaque mount-

ed on the front, reading, "In memory of Susan Marie Lathrop, February 21, 1973 – July 23, 1982, from her family and friends."

*(Author's note: I interviewed Dick Lathrop at his home on February 21, which, coincidentally, would have been Susan's 53rd birthday. As I walked back to my car in his snowy driveway that gloomy morning, I looked up to the sky and said, "Happy Birthday, Susan. I hope you realize the joy you've brought to loads of kids. May it continue for decades to come.")* ☘



Photo by Wendy Taylor

Dick Lathrop, beside the Kent Memorial Library puppet theater, donated 43 years ago in memory of his daughter, Susan.

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# TOWN GOVERNMENT

## First Selectman's Update

### April Commission Meetings

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

**Conservation Comm.**  
Tues., Apr. 14 & 28  
7 p.m., Town Hall

**Perm. Bldg. Comm.**  
Thurs., Apr. 16  
6 p.m., Town Hall

**Economic Dev. Comm.**  
Thurs., Apr. 16  
8:30 a.m., Town Hall

**P&Z Commission**  
Mon., Apr. 20  
7 p.m., Town Hall

**Education, Board of**  
Mon., Apr. 6 & 20  
6:30 p.m., SHS

**Police Commission**  
Wed., Apr. 22  
7 p.m., Police Station

**Finance, Board of**  
Mon., Apr. 13  
(See Town calendar for B of F budget meetings)  
7 p.m., Town Hall

**Selectmen, Board of**  
Wed., Apr. 1 & 15  
7 p.m., Town Hall

**Fire Commission**  
Tues., Apr. 14  
6:30 p.m.  
Fire Station  
Ratley Road

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

**Historic District Comm.**  
Mon., Apr. 6  
7:30 p.m., Town Hall

**Tree Fund Committee**  
Tues., Apr. 14  
3 p.m.  
SVAA Building

**KML Commission**  
Tues., Apr. 14  
7 p.m., Town Hall

**WPCA**  
Tues., Apr. 14  
7 p.m.  
WPCA, 844 East St. South

**Parks & Rec. Comm.**  
Wed., Apr. 8  
7 p.m., Town Hall

**Zoning Board of Appeals**  
Tue., Apr. 28  
7 p.m., Town Hall



By Colin Moll

As the snow melts and the days grow longer, there is a renewed sense of energy in the air. With spring on the horizon, Suffield is gearing up for a season full of new events, projects, and opportunities to bring the community together. There is a lot to look forward to!

Here's what's been going on around Town:

Residents approved at a Town meeting on February 26 bond issuance for several large projects which will be starting up this year and will impact parts of Town. Those projects include:

- replacing flooring at Suffield High School
- replacing part of the roof at Suffield High School along with adding solar panels
- brick repointing at Spaulding
- replacement of bathrooms at Spaulding
- reconstruction and replacement of culverts and bridges at several locations: Suffield Street, Copper Hill Road, Hickory Street, Spruce Street, River Boule-

vard and Boston Neck Road  
• reconstruction of Phelps Road

Information regarding timelines and traffic impacts will be posted on the Town website as the projects get closer. We hope to have Phelps Road taken care of this summer and fall. Three of the culverts and bridges we hope to have under construction by spring of 2027, and three others by spring of 2028.

You may have already noticed the bandstand on the Town Green has been taken down. Thanks to Robin Zatory and the Rotary, a new bandstand will be constructed over the next few months to replace it. A lot of time and work has gone into the replacement, so thank you to Robin who has spearheaded the project along with its ups and downs. A big thank you to Elzear Roy, the Rotary, the entire Casinghino family, the Suffield Women's Club and Viggiano family for their generous contributions that have allowed for this. More info to come as the project gets completed.

Budget review meetings have wrapped up. Final Budget review meetings can be seen on April 6, 13 (if necessary), as well as a Public Hearing on the 22nd before going to Town Meeting

which is tentatively scheduled for May 6.

Our Permanent Building Commission continues their work with the Facilities Master Plan. No definitive plans for a middle school or fire house HQ project, but you can follow along at their meetings. We hope to have a calendar of meetings available very soon for the public on the town website that is dedicated to the Permanent Building Commission and the work on these projects.

The Town has added a section on the front page of the website for "Live Updates." Any event that may have an immediate impact on residents in regard to closings, infrastructure, or emergency services can be quickly found there.

Join the Trees for Suffield and me at the 250th Tree Planting April 25 4 p.m. in between the Library and Veteran's monuments. In honor of our country's 250th celebration, we will be planting a Liberty Elm tree along with a brief program to recognize the tree and its meaning.

Don't forget to check our available programs at the Library and Community Services on the Town website.

Enjoy the nice, spring weather and as always, my door at Town Hall is always open.



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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 detail, it can be found by going to [suffieldct.gov](http://suffieldct.gov), Agendas, Minutes, Recordings.

### Board of Education and Permanent Building Commission Joint Special Meeting Regarding Middle School Facility February 19, 2026

Scott Pellman from Colliers, serving as the Owner's Project Manager (OPM), presented information about the plans for the repair, renovation as new, or replacement of the middle school, including the following:

- The facility's 1960's design is fundamentally incompatible with 21st-century educational needs.
- A primary challenge for the project is the space standard calculation utilized by the state to determine reimbursement, which often creates a discrepancy when compared to the district's actual programmatic needs

as defined in the Educational Specification.

- The renovation reimbursement rate is 51.07% versus a new construction reimbursement rate of 46.25%. However, if the Town shows that new construction is less expensive than renovation, the state may grant the higher renovation reimbursement rate for the new build.

Mr. Pellman reviewed the project's timeline:

- Spring 2026: Refinement of building options (Repair, Renovate as new, Replace) and cost estimates
- November 3, 2026: Target date for Town Referendum
- June 2027: Deadline for State Grant application
- July 2028: Projected State funding authorization
- October 2028: Projected construction starts

The Board of Education and Permanent Building Commission members discussed potential building site options, state reimbursement eligibility for specific programming, and the potential for additional state funding if affordable housing becomes available in Suffield.

Jeff Wyszynski, Principal, and Antonia Ciaverella, Associate Architectural Designer at Tecton Architects, presented the draft Educational Specification for the middle school building project.

- The proposed layout emphasizes small learning communities to create a sense of place for students.

- Proposed space programming categories include: academics, specialized areas, and student support. The objective is to create a community asset that supports modern pedagogy while maximizing operational efficiency and health needs through natural light and updated environmental controls.

### Board of Finance Budget Review Meeting March 2, 2026

Overview of Selectmen's Budget — First Selectman Moll presented and requested an initial increase of \$680,094 to the overall budget. This request represents a 3.62% increase over last year's Selectman budget. The major drivers for the increase are the Police Department (\$231,271), Public Utilities (\$94,702), DPW (\$83,029), Library (\$65,143), and Community Services (\$68,853). This year's

budget requests are mostly due to wage increases. Additionally, there is a request for an additional part-time firefighter. Adding this third firefighter, only 2-3 shifts will be covered by one employee.

### Economic Development Commission February 19, 2026

Commission Projects Update:

- The electronic touch screen kiosk with Town information to be put in front of the Kent Memorial Library is ready to be installed. It was suggested that it should be installed when the weather is better in the spring with a ribbon cutting and publicity. Mr. Chad Kuzontkoski, Economic Development Specialist, has met with library staff to familiarize them with it so that they can answer questions and assist people with its usage. He noted that making changes to the graphic user interface is a simple and an ongoing process.

- The dog park at the eastern part of Stony Brook Park is still pending, waiting for a quote on a driven point for water and a determination of where would be the best place to locate the fencing.

- The annual Small Business Passport will be expanded next year in November due to the success in the past years.

- Mr. Kuzontkoski plans to get in touch with the State for signage for the bike trail in West Suffield and the canal trail on the Connecticut River.

- He has been doing a monthly business spotlight on the Town website and will now be submitting that to the Suffield Observer to have more coverage.

Activities in the Light Industrial, Commercial and Town Center Village District zones for the month:

- The Suffield Hardware addition project and the Kitchen and Floor Store project are finished and are notable examples of projects in large part financed by the EDC TIF grant.

- There was discussion about approaching other businesses in the district to consider projects with high visibility.

- Mr. Kuzontkoski noted that the "Taste of Suffield" restaurant promotion is going on through April 1st where people can send their receipts in from two restaurants to be entered into a drawing to win a gift card to a local restaurant of their choice. ☘



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# Captain's Corner

## Spring Fire Safety Concerns

By Suffield Fire Captain Ron Carlson

Following the New England Winter we just experienced, the month of April should provide us time to get ready for Spring and the upcoming comfortable weather. Listed below are some of the topics that could now be addressed to help assure your family, home and property will be fire safe:

- With warmer weather, it would be a good time to review and practice your family home fire escape plan.

- o Assure that all your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order.

## SUFFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT INCIDENT REPORT

FEBRUARY INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE

- o Review the two ways out of each room in your home.

- o Be sure that everyone knows where your outside meeting place is located.

- o Review the procedure; you have to call 911 from outside the building.

- Clear debris from around your home, inside and outside.

- o Assure that interior and exterior exit pathways are not blocked by any accumulated winter rubbish or materials.

- o Clean up materials such as brush, tree limbs, and leaves from around your home and yard.

- o Arrange to have leaves

and other debris removed from your gutters and other roof areas where debris collects. (roof valleys, etc.)

- Now is a good time to clean out any accumulated lint deposits from your clothes dryer vent system.

- Inspect and clean outside cooking grills. Make sure that gas fittings, hoses and tanks do not leak.

- While cleaning areas of your home, garage, and out buildings, assure that any household chemicals and containers are stored and/or disposed of properly.

**The Members of the Suffield Fire Department wish you and your family a continued safe 2026!**

## SUFFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

REASONS	# OF CALLS
911 Hang-Up	7
Abandoned Vehicle	1
Animal Complaint	44
Animal Impound	0
Arson	0
Assault/Fight	0
Assist Citizen	38
Assist Motorist	26
Background Investigation	0
Body Found	0
Breach of Peace	0
Burglar Alarm	24
Burglary	0
Car Seat	0
Cell Block Check	1
Civil Matter	0
Community Policing - School	38
Community Policing Contact	40
CVS Drop Box	1
Directed Patrol	304
Disorderly	0
Domestic Disturbance	5
Drone Use	0
DUI/Erratic Operation	4
Escort Transport	1
Fingerprints	31
Fire Dept. Box/Hazmat/Still/Confirmed/Structure	28
Firearms Surrender	1
Follow Up	0
Fraud	1
General Information	35
Harassment	1
Hazardous Condition	21
Identity Theft	1
Indecent Exposure/Sex Offense	0
Intoxicated Person	1
Juvenile Matters	9
Larceny	0
Lost/Found Property	4
M/V Accident No Injury/Injury/ Evading	29
Medical	89
Mentally Disturbed Person	2
Missing Person/Runaway	2
Motor Vehicle Pursuit	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	1
Motor Vehicle Violation	37
Narcotics Violation	0
Noise Complaint	2
Notification	0
Occupational Accident	0
Outside Assist	17
Parking Violation	0
Property Check	749
Pursuit Review	0
Robbery	0
Sexual Assault	0
Subpoena Service	0
Sudden Death	3
Suicide Attempt	0
Suspicious Activity	17
Suspicious Person	2
Suspicious Vehicle	9
Threatening	1
Town Ordinance	0
Traffic Control/School Traffic	60
Training	12
Trespassing	4
Use of Force - Admin	0
Vandalism	0
Warrant Service	0
Welfare Check	13
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1,716</b>

## Suffield Emergency Services Launch Active Bystander Training Initiative

By Chief John Spencer, Suffield Volunteer Ambulance Association

Emergency responders from across the Town of Suffield recently came together for a milestone training initiative designed to strengthen accountability, teamwork, and professional intervention among public safety personnel. The Suffield Volunteer Ambulance Association hosted a three-day HEROES Active Bystander training program, bringing together members of the ambulance association, Suffield Fire Department, Suffield Police Department and representatives from the Town of Suffield Human Resources Department.

The program served as a train-the-trainer kickoff, establishing a local group of instructors who will deliver active bystander training with-

in their respective agencies for years to come.

HEROES (Active Bystander Training for Fire & Rescue) is a nationally recognized program designed specifically for fire and EMS professionals. The training equips responders with practical strategies to recognize potentially harmful situations and intervene appropriately to support safety, professionalism, and organizational integrity. The program was led by Dr. Abigail Tucker, co-founder of HEROES Active Bystander Training, who taught participants intervention techniques used in high-risk professional environments.

“What we observe is that there are a lot of reasons that people are uncomfortable intervening with peers,” Tucker said.

The three-day program

began with a leadership-focused training day. Fire and EMS leaders participated in HEROES leadership sessions tailored to fire and rescue agencies, while leaders from the Suffield Police Department attended training aligned with ABLE (Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement), the law enforcement-specific version of the active bystander program.

The following two days focused on the Fire & Rescue HEROES curriculum for designated trainers from the ambulance association and fire department. Participants received detailed instruction on both the program’s concepts and facilitation methods. The training concluded on Sunday with a teach-back session, where newly trained instructors demonstrated their ability to present the curriculum

