

The Suffield Observer

Vol XXVIII, No. 5

A Watchful Messenger

June 2026

Suffield's Liberty Tree Puts Down Roots

By Danna Gauntner,
Suffield Tree Committee

As part of Suffield's America 250 celebration, the Suffield Tree Committee planted a native red oak on the lawn between Kent Memorial Library and the town's Veterans Memorial this April. The planting pays tribute to the original Liberty Tree in Boston, a historic gathering place during the early days of the American Revolution where colonists shared ideas and organized in pursuit of independence. The selected location thoughtfully reflects those same ideals of community, reflection, and civic engagement.

Three Suffield Public Schools students provided engaging historical context about the significance of the original Liberty Tree. First Selectman Colin Moll presented a proclamation on behalf of the town, while State Representative Tami Zawistowski presented an American flag flown over the U.S. Capitol. Attendees were also offered scarlet oak saplings, generously provided by Bartlett Tree Experts, to plant in their own yards as a living commemoration. With participation span-



Photo by Ariel Gragnolati

First Selectman Colin Moll, Sue Mayne, sophomore Lana Millette-Fanous, eighth-grade student Riley Dougherty, senior Nayan Tummalappally and State Representative Tami Zawistowski

ning all ages, the event was both inspiring and meaningful—a fitting tribute to the enduring American spirit. The student speeches and names are included below.

Liberty Tree Speech

Dr. Laura Norbut: Good afternoon. On behalf of Suffield Public Schools, we are grateful to the Suffield Tree Committee for the invitation to speak at this historic occasion. It is a privilege to be here alongside our distinguished guests, including First Selectman Moll, State Representative

Zawistowski, Superintendent Dunbar, and members of the Suffield community. I am joined today by three outstanding student leaders: senior Nayan Tummalappally, sophomore Lana Millette-Fanous and eighth-grade student Riley Dougherty. They are here to share the significance of the Liberty Tree and Suffield's revolutionary history. I invite Nayan, Lana, and Riley to share their remarks.

Nayan: This July, we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Inde-

pendence—a monumental milestone that defined our nation's pursuit of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Two hundred and fifty years ago, as the American colonies moved toward independence, the struggle extended far beyond major metropolitan areas like Boston or Philadelphia. It was unfolding on the very ground we stand on.

Riley: To understand that struggle, we look to the 'Liberty Tree'—a great elm in Boston that became a beacon of resistance in the 1760s. It was a sacred

space where the Sons of Liberty gathered to protest the Stamp Act, post public notices, and share news of the fight against oppression. The British grew to hate that tree so much that during the Siege of Boston in 1775, they chopped it down and burned it for firewood. They believed that by destroying the wood, they could extinguish the spirit of liberty. But they were wrong. That spirit had already traveled up the Connecticut River to our community. Suffield was no quiet farming village; it was a town of deep, patriotic convictions.

Lana: In the years leading up to 1776, Suffield was a town of action. In fact, our town passed the Suffield Resolves—our own Declaration of Independence—nearly two years before Thomas Jefferson penned the famous document in Philadelphia.

When the Lexington Alarm sounded in April 1775, Suffield didn't hesitate. Over 100 men from this town immediately took up their muskets and began the march toward Massachusetts. They left behind their farms and families,

Continued on Page 4

New Fire Chief to Hire Volunteers, Rebuild Camaraderie

By Tony Peterson

When Suffield native Brian Gauthier graduated from college and had time to spare, a town appeal for volunteer firefighters caught his attention. He applied in 2006, was accepted and quickly became enamored with the mission of firefighting.

He immersed himself in the mandatory firefighting courses, some held on evenings and Saturdays, requiring 250 hours of classwork. There were medical and driving certifications to earn, plus a timed Connecticut state physical ability test to pass. Additionally, Gauthier enrolled

in multiple optional instructor and officer leadership courses to pursue promotions. He worked hard and credited the department's career firefighters for helping guide his advancement. In 2010, he, too, was hired as a full-time firefighter, promoted to lieutenant in 2018, and then fire chief in April this year.

His short-term goals

Chief Gauthier has two immediate goals: hiring more volunteers and reestablishing camaraderie.

Currently, the department comprises eight career and 11 volunteer firefighters. He's

looking to hire 10 more volunteers. When I asked what the advantages of becoming a volunteer firefighter in Suffield were, he replied, "We actually have the most incentivized program in the state."

- First, being a town resident is not mandatory. Currently, one captain on the force is a volunteer from Agawam, while a few volunteers live in Southwick.

- Volunteers receive a \$200 town property tax abatement for each year they work, increasing by \$200 annually, up to a maximum of \$1,000.

Continued on Page 4



Photo by Tony Peterson

Suffield's new Fire Chief Brian Gauthier. He, his wife Nicole and their three sons, ages 7 to 13, live in Suffield.

The Suffield Observer

Editorial

Speak Up, Be Heard

As I was reviewing the articles for this month's issue, I was struck by two in particular; the speech by the three students at the dedication of the Liberty Tree and the article on the air museum. Both stories pay tribute to the sacrifices made by our forebears who fought to create and protect our democratic liberties which are imbued in American society.

Since I am limited here to just a few hundred words, I would like to address one right I hold dear: freedom of the press. My wife's four times great-grandfather wrote and published a satirical book in 1831 in Ireland. He protested the corruption of the Anglican Church and the government enforced levying of tithes on Irish Catholic farmers by Anglican bishops. Although he was Protestant, he felt this was unjust and published the book mocking the government and the Church. He was found guilty of "seditious libel", imprisoned and banished from Great Britain. He fled to America where he knew he could write openly and without persecution.

While he didn't have the comic writers that support Stephen Colbert or Jimmy Kimmel, he had a sharp mind, a passion for the truth and the fortitude to stand up to censorship. As Americans, we are protected when speaking freely. Threatening to remove broadcasting licenses over satirical material or attacking newspapers with frivolous lawsuits from U.S. government agencies (that cost our taxpayers) feels like 1831 Ireland. People from our town have given their lives to defend our liberties which, under the first amendment of the Bill of Rights, include the freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly and petition.

Freedom of the press can be extremely uncomfortable. When Alexis de Tocqueville wrote about it in *Democracy in America*, he said: "I approve of it from a consideration more of the evils it prevents than of the advantages it ensures". He felt that while it can be harmful in attacking individuals, "Its eye is constantly open to detect the secret springs of political designs and to summon the leaders of all parties in turn to the bar of public opinion."

Our *Suffield Observer* is a volunteer paper made by dedicated people who celebrate the joys and challenges of our community, and at times watch out for those "secret springs of political design". Like an itchy wool sweater, it can be uncomfortable, but it does keep us warm and protected.

Chris Childs
Editor-of-the-Month

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Summer Farmers Market Opening Soon

By Ellie Binns

Suffield's Farmers Market begins its 2026 summer season on Saturday, June 20.

This June will mark our 25th year and there is a hearty group of vendors still participating after all these years! Congratulations to Bielonko Farm, Merry Mite Wild Gardens, Easy Pickins Orchard, and Cupola Hollow Farm as founding members of the Market. What an incredible achievement! Over the span of 25 years, the Suffield Farmers Market has hosted many vendors and served as a community gathering place and a venue for farmers, crafters, volunteer organizations and people to gather, supporting agriculture and buying local.

Along with our returning vendors, we look forward



to welcoming some new vendors. We strive to keep our small-town atmosphere while still offering a variety of items. Details and weekly updates will be provided on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/suffieldfarmersmarket.

As part of your Saturday morning routine, plan a visit to the Suffield Farmers Market to truly support local. We offer seasonal products such as plants, shrubs, vegetables, meats, floral bouquets, honey, farm fresh eggs, fruits,

berries, herbs, vegetable plants, garden art, jams, jelly, pickles, fudge, baked goods, handcrafted soaps, dog treats and homemade items.

The Market is held rain or shine (severe weather may cause a cancellation) every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on the southern Town Green, conveniently located in the center of town. The Market will run through the end of September.

Most of the farms in the market participate in the WIC coupon program and some of our vendors are now SNAP certified as well for your convenience.

If you need more information or want to find out about being a vendor, please contact Ellie Binns ebinns@suffieldct.gov or 860-668-3848. ☿

Our Hometown Paper

By Kacy Colston,
Observer Board Chair

The Suffield Observer is our hometown paper – the only regular publication that focuses on Suffield news, events and businesses.

The paper is published ten times a year by around 100 volunteer staff and authors. Last month Jay Presser, who had served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of *The Suffield Observer* for the past 9 years, announced his retirement. I was elected to replace him. I've been a volunteer at *The Observer* since 2018, both a member of the production team and an author. My background is in Project Management and Information Technology, and I apply both skills at the paper.

"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."

If you appreciate *The Observer*, please help us achieve our mission.

- Submit stories and photographs to the paper: a photo with an explanatory caption, or a story about a new business, current event or local history. Send it to inbox@thesuffieldobserver.com. Our deadline is the 12th of the month.
- If you have a business that serves Suffield residents, consider advertising in *The Observer*. Contact our advertising manager at 860-668-7442.
- Let us know how we are doing! Please send a note to chair@thesuffieldobserver.com. ☿



Kacy Colston

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TOWN GOVERNMENT

June Commission Meetings

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

| | |
|--|--|
| Conservation Comm. Tues., June 9 & 23 7 p.m., Town Hall | Parks & Rec. Comm. Wed., June 10 7 p.m., Town Hall |
| Economic Dev. Comm. Thurs., June 18 8:30 a.m., Town Hall | Perm. Bldg. Comm. Thurs., June 18 6 p.m., Town Hall |
| Education, Board of Mon., June 1 & 15 6:30 p.m., SHS | P&Z Commission Mon., June 15 7 p.m., Town Hall |
| Finance, Board of Mon., June 8 7 p.m., Town Hall | Police Commission Wed., June 24 6 p.m., Police Station |
| Fire Commission Tues., June 9 6:30 p.m. SPD 911 Mountain Road | Selectmen, Board of Wed., June 3 7 p.m., Town Hall |
| Historic District Comm. Mon., June 1 7:30 p.m. Town Hall | Social Service Comm. Fri., June 5 8:30 a.m., SCA Office |
| KML Commission Tue., June 9 7 p.m. Town Hall | WPCA Tues., June 9 7 p.m. 844 East St. South |
| | Zoning Board of Appeals Tue., June 30 7 p.m., Town Hall |



First Selectman's Update



Colin Moll

As summer approaches, Suffield is preparing for a full season of community events, celebrations, and important milestones across town departments. From honoring America's 250th birthday to recognizing local employees, volunteers and civic projects, there is a lot to look forward to in the weeks ahead. Below are several updates and upcoming opportunities for residents to participate in and stay informed about what's happening in Town.

The Suffield Summer Fair will take place this year from Thursday evening, June 25 through Saturday, June 27.

The event will conclude with a fireworks display on Saturday evening. Residents are invited to attend and enjoy the festivities as the community comes together to celebrate America's 250th anniversary, highlighted by a fireworks show fitting for this historic occasion.

Joining in on the 250th celebration, the VFW will be bringing in a "Freedom 250 Museum" truck on June 5-7. The "mobile museum" gives visitors an immersive experience during the early stages of America's birth. The truck will be parked at the Suffield High School on those dates.

I invite you to join us at our ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly renovated

Atrium at the Library on June 3, 6 p.m. The once, less usable space that was filled with small landscape rocks is now fully paved, with furniture that was donated by the Suffield Rotary.

On June 18, we will be hosting our annual Board and Commission Appreciation BBQ. Anybody who serves on any board, commission, or task force is welcome to join as well as family members.

It's dog license month. Don't forget to register your furry family members at the Town Clerk's office or on the newly added online registration page.

We recently had three retirements of long-time employees: Marylou Brewster, Assistant to the Senior Center Director, Julie Nigro, Business Manager at the WPCA and Robin Lutwinas, the Assistant Town Clerk. Thank you to all three for your years of service and dedication to the Town.