*Continued on Page 6*



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# Community Calendar

## April 2026

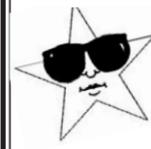
- Apr 1 to 30 **KML exhibits the photography Suffield Resident Emile Backes** in the Pinney Gallery. Regular KML hours, Pinney Gallery, w/Suffield Arts Council. (pg 23)
- Wed, Apr 1 **Spring & Easter Egg-stravaganza** - 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Indoor egg hunt. Crafts, snacks and a visit with the Easter Bunny. \$5 per participant. (pg 27)
- Wed, Apr 1 **Family Game Night!** - 5 p.m. at KML, Featuring giant versions of common games. There will be games for all ages. (pg 20)
- Fri, Apr 3 **First Selectman Coffee Hour** - 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., at Cafe Barista, 66 N. Main. 10% discount on your drink order.
- Sat, Apr 4 **Veterans Breakfast** - 9 to 11 a.m. All Veterans and family members are welcome. At the VFW Hall, 972 Sheldon St., West Suffield.
- 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 collaboration with Parks & Rec. (pg 12)
- Mon, Apr 6 **Quenching Heat, Humidity and Drought – Gardens that Dazzle** with Warren Leach - Noon, at Second Baptist Church. Suffield Garden Club hosts. (pg 31)
- Tue, Apr 7 **Page to Stage reading of the play A.I.: Artificially Insidious** - 6:30 p.m., by The Suffield Players at the Kent Memorial Library. (pg 21)
- Thur, Apr 9 **Meet the Artist reception with Emile Backes** - 6 to 8 p.m. in the Pinney gallery at KML w/Suffield Arts Council. (pg 23)
- Apr 10 to May 17 **Bonds features dog portraits by Christine MacClintic** - Weekends, noon to 6 Fri & Sat, noon to 5 Sun. Lost Acres Vineyard, 80 Lost Acres Rd in North Granby, CT
- Sat, Apr 11 **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, Apr 11 **Spring Rummage Sale** - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at West Suffield Congregational Church. Pre-shop Friday for \$10 between 5 and 8 p.m. (pg 12)
- Sat, Apr 11 **Genealogy Workshop** - 10 a.m. at the library. In the Pinney gallery with the Sibbil Dwight Kent Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. (pg 23)
- Sat, Apr 11 **Ornamentation 18th Century Furniture** with Robert VanDyke - 1 p.m. at the Phelps-Hatheway House & gardens. Register at ctlandmarks.org.
- Tue, Apr 14 **Suffield history and the Declaration of Independence**. Bill Sullivan's American Studies Class to present. - 7 p.m. at the Second Baptist Church or via Zoom. (pg 12)
- Fri, Apr 17 **First Selectman Coffee Hour** - 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., at Cafe Barista, 66 N. Main. 10% discount on your drink order.
- Sat, Apr 18 **Mobile Mammography** at McAlister Intermediate School. Please call SCA to register for your appointment today: (860) 668-1986. (pg 16)
- Sun, Apr 19 **Bucket Golf on the town green** - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For ages 8 and up. Register by April 18th at SuffieldRec.com. \$5 per person. (pg 27)
- Tue, Apr 21 **Bloodmobile** - noon to 5 p.m., at Second Baptist in the Fellowship Hall. For an appointment visit Redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-REDCROSS. (pg 11)
- Wed, Apr 22 **Public Hearing (tentative date) on the towns 2026/2027 budget** - 7 p.m. at Suffield Middle School. (pg 21)
- Sat, Apr 25 **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)
- Sat, Apr 25 **Guided wildflower walk around White's Pond** - 2 p.m. sharp from the parking lot at Sunrise Park. With the Suffield Land Conservancy. (pg 15)
- Sat, Apr 25 **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. (pg 13)
- Fri, May 1 **First Selectman Coffee Hour** - 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., at Cafe Barista, 66 N. Main. 10% discount on your drink order.
- Fri, May 1 to Sat, May 16 **20th Century Blues** Suffield Players performance - 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 **Bird Walk** - 8 a.m. South Grand property, The access road is just before the house at 1466 South Grand as you head south. With the Suffield Land Conservancy. (pg 15)
- Sat, May 2 **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, May 2 **Craft Fair at Hilltop Farm** - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 1606 Mapleton Ave., Rt 159. Email info@hilltopfarmsuffield.org to sign up. Rain date Sunday, May 9. (pg 22)
- Sat, Sun, May 2 & 3 **Town-Wide Tag Sale** - Set up in your own yard! Coordinated by Sustainable Suffield. Registration opens in April. Rain dates May 9 & 10. (pg 8)
- Fri, May 8 **Bingo Night** - doors open at 5 p.m. with bingo at 6 p.m. Faher Ted Hall at Sacred Heart church. Pizza available. BYOB. Proceeds to the scholarship fund. (pg 11)
- Sat, May 9 **May Market** - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in front of the Phelps-Hatheway House barn. Rain or Shine! Hosted by the Suffield Garden Club. (pg 15)
- Fri, May 15 **Rotary Epic Day of Service** - 9 a.m. until done at Hilltop Farm. Painting the fence around the National Historic Register property. Scan QR code to register. (pg 25)
- Sat, May 16 **Annual Suffield Art Trail** - 1 to 5 p.m. 880 Burbank Studios at 880 Burbank St. Art on the walls. Music in the air. Food truck on site.
- Sat, May 23 **Dustin Doyon Road Race** - 9:30 a.m. at Suffield Middle School. Register at runnersignup.com. (pg 1)
- Sat, Jun 6 **130th Birthday Party** for the Sibbil Dwight Kent Chapter of the DAR! 9:30 a.m. on middle green near the DAR rock, followed by tours of the Old Cemetery.
- Sat, Jun 6 **CT Trails Day "Suffield's Black History" Walking Tour** with Wendy Taylor - 10 a.m., meet at the Phelps-Hatheway House & gardens.
- Sat, Jun 6 **Picnic in the Park** - 1 to 3 p.m., Sunrise Park Pavilion. Fun nature and tree activities. Bring your lunch, beverages and ice cream to be provided. \$5 pp or \$10 per family.



## 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](http://www.suffieldct.gov/things-to-do/america250)



## Star Award goes to

### Tamara Felix

Windsor Federal Bank, headquartered in Windsor, Connecticut, is pleased to announce that Tamara Felix has joined the organization as Vice President, Director of Marketing & Communications.

Tamara obtained her Bachelor's degree in business management with a minor in marketing from Western New England College and is a graduate of the IMD Business School. She and her family reside in Longmeadow, Mass. and are active in community youth activities.

## Bystander Training

*Continued from page 5*

and guide discussions within their organizations.

As a result of the program, the Town of Suffield now has six certified HEROES instructors representing EMS, Fire, and Police who will deliver the Fire & Rescue curriculum locally. In addition, three instructors from the Suffield Police Department are now certified to deliver the ABLE curriculum within their agency. This instructor model ensures the training can be sustained locally for years to come while reinforcing a culture of professionalism, accountability, and peer support across all emergency services.

The training also marks an important milestone for public safety in Connecticut. With the completion of this program, the Suffield Police Department will become the third law enforcement agency in Connecticut to implement the ABLE program. At the same time, the Suffield

Volunteer Ambulance Association and the Suffield Fire Department are among the first agencies of their type in Connecticut—and among the early adopters nationally—to implement the HEROES Active Bystander program.

“The goal is to help different departments work together to prevent harmful action or dangerous inaction when responding to emergency calls,” Tucker said. “When our first responders are getting the training, they need and they have each other's backs in a constructive way, that equals greater public safety.”

The training strengthens communication between agencies that frequently respond together and gives responders the tools to raise concerns when something does not look right. Encouraging that kind of peer communication helps ensure the highest level of safety for both responders and the community they serve. ☘

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# Food For Thought

Compiled by Beth Chafetz  
**Passover begins**  
**April 1 - 9**

"Freedom is won not on the battlefield but in the classroom and the home. Teach your children the history of freedom if you want them never to lose it"

- Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

"Passover affirms the great truth that liberty is the inalienable right of every human being."

- Morris Joseph

**No Housework Day**  
**April 7**

"I have trouble with four letter words: cook, dust, wash, iron."

- berkleygreen.com

"Nothing inspires cleanliness more than an unexpected guest."

- Radhika Mundra

**Encourage a Young Writer Day - April 10**

"You may not write well every day, but you can always edit a bad page. You can't edit a blank page."

- Jodi Picoult

"The scariest moment is always just before you start."

- Stephen King

"You don't start out writing good stuff. You start out writing crap and thinking it's good stuff, and then gradually you get better at it. That's why I say one of the most valuable traits is persistence."

- Octavia E. Butler

**National Library Week**  
**Second week of April**

"Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world..."

- Sidney Sheldon

"Libraries: The medicine



chest of the soul." - Inscription over the door of the Library at Thebes

"I couldn't go to college, so I went to the library three days a week for 10 years."

- Ray Bradbury

**President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act**  
**April 11, 1964**

"The purpose of the law is simple. It does not restrict the freedom of any American, so long as he respects the rights of others. It does not give special treatment to any citizen. It does say the only limit to a man's hope for happiness, and for the future of his children, shall be his own ability."

- President Lyndon B. Johnson

"Where you see wrong or inequality or injustice, speak out, because this is your country. This is your democracy. Make it. Protect it. Pass it on."

- Thurgood Marshall

**Author Beverly Cleary born - April 12, 1916**

"I don't necessarily start

with the beginning of the book. I just start with the part of the story that's most vivid in my imagination and work forward and backward from there"

- Beverly Cleary

"I am not a pest."

- Ramona Quimby to her sister Beezus

**Webster's Dictionary published - April 14, 1828**

5,000 new words were added to Webster's Dictionary in 2025 including the following: freestyle, cold brew, farm-to-table, rizz, adulting, cancel culture, doomscroll, hard pass, dad bod, petrichor, teraflop, ghost kitchen WFH (work from home), and side-eye.

**Income Tax Day - April 15**

"Next to being shot at and missed, nothing is quite

as satisfying as an income tax refund." - F. J. Raymond

"Income tax has made more liars out of the American people than golf."

- Will Rogers

**Earth Day Established - April 22, 1970**

"The world is mud-luscious and puddle-wonderful".

- E. E. Cummings

"Even if you never have the chance to see or touch the ocean, the ocean touches you with every breath you take, every drop of water you drink, every bite you consume. Everyone, everywhere is inextricably connected to and utterly dependent upon the existence of the sea."

- Dr. Sylvia Earle

**Arbor Day - April 24**

"To be without trees would, in the most literal way,

to be without our roots."

- Richard Mabey

"Arbor Day is not like other holidays. Each of those reposes on the past, while Arbor Day proposes for the future."

- Julius Sterling Morton

**Hug a Friend Day**  
**April 26**

"We need four hugs a day for survival. We need eight hugs a day for maintenance. We need 12 hugs a day for growth."

- Virginia Satir

"The best gift you can give is a hug; one size fits all and no one minds if you return it."

- Marge Piercy

**National Honesty Day**  
**April 30**

"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."

- Mark Twain

"Three things cannot be long hidden: the sun, the moon, and the truth."

- Buddha

"A half-truth is a whole lie."

- Yiddish Proverb

**National Humor Month**

"A lot of people are afraid of heights. Not me, I'm afraid of widths."

- Steven Wright

"When I die, I want to die like my grandfather who died peacefully in his sleep. Not screaming like all the passengers in his car."

- Will Rogers

"It just occurred to me that the majority of my diet is made up of the foods that my kid didn't finish."

- Carrie Underwood

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**Sustainable Suffield**

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

8 - 9 am pick-up supplies in front of Town Hall  
9 am - 12 pm clean-up the area you've chosen  
12 - 1 pm Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the Senior Center.  
Scan QR code to RSVP!



**2026 Townwide TAG SALE**



May 2 & 3 (rain date May 9th)  
**Registration is now open!** Scan the QR code below to register your household and to learn how to buy a reusable, corrugated, plastic Sustainable Suffield lawn sign for \$5!



# TAG SALE





Graphic by Tony Peterson

Reusable plastic lawn signs are now available. Scan the QR code to register for this year's Townwide Tag Sale, and to learn how to buy signs.

## Sustainable Suffield's Annual Townwide Tag Sale

By Tony Peterson, Co-chair of Sustainable Suffield

Time to clean out your closets, basement and garage of items you no longer want.

Sustainable Suffield's annual Townwide Tag Sale is the weekend of May 2 and 3, from 8 to 4 p.m.

Scan the QR code with your phone or tablet to register. Choose one or both days to run your tag sale. Then, list your items with specific descriptions. For example, instead of saying you have "sporting equipment" for sale, specify "soccer cleats and shin guards for kids 9 to 12 years old."

We'll combine your

list(s) with those from all the other participants to create a master list for each day. We'll post it to the Sustainable Suffield town web page and our Facebook page.

We'll also produce Suffield Google Maps for each day with tear drops designating all the locations and listings, including yours. Your private info, such as name and email address, won't be shown.

This year, we're introducing 24"- wide by 18"- tall, two-sided, reusable, corrugated plastic tag-sale lawn signs with heavy-duty wire stakes. Your cost is \$5, cash only. When you scan the QR code to

list your items, you'll see where and when to buy the signs.

The rain date for the tag sale is May 9. If that's a miserable day, the Townwide Tag Sale for 2026 will be cancelled. ☹



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### 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](http://www.thesuffieldobserver.com). Scholarship applications must be completed and submitted to the Observer at [inbox@thesuffieldobserver.com](mailto:inbox@thesuffieldobserver.com) or the Observer office at P.O. Box 424, Suffield, Conn. 06078 by May 15, 2026.

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# Suffield Community Fund Seeking Grant Applications

*From a press release*

The Suffield Community Fund at the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation is pleased to announce that its annual grant application period will open in late spring. Local nonprofits, community groups, and organizations serving Suffield residents are encouraged to apply. Full details, supporting documents and an on-line application are available at <https://greaterhartfordgives.org/suffieldcf>

The mission of the Suffield Community Fund is simple and powerful: to support projects that enhance the quality of life for everyone in Suffield. In the most recent grant cycle, the Fund awarded over \$35,000 to nine local organizations, with individual grants ranging from \$1,500 to \$7,500. These awards helped support programs that enrich

community life, expand access to services and strengthen the fabric of Suffield.

The members of the Suffield Community Fund Committee know there is no shortage of creative ideas and meaningful needs in town—and they want to hear from you. Whether your organization is launching a new initiative or expanding an existing program, you are encouraged to apply for support during this year's cycle.

To explore eligibility guidelines, review examples of past funded projects, or learn more about the application process, visit the **Suffield Community Fund page at the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation** at <https://greaterhartfordgives.org/suffieldcf>

In 2019, the Hartford Foundation established the Greater Together Commu-

nity Funds in each of the 29 towns it serves, including Suffield with an initial investment of \$100,000. In 2021, the Foundation awarded an additional \$50,000 to each of the community funds. In January, as part of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's Centennial year in 2025 and the Fifth anniversary of the Greater Together Community Fund program, the Foundation unveiled a new \$100,000 investment in each of its 29 town-specific Community Funds. This includes \$50,000 immediately available for grantmaking and \$50,000 allocated to endowment.



**GREATER HARTFORD GIVES FOUNDATION**

**Suffield Community Fund**

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 the Fund, the volunteer committee, the Foundation, and the grant application process, please visit <https://greaterhartfordgives.org/about-the-community-funds>. General inquiries may also be sent to [suffield@greaterhartfordgivescf.org](mailto:suffield@greaterhartfordgivescf.org)

Greater Hartford Gives Foundation is a community foundation, a hub for community-driven change. We fuel impact throughout Greater

Hartford and beyond by making connections, providing funding, and sharing knowledge. Our goal is to create an inclusive region where everyone prospers. Together, with a powerful network of changemakers, we identify our neighbors' most pressing needs and invest resources in initiatives that dismantle racial and economic barriers and improve quality of life. In our 100-year history, we have invested more than \$1 billion throughout the region. Join us in building a Greater Hartford full of opportunity. Learn more at [greaterhartfordgives.org](https://greaterhartfordgives.org). ☚

## West Suffield, Here We Come!

*By Sara Zak*

The Suffield Historical Society is excited to announce a new chapter; starting in April, we will lease the historic Academy Hall in West Suffield from the West Suffield Village Improvement Association (WSVIA), potentially bringing this cherished landmark into our care for future generations.

Originally built in 1855 as the Center District, West Society school, Academy Hall served as a school until 1913, when the newly constructed West Suffield Elementary School opened at the site of the current fire station. At that time, the WSVIA purchased the building from the town. Over the years, Academy Hall has housed the fire department, hosted the Wide Awake Club, and served as a ven-

ue for countless community events. From 1950 to roughly 2010, the West Suffield Grange leased the building. Since 2000, the WSVIA has overseen renovations and ongoing maintenance of Academy Hall.

Academy Hall features several rooms ideally suited for exhibitions. The Society looks forward to sharing historic artifacts that are currently tucked away in the attic and closets of the Alexander King House. This summer, we plan to unveil a special display highlighting Suffield's rich history. In addition, local public schools will showcase America250 projects created by students from all grade levels.

We hope that expanding our presence into West Suffield will inspire increased membership from that side of

town. Currently, relatively few Society members reside west of Grand Street, and we want to ensure that the history from there and beyond the mountain is well represented in our stories. Whereas Main Street draws so much attention to the historic homes and the people who once lived in them, West Suffield deserves the spotlight for its natural beauty and history. Between the first cigar factory on Ratley Road and the Farmington Canal and the Congamond Lakes, West Suffield graces us with Sunrise Park and the Metacomet Trail.