This past month, we promoted Lieutenant Brian Gauthier to the rank of Fire Chief and Firefighter Zach Louis to the rank of Lieutenant. Both have served with the Suffield Fire Department for many years,

and I'm looking forward to new leadership and the ability of both to grow and strengthen the Fire Department and our new staff. Congratulations to both of them!

The FY 2026-27 budget was approved at the May 6 Town Meeting with a 2.96% increase. Thanks again to all who attended and all those involved in the development process.

Our Permanent Building Commission (PBC) continues to work with the Board of Education and Fire Commission and Department to fully explore the need for facility updates at both the Middle School and Fire House 1 that may include reno-to-new, build new or partial renovations. We expect the PBC to have a section on their website that will be dedicated to informing and updating the general public starting this month. Follow along as their work will eventually lead to a potential referendum asking the voters whether or not they would approve proposed projects to either building.

Hope everybody enjoys the start of summer and, as always, my door at Town Hall is always open. ☘



Time to license your dog!

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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, Agendas, Minutes, Recordings.

Board of Education May 4, 2026

The Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) Student Recognition Award recognizes students for leadership, service, and character.

- The Suffield Middle School CAPSS recipient is Lorelei Grant. Principal Smith said Lorelei was recognized as a quiet leader who demonstrates humility, service and strong character.

- The Suffield High School CAPSS recipient is Anna Griffin. Principal Anthony Hibbert said Anna was recognized for her academic excellence, leadership in Future Farmers of America (FFA) and community contributions.

The Suffield High School Class of 2026 Salutatorian is Anwasha Chandra. Principal Hibbert spoke of Anwasha's extensive academic and extracurricular achievements.

The Suffield High School Class of 2026 Valedictorian is Noora Khaled. Principal Hibbert spoke of Noora's leadership, academic excellence, and involvement in robotics, drama and leadership programs.

Business Manager Eric Remington reported that facilities updates included progress on several capital projects.

- The high school HVAC project is scheduled to begin immediately after graduation. The roof project is pending state grant approval, after which bidding will begin. The photovoltaic project requires a revised town resolution before resubmission for funding.

- Additional projects at Spaulding School are underway, though major bathroom renovations are not expected to be completed this summer. The high school floor replacement began over April break and will continue after the school year ends. The district anticipates completing several other maintenance projects over the summer months.

Principal Smith provided an overview of the 2025-26 progress, key achievements, and priorities for Suffield Middle School. The year emphasized strengthening instructional practices, enhancing stu-

dent support, and improving the overall student experience.

- Academic initiatives included significant professional development in mathematics, including implementation of Illustrative Math and Building Thinking Classrooms practices; a shift in math interventions from remediation to acceleration, aligning support with grade-level instruction; and the selection of Amplify ELA for pilot implementation in 2026-27, with ongoing curriculum planning.

- Program highlights include the expansion of Career & Technical Education (CTE), including community partnerships and student participation in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) competitions. Growth of technology education and robotics, including student-led projects such as the development of an outdoor patio space. Principal Smith reported on the revitalization of the library as a central learning hub, including expanded programming.

- Ongoing work includes a continued focus on Tier 1 instruction and alignment of MTSS practices across grade levels. Adjustments to the schedule are being explored as well as the expansion of world

language programming. Implementation of the RULER social-emotional framework and analysis of school climate survey data has begun.

- Principal Smith said priorities for the 2026-27 school year include the expansion of instructional improvements across all content areas and the launch of Amplify ELA pilot. Math initiatives will continue. He plans to improve data use to inform instruction and expand RULER implementation to students and families. The math department is showing great growth.

Principal Hibbert provided a year-end review of Suffield High School. He highlighted strong student outcomes, including six National Merit Scholarship qualifiers, an unusually high number, reflecting both student performance and instructional quality. The school has made significant progress reducing chronic absenteeism, decreasing from 25% to approximately 15%, with continued improvement projected. Strategies include weekly attendance meetings, individualized plans, and coordinated support from counseling and support staff. A new SAT Prep Academy was implemented.

Helena Bailey Spencer Tree Fund Committee April 15, 2026

Picnic in the Park arrangements with Parks and Recreation on June 6 is underway. Tree naming will be at 1:30.

Forest Bathing has been scheduled for October 30 with Parks and Recreation and the Suffield Land Conservancy. There will be a maximum of 12 participants. A charge of \$20 per person will cover our expenses.

Historic District Commission—May 4, 2026

The Commission engaged in an in-depth discussion regarding the Suffield Historic District Commission (HDC) handbook, which has not undergone a comprehensive update in approximately 22 years. Commissioner Tracey reported that she is continuing to work with the state to secure a grant to fund the revision process. She reported that the grant application has been completed and is awaiting Chairman John's signature before submission. If awarded, the grant would allow the Commission to hire a consultant specializing in historic district handbooks to draft updated regulations reflecting currently accepted materials, preservation standards, and best practices. ☞

Liberty Tree

Continued from page 1

driven by the ideals the Liberty Tree represented: the right to self-determination and the strength of a united community. Suffield became a vital link for the Continental Army, providing the salt, grain, and blankets necessary to keep the revolution alive.

Nayan: The symbolic legacy of the Liberty Tree remains visible in the character of our town today. Every time we walk past the historic homes on Main Street or gather on the Green, we are passing through a landscape shaped by those who stood for independence 250 years ago. Some of the descendants of Suffield's Rev-

olutionary generation still call this community home. We are proudly still linked to 1776.

Riley: The planting of this new Liberty Tree serves as a living monument to the farmers, the tradespeople and the families of this town who, in 1776, risked their lives and livelihoods for the birth of a new nation.

Lana: As we mark this 250th anniversary, we recognize that the Liberty Tree is more than a historical icon. It is a reminder that the American story is a local story. It is a Suffield story. Thank you.

250 years from now, people will look back at the significant historical events that this tree has witnessed. ☞

New Fire Chief

Continued from page 1

- They are paid \$25 per call they go on, "whether 10 minutes or 10 hours," Gauthier noted, saying the force makes about 600 calls annually.

- They are paid a stipend for training they successfully complete.

- Their protective gear, which costs about \$7,000 and includes an air pack, is paid for by the department.

(If you're a man or woman interested in becoming a Suffield volunteer firefighter, visit the Fire Department's page on the town website to apply. You must be at least 18, have a high school degree or equivalent, a driver's license and pass a physical and background check. To enter the

Suffield firefighter Cadet Program, you must be at least 14.)

As for rebuilding camaraderie within the force, Gauthier is offering more department-paid training and assignments, which he said his people want. He's allowing each of the four fire stations to operate as it likes, provided it abides by regulations. He's avoiding micromanaging his leaders so they can have their own voices.

"The people we have now are just great," said Gauthier. "I've been really trying to give them the flexibility and authority to do their own work how they want to do it."

"I have strong ties to the town. I'm very community-oriented," he said. He wants the same for the fire department.

Important intermediate goal
Soon, Fire Station 1 at 73

Mountain Rd, which serves as headquarters, needs to be renovated or replaced, said Gauthier. It's over 64 years old and, among various limitations, is not ADA-compliant, has no quarters for women, is not energy-efficient, lacks adequate training and meeting space and contains asbestos building materials. Gauthier has been meeting with the Fire Commission and the Permanent Building Commission to review options. It's increasingly likely that a new facility will need to be built at a cost of \$15 to \$20 million. Gauthier realizes that's a lot of money, but is hopeful that residents will understand the importance, noting, "The town has been fantastic. Voters have always given us every bit of equipment we could ever need." ☞

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Captain's Corner

By Suffield Fire Captain Ron Carlson

Open Burning Permits for Burning of Brush on Residential Property in Suffield

By mid-April the State of Connecticut has experienced over 30 uncontrolled brush fires. In the Town of Suffield any open burning during the year must be done by **Permit Only**. Permits are issued by the Local Burning Official and can be obtained from the Suffield Company #1 Fire Station located at 73 Mountain Road. (860 668-3888). Note: The permit **DOES NOT** relieve the permittee of any legal liability, which may be incurred as a result of the fire.

Below are some General Permit Conditions:

- Open burning is limited to the burning of brush only, on residential property upon which the permittee resides. **Only brush** (defined as shrubs, vegetation or prunings, the diameter of which is not greater than three inches at the widest point) may be burned. Burning on property not zoned or classified as residential is prohibited.
- Burning must cease if so directed by any member of the Suffield Fire Marshal's Office, any officer of the Suffield Fire Department, any designated municipal official responsible for enforcing the open burning laws and ordinances, or any official of the Connecticut State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.
- During the burn, all reasonable measures to assure complete combustion and reduce excessive smoke are to be taken.
- At no time during the burn should the fire be left unattended.

SUFFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT INCIDENT LOG

APRIL 2026

| PRIMARY INCIDENT TYPE | INCIDENTS |
|---|-----------|
| Accidental alarm | 5 |
| CO alarm | 2 |
| Citizen assist/service call | 5 |
| Controlled burning (Authorized) | 1 |
| Electrical hazard/ short circuit | 1 |
| Electrical power line down/ arching/malfunction | 1 |
| Fire/smoke alarm | 7 |
| Investigate hazardous release (Nothing found) | 1 |
| Malfunctioning alarm | 3 |
| Motor vehicle collision | 4 |
| Other Alarm | 1 |
| Other outside fire | 3 |
| Outside tank fire | 1 |
| Trash/rubbish fire | 2 |
| Vegetation/grass fire | 1 |
| Grand Total | 38 |

- At the completion of the burn period, all embers and coals must be extinguished and wetted, so as to prevent smoldering and fugitive ash emissions.
- All reasonable safety precautions are to be taken, including the clearing of grass and trees in the burn area, wetting down of the surrounding area, and placement of fire extinguishers and hose lines.
- The permit must be immediately available on site during the burn.
- Burning may only be conducted between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on a sunny or partly sunny

day with the wind speed between five and fifteen miles per hour. The burn pile must be completely extinguished by 5 p.m. and all embers and coals must be extinguished and wetted.

- Burning may not create a nuisance to nearby properties.

Please call the Suffield Company #1 Fire Station, (860) 668-3888, with any questions you may have concerning open burning.

NEVER USE FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS, SUCH AS GASOLINE OR OTHER VOLATILE LIQUIDS TO LIGHT OR ENHANCE A FIRE! ☹

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SUFFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

APRIL 2026

| REASONS | # OF CALLS |
|--|--------------|
| 911 Hang-Up | 21 |
| Abandoned Vehicle | 0 |
| Animal Complaint | 93 |
| Arson | 0 |
| Assault/Fight | 0 |
| Assist Citizen | 49 |
| Assist Motorist | 16 |
| Background Investigation | 0 |
| Body Found | 0 |
| Breach of Peace | 0 |
| Burglar Alarm | 28 |
| Burglary | 0 |
| Car Seat | 4 |
| Cell Block Check | 0 |
| Civil Matter | 0 |
| Community Policing - School | 29 |
| Community Policing Contact | 60 |
| CVS Drop Box | 1 |
| Directed Patrol | 493 |
| Disorderly | 1 |
| Domestic Disturbance | 5 |
| Drone Use | 2 |
| DUI/Erratic Operation | 11 |
| Escort Transport | 5 |
| Fingerprints | 12 |
| Fire Dept. Box/Hazmat/ Still/Confirmed/Structure | 21 |
| Firearms Surrender | 0 |
| Follow Up | 0 |
| Fraud | 9 |
| General Information | 21 |
| Harassment | 1 |
| Hazardous Condition | 13 |
| Identity Theft | 0 |
| Indecent Exposure/Sex Offense | 1 |
| Intoxicated Person | 0 |
| Juvenile Matters | 9 |
| Larceny | 2 |
| Lost/Found Property | 8 |
| M/V Accident No Injury/Injury/ Evading | 15 |
| Medical | 87 |
| Mentally Disturbed Person | 3 |
| Missing Person/Runaway | 0 |
| Motor Vehicle Pursuit | 0 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 2 |
| Motor Vehicle Violation | 291 |
| Narcotics Violation | 0 |
| Noise Complaint | 5 |
| Notification | 1 |
| Occupational Accident | 0 |
| Outside Assist | 10 |
| Parking Violation | 0 |
| Property Check | 628 |
| Robbery | 0 |
| School Panic Alarm | 0 |
| School Traffic Control | 0 |
| Sexual Assault | 2 |
| Subpoena Service | 0 |
| Sudden Death | 1 |
| Suicide Attempt | 0 |
| Suspicious Activity | 16 |
| Suspicious Person | 6 |
| Suspicious Vehicle | 27 |
| Threatening | 0 |
| Town Ordinance | 0 |
| Traffic Control/School Traffic | 218 |
| Training | 12 |
| Trespassing | 5 |
| Use of Force - Admin | 0 |
| Vandalism | 0 |
| Warrant Service | 0 |
| Welfare Check | 15 |
| TOTAL: | 2,259 |

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Community Calendar

June 2026

- Month of June **KML exhibits paintings by West Warren artist Terrence J. Kiernan** in the Pinney Gallery. Regular KML hours, Pinney Gallery. Suffield Arts Council. (pg 22)
- Thru Nov 1 **Seasons of Change Art Exhibit:** Laurie Tavino and Ray Pioggia - Sunday afternoons, Phelps-Hatheway visitors center. Nature-inspired works.
- Wed, Jun 3 **Atrium Grand Reopening** - 6 p.m., at Suffield Kent Memorial Library. Celebrate the renovated space. Light refreshments will be served. (pg 27)
- Fri, June 5 **First Selectman Coffee Hour** - 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., at Cafe Barista, 66 N. Main. 10% discount on your drink order.
- Fri, Jun 5 to Sun, Jun 7 **Freedom 250 Mobile Museum** - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., At Suffield High School. Experience the early stages of America's birth. Hosted by the Suffield VFW. (pg 3)
- Fri, Jun 5 **Declaration of Independence & Revolutionary History** - 6 to 7:30 p.m., Phelps-Hatheway Barn. Student exhibits, revolutionary refreshments. (pgs 18 & 19)
- Sat, June 6 **Veterans Breakfast** - 9 to 11 a.m. All Veterans and family members are welcome. At the VFW Hall, 972 Sheldon St., West Suffield.
- Sat, Jun 6 **130th Birthday for the Sibbil Dwight Kent Chapter of the DAR!** 9:30 a.m. on middle green near the DAR rock, followed by Old Cemetery tours. Free. (pg 35)
- Sat, Jun 6 **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, Jun 6 **CT Trails Day: Stories of Freedom-Suffield's Black History Walking Tour** - 10 a.m. to noon. Free, but advance registration is required at ctlandmarks.org. (pg 13)
- Sat, Jun 6 **Picnic in the Park** - 1 to 3 p.m., Sunrise Park. Trails, trees and 250th Anniversary. Bring lunch, beverages and ice cream provided. \$5 per person \$10 per family.
- Sat, Jun 6 **Tree naming ceremony** - 1:30 p.m. at Sunrise Park. Trees for Suffield celebrates the lives of two residents who made lasting impacts on Suffield.
- Sun, Jun 7 **Trail Walk** - 2 p.m. at the Alcorn preserve on Mountain Rd, opposite Phelps Road. Walk the New England Trail north toward Mass. www.suffieldlandconservancy.org.
- Thur, Jun 11 **Meet the Artist reception with Terrence J. Kiernan** - 6 to 8 p.m. in the Pinney gallery at KML w/Suffield Arts Council. (pg 22)
- Sat, Jun 13 **CT Open House Day: King House Museum & Barn** - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free. (pg 13)
- Sat, Jun 13 **Tag Sale on the lawn at Academy Hall** - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 1499 Mountain Road, West Suffield. Benefit for The Suffield Historical Society. (pg 20)
- Sat, Jun 13 **Grand Opening at Academy Hall** - 1 to 4 p.m., Suffield Historical Society's Second Location. America 250 exhibits featuring the Suffield Pharmacy Collection. (pg 13)
- Sun, Jun 14 **Phelps-Hatheway House Open Tour Days** - 1 - 4 p.m., Last tour departs one hour before closing. \$16 adult, \$12 senior or student, \$5 child. WWW.CTlandmarks.org
- Wed, Jun 17 **Annual Meeting of the Suffield Historical Society** - 7 p.m. At Academy Hall, 1499 Mountain Rd, West Suffield. Followed by the **Spies** presentation at 7:30 p.m. (pg 13)
- Wed, Jun 17 **Tories, Spies, and Traitors: Divided Loyalty in Revolutionary Connecticut** - 7:30 p.m. Academy Hall, 1499 Mountain Rd. CT Museum of History Presents. (pg 13)
- Thur, Jun 18 **Books & Beyond with Janelle Brown author of What Kind of Paradise** - 7 p.m. via Zoom. Register at Suffield-Library.org. (pg 26)
- Thur, Jun 18 **America 250: Revolutionary Libations** - 6:30 p.m., at 3 Figs Restaurant. Advance registration is required and will open June 4th at www.suffield-library.org. (pg 26)
- Fri, Jun 19 **First Selectman Coffee Hour** - 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., at Cafe Barista, 66 N. Main. 10% discount on your drink order.
- Fri, Jun 19 **The Satinwood Band with Rainy Day People Concert** - 7:30 p.m. In the barn at Hilltop. Please visit enfieldsafeharbor.org or 860-830-7142 for more information.
- Weekly **Suffield Farmers Market** - 9 a.m. til noon. Suffield town green south. Locally grown produce and crafts. *Every Saturday through the end of September.* (pg 2)
- Sat, Jun 20 **Suffield Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest** - 9 a.m. to noon. Theme is Red, White and Suffield. Prizes for youth, teen and adult. Register at Suffieldrec.com.
- Sat & Sun, Jun 20 & 21 **Vintage Base Ball Tournament** - New England Festival - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Stroh Field at Hilltop Farm, 1616 Mapleton Ave, Route 159. (pg 20)
- Sat, Jun 20 **American Revolution Travel Exhibit** on loan from the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History - 1 to 4 p.m., At Academy Hall, 1499 Mountain Rd. (pg 13)
- Thur, Jun 25 **America 250: Revolutionary Libations**- 6:30 p.m., at 3 Figs Restaurant. Advance registration is required and will open June 4th at www.suffield-library.org. (pg 26)
- Thur Jun 25 to Sat, Jun 27 **Suffield Summer Fair** - Thurs & Fri 5 to 9 p.m., Sat noon to 10 p.m. Live music, rides & games. Fireworks on Saturday! (pg 3)
- Sat, Jun 27 **Sustainable Suffield Repair Café** - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Senior Center. What do you need fixed? Also collecting used athletic sneakers for recycling. (pg 8)
- Sat, Jun 27 **Stories of Brave Revolutionary Era Potters** - 1 p.m. 880 Burbank St., Suffield. Make & take home a pinch pot. Rsvphistory@gmail.com to reserve. \$5 admission. (pg 14)
- Sat, Jun 27 **Juneteenth celebration** - 2:30 to 5:00 p.m., Third Baptist Church, 188 Kent Ave. Join us for a potluck celebration as we commemorate Juneteenth. (pg 9)
- Sat, Jun 27 **Firefly Walk** - 9 p.m. South Grand property, The access road is just before the house at 1466 South Grand as you head south. www.suffieldlandconservancy.org.
- Sun, Jun 28 **Connecticut Historic Gardens Day** - 9 a.m to 4 p.m., Phelps-Hatheway Gardens, parterre garden designed by landscape architect Mary Wells Edwards. Free.
- Sun, Jun 28 **Experience a journey through automotive history at the Annual Vintage Car Show** at the historic Hilltop Farm in Suffield, Conn. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Sat, Jul 4 **4th of July Boat Parade** - 3 p.m. concert, 5 p.m. parade. Gather at Babb's Beach, float up or park. (Rain date Sun, July 5). w/Citizens Restoring Congamond. Free

Suffield

First in Safety

From a Press Release

Suffield Youth Services, the Suffield Prevention Council and the Town of Suffield are proud to announce the launch of the Prevention Starts with You™ initiative in collaboration with The Governor's Prevention Partnership, becoming the first municipality in Connecticut to deliver drug deactivation pouches directly to all households. This town-wide mailing is in addition to an awareness campaign.

The initiative officially launched during National Prevention Week, a time dedicated to raising awareness about substance misuse prevention and promoting community-based solutions that keep young people safe.

Beginning May 10, residents began to see Prevention Starts with You™ materials arriving in their mailboxes, including a Detera drug deactivation pouch and information on how to safely dispose of unused medications at home.

Unused medications in household medicine cabinets are a leading source of first exposure and misuse, particularly among young people. This initiative addresses that risk directly by giving residents a simple, safe, and immediate way to act, at home.

"Prevention can start at home with proper storage, disposal, and simply having conversations," said Kelly Juleson, Co-President of The Governor's Prevention Partnership. "By putting these tools directly into the hands of residents, Suffield is leading the way in showing how local communities can take meaningful, pro-



active steps to reduce risk before it starts."

Through this effort, Suffield is reaching households at scale, making prevention visible, accessible, and actionable for families in their community.

Suffield's leadership marks an important milestone in scaling prevention efforts across Connecticut, demonstrating how opioid settlement funds can be used in a visible, practical way that directly benefits residents.

About Prevention Starts with You™

The Prevention Starts with You™ initiative was originally launched as a statewide awareness campaign to make prevention easy to implement and effective at scale. Now, with support from The Governor's Prevention Partnership, municipalities can deliver clear, actionable tools and messaging directly to residents, helping families take simple steps at home to reduce risk before it starts.

About The Governor's Prevention Partnership

The Governor's Prevention Partnership builds statewide capacity to prevent underage drinking and substance use and promotes the overall well-being of Connecticut's youth through prevention, mentoring, and strategic partnerships. ☸



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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



Food For Thought

Compiled by Beth Chafetz
Thank a Teacher Week
first week of June

"One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings." – *Carl Jung*

"The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called 'truth.'" – *Dan Rather*

National Fishing Week –
first week of June

"The fishing was good; it was the catching that was bad." – *A.K. Best*

"There he stands, draped in more equipment than a telephone lineman, trying to outwit an organism with a brain no bigger than a breadcrumb, and getting licked in the process." – *Paul O'Neil*

"Fishing is a hard job and a good job, it's a rich man's job and a poor man's job, it's a happy job and a sad job, it's a lot of things. But most of all it's a rewarding job." – *Tom Brokaw*

National CPR and AED Awareness Week
first week in June

"Take some time to learn first aid and CPR. It saves lives and it works." – *Bobby Sherman*

"The beat of a heart can change a life. Learn CPR and be the rhythm that saves a life." – *myCPRnow*

World Environment Day
June 6

"The Congress, the Administration and the public all share a profound commitment to the rescue of our natural environment, and



Enjoy Summer!

the preservation of the Earth as a place both habitable by and hospitable to man."

– *President Richard Nixon*

"Good stewardship of the environment is not just a personal responsibility; it is a public value... Our duty is to use the land well, and sometimes not to use it at all. This is our responsibility as citizens, but more than that, it is our calling as stewards of the earth."

– *President George W. Bush*

National Little League Baseball Week – **second week of June and baseball was invented**
June 12, 1839

"Swing hard, in case they're throwing the ball where you're swinging."

– *Duke Snider*

"Baseball, it is said, is only a game. True. And the Grand Canyon is only a hole in Arizona. Not all holes or games are created equal."

– *George Will*

National Flag Day
June 14

"Our flag honors those who have fought to pro-

tect it and is a reminder of the sacrifice of our nation's founders and heroes. As the ultimate icon of America's storied history, the Stars and Stripes represents the very best of this nation."

– *Joe Barton*

"When we honor our flag, we honor what we stand for as a nation—freedom, equality, justice, and hope."

– *Ronald Reagan*

Caldecott Medal first awarded – **June 14, 1938**

"The Caldecott Medal was named in honor of nineteenth-century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott. It is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children." – *ala.org*

Juneteenth – **June 19**

"The cost of liberty is less than the price of repression." – *W.E.B. DuBois*

"Let us never forget the Black history continues to define American history."