While our focus is on Academy Hall this spring and summer, the Alexander King House & Museum will be open by appointment only. We will announce the date of Academy Hall's



Submitted by Sara Zak

**Academy Hall, West Suffield**

opening celebration and its public visiting hours as soon as they are finalized. If you would like to help us set up our displays or share

a favorite memory of West Suffield, contact us at [suffieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:suffieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com). We would love to hear from you. ☚



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## Sacred Heart News

By Father Joe Keough,  
Pastor

The month of April begins with beauty of Holy Week. On the Catholic calendar it is the most important week of the year. Beginning with Palm (Passion) Sunday liturgy we enter into the solemn procession of prayer as we walk with the Lord through the Passion, Death and Resurrection in a unique series of liturgies. The three days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter, known as the Sacred Triduum, will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Parish with the Mass of the Lord's Supper beginning at 7 p.m. The church will remain open for quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament at the

end of the liturgy until 10 p.m. On Good Friday, the only day when there is no Catholic Mass in the world, we gather for the Service of the Lord's Passion. This ancient ritual includes the proclamation of the Lord's Passion from the gospel of St. John and includes veneration of the cross and Holy Communion. At 6:30 p.m. we will pray the Stations of the Cross. If the weather permits, we will be outdoors in the Meditation Garden between the church and Fr. Ted Hall.

On Holy Saturday, we begin with the tradition of the Blessing of Easter Foods at 10 a.m. This is a tradition practiced for centuries in Eastern Europe, partic-

ularly in Poland. Families gather for prayer and bring baskets of the food they will share in the Easter Dinner. Foods from the fasting of Lent are often accompanied by candles for the table, lambs carved from butter, and a variety of other ethnic foods. No matter your background, you are welcome to join us for this multi-generational service. This will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for our youngsters, hosted by members of our Knights of Columbus Council at 11 a.m. on the lawns near Fr. Ted Hall.

The Great Vigil of Easter will begin at 8 p.m. Please note there is no 4 p.m. Mass on Holy Saturday, or Confessions. This year at

the Great Vigil we have a number of people joining the Catholic Faith through Baptism as well as Confirmation and First Holy Communion. This beautiful liturgy begins in darkness as the new Easter Candle is blessed outside the church and then the light is brought in and shared by all the faithful. Thus begins our 50-day celebration of the Easter Season. Easter Sunday Morning will begin with our "First Sunday Rosary" at 8 a.m. and Masses at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Our weekly Holy Hour will go back to Monday Evenings from 6-7 p.m. until Daylight Savings Time ends.

An important reminder for families with loved

ones in St Joseph Cemetery on Hill Street. The Knights of Columbus annual Clean Up will take place on Saturday, April 11. All Christmas/winter items will be removed at that time.

We will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, April 12th with a Holy Hour beginning at 3 p.m. in the church.

Sacred Heart Parish is located at 446 Mountain Road.

For a complete list of Masses and activities at Sacred Heart please follow us on Facebook and visit our website at <http://www.sacredheartct.com>

On behalf of our staff and entire parish family, we pray you have a Blessed Holy Week and Easter season! ☩

## April 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.

April 2 at 7 p.m., First Church invites you to a service that commemorates the final hours of Jesus' life on this earth. Maundy Thursday is the day Jesus celebrated Passover with his disciples for the last time and gave them a new commandment: to love one another as he loved them. "Mandatum" is Latin for "commandment" which has been shortened to "Maundy" much to the confusion of Christians ever since. This service of tenbrae, or a service of darkness, commemorates the suffering and death of Jesus. This service is the most-loved service of the year.

Good Friday, the sixth day of Holy Week, commemorates the trial, crucifixion, and burial of Jesus Christ. On this day, we enter into a period of mourning as we try to imagine the amount of callous abuse and suffering that Jesus endured in order to give each of us the gift of salvation. Pastor Chris Hart will lead a Good Friday Service on April 3 at 12 p.m. in the Chapel.

"Christ is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!" April 5, Easter Sunday, is a joyous holiday because it represents defeat of death and the hope of salvation. First Church offers two opportunities to worship on Easter Sunday. At 6 a.m., a community led worship will be held at Sunrise Park. All are welcome to check the weather, wear comfortable shoes and dress accordingly!

At 10 a.m. on Easter Sun-

day, the bells at First Church will ring in jubilant celebration! Join us in the Sanctuary for a rousing, faithful, and music-filled worship service. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, YOU are welcome here! Join us in worship in-person or through YouTube live-stream.

The Lenten offering collection supports Heifer International once again! Since 1944, Heifer has helped families in over 125 countries, promoting self-sufficiency through livestock. Families are encouraged to share their animals, empowering communities and supporting education.

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.

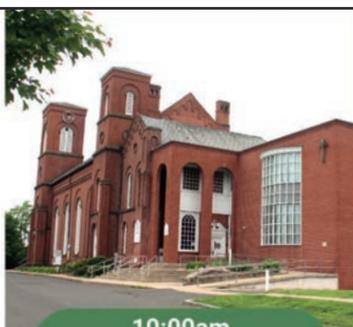
First Church hosts Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous in our building weekly. Stay connected to meetings, upcoming news, events and more through the church website [www.firstchurchsuffield.org](http://www.firstchurchsuffield.org).

General inquiries can be directed to [office@fcsuffield.org](mailto:office@fcsuffield.org). For Pastoral needs, contact Pastor Chris Hart [PC@pastorchris.faith](mailto:PC@pastorchris.faith). God bless! ☩



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Congregation of the  
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### First Church of Christ Congregational



**10:00am  
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**Holy Saturday**  
**Blessing of Easter Foods - 10:00 AM**  
**Great Vigil of Easter - 8:00 PM**  
**(NO 4:00 PM Mass or Confession)**

**Easter Sunday (April 5<sup>th</sup>)**  
**First Sunday Rosary - 8:00 AM**  
**Easter Mass - 8:30 AM**  
**Easter Mass - 10:30 AM**

**Beginning April 6<sup>th</sup> Monday**  
**Holy Hour will be 6-7 PM**

Divine Mercy Sunday (April 12)  
Divine Mercy Holy Hour 3:00 PM

**For more information visit our website [www.sacredheartct.com](http://www.sacredheartct.com)**

# Second Baptist News

*From a press release*

Greetings to all from the Second Baptist Church of Suffield. 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 and trees are budding and we welcome the longer hours of daylight.

As we deal with the issues that confront us on a daily basis, ongoing war in Ukraine, new war in the middle East, rising prices here at home and the seeming hardening of 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 enter the new month of April, we have entered Holy Week, a very special time within the Christian faith, beginning with Palm Sunday, March 29 this year. Holy Week in the Christian year moves us from the celebration of Palm Sunday to the despair of Good Friday, and back to triumphant

celebration of resurrection on Easter Sunday, April 5. Anyone is welcome to join us either in-person or on-line through the link on our website, and we wish you all a very blessed season. And to our Jewish brothers and sisters, a blessed Passover which begins at sundown on April 1.

Our schedule for Holy Week is:

- Sunday March 29, Palm Sunday, morning worship with Cantata at 10 a.m.
- Thursday April 2, Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m. with Communion.
- Easter Sunday, the 5th Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service at Sunrise Park at 6 a.m., 10 a.m. Easter Resurrection Service in our sanctuary.

May the hope of the empty tomb carry you through the difficult times. Peace and Blessings – Pastor Jim, Interim Minister.

Regular scheduled educational/outreach opportunities include:

- Sunday Mornings – Reflection, Study, and Prayer – 9 a.m. – Parlor. Lay led study and discussion to start our week.
- Tuesday, April 7, 21,

28 – Weekday Bible Study – 11:30-12:30-Library. Pastor-led study on how the Biblical scripture pertains in today's world.

• Friday, April 10, 24 – Prayer Shawl Ministry – 10 a.m. 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.

• Saturday, April 11 - 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, Mass.

• Monday, April 13 – 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, April 21 - 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).

An activity geared for our young friends will happen on Saturday April 18 at 9 a.m. where everyone is welcome to join us for “God’s Garden”, a hands-on flower planting activity. Wear old clothes because we are going to get dirty as we plant seeds and flowers. Also, we are excited to announce that Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be June 22-26, 9 a.m.-noon. Our theme is Road Trip-On the Go with God! Join us for an exciting adventure on the open road, where kids embark on thrilling journeys to fantastic destinations. Led by the Navigator and their adventurous pup, Scout, children will discover that God is always with them. They’ll explore timeless stories from the Old and New Testaments, learning how to face challenges and find strength in God’s presence. Each day we will have crafts, singing, games, theater and more. VBS is for ages 4-12 with community service hours for helpers 12-18. This is a community wide opportunity, and everyone is welcome.

For more info call the church at 860-668-1661 or Sue at 860-402-7813. ☩

## In Memoriam

**Francoise Pelletier**  
February 6, Age 87

**Doreen Lachapelle**  
February 8, Age 78

**Dawn E. Clark Stulpin**  
February 9, Age 75

**Robert Lee Kent Jr.**  
February 13, Age 91

**Mary M. Begin**  
February 14, Age 77

**Jeanette McDonagh**  
February 14, Age 89

**Eileen Furey Allgeier**  
February 19, Age 66

**Walter Kope MD**  
February 23, Age 89

**Carol Ann Halladay**  
February 17, Age 66

**Florence Katherine Noble**  
March 3, Age 94

**Doris Radford Harris**  
March 4, Age 92

**Paul Meacham**  
March 7, Age 74

**Cynthia Ann Vernile**  
March 6, Age 72

**Shirley Gregel Stokes**  
March 11, Age 88

**Patrick W. Reilly**  
March 19, Age 78



# West Suffield Congregational Church News

*By Denise Peterson*

Every year, I am astonished by Easter. The barrenness of the Lenten Season gives way to the drama and great sorrow of the last days of Jesus’ life; then, we are given an overwhelming joy: the sure knowledge that no earthly power can conquer the power of love. This year our 10 a.m. service at West Suffield Congregational will feel extra fes-

tive as we fill a cross-shaped armature with spring flowers to mark the day. We will also have an Easter egg hunt for the kiddos.

On Saturday, April 11 we are having our super duper, extra-large RUMMAGE SALE!!! We have been gathering items for months for your enjoyment and perusal. It’s a grand, busy day. For a \$10 pre-paid entry fee you can

pre-shop on Friday evening, April 10 from 5 – 8 p.m.

Our children’s choir has been learning a new Noah song that they will debut on the 12th. Prepare for hilarity, it’s a hoot.

A woman in our congregation recently commented on how important their Sunday mornings have become, because church feels like an oa-

sis for troubled times.

To gather in community, to pray together, to lift our voices in song, and hear the hopeful message of Jesus Christ for one hour a week gives us time to breathe and to ground ourselves for the coming week.

So, join us, give yourself an hour, you won’t regret it.

May there be blessings on your days, Denise. ☩

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Pastor Adam Moore




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**Bingo Night**  
By Frances Marie Flynn  
On May 8, Sacred Heart Parish is holding bingo night at 446 Mountain Road, Suffield. All proceeds go to the scholarship fund. Doors open at 5 p.m. with bingo beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door-four cards for \$20. All cash prizes with a 50/50 raffle. BYOB and snacks. Pizza sold by the slice. For further info, contact Frances at 860-324-8395.

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## George Washington and John Adams Visited Suffield

By Bill Sullivan, Suffield Academy history teacher and trustee at Suffield Historical Society

The Suffield Historical Society will meet on Tuesday, April 14 at 7 p.m. in the Second Baptist Church's Common Room. The Suffield Historical Society's meetings are always open to the public, and newcomers are most welcome.

Did you know that John Adams stopped in Suffield in 1774 at the Austin Tavern along with the Massachusetts Delegation on the way back from the First Continental Congress? Did you know that George Washington visited Suffield in 1775 on his way to take command

of the Continental Army in Cambridge? Come out to the Suffield Historical Society's April meeting or log onto the Zoom link to learn more about Suffield's history during the months leading up to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. American Studies students from Suffield Academy will present the context around these visits as well as each President's impression of Suffield in 1774 and 1775. The students will also present their collaborations with community partners regarding Suffield and Connecticut's process to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Inde-

pendence and the founding of the country.

Attend in person or access the following link that will connect you to the Zoom platform on Tuesday, April 14 at 7 p.m.

Topic: **Suffield250**

Time: Apr 14, 2026, 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting link: <https://tinyurl.com/ycx3p-kvd>

Meeting ID: 819 1627 1659

Passcode: 698911



### Historical Society Mini-Bus Tour: Revolutionary War Era Suffield

By Jackie Hemond

Saturday, April 4, 2026

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](mailto:rsvphistory@gmail.com)

In collaboration with Suffield Parks & Recreation. ☼



### Rummage Sale at West Suffield Congregational Church

By Pam Nick

Mark your Calendar! WSCC is having a rummage sale on Saturday, April 11 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

There are always lots of treasures to find at a very reasonable price. There will be articles of all kinds,

including clothing, knick-knacks, household items, books, toys, jewelry and a large collection of vintage items for you to peruse and buy.

We will be accepting items for donation to the sale on April 7, 8 and 9

from 3-5 p.m., and on the 10th from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. No luggage and no big furniture. If you need assistance bringing items to the church, Scott Miller will be happy to help. Please call 860-463-7827 if pick up is desired. ☼



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## Suffield Observations

By Andy Sauer

### Mistaken identity

A couple of weeks ago, I was leaving Costco and saw this guy approaching me with a big smile. I didn't recognize him, but he seemed to know me. Just as he was about to give me an enthusiastic hello, maybe even lean in with a hearty bro hug, a shocked realization came over him, and he turned away.

I wasn't who he thought I was.

I must be a clone or just have the most generic face on the planet, because this kind of thing happens to me all the time.

A while back, I wrote about a lookalike I had in town for whom I was often mistaken. Even the late Lester Smith, the original *Suffield Observer*, who I knew for 20 years, confused me with my double. Over the years there's been a noticeable difference in hair loss between my clone and me, so the confusion, at least locally, has been cleared up.

Around the world, it's another story.

In a tiny restaurant in an obscure town in Spanish Andalusia, a German couple easily in their 80s stared at me relentlessly and, though I didn't understand a word of it, spoke unceasingly (and a tad on the hostile side) about me. I knew this because they were looking right at me.

"It's happening again," I said without moving my lips to my wife.

"What is?"

"Mistaken identity...."

As if to settle the question, the German man got up from the table, walked up to me and extended his face to get a closer at me. I looked at him, nodded my head, grinned and raised my eyebrows to convey an *I'm-not-who-you-think-I-am-but-this-happens-all-the-time-so-I-understand* message of peace. Without a word, he shuffled back to his table, and given the dismissive tone, I assumed he told his wife I wasn't the lookalike that owes them three months back rent.

I need to state something for the record: On behalf of my clones, I apologize and regret whatever selfish and inappropriate actions one of our own may have committed. Although we have no stated credo, I do not believe whatever transgression has occurred is consistent with the appropriate behavior of a civilized human being. I hope we can make a fresh start.

My mom lives in a memory care section of a local assisted living facility. I was sitting in the common area, waiting to take her out for a walk when this woman forcefully propelled her walker my way. She was smiling and laughing so hard, she had difficulty expressing herself.

"I can't believe it!" She reached out, clutched my hand and shook it up and down. "What are you doing here?"

Oh, just waiting.

"It's so good to see you! I can't believe it's you!"

Yet another case of mistaken identity.

I see her every week, greet her warmly and sometimes hold her hand. She's always laughing. I'm not sure who my lookalike was to her, if he was a good guy or if he's even still alive, but I always make sure I'm the best version of whom ever she thinks I am whenever I'm there.

I have to do right by my clones.