– *Yvette D. Clarke*

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

– *James Baldwin*

Fathers' Day – **June 21**

"Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into heroes, adventurers, story-tellers and singers of songs."

– *Pam Brown*

"My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived and let me watch him do it."

– *Clarence B. Kelland*

"Remember – what dad really needs is a nap."

– *Dave Barry*

"Watching your daughter being collected by her date feels like handing over a million-dollar Stradivarius to a gorilla." – *Jim Bishop*

National Organization for Women Founded

– **June 30, 1966**

"NOW's purpose is to take action through intersectional grassroots activism to promote feminist ideals, lead societal change, eliminate discrimination, and achieve and protect the equal rights of all women and girls in all aspects of social, political, and economic life." – *now.org*

Pride Month

"With ignorance comes fear, from fear comes bigotry. Education is the key to acceptance." – *Kathleen Patel*

"Openness may not completely disarm prejudice, but it's a good place to start."

– *Jason Collins*

National Foster a Pet Month

"When you let animals into your life, even as a foster parent, you are making a promise that you will take care of them for as long as it takes, until they find a home of their own. When they finally do leave, there's a part of them that stays with you and a part of you with them." – *Ken Foster*

"Fostering an animal isn't a lifetime commitment. It's a commitment to saving a life." – *pinterest.com*

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Sustainable Suffield



Ebbs Corner food scrap collection growing!

In April, the second full month of food scrap collection at the Ebb's Corner fire station dumpster, West Suffield residents collected 440 pounds. Congratulations and keep up the good work!



Repair Cafe

June 27, 10 to 2 at the Senior Center

Bikes, broken electrical appliances, dull tools, what do you need fixed? Get ready for our June 27 Repair Cafe. We'll also be collecting athletic sneakers for recycling and small scrap metal pieces for a local welding course. Plan to attend.

Ambulance Association Honors Providers at Annual Awards Ceremony

By John Spencer

The Suffield Volunteer Ambulance Association (SVAA) recently held its Annual Awards Ceremony, bringing together providers, leadership, families, and community supporters to recognize a year defined by service, dedication, and impact.

"Tonight is about recognition—but more importantly, it is about reflection," Chief John Spencer said in his opening remarks. "It is about taking a moment to step back, and truly acknowledge the impact of that work."

50 Years of Service and Progress

This year's ceremony carried added significance as SVAA marks its 50th anniversary—five decades of service to the community.

The evening reflected not only on those who built the organization, but also on those continuing to move it forward.

"We are standing at the intersection of legacy and progress," Spencer noted—honoring the past while setting the tone for the future.

Recognizing Commitment and Milestones

The ceremony opened by honoring providers reaching significant Years of Service milestones, ranging from 5 to 40 years. These recognitions highlight the consistency and dedication that form the foundation of the organization.

Total Call Awards also recognized providers who have

reached major milestones in total responses—representing thousands of patient interactions and moments of service.

Distinguished Awards

The evening's highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement Award, was presented to Stephen Pedneault for 25 years of service and lasting contributions to both the organization and EMS across Connecticut.

The Chris Schmeck Award was awarded to Mark Jordan, recognized for his mentorship and leadership.

The Perreault Award was presented to:

- Tracy Whelen, for her reliability and operational excellence
- Jen Michalman, for longstanding leadership in community engagement

Service and

Organizational Impact

Awards recognizing service beyond the ordinary included:

- Zak Award: Alice Arden, for dedication to community service
- Directors' Award: Karl Ciccito, for leadership in fundraising efforts
- Officers' Award: Donald Delage, for clinical growth and operational support

The Greatest Number of Volunteer Hours awards were presented to Don Miner and Jackie Ellis, who together contributed a combined 1,817 hours of service in 2025.

Growth, Compassion, and Clinical Excellence

The Rising Star Award was presented to Kristen Kertanis, recognized for her growth and emerging leadership.

The Professionalism & Compassion Award was awarded to Jackie Guzie, whose patient-centered care left a lasting impact.

The Clinical Excellence Award recognized:

- Douglas McIntosh and Christopher Swor, for resuscitation efforts resulting in a full recovery
- Andrew Romaniuk and Luke Truicko, for advanced clinical performance and engagement

Leadership Recognition

The Chief's Citation was presented to Paramedic Christopher Johnston for his leadership, innovation, and contributions to the organization.

A Culture Built on Service

As the ceremony concluded, the focus returned to the people behind the work.

"What we have built here is not just about calls, or metrics, or awards," Spencer said. "It's about people, showing up for our patients, for each other, and for this community."

The evening also recognized the families and support systems who make this work possible.

As SVAA looks ahead to its next chapter, the message was clear: the organization's strength lies in honoring its legacy while continuing to build a culture defined by service, excellence, and commitment. ☘

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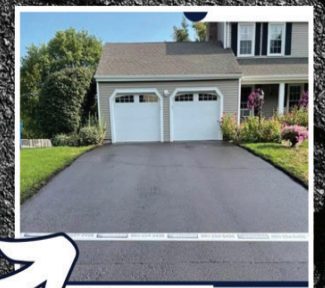
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2026 Juneteenth Celebration

By Juneteenth Committee

"The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired laborer." Gordon Granger - Union General, June 19, 1865

On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed all enslaved peoples in the Confederate states, thus ending slavery in the United States. The last enslaved African Americans were freed by Union Troops on June 19, 1865, in Texas, over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. The newly freed people named this day Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day. It has been

celebrated as a second independence day ever since, especially within the African American community. Sadly, many Americans are still unaware of this day and its historical significance, but with the signing of legislation on June 17, 2021, to make Juneteenth a federal holiday, that is beginning to change.

We are proud to honor this important holiday. Please join us on June 27 at Third Baptist Church from 2:30-5 for a potluck celebration. The Juneteenth Committee would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Third Baptist Church for graciously hosting this event. Donations to make this event possible are greatly appreciated. <https://gofund.me/71e6c8fa9>

To learn more about Juneteenth, we encourage you to visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture at <https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/moments/juneteenth>. ☸



Photo by Joan Heffernan

Mountain Laurel-Connecticut's State Flower

Sunday Morning Practices Every Sunday

Nalandabodhi Connecticut Meditation Center



We are located at 1380 Mountain Rd. West Suffield, CT (near the intersection with Route 187).

Doors open at 8:30 a.m. every Sunday. Please join us for all or part of the morning, arriving when doors open or during breaks.

- 9:00-9:40 - Prayers for World Peace
 - True Words to Ease the Fear of Strife
 - The Four Immeasurables (Love, Compassion, Joy, Equanimity)
 - Contemplation and Discussion
- 9:40-10:00 - Break (tea and snacks)

Meditation in Suffield

By Lucy McMahon
Nalandabodhi Meditation Center at 1380 Mountain Road in West Suffield recites TRUE WORDS TO EASE THE FEARS OF STRIFE every Sunday morning at 9 am.

This Tibetan prayer was first composed by a revered Saint in the 14th century

during a time of great conflict.

Because of his heartfelt aspiration to convert the hatred and animosity between the warring parties into loving kindness there was a stop to the conflict and peaceful prosperity reigned throughout the land.

Please join us in our

Prayers for Peace.

There is also another way to Pray for World Peace. By reciting the four Immeasurables, we wish others love, compassion, joy and equanimity- all the components of loving kindness.

There will be more written on these four Immeasurables in future columns. ☸

Townwide Tag Sale Featured Branded Signs

By Tony Peterson, co-chair of Sustainable Suffield
Sustainable Suffield, which sponsors the annual Townwide Tag Sale, sold reusable tag sale lawn signs to participating families for the first time this year.

The signs, emblazoned with our logo, are made from fluted plastic and come with a heavy-duty wire stake. Measuring 24" x 18", they are designed for repeated use. We sold 47 at \$5 each.

The tag sale on May 2 and 3 featured 73 Suffield families, with 63 signing up for Saturday only, 44 for Sunday only and 34 for both days.

Participants filled out an online form to register, listing their location and items for sale. Sustainable Suffield



Photo by Anna-Kristin Daub-Murphy

The two-day Townwide Tag Sale saw a little rain on Saturday morning, May 2, and in the afternoon, otherwise the weather was clear and in the 50s.

combined all the items into a single list for each day. We published the lists on our Facebook and town web pages, along with interactive maps, showing the locations.

Judging from Facebook comments about the tag

sale, participants felt the event was a success, including one Suffield resident who posted, "This was so great! I hope you consider coordinating a fall one before the holidays, would be great to shop decor and presents!" ☸



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June at First Church

By Amber Bigley

First Church of Christ, Congregational, UCC is inviting Suffield friends and families to connect, reflect, and celebrate this June in faithful journey and adventure "Together for Joy!"

The church hosts weekly Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. Local worshippers can attend in person at the sanctuary or join virtually via the church's YouTube livestream. Pastor Chris Hart leads the Sunday morning services, bringing engaging and faithful messages tailored for all ages.

Upcoming Summer Highlights

The community can look forward to two major events kicking off this month:

- **Celebration Sunday:** On June 14, a joyous morning worship service will be followed immediately by a community cook-out and celebration picnic on the church grounds.
- **S'more Wisdom with Pastor Chris:** Starting Wednesday, June 17 at 5:30

p.m., the church will host campfire-style gatherings. Neighbors are encouraged to bring their questions, marshmallows, and friends to Tom's Bench near the Sanctuary entrance. These fellowship sessions run weekly through June and will return for the month of August.

Supporting Our Neighbors

The church also reminds residents that its outdoor Blessing Box remains open 24/7 in front of the building. Operating on a "take what you need; leave what you can" model, it provides immediate aid to local families.

The church currently requests donations of basic hygiene products and shelf-stable foods. Needed items include:

- Powdered milk and instant potatoes
- Microwaveable rice and pasta sauces
- Peanut butter, cereals, and sweets
- Deodorant, tooth-

paste, and 3-in-1 body wash

- Can openers or pop-top style canned goods.

Donors are asked to ensure all items are non-perishable and unexpired.

Community Resources & Support

In addition to its summer programming, First Church continues to serve as a vital local meeting space by hosting weekly support groups, including Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA).

For weekly meeting schedules, upcoming news, and event updates, visit the First Church Suffield Website www.firstchurch-suffield.org. General questions can be directed to the church office at office@fc-suffield.org. For direct pastoral needs, residents can contact Pastor Chris Hart at PC@pastorchris.faith or call/text (774) 318-6006.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, First Church opens its doors to you this summer, and always! ☩

WSSCC News

By Pastor Denise Peterson

Well, now we've rested, and it's time for West Suffield Congregational to have a little fun.

On June 14, our 10 o'clock service will be Children's Sunday. The children's choir will warble. Prayers will be written and read. Joanne Beresford's class will be reciting all the books of

the Bible (something I can't do). All in all, it is one of the most spirit-filled days of the year. Jesus so loved children, and I am so happy to be in a church that reflects that love so joyously.

Our final service of the year will be held at Sunrise Park. We will gather at 11 o'clock instead of our usual 10 a.m. I am so excited to be

doing a baptism that day. I can't imagine a better spot than by the beautiful lake. We will follow the service with a picnic and cake.

Finally, one of the things that really enchants me about this town is the summer services. I think it is so special that the churches combine and share their services during the slow months. Every year I look forward to preaching at both First and Second Baptist. Everyone is so gracious. I hope to see you there.

Have a wonderful summer. May it be blessed.

Denise. ☩

Sacred Heart News

By Fr. Joe Keough, Pastor

In the Roman Catholic Church, the month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Obviously, it is an important time for our Sacred Heart Parish Family. This year in honor of the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has invited all Catholics to dedicate themselves and our country to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart is June 12 this year, and here at the parish many activities are planned. Hopefully, everyone will be able to participate in some or all of them. Official prayer cards from the USCCB for the prayer of consecration will be available beginning the first of the month.