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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.*

**April 2**

A fire...destroyed a five acre tobacco shed owned by Henry Easterby on the wood road to Windsor Locks. The fire, however, was not discovered until several hours after it had burned, as it was in a patch of woods off from the main highway... Mr. Easterby saw smoke arising in the woods and upon investigation found the ruins. The fire was seen from Windsor Locks, but could not be located. The loss with lath and poles, also owned by Mr. Easterby, was estimated at \$3,500. In the shed was about six acres of bundled tobacco owned by Thomas Cahill. Mr. Cahill's loss is about \$1,500. The tobacco was to have been taken into Edwin Seymour's warehouse the latter part of the week to be sorted.

This is due, the owners claim, to the fact that their money is tied up in tobacco in the hands of the association.

A fire, believed to have started from an overheated oil stove, destroyed a small frame building on the Robert Gregg farm [in West Suffield]...The house was owned by Mr. Gregg and occupied by James Babcock. All the contents were lost... Mr. Babcock, who has been living alone for several years, was taken to the Brightside home for aged men in Holyoke.

A large house that had been used as a boarding house for employees at the Hatheway & Steane plantation near the mountain, was burned to the ground...A family had but recently moved into the house and they lost nearly all of their furniture.

**April 9**

A large frame barn, at the rear of the Bissell property on Main street, belonging to the L. P. Bissell estate, was totally destroyed by fire...The fire was discovered about 3.30 by B. J. Ahrens, who lives on adjoining property, the barn then being a mass of flames.

The loss of the structure itself was about \$6,000...Stored upstairs

was a quantity of valuable antique furniture owned by Mr. Ahrens and A. G. Bissell. The loss on this was about \$2,000, not covered by insurance.

The fire department had to fight strenuously for about an hour to keep the fire confined to the barn. Many people volunteered and assisted the firemen in protecting adjoining property. Sparks from the burning building were carried a long ways, falling on other buildings in showers. ...The heat was so intense that firemen on the hose lines had to be protected by having wet coats and other articles kept in front of them.

Despite the rain, there was a large crowd at the auction of George A. Sheldon...Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon are now located in their new home, the Arthur Bissell farm.

**April 16**

Dog taxes are due and payable May 1st. The fee for the registration of dogs this year has been raised to \$2 for males and \$10.25 for females.

Two grass fires called out the fire department...The worst one was at the rear of the Old Manse, north of the Second Baptist church, which threatened several buildings before it was extinguished. The other fire was in a vacant lot on the Thompsonville road.

**April 23**

Extensive repairs are being made to the iron work on the Suffield Thompsonville bridge.

**April 30**

The continued cold weather has held back the farmers in their work and it is claimed that the season is at least two weeks behind. Tobacco beds are coming along slowly, but many of the growers have had to make their beds over. About the only planting that has been done is potatoes and onions and the weather has been almost too cold for them. When warm weather does arrive summer temperature may be permanent and vegetation will soon make up the time lost.

## A Moment in Time

*Old Photos Invited from Our Readers*



Photo submitted by Robert Mollieur

**Haying in Suffield**

Hermann Roesberg raking hay on his Case 730 tractor in Suffield in June 1985. The photo is from North Street looking at his farm on the hill on Mapleton Ave. The fields are houses now, ironically Farmstead Lane. Robert Mollieur who sent this in, worked for Hermann and his father Otto during and after high school and spent many days in those fields and on that tractor.

## Suffield to Dedicate Liberty Tree

*By Danna Gauntner*

The Suffield Tree Committee invites residents to celebrate history, and the spirit of community at the town's upcoming Liberty Tree Dedication on Saturday, April 25 at 4 p.m. The event will take place rain or shine on the lawn between Veterans' Memorial Park and Kent Memorial Library.

The ceremony commemorates the United States 250th anniversary of our country and honors the enduring ideals represented by the Liberty Tree — an important symbol of freedom during the American Revolution.

The program will include a proclamation from the

Town of Suffield read by First Selectman Colin Moll. State Representative Tami Zawistowski will also attend. Local students will present the history of the Liberty Tree, and the event will feature patriotic music performed by student musicians as well as the unveiling of the Liberty Tree marker.

The first 25 households attending will receive Scarlet Oak saplings donated by Bartlett Tree Experts.

Organizers invite residents of all ages to attend this meaningful community event celebrating America's history while planting a living legacy for future generations. ☞



Photo provided by Danna Gauntner

**Whether attending for the history, the music, or the chance to take home a tree, Suffield residents are invited to gather, reflect, and celebrate the roots of liberty that continue to grow today.**

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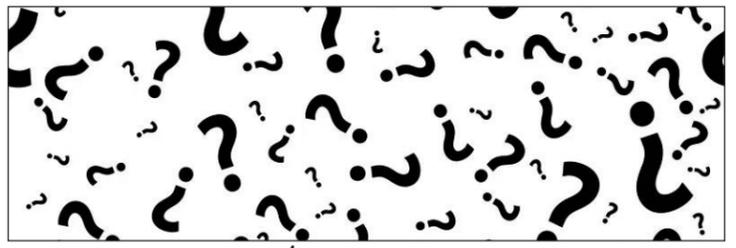
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# Suffield Trivia

By Jackie Hemond

1. Although Samuel Reid (1757-1832) did not live in Suffield, his son Samuel Reid Jr. (1780-1852) and granddaughter, (Hope) Ann Reid Pomeroy (1821-1918), did. The Reid family claims that the first Samuel served a special role in the Revolutionary War. What was it?
  - a. He served as a bodyguard to George Washington.
  - b. He posed as a deserter to gain information on the British in New York City.
  - c. With his reputation for burning a British merchant ship in 1772 and his patriotic fervor, he was appointed to command the Rhode Island Navy.
2. Suffield began as Stoney Brooke Plantation by permission of the General Court of the Mass. Bay Colony in 1670. Around what time was the town referred to as Suffield in the records of Hampshire County?
  - a. 1700
  - b. 1677
  - c. 1693
3. In the spring of 1686, Samuel Kent (?-1690), one of the original settlers of Suffield, caused an uproar at a town meeting in concert with Peter Roe (1662-1739). What did Kent say?
  - a. He said all townspeople should have the right to vote at a town meeting.
  - b. He said that the Mass. Bay Colony should secede from England because of England's disregard for the colony.
  - c. He said that women should hold offices in the town government.
4. Benajah Kent (1746-1821) was the grandfather of Sidney A. Kent (1834-1900) who funded the first Kent Memorial Library. Benajah built the east portion of Kent Place, the mansion on the corner of Sheldon Street and Mountain Road which was later expanded by Sidney. Benajah was also a merchant. What commodity did he trade in?
  - a. Wood
  - b. Indigo
  - c. Tobacco
5. In early America what were trenchers?
  - a. Trenchers were a French word used in the French and Indian War for ditches dug as a shield from enemy fire.
  - b. Trenchers were a slang for smallpox which created pits in the skin.
  - c. Wooden plates.
6. In early colonial times what would be the implements of an average family's meal?
  - a. Forks, pewter dishes, wooden cups
  - b. Napkins, spoons, tablecloth
  - c. Wooden plates, leather cups, seating for everyone
7. In a 1951 Suffield house tour conducted by Antique & Landmarks (now called Connecticut Landmarks), Delphina Clark, who lived in the Daniel Remington house on Hill Street, displayed a Suffield toasting fork with the inscription "Make me a mug flip". What is a mug flip?
  - a. A mixture of beer, rum and sugar heated with a red-hot implement.
  - b. Cream and sugar whipped up to a froth with a heated fork.
  - c. Madeira wine and cider heated with a fork, topped with brandy and lit on fire.
8. The town boasted a cotton yarn factory built about 1795. In which part of town was the factory located?
  - a. On the east side, near the dam on Boston Neck Road.
  - b. On the northeast side, near Deep Brook on East Street.
  - c. On the south side, on the west side of Stony Brook near South Main Street.
9. What is a fulling mill?
  - a. It manufactures felt from woolen cloth.
  - b. Fulling is a corruption of fouling which is an accumulation of unwanted sludge and deposits. A fulling mill cleaned and smoothed large stones which would be used in gristmills.
  - c. It was a part of the iron mill production. Bog ore was smelted to remove impurities; the resulting pig iron was transferred to a fulling mill which formed it into blocks.
10. What was the original name for the town of Enfield, Conn.?
  - a. Watertown
  - b. Fair Field
  - c. Freshwater



## Answers

1. a. He was one of about 90 men who served as Guards of George Washington during the course of the war. (Genealogy Trails)
2. b. 1677
3. a. He said that all townspeople should have the right to vote at a town meeting. Suffield had a wooden ware manufacturer; the wares were sold by peddlers. (New England Historical Society) Oliver Phelps, one-time owner of the Phelps-Hatheway House, was, in his early life, a peddler of wooden wares.
7. a. A mixture of beer, rum and sugar heated with a red-hot implement.
8. c. On the south side town, west of the pond of Stony Brook near South Main Street. The site contained a fulling mill, gristmill and the cotton factory. Suffield's cotton factory is believed to be the first in Connecticut. (It Happened in Our Town, 1978).
9. a. It manufactures felt from woolen cloth. b. Fulling is a corruption of fouling which is an accumulation of unwanted sludge and deposits. A fulling mill cleaned and smoothed large stones which would be used in gristmills. c. It was a part of the iron mill production. Bog ore was smelted to remove impurities; the resulting pig iron was transferred to a fulling mill which formed it into blocks.
10. What was the original name for the town of Enfield, Conn.?
  - a. Watertown
  - b. Fair Field
  - c. Freshwater

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### Donation Appreciated!



Photo by Mary Curtin

The Suffield Lions Club made a donation to support the Suffield Community Aid Food Pantry from donations received at the Lions Food Drive in December. Pictured are Mary Curtin, Suffield Community Aid Director with Scott Wheeler, Suffield Lions Club President.

### Trout Lily



Photo by Joan Heffernan

An ephemeral that grows in wooded areas, Trout Lily is also known as dog's tooth violet.

### Suffield Land Conservancy Events

By Sam Wolcott, President
Annual Wildflower Walk - Saturday, April 25 at 2 p.m. Please join us at Sunrise Park for a stroll around White's Pond. We will leave the parking lot at 2 p.m. sharp and head north around the pond looking for numerous species of native wildflowers. All ages are welcome to come and explore with us.

Annual Bird Watching Field Trip - Saturday, May 2 at 8 a.m. This year we will once again look for birds at the South Grand property. We will be out for a few hours to see birds that make their home in the woodland, stream and meadow areas. The access road is just before the house at 1466 South Grand as you head south. Binoculars and boots are recommended.

Suffield May Market - Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Stop by our booth at the Suffield Garden Club's May Market to learn about the SLC and our properties and programs.

Connecticut Trails Day - Sunday, June 7 at 2 p.m. We will meet at the Alcorn Preserve on Mountain Road in West Suffield. Our walk will take us on the New England

### 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

Trail as it heads north toward Massachusetts. Please come rain or shine.

will be directing you into the access road from South Grand. ☘

Firefly Walk - Saturday, June 28 at 9 p.m. Come to the SLC South Grand property to walk the meadow trails to watch the firefly light show. An SLC representative



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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

#### 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.

#### Advanced Directive and Living Will Presentation:

Join attorney Marcia Hess from Kraner & Hess, LLC, for an informative discussion on Living Wills, Health Care Power of Attorney, Advanced Directives, and Durable Power of Attorney. The program will be held at the Senior Center on April 28 from 12:45 to 2 p.m.

#### Renter's Rebate Program for Elderly & Disabled Residents:

The State provides a reimbursement program for renters who are elderly or disabled, and whose incomes do not exceed certain limits. SCA is taking

applications starting April 1! Call for more info - 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.

#### There is still time to apply for CT Energy Assistance Program:

This government program helps offset the heating costs for financially eligible households. Please contact SCA to apply at 860-668-1986. More information on eligibility is available at: [www.ct.gov/staywarm](http://www.ct.gov/staywarm)

#### SCA Scholarships and Awards:

#### Jane Purtil Fuller Scholarship for Nursing or Social Services Candidates

To recognize the many contributions of our past employees and long-time supporters of Suffield Community Aid, the Board of Directors dedicates an annual needs-based scholarship in memory of Jane Purtil 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. Applicants wishing to apply are encouraged to complete the common application at Suffield High School or call SCA at (860) 668-1986 by April 19.

#### James F. Coggins, Jr. Community Service Award

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 high school senior. Applicants for this award must live in Suffield but do not need to attend Suffield High School for consideration. Applicants must demonstrate 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 through his involvement with Sacred Heart Church, SCA, the Suffield Zoning Board of Appeals, and as a volunteer with the Enfield Food Shelf. He was also an Army veteran of the Vietnam War. A 500-word (max.) essay describing their community involvement is required and should be submitted to SCA at 450 South St. Suffield, CT 06078 or by email at [maryc@suffieldcommunityaid.org](mailto:maryc@suffieldcommunityaid.org). The deadline to apply is May 1.



Photo submitted by the author

Thank you to the students, staff and families of McAlister and Spaulding Schools for the "Souper Bowl" donations to support the Food Pantry. From left to right: Deb Grob and Rich Carney, Suffield Public Schools

#### 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. Since 2022, SCA award has been awarded a \$1,500 need-based scholarship to a Suffield graduating senior, in pursuit of a nursing degree. Seniors who do not reside in Suffield but attend high school in Suffield will have equal consideration. Applicants wishing to apply are encouraged to complete the common application at Suffield High School or call SCA at (860) 668-1986 by April 19.

#### Suffield Community Aid "Forward Focus" Award

The SCA Board of Directors established this \$1,500 award 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. This need-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 500-word (max.) essay describing their future plans and financial need to SCA at 450 South St. Suffield, CT 06078 or by email at [maryc@suffieldcommunityaid.org](mailto:maryc@suffieldcommunityaid.org). The deadline for applying is May 1.

#### Meghan Voisine "Kindness Matters" Award

Meghan Voisine was a beloved member of our community who tragically lost her life in 2021. Meghan graduated from SHS and was known for her commitment to kindness, inclusion, and friendship amongst her peers. In her honor, an award was created to recognize these altruistic qualities in a Suffield senior. This award is given to a graduating Suffield high-school senior who was nominated by a staff member for demonstrating outstanding kindness at SHS. The award for \$1,500 is to be used towards educational expenses post-graduation. ☸

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# Observed



## Schools and Library

### Student Musicians Receive All-State Honors

By Corey Killian,  
Suffield High School  
Director of Bands

Six Suffield High School musicians have been accepted into the Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA) All-State Ensembles this year. Approximately 2,000 student musicians from across the state auditioned for the festival in February, with about 25% being accepted. To qualify for the audition, students had to be previously accepted into their regional festival, which took place in January.

The following students will perform with the CMEA All-State Concert Band and Choirs at The Connecticut Convention Center on March 28:

Evan Held, junior tenor, sings tenor in the Suffield High School Choir. Evan was accepted into the CMEA Northern Region Music Festival in 2026. This is his first selection into the All-State Festival.

Anish Jindal, senior bass, sings bass in the Suffield High School Choir. Anish was accepted into the CMEA North-

ern Region Music Festival in 2025 and 2026. This is his first selection into the All-State Festival.

Eliana Lavoie, junior vocalist, sings soprano as a member of the Suffield High School Choir. She was accepted into the CMEA Northern Region Music Festival in 2024, 2025 and 2026. She appeared as Éponine in Suffield High School's production of *Les Mis* and is a member of the Suffield High School Tri-M Music Honors Society. Eliana also studies with Adam Barley at the University of Hartford's Hartt School of Music Community Division. This is her second selection into the CMEA All-State Festival.