We will have a Holy Hour on Monday, June 8 from 6-7 p.m. with special devotional prayers and a litany to the Sacred Heart. On Friday, June 12, we will have day long activities beginning with our Mass at 8 a.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration from 8:30 until noon in the church. Later in the day, we will welcome our youngest members of the parish with our new ministry, the "Pray Date," for toddlers on up with an opportunity for parents to pray together and get to know a little bit more about the Sacred Heart and each other. There will be activities and refreshments for our little ones including a coloring contest.

Later in the month, we will be awarding our Parish scholarships to high school seniors who are active members of the parish go-

ing on to college. This recognizes the faith practice of our young members as they move on towards higher education.

Once again, Sacred Heart Parish is honored to host the Christian artisans from the Holy Land. This artist's group makes beautiful hand-crafted religious carvings from olive wood to support the struggling Christian population. A display of items will be available in Fr. Ted Hall after all the Masses the weekend of June 20 and 21. With so few religious goods stores around these days, this is a wonderful opportunity to purchase faith-based items for upcoming family baptisms, weddings or simply something for your home, all while supporting a very good cause.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is understood by Catholics as a sign of the burning love God has for all of us. I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the love and support shown to me over the past four years as pastor of Sacred Heart parish but especially on the occasion of my 30th Anniversary of Ordination in May. The many acts of kindness, prayers and generosity have been overwhelming and probably undeserved. I am truly grateful and recognize that I am truly blessed in this loving family! I encourage anyone who is searching for a loving Catholic parish to come and check out Sacred Heart by visiting our website at <http://www.sacred-heartct.com> or on Facebook at Sacred Heart Suffield, CT or just stop in for a visit.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us! ☩



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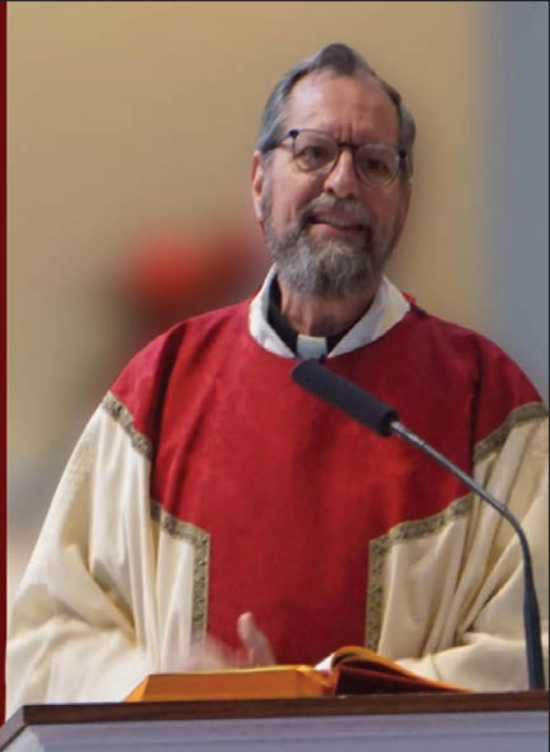
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Thank you so much
Father Joe Keough!

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Second Baptist News

From a Press Release Second Baptist Church - A Time of Rebirth and Growth

The following was written by Sue Schneller, Christian Education Coordinator/Youth Director at SBC:

When It Looks Like Nothing's Happening.

I'm basically the worst at keeping plants alive. I either drown them with love or forget they exist until I find a crispy brown corpse on my table. So, when a friend gave me a Devil's Ivy, I thought, "Perfect name, it will be dead in two weeks, I wonder if there's a God's Ivy!"

But months later, it is still alive. Even after I forgot about it. Repeatedly. I figured Devil's Ivy must be the easiest plant on earth if I could keep it breathing. So, I decided to multiply my success.

After some investigation on Pinterest, I had a plan: snip cuttings, stick in water, wait. So, I cut. I checked the water every few days. I waited. And waited. And waited. Days passed. Nothing. The leaves looked exactly the same as when I started. No roots. No growth. Just green stems doing absolutely nothing in cups on my windowsill.

Company was coming, and honestly, it looked ridiculous. So, I shoved the cups in my bedroom and forgot about them again. Figured I'd toss them soon. Today I grabbed them to take to the trash... and stopped cold. Roots! Tiny, white, impossible roots curling through the water. All those days of "nothing" were actually something. Under the surface, while I saw zero progress, life was starting.

That's what waiting on God feels like sometimes. We pray. We water. We drag our dreams into the sunshine. And nothing happens. No sprouts. No movement. Just silence that looks a lot like failure. But maybe

faith is choosing to keep watering what you can't see yet.

In Hebrews 11:1 it says, "Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see." Has God spoken something over your life that still looks dead on the outside? Maybe you're believing in something that feels hopeless right now? Don't stop watering. Don't close the shades on your dreams. Don't let hope shrivel up like a forgotten plant. Keep praying. Keep showing up. Keep putting it in the light. Because one day when you least expect it you'll look down and see roots.

Remember, Psalm 126:5-6, "Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. They weep as they go to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with the harvest." And this scripture from Luke 1:45, "Blessed is she who believes He will do what He said." And He will. Your roots are coming. Keep watering. Remember we are here to pray for you when you need us. God bless ~ Sue

We are continually reminded during this transitional period that God is working - often in the roots where it's not readily apparent. During the month of June our programs and services include:

- **Sunday Mornings - Reflection, Study, and Prayer - 9 a.m. - Parlor.** Lay led study and discussion to start our week.

- **Tuesday, June 2, 9 - Weekday Bible Study - 11:30-12:30-Library.** Pastor-led study on how the Biblical scripture pertains in today's world with a focus on the teachings of Jesus.

- **Friday, June 5, 19- 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.

- **Monday, June 8 - 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.

- **Saturday, June 13 - 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.

- **Week of June 22 - Vacation Bible School (VBS) - 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. For more info call the church at 860-668-1661 or Sue at 860-402-7813. Registration for VBS is available on our website: www.secondbaptistsuffield.org.

Worship Services are held at 10 a.m. every Sunday. On **June 14** our children will lead the service - "Growing in God's Garden". On **June 21** we will show our appreciation for our fathers and father figures. This will be followed by a Summer Solstice Sunday Celebration. All are welcome!✠



New Pastor at Copper Hill United Methodist

By Lisa Griffin

Copper Hill United Methodist Church welcomes the community to celebrate with us the appointment of Jeff Cedarfield as Pastor. Pastor Cedarfield recently completed a three-year process of prayer, study and examination to be licensed as a local pastor, and was appointed by the bishop to serve at Copper Hill, located at 27 Copper Hill Rd., East Granby, Connecticut.

The celebration, featuring special music, will be held during the regular Sunday service, at 9:30 a.m. on June 28, 2026, followed by a luncheon at 11 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. ✠



Photo from the church website

Pastor Jeff Cedarfield

In Memoriam

Matthew Michael Monette
March 17, Age 59

Mary Jane Vincent
March 19, Age 86

Stanley E. Tkacz
March 23, Age 86

Edna Agnew (Wright) Rosenberger
April 6, Age 99

Irene Markowski
April 11, Age 97

Edwin Benton
April 19, Age 61

John G. Fisher Jr.
April 29, Age 57

Bruce Millick
May 3, Age 90

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Parks & Recreation: An Essential Service

By Peter Leclerc, Director of Suffield Community Services

In communities like Suffield, the value of municipal services is often most visible during moments of urgency, such as in storms, emergencies or infrastructure needs. Yet, some of the most impactful work happens quietly every day, especially within departments like Community Services, which encompasses Parks & Recreation, Senior Center & Minibus Transportation and Youth Services.

A few months ago, I wrote an article outlining the value and importance of our Minibus Transportation. It is an essential service, helping to maintain independence while also keeping people socially connected, among other benefits. I would like to highlight the important work of our outstanding Parks & Recreation Department, and how it plays a critical role in the health, wellness and the social fabric of our community. Parks & Recreation provides outstanding program options for children to play, adults to stay active, families to connect and much more. From sports leagues and programming for all ages, to organizing community-wide events, the department continually develops and extends its impact, while making a positive difference in so many lives in Suffield. These offerings are not "fluff" or extras, they are critical to building a strong, engaged and

healthy community.

Equally important is realizing that no municipal department operates by themselves. Each has a distinct and necessary function. Public Works carries a heavy load, including ensuring that roads are safe and facilities are maintained. Our First Responders protect residents and respond in times of crisis. Town Hall offices help in many ways, as well as all of the other municipal departments that assist residents and businesses alike. Parks & Recreation complements all of these by promoting health, community engagement and positive human development, which in turn helps Suffield be a wonderful community.

On March 28, we hosted the inaugural March Mania Youth Basketball Tournament. Many may see this as "something nice for the kids". While providing opportunities for youth is important, this tournament was much more than basketball games; it was an economic driv-

er. With teams, families and spectators coming into town, local restaurants, shops and businesses saw increased traffic and revenue. Gas stations and retail establishments all benefit from these influxes, demonstrating how recreational programming directly contributes to the local economy. I happened to be in Francesco's Restaurant on Mountain Road, and there was a family eating lunch, and one young boy was wearing his basketball uniform from the tournament. This out-of-town family would not have eaten at that restaurant that day unless they were participating in our tournament. This is the type of sport-based tourism that is essential to generating additional revenue for our Suffield-based businesses. Based on conservative Industry Standard formulas, our March Mania Basketball Tournament, consisting of six non-local and two local teams, had a direct economic impact of over \$12,000.

Continued on Page 14



Suffield Observations

By Andy Sauer

The Family Car

About 10 years ago, after a cold, wet lacrosse game, my family and I sought refuge from the elements in our minivan as our daughter's coach debriefed her players in the pouring rain.

My then-12-year-old daughter leapt into the vehicle and, as the automatic door slowly closed, begged us to depart with all deliberate speed.

"Oh my God, I got into the wrong car!"

Evidently, another family, packed into an identical gold Honda Odyssey, was also waiting for their lacrosse player. My daughter got in that vehicle, sat down and saw four faces she didn't recognize looking right at her. Mortified, she ejected herself from that car and sprinted to ours.

In fairness, there were more than a hundred cars parked in that South Windsor parking lot, all filled with drenched, waiting families, most of them in fogged-up minivans. It could've happened to anybody.

I'm not the biggest fan of minivans. They guzzle gas. They're terrible in snow. The sightlines are brutal. And they're not exactly "muscle cars."

I never would have gotten one unless I absolutely had to.

And I did.

With three kids- sometimes more depending on the arrangements - the myriad of activities held inexplicably at the same times, two dogs, the requisite safe-distancing seating rules for long trips, and the ever-increasing amounts of warehouse-sized groceries to feed a growing family, there was no way I was getting through life without a minivan.

To be honest, it kind of grew on me. I used to love pulling into soccer practice, opening the automatic doors, and releasing the kids like a chopper flying into a hot zone: "Go, go, go, go, go!"

We like to believe that the vehicle we drive speaks to our personalities, but I've found that it's more a reflection of our responsibilities.

A family's timeline can be charted by the cars it drives. It starts out with the dependable used car (usually inherited), moves to that first, affordable brand-new car, migrates to the pragmatic minivan, downshifts to a dependable car (that the kids wind up driving), and shifts to a vehicle that, at last, makes us run.

My family's not there yet. We own an electric car that economically carts us back and forth to work, though I have been pining for a pickup truck.

Recently, my wife and I were headed to dinner and a play with our friends, fellow Suffieldians Tracy and Keith McDonagh, who graciously offered to drive. They, like us, traded in their minivan long ago for something a little more to their liking. After dinner, my wife and I hung back at the restaurant for a few minutes and said we'd meet our friends in their car.

Walking through the parking lot, my wife made a beeline for this one car.

"Honey, I don't think that's where we parked."

"Black Mercedes, right?"

She got in the car, whereupon I heard a scream of terror from a woman who thought she was being carjacked.

"Oh my God, I got into the wrong car!"

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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.

June 4

This morning early risers were greeted with the sight of a good white frost. Just how much damage it did to growing crops will not be known for a day or two. One thing to be thankful for, however, is that the snow flurries that were reported in some parts of New York state did not materialize here.