Quinn Thompson, freshman tenor, sings tenor as a member of the Suffield High School Choir. He was accepted into the CMEA Northern Region Mixed Choir in 2025, appeared as Marius in the Suffield High School Production of *Les Mis* in 2026 and performs with Unity House Theater in Springfield, Mass. This is Quinn's first selection into



Photo submitted by author  
Top row left to right: Nayandeep Tummalapally, Evan Held, Anish Jindal Bottom Row left to right: Kylie Tinnirella, Eliana Lavoie, Quinn Thompson

the CMEA All-State Festival.

Kylie Tinnirella, senior trumpeter, plays trumpet in both the Suffield High School Symphonic Band and Jazz Ensemble. She was accepted into the Northern Region Jazz Ensemble in 2024, 2025, and 2026. Kylie also participated in the pit orchestra for the SHS drama's productions of *The Wizard of Oz* and *Les Mis* and performs with the Greater Hartford Youth

Wind Ensemble (GHYWE) at the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford. She is the President of Suffield High School's Tri-M Music Honors Society. This is her second selection into the CMEA All-State Festival, having performed with the All-State Concert Band in 2025, and performing with the All-State Jazz Ensemble this March. She plans to pursue a degree in Jazz Studies

and play NCAA division III soccer next fall.

Nayandeep Tummalapally, senior bass clarinetist, plays bass clarinet and alto saxophone in the SHS Symphonic Band and is also a saxophonist in the SHS Jazz Ensemble. As a vocalist, Nayan performed as Jack in Suffield High School Drama Club's production of *Into the Woods* in 2024, the Tin Man in the 2025 production of *The Wizard of Oz*, and as Javert in the 2026 production of *Les Mis*. He was accepted into the CMEA Northern Region Festival in 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026. A multi-instrumentalist, Nayan also qualified for All-State on alto saxophone. He is the Vice President of the Suffield High School Tri-M Music Honors society. This will be Nayan's third performance with an All-State Ensemble, having previously performed with the CMEA All-State Band in 2024 and 2025. Nayan plans to attend the University of North Carolina to study Saxophone Performance and Biochemistry in the fall. ☞

### Dowd Realty Spotlight on Suffield



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A growing body of research demonstrates the negative effects of smart tech and social media on the developing brain. If a tipping point of 25% of families come together and decide to delay and be more intentional with the introduction of tech devices and/or social media, we can impact and shift in social norms in Suffield.

Connect with us

Anna-Kristin Murphy



akandshawn@gmail.com

# Schools of Thought

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

## Suffield High School Musical a Big Success

By Johanne Presser

First let it be said that to me *Les Mis* is not just any old musical, it is one of my favorites. I have seen it on Broadway twice, at the Bushnell, at the Opera House Players production several years ago and even on television. I have been a fan for so long I have a CD of the soundtrack.

It is awe inspiring and an ambitious production to mount, especially for a high school, so color me a little skeptical that the Suffield High



Photo by Tony Peterson

The entire *Les Mis* ensemble in a rousing rendition of "Do You Hear the People Sing?"

School performance would be up to snuff. I am pleased to say that it far exceeded my expect-

tations, and I thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Bolstered by an outstanding job by the

orchestra, and the strong voices of the soloists, especially leads Jean Valjean and Javert,

as well as the supporting roles and chorus, the evening was a delight! From the iconic opening number "At the End of the Day" to the end of act one's "One Day More" to the rousing finale "Do You Hear the People Sing?" the cast was energetic, joyful and spot on. More than one person left the auditorium humming one of the songs. It was a wonderful night, and I thank the entire cast and crew for their hard work. I hope they enjoyed presenting it as much as I enjoyed viewing it! ☘

## Small School, Big Impact: Fifth Graders Rally to Save the Sharks

By Kendra Griswold, Landon Dluogoenski, Vivian Hooley

Imagine you are walking through the fifth-grade hallway at McAlister Intermediate School; you are greeted by colorful "Save the Sharks" signs lining the walls. Step into one particular classroom, and you'll find an official proclamation from the town's First Selectman proudly displayed. What inspired a group of fifth graders to take on an important role in animal conservation? This story of a class rallying around one of their classmates explains it all.

Andersen Donovan is a fifth-grade student in Mrs. Harrington's class at McAlister Intermediate School in Suff-

ield. Passionate about ocean life, Andersen has made it his mission to help ban shark hunting. As part of the Kid Governor program, in which all fifth graders at McAlister participate, Andersen chose shark conservation as his platform. He spent weeks researching the topic and developing creative ways to inspire others to help. Although not elected Kid Governor this year, Andersen refused to give up on his cause.

In November 2025, Andersen drafted a persuasive speech and delivered it to his class. Mrs. Harrington's students were immediately inspired, and the class quickly got to work. Their mission set sail, and together, they created posters

to hang throughout the fifth-grade hallway to raise awareness about shark hunting.

As the project gained momentum, Andersen presented his speech to the entire fifth grade. Nearly all students voted in favor of supporting efforts to ban shark hunting.

News of Andersen's dedication reached Suffield First Selectman Colin Moll, who wanted to recognize the students' hard work. On Friday, January 23, Mr. Moll visited McAlister Intermediate School to present an official proclamation. The proclamation states, "The town of Suffield believes in teaching environmental responsibility and respect for all living things." Andersen seemed to rejoice

as he read the proclamation aloud to his classmates.

Although Andersen's passion for protecting sharks reaches far beyond Suffield, his remarkable act of kindness and leadership began right here in Connecticut. Confident and determined, he hopes his efforts will inspire others to care about sharks and the ocean ecosystem.

Andersen says he wants to protect sharks because he doesn't want them to go extinct before he can share how amazing they are with the world. He is knowledgeable about many shark species and other ocean organisms, and he hopes to continue learning and advocating for marine life. He continues to share his love of animals and educates his class

each day on a different animal, part of his "Sea Creatures with Andersen". Perhaps one day, Andersen will even be known for his conservation work on a larger scale.

When asked how others can help, Andersen suggests writing letters to local government officials to support shark conservation efforts. He also encourages community members to display "Save the Sharks" signs at their homes or businesses to spread awareness and promote this noble cause.

WARNING: According to First Selectman Colin Moll issued on the 23rd of January "Now, therefore be it proclaimed that shark hunting is banned within the town of Suffield Connecticut " all thanks to Andersen. ☘



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# Schools of Thought

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

## Students Honored by Rotary

By Eric Hamylak, Administrative Assistant SHS

Recently, the Suffield Rotary honored two Suffield High School seniors at the Suffield Country Club.

Congratulations to the Rotary Student of the Month for January, MaryKate Mormino!

School Counselor, Mrs. Deming, remarked, "MaryKate knows how to get a job done. She gets tasks done efficiently and effectively. She is kind, respectful, hardworking, and actively involved in a variety of activities inside and outside of school while balancing school-work."

Film and Video Teacher, Mr. Casinghino, reported, "MaryKate has been one of the most generous, kind, and talented contributors in our school community during her past four years at Suffield High School. She has worked on our Morning Update daily news show during all that time, where she has shown herself to be a very effective leader, communicator, and team player. In our video production

program, she has made great achievements in producing notable short films, PSAs, news segments, and a variety of other projects. She was a lead figure in our production of a major school-wide endeavor last spring, the lip dub music video that involved everyone at SHS and generated a highly successful movie. Currently, she has just completed a piece for the Student News program of Fox61 on the Friends of the Library in Suffield. MaryKate has shown herself to be extremely worthy of this honor."

Social Studies Teacher and Drama Club Advisor, Miss Blais, said, "If you need a go-getter, you need MaryKate. MaryKate has drive, passion and is well organized to get whatever you need, done! Through Drama Club, the International Thespian Society, Quiz Team, NHS (and more), I have seen MaryKate blossom into a human who is well respected and loved by those around her. She listens. She is open-minded. She wants to help those around her make a

change for the better. On top of this, she takes on challenges and says 'Yes' to big tasks that most would get nervous with. As only a sophomore, she stepped in and DIRECTED the Unified Theatre production (something I've never seen before as this is usually an honor for a senior!). She leads without hesitation and is not afraid to voice an opinion even if it is different from the rest. The world could use more MaryKates."

Congratulations to the Rotary Student of the Month for February, Prarthana Ray!

English Teacher, Mrs. Candia-Bovi, said, "Prarthana is a kind-hearted, thoughtful presence in our classroom. Through her warmth, humor, and gentle leadership, she brings her classmates together and helps create an environment where others feel comfortable. She consistently goes out of her way to make those around her feel seen and valued." Mrs. Deming noted, "Prarthana is exceptionally kind, thoughtful, and respectful. She's hardwork-



Photo submitted by Erik Hamylak

(L to R) MaryKate Mormino and Prarthana Ray.

ing and willing to help others. She manages her time well by balancing a full course load while being actively involved in sports and extracurricular activities. She leads with compassion, understanding, and kindness."

Miss Blais reported, "Prarthana is a ray of sunshine. I have been working with her in many different capacities throughout the last four years. She has blossomed from a quiet introvert to a leader (within many organizations) in her class. She is a conscientious student and has become a human that I can

rely on. Prarthana balances her school work and extra-curriculars wonderfully, allowing her to volunteer (NHS), lead (Model UN) and work towards her own future (FBLA). She has been an active member in the student council and a voice that individuals trust and respect."

Spanish Teacher, Mrs. Smith, added, "Prarthana is persistent, willing to rise to a challenge, and extremely hard-working. She is also kind, loyal, and has a gentle heart."

Way to go, MaryKate and Prarthana! ☘

## Students Team Up for Kindness Before the Big Game

By Gina Olearczyk and Nikki Kupec

Students from Suffield's two elementary schools, McAlister Intermediate School and Spaulding Elementary School, once again combined school spirit and service through their annual pre-Super Bowl donation drive. Partnering with Suffield Community Aid, students in grades PK-5 collected non-perishable food items and toiletries while casting their votes for their

predicted winner of this year's Super Bowl matchup between the New England Patriots and the Seattle Seahawks.

The drive took place during the week of February 2-6, 2026, building excitement across both schools as classrooms filled donation tables in friendly competition. Thanks to the generosity of Suffield families, hundreds of essential items were gathered and donated to support local families in our

community. Spaulding collected 641 items and McAlister collected 482 items for a grand total of 1,123 food and self-care items.

Students eagerly participated, proudly placing their donations behind the team they believed would win the championship. The friendly rivalry brought energy

and enthusiasm to the week while reinforcing an important message- teamwork, generosity and community matter every day.

The McAlister Student Council played an important role in organizing and promoting the initiative, demonstrating leadership and a strong commitment to

giving back.

This annual tradition continues to be a highlight of the school year, fostering kindness, teamwork and school pride.

We are grateful to the families who contributed and proud of our students for stepping up to make a difference. ☘

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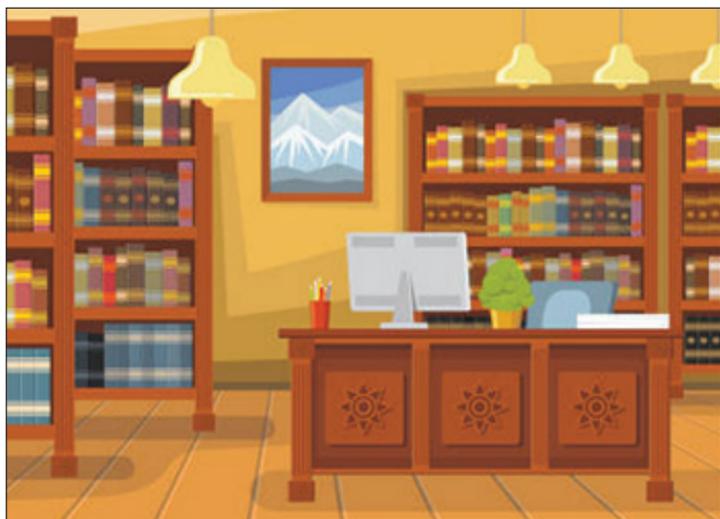
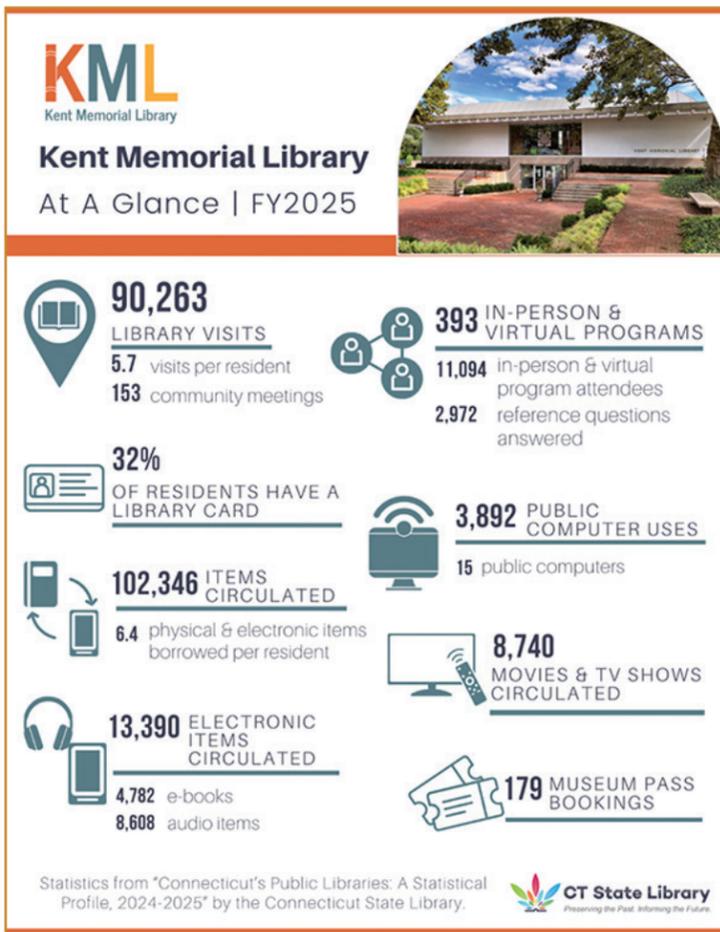
## Director's Corner



By Amy Vessella,  
Library Director

### What Does a Year at KML Look Like?

During Fiscal Year 2025, we welcomed more than 90,000 visits from community members, circulated over 100,000 items, and hosted hundreds of programs both in person and online. Our patrons attended story times, programs and community events; borrowed books, movies, and digital materials; and made great use of our public computers and museum passes. This "At a Glance" snapshot (below) highlights just a few of the ways Kent Memorial Library supports the community through learning, creativity, and connection. Thank you to everyone who visited, borrowed, attended, and made the library part of their year! ☘



## 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](http://suffield-library.org). Follow us on Facebook. All programs are free.

### April Programs at KML

By Hollie Garrity  
**Programs for Adults**  
**Movies at the Library**  
KML is showing movies again! Visit our website at [www.suffield-library.org/](http://www.suffield-library.org/) for more information, including this month's movie showtimes.

**Rise to the Challenge Book Group**  
Monday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us in reading and discussing books that have been challenged and/or banned. April's book will be *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi. Copies of 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, April 30 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. The April title is *Looking for Jane* by Heather Marshall.

**Rabble Readers**  
Tuesday, April 21 at 7 p.m.

Rabble Readers is an Ecapist 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 7:00 p.m. Copies of the books will be available at the library, no registration required. The April title is *The Lies of Locke Lamora* by Scott Lynch.

**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.

**Qigong for Spring**  
Qigong for Beginners is an ancient practice combining fitness, breath work, and meditation. This standing practice focuses on building strength and flexibility while balancing mind, body, and spirit. No props are needed; shoes are optional, but a yoga mat is recommended for bare feet. Classes are held every Thursday at 10 a.m. throughout April, starting April 2. (April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30) registration is required.

**The Suffield Players Stage Reading**  
Tuesday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m.

The Suffield Players are back to do another great Page to Stage reading. The play is *A.I.: Artificially Insidious*. Light refreshments will be served during intermission.

**Giant Family Game Night**  
Wednesday, April 1 starting at 5 p.m.

Join us for a GIANT family game night on April 1. We will have giant versions of common games set up all throughout the building. There will be games for all ages, bring your whole family or group of friends.

**Passport to CT Libraries**  
April is Passport to CT Libraries month! Get your passport (and your first stamp!) at KML and collect stamps from participating libraries in CT all month.

Six winners will be chosen (three kids, three adults) from across the state for visiting five+ libraries, for visiting 25+ libraries, and for visiting the most libraries (over 170 libraries are participating!). Happy exploring!

**Family History: Learn More About Your Family Veterans**  
Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Drop-in  
Join Suffield's Municipal Veterans Representative, Frederick "Fritz" King, at the library, and ask the questions you've always had about your veteran's military experience. Bring the information you have, and Mr. King can help you form a picture of the battles your ancestor encountered, and what their day may have been like. Mr. King is a retired Gunnery Sergeant of the United States Marine Corps and is also a Civil War buff.

**A DAR Genealogy Workshop**  
Saturday, April 11 from 10 a.m. – Noon

Start your genealogy journey with the Sibbil Dwight Kent Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The DAR is partnering with the Kent Memorial Library, the library has Ancestry (World Edition), fold3 (military records) and is a FamilySearch affiliate library. If you are getting started or you are almost done, there will be volunteers to guide you. Bring all the information that you have, we will greet you in the Gallery and start the journey. (There is also free wi-fi, so feel free to bring your laptop if you'd like!)

Continued on Page 21

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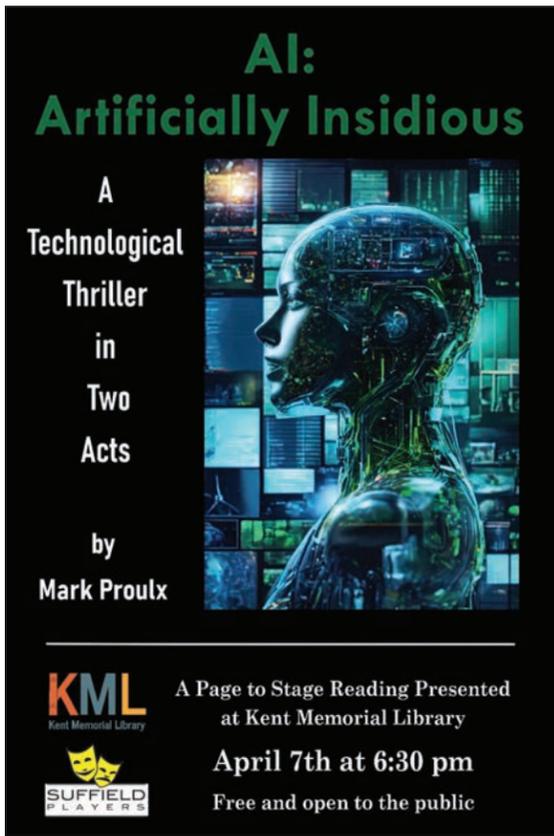
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## Suffield Players Present AI: Artificially Insidious at KML

From a Press Release

The Suffield Players will present a staged reading of *AI: Artificially Insidious*, a technological thriller in two acts written and directed by Agawam, Massachusetts playwright Mark Proulx, on Monday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m. at Kent Memorial Library, 50 North Main Street in Suffield. The event is free and open to the public.

Part of The Suffield Players' Page to Stage Reading Series, this special presentation offers audiences the opportunity to experience a new work in development and engage with contemporary theatre in an intimate setting.

*AI: Artificially Insidious* explores the unsettling possibilities of artificial intelligence and the ways technology can blur the line between innovation and danger. The gripping new thriller examines the human cost of rapidly evolving technology and asks what

happens when the tools we create begin to shape — and possibly control — our lives.

The reading features a talented cast including Krystle Bernier, Rachel Berezin, Gene Choquette, Zach Gray, Josh Prouser, Kate Stango, Dorine Tayts and Chris Webber.

The Page to Stage series is designed to support playwrights and provide audiences with a behind-the-scenes look at the development of new theatrical works. Following the reading, audience members may have the opportunity to share feedback with the creative team.

The program is recommended for ages 13 and up due to thematic content.

### Event Details

What: Page to Stage Reading – *AI: Artificially Insidious*

Written and Directed by: Mark Proulx (Agawam, MA)

Presented by The Suffield Players in partnership with Kent Memorial Library. ☘

# News from the Suffield Board of Education

By Suffield Board of Education

### Budget update

The Suffield Board of Education reviewed, updated and advanced Superintendent Matthew Dunbar's budget at our March meetings. Along the way, the Board made several adjustments, including the reduction of three positions and refinements to health insurance and pension calculations.

The modest adjustment to the current year's budget reflects the unavoidable economic realities shared by our entire community. The main drivers are the ones many families and taxpayers recognize: contractual salary increases, rising health benefit costs, required special education costs and transportation increases tied to our current contract.

Next steps: the Board has completed its updates and the budget now moves to the Board of Finance, with discussion and potential adjustments scheduled through early April. The public hearing on the Town's full budget is April 22, and the tentative date for the Budget Town Meet-

ing is May 6, when residents vote on the final budget.

### Recognizing Student Achievement: Middle School Robotics

At a recent meeting, the Board recognized the Suffield Middle School Robotics Team for a strong showing at the 2026 VEX Robotics Competition at Sage Park Middle School in Windsor. Under the guidance of SMS Technology Education Teacher and Robotics Coach Kevin Mattia, Suffield brought five teams to compete.

Robotics competitions move fast, and they reward more than a well-built robot. Students have to plan, test, troubleshoot and then adjust on the fly when something does not work the way it did in practice. Just as important, they have to work as a team and present their work with confidence and professionalism.

With limited prep time, two Suffield teams advanced to the finals. They returned proud of what they accomplished, and already focused on what they want to improve next season, which is exactly the kind of momentum we love to see.

### The arts are thriving in Suffield

The Board also recognized the music and drama departments for a standout season across the district:

- Our winter District Band Festival featured students from grades 4 through 12, including an "all-grades" performance that brought great energy to the high school gym.

- The high school production of *The Play That Goes Wrong* delivered exactly what the title promises, and then some.

- March featured two major productions: the middle school's *Finding Nemo*, and the high school drama club's *Les Misérables*, a powerful 2.5-hour production with live orchestra and performances that held the audience from the first note to the final bow.

### Connect with us

Our meetings are open to the public, and community feedback is always welcome. We encourage families to stay connected and engaged.

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

## KML Programs

Continued from page 20

### Kids and Teens Programs Rhyme Time

10:30 a.m. on Fridays: April 10, 17, 24

Ages 0-5 / Families Drop in

### Kids' Poetry Writing Contest

Submissions accepted Wednesday, April 1 through

Monday, April 20

Open to poets in grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12

Do you love writing poetry? In honor of Poetry Month, local students are invited to submit one original poem for a chance at a poetry-related prize pack. Thank you to the Friends of the Kent Memorial Library for supporting this and other programs. For more information, including how to submit your poem, please visit our website [www.suffield-library.org](http://www.suffield-library.org).

### Earth Day Story Time

Tuesday, April 14 and Wed., April 22 at 10:30 a.m.

Register or drop-in for ages 3-5

Join us for an Earth Day story time as we celebrate Mother Nature! We'll read books, sing songs and make a craft.

### Outside the Box: Neurodivergent & Friends Club

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 2 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.)

### The Kids Who Read Books Book Club

Thursday, April 9 at 3:30 p.m.

Join us for the next meeting of The Kids Who Read Books Book Club! We'll be discussing *Warriors: Into the Wild* by Erin Hunter (Book 1). 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! We had to delay our order due to weather last month. This year we will be hatching three different breeds of chickens, Green Queen, Partridge Cochon and Welsummers! ☘

# Boosting the Music Community at Suffield High School

By Jen Metcalf, parent of an SHS flautist and SMBA Secretary

Music has the power to bring people together, inspire creativity and create lifelong memories for students. At the heart of that mission in Suffield is the Suffield Music Booster Association (SMBA), a dedicated nonprofit organization working behind the scenes to enrich music education at Suffield High School. Yes, readers, we want you to know we exist; we do some impactful work!

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, SMBA's overall mission is simple but meaningful: to enhance the music experience for students through fundraising, volunteerism and social engagement. By working closely with music directors, students, families, and volunteers, the organization helps provide opportunities that elevate the program—from enrichment activities to special events that celebrate student musicians.

Most recently, the SMBA, with partnership from Suffield Greater Together Community Fund, provided special instructors in the classroom to increase student exposure to various types of instruction and college-level expertise. When Elise Rodriguez was asked about the experience working with special instructor, Dr. Kim, who came to SHS to work with band students, she responded, "She wasn't exactly strict, but she really made sure we did things right. She was pretty fun, too. We realized we liked to play some of

the same video games." Dr. Janet Kim is the Director of Wind Bands and Coordinator of Large Instrumental Ensembles at the University of Connecticut.

## A Devoted Team Supporting Student Musicians

SMBA is led by school parent members, President Keri McCourt, Vice President Meagan Vogus, Treasurer Christine Morissette, and Secretary Jen Metcalf, a passionate executive board committed to strengthening the high school music community. Working alongside the board are previous board members, families, students and our incredible Music Directors Corey Killian and Anthony Ferreira, whose leadership continues to guide a growing and vibrant high school music program. That growth reflects the dedication of their hard work, talent and incredible spirit. It's clear that these two are well-loved by the students, too!

## More Than Fundraising: Advocacy and Connection

While fundraising is an important part of SMBA's work, the organization's vision goes even further. Members are exploring ways to connect with music booster groups in other towns, advocate for a strong music program within the local education budget process and continue to identify ways to go beyond the foundational needs of a strong music program.

## Concerts, Trips, Immense Gratitude and a CASH RAFFLE



Photo submitted by Jen Metcalf

## Music Director Corey Killian at the Suffield District Concert

The community recently celebrated a successful event, selling concessions and Cash Raffle tickets at the high school student performance of *Les Miserables*; maybe you saw us there! If so, wasn't it fantastic? We would like to lift up the Suffield and neighboring townspeople right now with an enormous, "Thank you!". You came out with big support, and I imagine the students all felt it. Kudos to the drama club and all involved. SMBA was glad to be beside them that weekend providing popcorn, snacks and drinks. The funds raised from concessions and the raffle go directly back into the band and choir student experience.

Some recent events for SHS music students included a March 16 concert, a combined choir concert at the Baptist Church on March 22, and upcoming are student trips to Germany (choir) and New Orleans (band), a senior night celebration and an end of year picnic! You'll also see us at Suffield on the Green each September.

Now about that Cash Raffle! Students will be selling raffle tickets to family, friends, and neighbors at \$5/ticket. 1st prize is \$300, 2nd prize is \$200 and 3rd prize is \$100!

Other in-town sales are also being planned at local spots in town center! Keep an eye out for us at some of your favorite coffee and grocery spots throughout the month of April, where you'll have more chances to get in on that raffle before the drawing date of May 11! If you're enthusiastic about supporting student musicians and enjoy local arts, SMBA welcomes you to get involved. We'd love your help!

## Get Involved

SMBA thrives because of the energy and commitment of parents, families and neighbors who believe in music education. Come connect with SMBA, attend upcoming performances and donate your time to celebrate the talented students in Suffield's music program. Together, we can ensure that Suffield offers an extraordinary and inspiring experience for every music student! Keep an eye out for us; see you around!

Contact Jen at [suffield-musicboosters@gmail.com](mailto:suffield-musicboosters@gmail.com) for more information, volunteer opportunities and more.

Like us on Facebook at Suffield Music Boosters, Inc. and see our website at [suffieldsmba.org](http://suffieldsmba.org).

# Spring Craft Fair at Hilltop Farm

By Bobbie Rodgers

Hilltop will hold its annual spring craft fair on Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. The rain date is Sunday, May 3. There will be over 50 vendors of beautiful and unique, handcrafted items and Boy Scout Troop 66 will be raising funds by serving breakfast and lunch and selling their handmade American flags. With Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations and birthdays coming up, you're sure to find a special gift for that special someone, or something beautiful and useful for you or your home. And of course, the Creamery will be open with its delicious ice cream!

Some of the items that will be for sale include jewelry, pottery, house décor, candles, soap, cards, pictures, food, plants, crocheted items, books, bird houses, wood carvings and much, much more. We invite you to spend some time at beautiful Hilltop Farm on May 2. Support the local crafters and Boy Scout Troop 66. For more information about this event or to receive a vendor application, please contact us at [info@hilltopfarmsuffield.org](mailto:info@hilltopfarmsuffield.org).



Photo provided by Barbara Rodgers

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# Book Review

By Jane Shipp

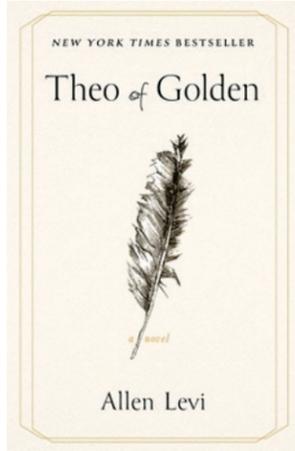


## Theo of Golden

By Allen Levi

If you need a lift after the taxing winter we have had, here's a book for you. Theo of Golden is gentle, kind, full of truths and carrying a message we should all take to heart. It is the story of an elderly and mysterious man named only Theo--no last name-- who arrives in a small Georgia town and settles in temporarily. Soon he finds a coffee shop which has a display of sketches of various townspeople. There are 32 in all. Theo is impressed with them, and he embarks on a campaign to buy them one at a time and give them to the people who have unknowingly been the artist's models. Because the artist is skillful at painting the inner person as well as the outer one, his portraits are very moving, and Theo wants to share them.

Each week during warm weather he sends a handwritten invitation to someone living in the town whose portrait hangs on the wall of



the coffee shop. He invites that person to meet him on a park bench near where he is living, and they have a conversation in which Theo asks them to tell him their life's stories. Because he is a good listener and an equally good asker of questions, Theo soon comes to know each of the recipients of a portrait. However, he never reveals his own background, at least not directly. Nevertheless, he is soon much admired and trusted by all with whom he comes in contact. Soon he finds that he has acquired a warm circle of new friends; he is able to help many of them be-

hind the scenes, enriching his own life as well as theirs.

The reader, like Theo's new friends, learns about some facets of his life through his conversations but is never able to put the pieces together. Only at the end of the book does the picture--his own history-- become clear. It is a heart-warming history, with ups and downs of course, with mistakes and regrets, but above all with affection and wisdom and generosity. In many ways Theo is an old-fashioned courtly gentleman, soft-spoken and well mannered. In the book there is no cynicism in regard to life's big questions, and only one truly negative character. How refreshing! It's the kind of book you want to keep and read again just to be sure you don't miss anything that you need to ponder. And you feel somehow better off having known Theo, even though your acquaintance comes through the medium of a short novel. ☘

# April Show in the KML Gallery

By Fran Milliken, Suffield Arts Council

The Suffield Arts Council will present a show of photography by Suffield resident Emile Backes, in the William Pinney Gallery of Suffield's Kent Memorial Library, during the month of April.