June 11

A large tobacco shed in the Donaldson place in Mapleton, owned by George M. Hendee, was totally destroyed by fire... The flames were fanned by a strong wind which carried for nearly a mile large pieces of burning shingles, depositing them on roofs of houses. The house of Mrs. Albert Clum, about 300 feet away from the Hendee shed, was badly scorched, with damage estimated at about \$300. The furniture was carried to safety. The tobacco shed on the L. J. Cook place caught fire several times, but the flames were checked before headway was gained. The damage to this shed was about \$200.

The Suffield department sent both trucks, but as the Mapleton water mains are only four inches in diameter, the pumper with two streams used all of the water. A call was sent to the Thompsonville department which quickly responded and rendered great assistance by preventing the flames from spreading to nearby buildings by the use of chemicals.

Many valuable farming tools were lost in the Hendee shed and the entire loss is estimated at \$6,000, partially covered by insurance.

Deputy Sheriffs Greer and Riskey and Constables Walter Greer and T. B. Cooney raided the home of John Tureck of East street... and were rewarded in finding a large copper still of ten gallons' capacity in operation and a keg holding ten gallons of "moonshine" that was ready for consumption... A jail sentence of sixty days was suspended,

in view of the fact that Tureck has eleven children dependent on him. [prohibition doesn't end until 1933]

A serious automobile accident occurred...when a car owned by John O'Malley of West Suffield skidded on the West Suffield road, turned over three times and went over a small embankment onto the lawn of Harry Nelson. Miss Marion O'Malley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O'Malley, suffered injuries to her back.

A birthday surprise was given Mrs. Burton Holcomb... at her home... The time was spent in singing, dancing and selections by the local orchestra which also furnished the music for the Charleston.

June 18

An unidentified man's body was found...in the Connecticut river, east of Hilltop Farm, by two Thompsonville boys, who were walking along the river bank. The body was dressed in a blue shirt, a union suit, dark blue trousers with white pencil stripe, gray socks with black dots, and tan high shoes.

No marks of identity could be found on his clothing. In his pockets were found three handkerchiefs, a small change purse and loose change, aggregating \$1.47. Dr. J. A. Coogan of Windsor Locks, acting medical examiner, said the body probably had been in the water two months.

The man was probably between 35 and 40 years of age and had dark brown hair.

June 25

Farmers, especially tobacco growers are elated over the rains... as crops have suffered from drouth. The transplanting of tobacco has been unusually late this year, owing to the cold weather and the work of combating several kinds of worms.

Several large trees, landmarks along the main highway, will probably be removed in the near future because of decayed centers and menacing branches.

A Moment in Time

Old Photos Invited from Our Readers



Photo submitted by Art Sikes, part of the Thea Coburn collection, Suffield Historical Society

Another Old House on the Move

The Thomas Archer house, built in 1790, moving from Bridge Street to 463 South Main Street in 1970.

Suffield Historical Society Upcoming Events

By Jackie Hemond

Saturday, June 6, 10 a.m. - 12 noon

CT Trails Day: Stories of Freedom-Suffield's Black History Walking Tour

Free but advance registration is required at ctlandmarks.org

Learn stories of individuals who resided on Suffield's North and South Main Streets yet have long been erased from memory. A reception will follow in the Visitor Center. A CT Landmarks program in collaboration with the Suffield Historical Society and the Kent Memorial Library.

Saturday, June 13, 1-4 p.m.

Open House Day at the King House Museum & Barn

Saturday, June 13, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Tag Sale on the lawn at Academy Hall, 1499 Mountain Road, West Suffield

Saturday, June 13, 1-4 p.m.

Grand Opening at Academy Hall, The Suffield Historical Society's Second Location

On display:

- Special exhibit: The Suffield Pharmacy Collection

- America250 Suffield school students' artwork

- American Revolution Travel Exhibit on loan from the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History (*the exhibit can also be viewed on Saturday, June 20 from 1-4 p.m.*)

Wednesday, June 17 at Academy Hall

7 p.m. Annual Meeting of the Suffield Historical Society

7:30 p.m. Tories, Spies, and Traitors: Divided Loyalty in Revolutionary Connecticut

A Presentation by the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History

In-person. No zoom.

Which side are you on? That's the question that every single person in Connecticut had to answer in 1775, as the thirteen colonies began a rebellion against British rule. Loyalty was not only a matter of words or opinion. For soldiers and civilians alike, loyalty could mean loss of fortune, of friends, and even

Continued on Page 14

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Suffield Rotary Epic Day of Service

By Amy Reay

With the sun shining brightly and cool breeze blowing, Suffield Rotary gathered together with an impressive group of 60+ volunteers for an Epic Day of Service (EDOS) on Saturday, June 16, 2026.

Early that morning, many showed up at Hill-

top Farm for painting the great white fence, weeding gardens, fixing up the sand play area as well as other places and taking care of this historic farm and beloved community hub. The workday culminated with a picnic lunch shared on the lawn with live music played and generously donated by

the band Riverside. A great sense of community pride was felt by all, and much was accomplished together.

The Rotary International EPIC Day of Service is a grassroots, global initiative that unites Rotary clubs and community members for a massive day of local, hands-on service. Giving your time and hard work is admirable and so appreciated. Being a part of something EPIC feels good and we were so happy to have had you join us. Unite for good! ☸



Photo by the authors

Suffield Rotary EDOS Committee L to R: Amy Reay, Karlene Sullivan, Chairman Rob Kleszczewski, President Natalie Donais, Deborah Agrafojo



Suffield Rotary EDOS volunteers paint the fence at Hilltop.



Some of the many painters who helped paint the fence at Hilltop.

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Suffield Community Aid

By Mary Curtin, MSW
Director
860-668-1986

THANK YOU!

“Stamp Out Hunger” Mail Carriers Food Drive

WOW—thank you, Suffield! We are so grateful for the donations we received from the May 9 Food Drive. Your generosity helped to stock our Food Pantry shelves and will benefit many residents in need! A huge thank you, too, to our Suffield mail carriers and all of the volunteers who helped make the event such a success.

What SCA is Spotting this Month:

Rental 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. Rebates are based on the percentage of income versus rent and utility expenses. SCA is scheduling appointments now.

Some Ongoing Programs and Updates:

Food Pantry: Our Food Pantry is well-stocked and

available to income eligible Suffield residents. Appointments are required. Please call SCA to learn more.

Meals-on-Wheels: Meals are delivered five days per week by SCA volunteers to Suffield seniors 60+ who are homebound. No financial qualifications needed in order to participate. Please call SCA for more information.

Nutmeg Senior Rides: In conjunction with Nutmeg Senior Rides, Suffield Community Aid has funding to assist financially qualified Suffield residents, age 50 and older, or persons with a disability, get to their desired destination. Call SCA to see if you qualify.

Lunch Subsidies at the Senior Center: SCA continues to offer lunch subsidies to cover the cost of 3 meals per week at the Senior Center for financially eligible residents. Enjoy a home-cooked meal on us! Call

SCA to see if you qualify.

Mark Your Calendars:

• Tuesday, June 9: Parkin-
sons Peer Support Group at Suffield Community Aid from 11a.m. – 12 p.m. with Lauren Marino, LMSW. Please call SCA to reserve your spot. The group will not meet in July & August.

• Thursday, June 18: Lauren Marino, LMSW holds office hours for social services consultations at Kent Memorial Library from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Please visit KML’s website to register.

• Tuesday, June 23: Caregivers Support Group for individuals with Alzheimer’s. New location at Suffield Community Aid. 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Please call to reserve your spot!

For more information, to register for programs, and to see if you qualify for financial assistance, please call Suffield Community Aid at: (860) 668-1986. ☎



Photo by Lauren Marino

Thank you, Suffield Garden Club, for the beautiful flowers for the SCA Meals on Wheels recipients.

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



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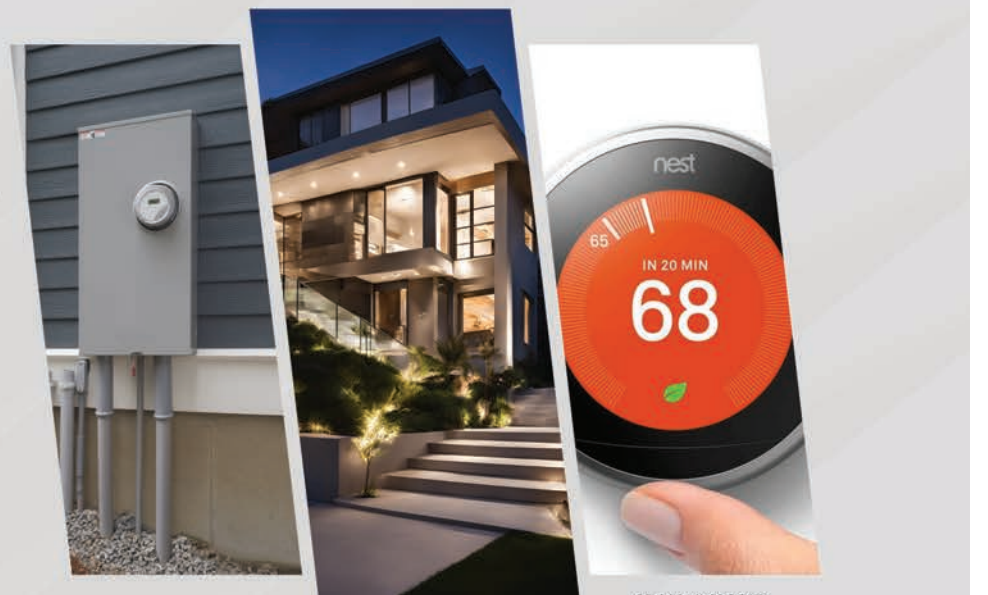
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Schools and Library

Scouting Thrives in Suffield

By Krystal Holmes

On the last weekend of April, Suffield Cub Scout Pack 266 celebrated one of its most meaningful traditions, its annual Arrow of Light and crossover ceremony. Surrounded by family, friends and fellow Scouts, a group of dedicated Cub Scouts—both boys and girls—earned the Arrow of Light, the highest honor in Cub Scouting, and took their next step into Scouts BSA with Troop 260, Troop 262 and Troop 66.

This special event marks the culmination of years of growth, learning and adventure. Beginning as early as kindergarten, Cub Scouts progress through age-based ranks, building confidence, leadership skills and a love for the outdoors. By fifth grade, as Webelos, they are prepared to earn their Arrow of Light and transition into Scouts BSA, where even greater opportunities await.

This year's ceremony took place on April 24, at Sunrise



Photo by Moe Shea

Cubmaster Patrick Nicholls congratulates Suffield's newest scouts. From left to right, Top Row: Gabriella Savelli, McArthur Shea, Ollie Quiroz, Casey Bialka. Bottom Row: Addie Begin, Leila Prusi, Ava Forest.

Park, with the peaceful setting of White's Pond creating a memorable backdrop. Led by Cubmaster Patrick Nicholls, the ceremony featured the symbolic crossing of a bridge, representing each Scout's journey from Cub Scouting into the next chapter. One by one, the new Scouts were welcomed into their respective troops,

greeted by their future leaders and fellow Scouts.

Troop 66 proudly welcomed Alex Thomson as well as its first female Scout, Lelia Prusi, reflecting the continued growth and inclusivity of Scouting. The troop operates as a family unit, welcoming both boys and girls. Troop 260 welcomed Casey Bialka, Ollie Quiroz, McArthur

Shea and Teddy Tschannen, while Troop 262 welcomed Addie Begin, Ava Forest, Kendra Griswold, Mia Hagen and Gabriella Savelli. Troops 260 and 262 work closely together, offering a collaborative and engaging program for all Scouts.