Originally scheduled in March of 2020, Emile's show was cancelled just two hours before his reception, a victim of Covid, as was much of the world. Fast forward to 2026, six years later, he feels blessed and fortunate to have this opportunity.

Born in La Jolla, California, Mr. Backes began drawing at an early age, and discovered photography, using a Polaroid and later, cell phone cameras. He enjoys

capturing images in color through his lens. The show will have many views of Europe, taken on a trip celebrating his 30th birthday, as well as photographs taken in Suffield.

The show will be on display from April 1 through April 30. A "Meet the Artist" reception is scheduled for Thursday, April 9 from 6 - 8 p.m. in the gallery. The public is invited.

A graduate of Suffield High School, Emile works at the Highland Park Market. He enjoys drawing, cycling, writing poetry, and has a great sense of humor.

This show is made possible through the joint efforts of Emile Backes, the Suffield Arts Council, and the Kent Memorial Library staff. ☘



Photo by Emile Backes

The artist supplied the image of the Bulgarian flag captured during his trip through Europe.

## DAR Genealogy Workshop

By Judith Hanmer

The Sibbil Dwight Kent Chapter of the DAR welcomes anyone interested in starting their Genealogy adventure to a workshop on April 11 in partnership with the Suffield Library. The basics of researching your ancestors are easy if you start correctly. We plan to help you start on your journey.

With resources at the library itself and volunteers to assist with genealogy research we will also use the expertise of other interested Suffield residents. If you are on your way or you are almost done, there will be people who can guide you.

Did you have a relative in the service and can't find out where they served? As we

continue our research on Saturday morning on April 25, we have a specialist who will take your information and help.

Bring all the information that you have on April 11 at 10 a.m. We will greet you in the Gallery and start the journey. There is internet access and all the library resources are available to you. ☘

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## OUR PROGRAMS

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# Which Scholarships Are a Fit for You?

Compiled by Beth Chafetz

There are several community organizations that provide scholarships for deserving high school seniors. These scholarships include:

### Suffield Community Aid

(See page 16 for more details on the SCA scholarships)

All five of these are \$1,500

James F. Coggins, Jr. Community Service Award.

Jane Purtil Fuller Scholarship for Nursing or Social Service Candidates.

Kathy Ostrowski Memorial Nursing Scholarship.

Suffield Community Aid "Forward Focus" Scholarship.

Meghan Voisine "Kindness Matters" Award.

### The Suffield Observer

The Suffield Observer Board of Directors will sponsor a \$2,000 scholarship to Suffield residents who are high school seniors and who will be entering an accredited two or four-year institution of higher learning in Fall/September of 2026. The scholarship is in memory of Samuel 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](http://www.thesuffieldobserver.com).

### Polish American Scholarships 2026

Polish Heritage Society: There are several college scholarships available to Suffield residents of Polish descent.

Harriet Irsay Scholarship - The American Institute of Polish Culture. Apply online at [ampolinstitute.com](http://ampolinstitute.com) - \$2,000 by June 30, 2026.

Jennie Marconi-Javorski Scholarship - Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford. Apply online at [polishculturalclub.com](http://polishculturalclub.com) - \$1,000 by May 1, 2026.

Kamylla and Czeslaw Kaszuba College Scholarship - Polish American Journal Foundation - Apply online at [polamjournal.com/PAJF](http://polamjournal.com/PAJF) - \$1,500 or \$500 by August 31, 2026.

ACPC Summer Study Scholarship - American Council for Polish Culture - Apply on-line at [polishcultureacpc.org](http://polishcultureacpc.org) - \$2,000 by April 15, 2026.

Wladyslaw Zachariasiewicz Memorial Journalism Scholarship - American Council for Polish Culture - Apply on-line at [polishcultureacpc.org](http://polishcultureacpc.org) - \$5,000 by June 30, 2026.

Leonard Skowronski Polish Studies Scholarship - American Council for Polish Culture - Apply on-line at [polishcultureacpc.org](http://polishcultureacpc.org) - \$3,000 by April 5, 2026.

### The Suffield Players

• Eugene Biggio Memorial Drama Scholarship 2026 - The Biggio Scholarship funds student education in the Dramatic Arts presented by The Suffield Players, Inc. Submission deadline: May 1, 2026.

• Robert Alcorn Memorial Arts Scholarship 2026 - the scholarship makes Arts Education more accessible to deserving students presented by The Suffield Players, Inc. Submission deadline: May 1, 2026.

Contact The Suffield Players at [suffieldplayers.org](http://suffieldplayers.org) for more information on eligibility requirements and application procedures.

### Suffield Rotary Club Scholarships

Six 2026 Scholarships of \$1,000 each. Check with SHS counselors' office for more details.

The Rotary Club scholarship in memory of Doctor Alfred Stafford is given to a student who exemplifies service to the community.

The Rotary Club scholarship in memory of Ralph "Nick" Mickelson III who personified service and commitment to Suffield.

The Rotary Club scholarship in recognition of the Founders of the Suffield Rotary Club, including Lou Ahrens, is given to a student



who is hardworking, reliable and has demonstrated academic growth and improvement; someone who contributes to the quality of life at the school and community.

A Rotary Club scholarship award is given to a student interested in studying in the vocational field.

The Rotary Club scholarship in memory of Warren Packard is given to a student on the basis of not only achievement but service to their school and community.

The Rotary Club scholarship award in memory of Elaine O'Brien, who was committed to her community and was a state representative. She exemplified "Service Above Self". This award is given to a student who has interest in the medical field, nursing or research.

### The Frank and Sheila Beneski Suffield Athletic Hall of Fame Scholarships

Each year since 2009 the Suffield Athletic Hall of Fame has awarded scholarships to student athletes.

The scholarships are named in honor of Frank and Sheila Beneski, who can best

be described as the Champions of the Suffield Athletic Hall of Fame.

The criteria to obtain a scholarship is as follows:

- Candidates must be attending Suffield High School, or be a resident of Suffield attending Suffield Academy.
- Candidates must be a graduating senior.
- Candidates should be student athletes who treat people fairly, have the respect of everyone, and display sportsmanship on the playing fields.

Applications for the next recipients are available each year, usually in February - March. High School Seniors who would like to apply should check with their guidance department.

### Garden Club

The Garden Club provides one or two scholarships each year to a graduating high school senior based on financial strength and quality of applications. Student applicants must exhibit high academic performance, outstanding leadership in their school community or state and plan to play a significant role in the world of agriculture. This award is distributed by a Suffield High School committee.

The Betty Jean Stroh Scholarship Fund administered by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. ☞

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# The Final Hoot



## Organizations

### Rotary Epic Day of Service with the Friends of Hilltop Farm

By Amy Reay & Natalie Donais

Join Us for a Community-Wide Day of Service on Saturday, May 16 at Hilltop Farm.

We invite teams, clubs, classes, groups, organizations, churches, businesses, and individuals—absolutely everyone—to participate in the Suffield Rotary Epic Day of Service! This is a fantastic opportunity for our entire community to come together, work side by side, and make a meaningful difference.

Four years ago, Suff-

ield Rotary organized its first Day of Service at Sunrise Park, encouraging all community members to join in cleaning, repairing, and revitalizing the park. The event saw a remarkable turnout, with enthusiastic people from all walks of life making a significant positive impact. The day was filled with camaraderie and fun, as young participants learned by example, some fulfilled service requirements, and scout troops earned badges. New friendships

were formed as everyone worked together, making the tasks lighter and creating a shared sense of accomplishment that uplifted our entire community.

Since that inaugural event, the Day of Service has grown into the Rotary International Epic Day of Service. Now, Rotary Clubs around the world will be working on their own projects simultaneously, and Suffield will join in with our unique contribution.

#### Get Involved at Hilltop Farm

We encourage scout leaders, team coaches, class advisors, and other group leaders to rally your members, sign up using the QR Code, and gather at Hilltop Farm.

This year, our main project will be painting the historic white fence. There will also be additional projects available to ensure that people of all ages and abilities can participate and make a difference in their community.

This is a family friendly event with something for all ages and abilities.

## EPIC DAY OF SERVICE

MAY 16, 2026  
HILLTOP FARM  
9 AM – FINISH



**PROJECT: CLEAN AND PAINT THE WHITE FENCING & WEED THE FLOWER BED**

PLEASE WEAR CLOTHES SUITABLE FOR PAINTING OR WEEDING

PLEASE BRING YOUR WATER BOTTLE; WATER IS AVAILABLE FOR ONSITE REFILLS

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Scan for info and to register your organization's participation:



ROTARY CONTACTS  
Gayle Demko  
gayledemko@gmail.com  
Amy Reay  
amyreay@aol.com

**Rotary**  
Club of Suffield CT

Lunch is provided: NOON-1 PM

**Join Rotary in Making A Difference in Suffield**

When Rotarians and communities unite for a global day of service, the impact is profound.

Together, we address real needs, strengthen bonds, inspire hope, create a meaningful change and a shared sense of purpose & pride in Suffield.

This year Rotary will assist Hilltop Farm in the painting of their iconic white fencing in this rewarding community service project. Rotary looks forward to working with Suffield's Organizations to make this project a community success!

Hilltop Farm is on the National Register of Historic Places. Suffield is fortunate to host this beautiful property!



#### Celebrate Our Accomplishments

After the work is done, stay and enjoy a picnic as we come together to celebrate the EPIC Achievements of the Day. Experience the pride and joy that comes from making a real difference in our communi-

ty and join us in recognizing the collective effort that brings us closer together. \*\*\*Lunch will be provided at noon time, not necessarily when we have completed our To Do List\*\*

SCAN the QR code to Register for this EPIC Day! ☘



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Photo by Danielle Chicaiza

Suffield Girl Scouts enjoyed a day of fun racing their derby cars.

## Girl-Powered

By Erica Boucher

Nearly forty of Suffield's Girl Scouts gathered at the VFW on Valentines Day to share their love of ... derby car racing, of course!

The derby cars were cut and lovingly painted, decorated and adorned. Each car raced four times, allowing for a run on each of the four tracks. At the end of the event, trophies were given to the top cars in each of

the divisions: Daisy, Brownie and Junior.

It wasn't just speed that was rewarded; trophies for Superlatives were also given out. The "Most Creative" trophy was awarded to a car with a bubble gum dispenser on top. "All Show No Go" was awarded to an eye-catching bedazzled car. Many of the scouts had their eyes on the "Safety" trophy, which came with adorable

little traffic cones and was bestowed on the car with the slowest time of the day. Safety first!

The event was organized by Troop Leader, Steve Moriarty, with lots of assistance from Suffield's Cub Scouts, who so generously include Girl Scouts in their Pinewood Derby weekend. The race was one of the smoothest in memory. Great job, Girl Scouts! ☘

## Last of the Snow

By Joe Artioli

In March, Joey Artioli and his friend Jackson Walters, both Suffield High freshmen and long-time basketball buddies, cleared away the last of the big snowfall to prepare the outdoor basketball court for (5) 3 vs 3 tournaments they set up with some friends. Just like the NCAA tournaments, the games are scheduled and bracketed as they progress. The pair spent eight hours on a weekend and the following Monday

shoveling the snow with help from a few friends.

On Monday, the day before the start of the games, they broke a shovel. Undeterred and still needing to finish the job, Joey and Jackson walked to Suffield Hardware to buy a shovel, with their parents unaware. On Tuesday, with temperatures in the 70s, most of the remaining snow just melted away. It is great to see the kids outside working together to get the courts ready. ☘



Photo by Joe Artioli

High school basketball buddies, Jackson Walters and Joey Artioli.

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## Club Scholarships Available for Journalism Students

From press release

The Valley Press Club, based in Springfield, Mass., will award \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut who are interested in pursuing a career in journalism.

• The Valley Press Club Scholarships, funded by contributions and dues to the Press Club, are for students planning careers in print, online or broadcast journalism.

• The Republican Scholarship, funded by *The Republican*, is for students living within the newspaper's circulation area who are planning careers in print journalism.

• The 22News Scholarship, funded by WWLP-22News is for students planning careers in broadcast journalism.

• The MassLive Scholarship is for a Massachusetts high school senior planning

to pursue a career in print, online or broadcast journalism/communication. This scholarship is available to a student who is underrepresented in the field of journalism and is planning to attend an institution of higher education in the field.

• The Edward J. Malley Jr. Memorial Scholarship, established in memory of a chief photographer for the Springfield Newspapers, is for students planning careers in photojournalism.

• The Rhonda Swan Memorial Scholarship, established in memory of the award-winning journalist, editor and author, honors her legacy by supporting students from the Greater Springfield area who aspire to careers in journalism and bring voices and perspectives that have been historically underrepresented in the field.

Primary emphasis is placed on career goals, writing ability, scholastic aptitude and overall achievement as measured by an applicant's high school transcript, class rank, academic awards, SAT scores and extracurricular activities. The deadline for submissions is April 10, 2026.

Scholarship applications are available at [www.ValleyPressClub.com](http://www.ValleyPressClub.com) or high school guidance offices. Applications may be sent by mail to Noreen Tassinari, Scholarship Chair, Valley Press Club, P.O. Box 5475, Springfield, Mass. 01102 or electronically to [NTassinari77@gmail.com](mailto:NTassinari77@gmail.com)

Over the course of six decades, The Valley Press Club has presented over \$140,000 in scholarships to eligible students. The Valley Press Club consists of active and retired journalists and public relations professionals from corporate and non-profit organizations. ☘

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# PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

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

## Roaring 20's Party Fun!

### Spring into Fun with the Parks and Recreation Department

Spring is an exciting time at the Suffield Parks and Recreation Department, and we're thrilled to share the programs and events we have planned for our community. Registration for all programs is now open at [suffieldrec.com](http://suffieldrec.com), and there's something for everyone to enjoy. We are also continuing to celebrate America's 250th anniversary at many of our events and look forward to kicking off a summer-long celebration of #SummerInSuffield. Our first larger scale 250th event was our The Roaring 20's Party that was held on Friday, March 6. It was a wonderful evening as the community came together to celebrate America's 250th Anniversary, Suffield style. Guests of all ages enjoyed music, mock casino-style games with a mock speakeasy along with Bingo and other 1920s activities, creating a night full of energy, creative costumes, and community spirit. A special thank you to our guest card dealers—First Selectman Colin Moll, Sarah Tschannen, Stephan Bastrzycki, and Ryan Brady—and to

all the volunteers who helped make the evening a success.

We are especially excited about the next session in our Suffield Business Series, "Create, Shoot, Edit, Post: Practical & Creative Content for Small Businesses," which happened Monday, March 30, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. This free, hands-on workshop was perfect for small business owners, nonprofit leaders and anyone looking to build their personal brand in 2026. Alyssa Salerno, Media Specialist with The Stephanie Salerno Team at Coldwell Banker Realty, guided participants through creating effective content ideas, shooting photos and videos using a smartphone, editing with easy-to-use tools, and posting with confidence to engage an audience. You didn't need to have attended the previous workshop to participate — this session stood on its own. Attendees left with practical strategies and a simple content plan they can put into action right away. Light refreshments were provided.

Families won't want to miss our new Family Fun Day: Spring & Easter Egg-stravaganza on Wednesday, April



Photos by: Donna Carney-Bastrzycki, Director of Special Programs

(Left to right) Ryan Brady, Dan Leonard, Donna Carney-Bastrzycki, Sarah Tschannen, Irene Kraft, Helen Thresher, Stephen Bastrzycki enjoy the party.

1, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Suffield Senior Center. This indoor, town-wide event will feature crafts, games, a community egg hunt and photos with the Easter Bunny, along with pizza, snacks and sweet treats. Since it's April Fool's Day, there may even be a few surprises tucked inside the eggs. It's an affordable and festive way for families to celebrate spring together.

Later in April, creativity takes center stage at our Open Mic Coffee House & Talent Show on Thursday, April 16, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 5:15 p.m.). We invite poets, singers, karaoke stars, magicians, actors, photographers, bands, writers and performers of all kinds to share their talents with the community. Whether you take the stage or come to enjoy the show, it's always

a welcoming evening. Coffee, tea, cocoa, desserts and pizza slices will be available for purchase, making it a great night out for families and friends.

Spring at Suffield Parks and Recreation is packed with opportunities for all ages. We offer sports and fitness programs for adults and children, scenic hikes, the much-anticipated Dancing with the Suffield Stars, and a variety of special events designed to bring the community together. From creative workshops and arts programs to our popular Bowling Buddies Outing Group, there are countless ways to stay active, learn new skills, and connect with others this season. **Everyone should give Bucket Golf a try on the Green, Sunday, April 19.**

Looking ahead to summer, we have an equally exciting lineup planned, including our

popular Summer Camps — Sunrise Day Camp, Adventure Camp, Kids Korner, Morning Munchkins, Sports Camps — as well as fitness programs, Movie Nights, Concerts on the Green, Suffield Night at the Yard Goats, World Cup viewing parties on the Green, a Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest and additional special events. Our programs are designed to keep residents entertained, active and connected while providing diverse, inclusive, and affordable experiences for the entire community.

For a full listing of spring programs, visit [suffieldrec.com](http://suffieldrec.com). With spring in the air, the celebration of America's 250th underway, and #SummerInSuffield just around the corner, we look forward to seeing you at our programs, events, and camps this season. ☘



Colin Moll, First Selectman, Ryan Brady and Stephen Bastrzycki. They were the guest card dealers for the event.



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## Deadlines for May 2026 Issue

**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](mailto: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.com](mailto:ads@thesuffieldobserver.com)

For 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:	April 12
Articles	Hard-copy only	Deadline:	April 10
Articles	Email	Deadline:	April 12
Ads	All Ads	Deadline:	April 10
Photos	All Photos	Deadline:	April 12

Publish Date: May 1, 2026

## The Suffield Observer

P.O. Box 424  
 Suffield, CT 06078  
 Tel: 860-668-7442

email: [Inbox@TheSuffieldObserver.com](mailto:Inbox@TheSuffieldObserver.com)  
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**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 News

### 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.

Wed, April 1 - Brown butter poppy seed ravioli, grape salad, roll

Thurs, April 2 - Italian meatball soup, grilled cheese with provolone, salami and pepperoni

Tues, April 7 - Mac & cheese, wedge salad

Wed, April 8 - Hamburger, hot dog, macaroni salad

Thurs, April 9 - Vegetable soup, ham and cheese on a roll with lettuce and tomato, chips

Tues, April 14 - Crispy chicken salad, pita toast

Wed, April 15 - Lasagna, Italian chopped salad, roll

Thurs, April 16 - Fish sandwich with tartar sauce, oven roasted potatoes

Tues, April 21 - Tuna Salad on an everything bagel with lettuce, tomato, red onion, cucumber and cream cheese, chips, pickle

Wed, April 22 - Shepherd's pie, apple salad, bread and butter

Thurs, April 23 - BBQ chicken, baked beans, baked potato

Tues, April 28 - French bread pizza with chicken, spinach and white sauce, tater tots

Wed, April 29 - Chicken

pot pie, Caesar salad  
Thurs, April 30 - Manicotti with sauce, garden salad, roll

### Mini Bus Trips

Note: There will be a change to the Monday shopping in Enfield with the minibus starting in April. The pick-up time will move from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. The shopping will be an hour and a half in length.

Mini Bus trips require five passengers and are weather permitting. Reservations for April trips will open on March 23. Call 860-668-3844 to make a reservation.

### Shopping at Buckland Hills & Evergreen

Tuesday, April 7 - Pickups begin at 9 a.m.

### Shopping at Walmart

Thursday, April 9 - Pickups begin at 8:30 a.m.

### Lunch at Summer House in Southwick

Tuesday, April 14 - Pickups begin at 11 a.m.

### Lunch at Red Robin

Friday, April 17 - Pickups begin at 11:30 a.m.

### Lunch at Effie's Place & Noah Webster Museum (\$12 Ticket Purchase Req.)

Tuesday, April 21 - Pickups begin at 11 a.m.

### Advanced Directive & Living Will Presentation

Tuesday, April 28 - Pickups begin at 12 p.m.

### Shopping at Trader Joe's

Thursday, April 30 - Pickups begin at 8:30 a.m.

### April Activities

#### AARP Tax Aide

Thursday, April 2 by appointment

Call 860-668-8830 to make an appointment.

#### Themed Lunch: Take me out to the Ballgame!

Wednesday, April 8 at noon

Included with lunch sign up on this day.

#### Art Hour

Thursdays 10—11:30 a.m. FREE!

April 2 — Jewelry making

April 16 — Clay Ornaments or Trinket Bowls

April 23 — Painting Ceramics

April 30 — Bookmarks and Cards

Raise Some Dough! Fundraiser

Friday, April 10 - 5 - 7:30 p.m.

\$12 per person. Choose your toppings, build your pizza, and enjoy a great meal while supporting the Senior Center Kitchen!

#### Card Making Class

Tuesday, April 14 - 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

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

#### Armchair Travel to India

Monday, April 13 - 11 a.m.—12 p.m.

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

#### Musical Bingo

Tuesday, April 14 - 12:45 - 2 p.m. FREE! Prizes for the winners!

### Open Mic Night

Thursday, April 16 - 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

FREE! All ages welcome! Sign up to show off your talents!

### Floral Design Classes

Tuesday, April 21, May 19 and June 23

Morning class 9-10 a.m. Evening class 7-8 p.m. \$45/class. Registration required. Join the fantastic Bob Whitney to make the most gorgeous designs!

### Advanced Directives & Living Wills

Tuesday, April 28 12:45- 2 p.m.

Elder Law attorney Marcia Hess will be coming to dis-

cuss. SCA will provide pastries and coffee!

### AARP Safe Driver Courses

Upcoming Classes: 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](http://suffieldseniorcenter.com) or call 860-668-8830. ☞



Photo provided by Suffield by the River

104-year-old Fran Morway is all smiles on her birthday.

## Celebrating 104 Years!

From a press release

Beloved Suffield native Fran Morway recently celebrated a remarkable 104 years of life.

Fran Morway's Suffield roots run deep. She was born February 1, 1922, in Suffield, where she was raised on her family's farm with her five siblings. Fran attended Suffield Academy, where she was honored in 2024 as the school's

oldest living student.

More than a century later, she's still proudly part of the same community she's always called home. Now residing at Suffield by the River, Fran remains very active, attending exercise classes daily and walking the halls of the community in the winter. Fran notes that longevity runs in her family proudly sharing that her baby brother is 102. ☞

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By Kathy Werth

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To upgrade to online advertising, contact Ann Kannen by email at [ads@thesuffieldobserver.com](mailto:ads@thesuffieldobserver.com) or by phone at 860-668-7442.

Say you saw it in the *Observer!*



# Suffield Garden Club

[www.SuffieldGardenClub.org](http://www.SuffieldGardenClub.org)

## Expert Horticulturist Featured

By Lisa Parker,  
Suffield Garden Club

During the gray, soggy days of early Spring, it's difficult to imagine that in a few more months Suffield gardeners will be toting watering cans and dragging hoses to hydrate precious plants. However, planning ahead can increase chances for success during the dry months of summer.

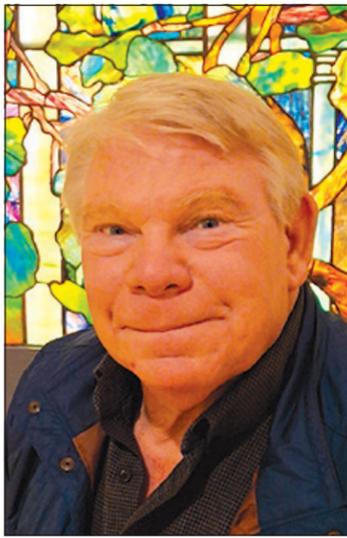


Photo provided by Warren Leach  
**Noted horticulturist Warren Leach to visit Suffield.**

On April 6, the Suffield Garden Club will feature "Quenching Heat, Humidity and Drought - Gardens that Dazzle - Withstanding the Dog Days and Onwards" by Warren Leach. Warren is an award-winning landscape designer, twice receiving the National Landscape Association Regional Certificate of Merit for Residential Landscape Design. Images of his garden design at Brigham Hill Farm in North Grafton, Massachusetts are archived at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

including: The University of Rhode Island, the Brown University Learning Community, Rhode Island School of Design Continuing Education, the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College, and the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

For more than thirty-five years, Warren has been creating beautiful landscapes throughout New England. Visitors can enjoy his captivating and educational display gardens at Tranquil Lake Nursery in Rehoboth, Mass., where he is co-owner.

The program is free and open to the public starting at 12 noon, Monday April 6, 2026, at the Second Baptist Church, 100 North Main Street, Suffield. Parking and entrance are in the rear of the building.

Warren has taught horticulture and landscape design at numerous horticultural institutions throughout the Northeast

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.Suffield-GardenClub.org](http://www.Suffield-GardenClub.org). ☘



Photo by joan Heffernan

## Willie Mays

By Abby Wolcott

My dad was a big fan of the San Francisco Giants, and he passed that on to the four of us kids. In the summer when his beloved team traveled east to play the Mets, he would finagle a few tickets. We would rattle around on the train to New York and press our faces to the glass on the subway as it shuttled us out to Flushing Meadow for the Giants/Mets game. Invariably, there would be some double header, and thus our main reason for being there, Willie Mays, was being rested for the night game. We ate our fill of popcorn and took in the scene but never really got over the fact that we were not able to see our number 24 in action.



Photo by Joan Heffernan

### Tree Swallows taking in the game.

So eventually we wore my dad down, and he agreed to take us on a road trip to San Francisco. We just wanted to see the Giants game, but he drove us up the scenic coast highway, almost careening off the cliff near Point Lobos. As I recall, at least a few of us were upchucking in the back seat. That may be why he and my mom sought out another couple with kids and they tried to pawn the four of us off on them. We outlasted my parents' efforts as we had been around the block by then and were well aware of their travel shenanigans. Finally, Candlestick Park appeared like a beacon, and we got to see our beloved Willie Mays play centerfield. All was right in the world.

stuck with me. A young boy, Paul Asher who was to become a writer, had a chance encounter with Willie after a game. Quaking in his Keds at the excitement of the moment, he came face to face with Mays at the ballfield. Of course, the young boy asked for an autograph, but neither Willie or Paul had a pen and the moment passed. No pen, no autograph. Later that boy was to carry a pen with him all his waking days. And he proved he knew how to use it as he became a prolific writer. After hearing that story of missed opportunity, I try to carry a pen with me as is evident by all the ink splots on my clothes. I have not amassed a collection of autographs, but on occasion I have written a pithy sentence or two. Had I not had a pen, the sentence would remain jumbled in my head like all the other stuff.

my favorite parts about watching them is to daydream about our hunt for Willie Mays, and the thought of all those times I have had a pen handy if an opportunity presented itself.

I didn't think about Willie Mays too much over the next decade or so, but when I was in graduate school, a professor was trying to hit home the point of keeping a writer's notebook. She relayed a story about Willie Mays that has

These days my baseball viewing is scaled back to Little League games where two of my grandsons play. They know how to chew sunflower seeds, how to bang the bat on their cleats, how to talk the talk and how to play ball. In fact, they always have a baseball glove in their hands, often when they should have a textbook or a list of spelling words. And one of

But when the innings drag, I have another perfectly wonderful diversion because the ball field abuts a lovely meadow with some well-placed bird houses. And at one of those houses a pair of tree swallows have taken up shop in all their iridescent splendor. They are ever so graceful as they fly over the meadow and sure look regal sitting on the box. In the spring, they will build a nest of mostly grass in the box and feed on insects from dawn until dusk. They raise one or two broods of about four chicks each. After being fed around the clock, the chicks will be ready to fledge and take to the sky with great agility. And when fall comes around they join their parents and many other swallows as they begin their migration to warmer parts. They like to first congregate in great flocks, often near the river and it is a spectacle to behold. So, during the games, I will try not to have my head facing the meadow when my grandkids get their time at bat. But those swallows sure are hard to resist! ☘

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# Families Join Movement to Reclaim Tech-Life Balance

By Anna-Kristin Daub-Murphy, the Suffield Balance Project

It started with a single news clip and a resonant mission. Now, a new local movement is rapidly gaining traction in Suffield, as parents seek to navigate the complexities of raising children in an increasingly digital world.

The local chapter of The Balance Project, a non-profit dedicated to helping families make mindful decisions around tech use and prioritize real-world independence, held its inaugural meeting on February 26th. As part of the last generation to have experienced childhood without the internet, I felt compelled to bring the initiative home.

The response has been swift. In just the first few weeks, nearly 60 Suffield families have signed on to participate.

## The Science of "Modern Childhood"

The movement is fueled by growing global concerns regarding the "screen-based childhood." Current data from Common Sense Media reveals that by age eight, nearly one in four children already own their own smartphone. By the

time they reach their teenage years, nearly half of U.S. teens report being online "almost constantly" (Pew Research Center). Excessive screen time is incompatible with time spent playing and exploring the physical world.

Research suggests this shift away from "play-based" childhood has tangible consequences:

- **Reduced Independence:** Constant connectivity acts as a "digital umbilical cord," often hindering the development of self-reliance

and problem-solving skills.

- **Developmental Impacts:** A 2025 study from the American Psychological Association noted a "vicious circle" where increased screen time leads to higher rates of anxiety and depression, which in turn causes children to retreat further into devices to cope.

- **Physical Health:** Excessive screen use is linked to disrupted sleep patterns and lower levels of physical activity, which are critical for sensory and motor development in younger children.



Photo by Photo by Em Tu Waddell

At the Inaugural Suffield Balance Project chapter meeting on February 26, a group of Suffield parents came together, off-screen, to share ideas, discuss tech-life balance, and build community. Scan the QR code to join a growing group of almost 60 Suffield families!

The project relies on a sociological principle known as the 25% tipping point. Research from the University of Pennsylvania suggests that when just 25% of a group adopts a new social norm, it creates a "persuasive domino effect" that can shift the culture of the entire community. By building a committed minority of families in Suffield, the project aims to make delayed and mindful introduction of tech and untethering of children the new local standard, easing the social pressure on both parents and children. The project also aims to provide families with better pathways to support our kids' age-appropriate independence throughout our local community.

As the chapter continues to grow, we plan to host monthly community discussions and screen-free social outings, proving that in the heart of the digital age, the most valuable connections are still the ones made in person. Scan the accompanying QR code to register for Suffield's Balance Project and receive information about upcoming meetings, events and initiatives. ☘

## Shifting the Norms in Suffield

At our first meeting, we discussed the current social pressures in Suffield and a shared vision for a healthier future. The goal is not to eliminate technology, but to restore a sense of harmony.

We want to give our kids a sense of the 'old-school' childhood back—the kind filled with outdoor play, face-to-face connection, and the freedom to explore. It's about bringing life and tech into a balance that allows for a life fully lived.



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