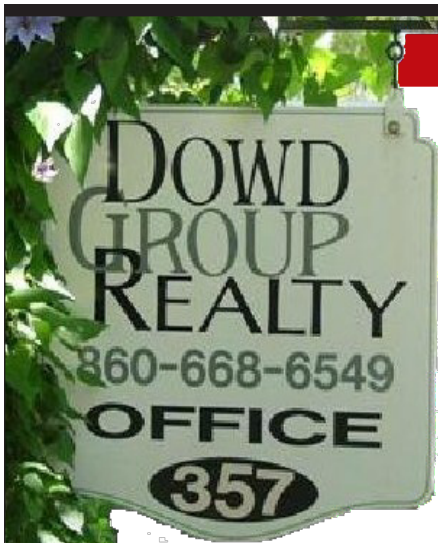
Scouting in Suffield is a year-round adventure filled with camping trips, hiking,

community service, leadership development and lifelong friendships. Both troops offer dynamic programming that challenges Scouts to grow, explore and lead. New members are welcome at any time during the year.

Families interested in learning more about Scouts BSA—or adults who enjoy the outdoors and want to make a difference as volunteers—can visit www.suffieldscouting.com for more information.

Not quite ready for Scouts BSA? Suffield Cub Scout Pack 266 welcomes boys and girls from kindergarten through fifth grade, offering a fun, supportive environment where young Scouts can begin their journey. For more information visit www.cubscoutpack266.com.

From first hikes to leadership milestones, Scouting builds skills, character, and confidence that lasts a lifetime—and Suffield's Scouts are a shining example of that mission in action. ☘



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FINDING NEW FRIENDS

After a long, cold season, it is encouraging to see people out and about again! If the winter felt a little isolating, here are some ideas for meeting new people and forging new friendships. Check out some of our favorite groups. (If you have more ideas, please let us know for a future month's ad!) Join a group of people with common interests like:

- Suffield Historic Society
- Suffield Community Aid
- Suffield Garden Club
- Suffield Rotary
- Suffield Library Programs
- Suffield Observer (obviously!)
- Veteran's Breakfast
- Hilltop Farm
- Second Chance Shop
- Local Churches

- www.suffieldhistoricalsociety.org
- www.suffieldcommunityaid.org
- www.suffieldgardenclub.org
- www.facebook.com/SuffieldRotary/
- www.suffield-library.org
- www.thesuffieldobserver.com
- www.facebook.com/SuffieldVFWPost9544/
- www.hilltopfarmsuffield.org
- secondchanceshopsuffield.square.site
- google "Suffield Churches"; we found 7!

For more information, go to the town website, www.suffieldct.gov, and click "Things To Do". Here you will find more places to volunteer, visit or enjoy, including Suffield Senior Center Programs.

If you have questions, you know how to reach us.

Robin, Melanie and Cyndie
Licensed in CT & MA

Schools of Thought

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

Suffield Academy Celebrates the Class of 2026

By Hillary Cahn

Suffield Academy celebrated its 193rd Commencement on May 22, 2026, with a ceremony held outdoors on scenic Bell Hill at the heart of campus.

Head of School Charlie Cahn led the commencement ceremony and was joined by Board of Trustees Vice President Suzy Vogler P'11 in presenting awards and diplomas to the 122 graduating seniors. The Class of 2026 represents 12 states and 13 countries, including 22 students from Suffield: Sean Atkins Jr., Santiago Bourgeois, Ava Carroll, Raegan Carty, Amelia Curtin, Alanna Dolan, Mackenzie



Photo by Hillary Rockwell Cahn

Members of Suffield Academy's Class of 2026 who reside in town proudly wearing apparel representing the colleges and universities they will be attending this fall.

Front: Connor Pikula, Santiago Bourgeois, Ronan Sullivan, Seth Healy, Kate Willcutts, Raegan Carty, Amelia Curtin, Emersyn Nutini, Ava Carroll, Dani Stanley, Alanna Dolan, Sean Atkins Jr.

Back: Nicholas Warren, Fischer Stevens, Soren Nelson, Will Ludwig, Declan Lynam, Mackenzie Dutton, Sophia Romaniw, Seamus Sullivan Not pictured: Ava Willcutts, Caelyn Zwirko

Dutton, Seth Healy, Will Ludwig, Declan Lynam, Soren Nelson, Emersyn

Nutini, Connor Pikula, Sullivan, Seamus Sullivan, Nicholas Warren, Ava Willcutts, Kate Willcutts,

and Caelyn Zwirko. Graduates will continue their academic journeys at 83 different colleges and universities this fall.

The Commencement address was delivered by Seth Dechtman, president of The Keynote Curators, creator of The Keynote Speaker Lab, and host of The Keynote Curators Podcast. Four-year senior Sean Atkins of Suffield was selected by his classmates to deliver the student address. In his closing remarks, Charlie Cahn encouraged graduates to carry Suffield Academy's core values — kindness, respect, leadership, and effort into their future schools and communities. ☞

SHS Thespian Society Inducts New Members

By Briana Melendez, SHS Thespian Society Historian

Suffield High School's International Thespian Society celebrated its newest members with an induction ceremony held on Monday, April 27 for the 2026–2027 school year. The troupe proudly welcomed nine students into the honor society: freshman Natalie Audet, junior Jillian Barrett, freshman

Diana Castillo, junior Isabella Farroni, junior Victoria Jacobs, freshman PK Moser, sophomore Olivia Nicora, freshman Quinn Thompson, and junior Layne Vogus.

To earn this honor, each student dedicated many hours to rehearsing, performing and working behind the scenes on school productions. By accumulating the required number

of Thespian points, these students demonstrated their commitment to theatre arts and their contributions to Suffield High School's performing arts community.

The induction marks an important milestone for these young artists as they continue to develop their skills and leadership within the International Thespian Society. ☞

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Schools of Thought

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

Celebrating the Past and Future of Suffield Schools

By Matt Dunbar, Superintendent of Schools
 As I complete my second year as Superintendent of Suffield Public Schools, I continue to feel grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such dedicated students, staff, families and community members. This school year brought both challenges and accomplishments, and I am proud of the commitment our schools show each day to supporting students academically, socially, and emotionally.

Sharing Highlights

While there are too many to share, here are a few notable accomplishments from the 25-26 school year:

- McAlister Intermediate School was named a School of Distinction by the Connecticut State Department of Education in recognition of outstanding student growth in mathematics.

- Spaulding School Pre-school achieved accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

- Suffield High School was named a “2025 Best High School” by *U.S. News & World Report*.

- New mathematics and reading programs have been implemented at Spaulding School and McAlister School, ensuring alignment to inquiry-based mathematics instruction and the Science of Reading.

- For the fourth consecutive year, Suffield was named a Best Community for Music Education, an honor earned by only 35 towns in Connecticut.

- Eleven Suffield High School graduates earned the American FFA Degree honor. This represents 42% of the students recognized in Connecticut.

Graduation

We are incredibly proud of the Suffield High School Class of 2026 and look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our 140 seniors at graduation on Saturday, June 13.

Middle School Building Project

In the coming months, the town will continue important discussions regarding how to address critical infrastructure needs at Suffield Middle School. Options include constructing a new school, renovating the current school as new, or making repairs to the existing building. A significant investment will be required under any circumstances. This project is not simply about a new building. It is about creating a learning environment that best supports students for decades to come.

Students Commemorate America 250

We are excited to unveil an exhibit at the Hatheway Barn on June 5 at 6 -7:30 p.m. to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This is a credit to the partnership between Suffield Public Schools, Suffield Historical Society and Connecticut Landmarks. The exhibit will feature student artwork, poetry, biographies of Suffield colonists, a historical timeline and much more! This event reflects the hard work and collaboration of students, teachers, and community partners who helped bring local history to life. We look forward to seeing everyone at this family-friendly event to discover Suffield's revolutionary past. This exhibit will be displayed throughout the summer at Academy Hall.

Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence is rapidly changing the world our students will enter, and our schools must approach it thoughtfully and responsibly. Our district has established an AI committee of teachers, students, and administrators to help guide this work. While we acknowledge concerns related to academic integrity, privacy, and over-reliance on technology, we also recognize that AI cannot be ignored. Our focus is on helping students and staff use AI ethically and productively without replacing meaningful learning. This includes supporting teachers in designing engaging, “durable” lessons and performance tasks that emphasize critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, and authentic application of knowledge. Work in this area will be a continued focus next year. ☘

Building a Brighter Future: SMS Project Update

By Suffield Board of Education

Town and school district leaders continue to evaluate the future of Suffield Middle School - whether that means constructing a new school, significantly renovating the current building to modern standards, or continuing to invest in extensive repairs.

Since much more information will be shared about this project in the coming months, including concepts and costs for the various options, we want to make sure to keep the community informed.

There's No Zero Cost Option

The current Suffield Middle School - built back in the

1960's - is deteriorating and lacks the educational, health and safety benefits that modern construction provides.

Two options are under consideration - building a new school or renovating the current school to modern standards. Both options would qualify for significant state reimbursement, helping reduce the overall impact on local taxpayers. There is no state reimbursement for simply repairing the existing building.

While final cost estimates are still being developed as of the submission of this article, it is clear that a zero-cost option for the middle school does not

exist. Many of the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems have reached or exceeded their expected operational lifespan, and the building itself presents growing, long-term challenges.

Next Steps in Exploring Options

Our town's Permanent Building Commission continues its extensive work on this project. The commission is working with a consultant and architect to develop concepts and examine costs, after having affirmed the needs identified in a Facilities Master Plan. A final recommendation is expected to be presented to the

Board of Selectmen over the summer, after which a town referendum on the project could be scheduled later this year.

Information sessions will be offered to help community members better understand the building conditions, educational needs, and options under consideration. We are interested in hearing community input and plan to engage in open and transparent dialogue as this process progresses. As a reminder, our meetings are open to the public and our contact information

is available on the school district website.

We look forward to partnering with town leaders and residents as we evaluate the best path forward for Suffield Middle School to ensure students have access to safe, effective and modern learning environments.

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

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Vintage Base Ball at Hilltop - A Viewer's Guide

By Eric Harrington

The Westfield Wheelmen of Suffield, a local Vintage Base Ball team, play their home games at Stroh Field at Hilltop Farm. The Wheelmen derive their name from an actual factory team that existed in Westfield in the 1880s. The team has been playing at Stroh Field for several years now, entertaining fans (referred to as "cranks" in the 1880s) with their fast-paced, cerebral brand of baseball.

The Wheelmen are a member of the Vintage Base Ball Association (VBBA), which has approximately 200 teams from across the country. Teams in the VBBA wear period reproduction uniforms, use period authentic equipment and follow rules from the 19th century. Their members are not only athletes, but historians of the game.

The Wheelmen typically play the game of baseball utilizing 1886 rules but also play using 1864 rules since many Vintage Base Ball teams specialize in that era.

While many of the rules of both vintage eras are the same as today, there are some significant differences. With that in mind, attached is a chart of some of the significant differences in the rules and other aspects of the game that hopefully will enhance the fans' understanding and enjoyment of the vintage game.

With an understanding of the rules, fans can relax and appreciate the charm of the vintage games at Hilltop, including the colorful uniforms worn by the players, the uneven green pastures of the fields, and the sight of the large brown barn in right field that serves as a de-facto "Brown Monster" like the Green Monster at Fenway Park. Fortunate fans might be able to witness the "hidden potato" trick, a more elaborate form of the modern "hidden ball" trick. Fans will also appreciate the brisk nature of the game, which was a necessity in the 19th century since most of the players were farmers or factory workers trying to get a game in after their workday ended but before sundown.

The Wheelmen play approximately five times each season at Hilltop, typically playing two games per day. The first scheduled games at Hilltop will be on June 20-21 as part of the New England Vintage Base Ball Festival. Bring some lawn chairs and a cooler, grab some ice cream at the dairy and root for the home team. ☿

| Topic/Rule | Current Game | 1864 | 1886 |
|---|---|--|--|
| Roster Size | 26 players. | 9-12 players. | |
| Average Time of Game | 2 hours and 39 minutes. | 1 hour and 30 minutes. | 2 hours. |
| Order of Batting | Home team bats in the bottom half of each inning. | Determined via a coin toss or a bat toss followed by "hand over hand" up the bat, with the top hand winning. | |
| Size of Home Plate | 17-inch square with a pointed rear. | 12-inch circular painted dish. | 12-inch square rubber pointing toward pitcher. |
| Pitching | Overhand from 60 feet, 6 inches away, delivered off a 2-foot pitching rubber on an elevated pitching mound that does not allow pitchers to throw from various angles. | Underhand from 45 feet away, delivered anywhere between two 12-foot lines, 3 feet apart that allows pitchers to throw from various angles. | Overhand from 50 feet away, delivered anywhere from a 4-foot by 6-foot box that allows pitchers to throw from various angles. Note it is 55 feet, 6 inches to the back of the box. |
| Pitch Zone Request | A batter cannot request the location of the pitch. | | A batter can request the location of the pitch (i.e., high (above the belt) or low (below the belt)). |
| Walks and Strikeouts | Four balls for a walk and three strikes for an out. | Balls and strikes are not called until the umpire issues a warning for slow play; then it is three balls for a walk, three strikes for an out. | Seven balls for a walk and three strikes for an out. |
| Ground Balls | A ground ball that lands in fair territory but goes into foul territory before first or third base is a foul ball. | A ground ball that lands in fair territory but goes into foul territory before first or third base is a fair ball (i.e., the Fair/Foul Rule) | A ground ball that lands in fair territory but goes into foul territory before first or third base is a foul ball. |
| Overrunning First Base | A batter can overrun first base and not be tagged out. | A batter cannot overrun first base or else be put out by a tag. This encourages sliding into first base. | A batter can overrun first base and not be tagged out. |
| Fly Balls | An out is recorded if a batted ball is caught on the fly. | An out is recorded if the ball is caught on one hop or caught on the fly (i.e., One Hop Rule). | An out is recorded if a batted ball is caught on the fly. |
| Tagging Up on Fly Balls | The baserunner must remain on the base (i.e., tag up) until the ball is caught to advance to the next base. | The baserunner must remain on the base (i.e., tag up) until the ball is caught on the fly to advance to the next base. However, the baserunner does not need to tag up if the ball is caught on one hop. | The baserunner must remain on the base (i.e., tag up) until the ball is caught to advance to the next base. |
| Infield Fly Rule | A player may not intentionally drop a ball to begin a double play. | No infield fly rule (i.e., a player may "intentionally" drop a ball to begin a double play). However, the umpire has discretion to call the batter out if he deems it an egregious and obvious attempt to drop the ball. | |
| Foul Tips | Counts as an out on strike three only. | Counts as an out. Also, a foul tip caught on one hop is an out. | Counts as an out. |
| Foul Balls | Foul balls count as strikes one and two but not strike three. Baserunners can return freely to their base. | Foul balls were not strikes. Baserunners had to quickly return to base after a foul ground ball as the ball was live and the runner could be tagged out or forced before he returned. | Foul balls are not strikes. Baserunners can return freely to their base. |
| Hit By Pitch | A batter hit by the ball is awarded first base. | A batter hit by the ball does not get awarded first base; it is simply counted as a warning or a ball. | A batter hit by the ball does not get awarded first base; it is simply counted as a ball. |
| Dropped Third Strike / First Base Occupied / Less than Two Outs | Batter is out. | Batter is live. The batter and base runners are forced to run. Often, the catcher will intentionally drop the third strike in an attempt to start a double play. However, the umpire has discretion to call the batter out if he deems it an egregious and obvious attempt to drop the ball. | |
| Baseballs | A cork core and two pieces of rubber covered with cowhide leather. 9-9.25 inches in diameter; weight of 5-5.25 ounces. | Softer and heavier "lemon peel"-style balls. 9.75 inches in diameter; weight of 5.75 ounces. | Slightly softer "figure-eight"-style balls, similar to today's game. 9.25 inches in diameter; weight of 5.25 ounces. |
| Fielding Gloves | Leather gloves feature advanced padding and comfort features. | No gloves. | Small leather gloves (like garden gloves). |



Academy Hall

By Anne Borg

The West Suffield Village Improvement Association, in conjunction with the Suffield Historical Society, will hold a tag sale on Saturday, June 13 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Academy Hall. Because the Historical Society is now exhibiting in the building, our tag sale will be held on the lawn. Rain date is Sunday, June 14, or, if necessary, Saturday, June 20. Because of space considerations, this sale will be smaller than in previous years. All proceeds will be used for building maintenance, programs and exhibits.

Be sure to visit our new exhibits of rarely seen items from the King House Museum highlighting tobacco history, quilts, school history and West Suffield postcards. Featured is a large collection of Suffield Pharmacy memorabilia, a recent gift from the Madey family. For questions about the tag sale, please call Anne Borg at 668-7841. ☿

Batter Up!



Take Me Out to the Ballgame.

Rotary Students of the Month

By Eric Hamylak, 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 March, Erika Lavery!

Agriscience Teacher, Mrs. Oliver said: "Erika is an exemplar of what a Suffield Rotary Student of the month is. Erika is the Suffield FFA President and has been one of the most caring, genuine student officers that our program has seen. She is a student who tries her best in all areas of her life; academics, FFA, work, Supervised Ag Experience. She is one of the hardest workers and wants to help others do their best as well. As President, she has raised the bar for the Suffield FFA Chapter and has led with strength, grace and resilience."

English Teacher, Mrs. Candia-Bovi added: "Erika is a dedicated and self-motivated student who takes genuine responsibility for her learning. She consistently holds herself to high standards and is willing to put in the extra effort needed to meet them. She is focused, reliable, and driven. Her work ethic and character set a strong example for those around her."

Math Teacher, Mr. Janick noted: "She approaches her work with care, diligence, and a genuine desire to do her very best. Beyond her academic achievements, Erika stands out for her kindness and respect toward others. She is a thoughtful and supportive presence in the classroom, always contributing positively to the learning environment. Erika's character, work ethic and compassion make her truly deserving of this recognition."

Congratulations to the Rotary Student of the Month



Photo submitted by author

Rotary honored Students of the Month **Nayandeep Tummalapally (April)** and **Erika Lavery (March)**

for April, Nayandeep Tummalapally!

Social Studies Teacher, Miss Blais said: "Nayan is a true representative of the senior class. He has worked hard to create a beautiful balance between enriching himself and supporting his local/school communities. He strives to do well academically while also proving his leadership in various organizations from soccer, Model UN, International Thespian Society and more. He is a student who can be counted on to show up and have a clear voice to represent one of the many groups that he is a part of. His passion for helping/volunteering has only grown throughout the years." English Teacher, Mrs. Candia-Bovi shared: "Nayan is deeply committed to growing as both a student and a person. In his writing, he consistently focuses on themes of growth, responsibility, and becoming a better human. In class, he's fully engaged and brings thoughtful ideas to discussions. He doesn't try to take on a leadership role in class, but he naturally be-

comes a leader because of the way he thinks and contributes. His ideas often help guide his classmates and push conversations to a deeper level."

Math Teacher, Mr. Janick added, "I have had the privilege of seeing Nayan's impact on our school community firsthand. He has generously shared his talent by performing the national anthem at several school athletic competitions, helping to create meaningful and memorable moments for all in attendance. Nayandeep is an exceptional student whose contributions go beyond the classroom, and he plays an important role in strengthening our school's sense of pride and community. His leadership, talent, and willingness to serve others make him highly deserving of this honor."

Way to go, Erika and Nayandeep! 🎉

Troop 66 Visits Philly

By Dean Prusi, age 13

This year Troop 66 went to Philadelphia for America's 250th birthday coming up in July. We camped at Pine Hill Scout Reservation in New Jersey and drove to the city each day. We did lots of fun things.

On the first day we went to Independence Hall where the king and queen of the Netherlands were also visiting. Unfortunately, we did not get a picture with them, but some people saw them. We also went to the Liberty Bell. After that we kind of walked around the city and saw lots of historic stuff like Benjamin Franklin's house and grave, the first bank in the U.S.A., Tun Tavern (the birthplace of the Marine Corps) and more. We also went to a baseball game, the Phillies vs. Cubs, and some of us even got on the jumbo-tron.

The next day we did some Urban Navigation and did an Amazing Race. We were split into groups and were given papers with clues of historic places that we had visited the day before. We had to navigate to those places and do activities like answer questions about the U.S.A. and stuff like

that. After solving the clues at each stop, we would get clues for the next location we had to find. We'll find out the winner at our June Court of Honor. We also went to two competing cheese-steak places (Pat and Geno's) to decide which was better. The troop was split on which one was better.

The next day we went to the famous Rocky Steps. They are outside the Museum of Art. We all ran up the steps and took some pictures. Then we went to the zoo where there were tons of different animals like tigers, snakes, eagles and more. After that, Scouts went back to camp and hung out. On the last day we were on our way back and stopped by the Statue of Liberty and went all the way to the crown.

Troop 66 is excited to announce that we are now a hybrid troop, which means girls can now experience scouting through Troop 66.

For more information on Troop 66 go to <https://west-suffield66.mytroop.us/> or visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SuffieldTroop66/?ref=profile#>



Photo by Nate Prusi

Troop 66 Scouts ventured around historic Philadelphia in honor of America's 250th birthday. Pictured in front of Independence Hall L-R: Sawyer Prusi, Nathan Prusi, Graham Marcavitch, Jack LaFreniere, Blake Matlach, Alex Richter and Dean Prusi.

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The Amazing Fannie Farmer

By Lynette Roy

Fannie Farmer was an American “cookery” expert and author of the famous *Fannie Farmer Cookbook*. Fannie was born in Boston on March 23, 1857, in Boston, Massachusetts to a family who highly valued education and who expected that Fannie would be attending college. But, at age 16, Fannie suffered a paralytic stroke that forced her to end her schooling and left her with a substantial limp.

For several years, she was unable to walk and was taken care of by her family. During that time, she developed an interest in cooking and developed a reputation for making quality meals for the residents at her mother’s boarding house. At age 30, she entered the Boston Cooking School. Fannie studied there during the period of the domestic science movement and learning its most critical elements which included nutrition and diet for the well, convalescent cookery techniques of cleaning and sanitation, chemical analysis of food, techniques of cooking and baking, and household management.

She was considered one of the school’s top students, grad-



From Pinterest

Fannie Farmer Apple Cake

uating in 1889 and staying on as assistant to the director. In 1891, she took the position of school principal. In 1902, she left to open the Miss Farmer’s School of Cookery, which was designed to train housewives rather than teachers, institutional cooks or servants.

Farmer provided scientific explanations of the chemical processes that occur in food during cooking and helped to standardize the system of measurements used in cooking in the U.S.A. Her cookbook, *The Boston Cooking School Cookbook*, was first published in 1896. Although the publishers did not expect it to sell well and limited it to 3,000 books which Fannie had to pay for, it became very popular and is still in publication over 100 years later as *The Fannie Farmer Cookbook*.

She stressed in her cook-

book the “knowledge of the principles of diet [as an] essential part of one’s education. Mankind will eat to live, will be able to do better mental and physical work, and disease will be less frequent.”

During the last seven years of her life, Fannie used a wheelchair. She continued to write, invent recipes and lecture. *The Boston Evening Transcript* published her lectures, which were picked up by newspapers nationwide. She also taught a course on dietary preparation at Harvard University and with her sister, Cora Farmer Perkins, she wrote a regular column for the *Woman’s Home Companion* from 1905 to 1915.

Farmer died on January 15, 1915, at age 57 of complications due to a stroke but her life lives on through her recipes.

Fannie Farmer “Cottage Pudding” Apple Cake

This recipe comes from the original Fanny Farmer’s cookbook and is a simpler version often prepared with arranged apple slices on top. It can be served with Vanilla Sauce or ice cream.

Ingredients:

- 1 stick melted butter
- 1 egg

- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3-4 apples
- 1/2 cup sugar mixed with 1/2 tsp. cinnamon for topping

Instructions: Mix butter, egg, milk, and sugar. Stir in the sugar, flour, baking powder and salt until just combined. Spread in a pan, press apple slices into the batter, and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Bake at 400°F for 20-25 minutes.

Classic Fannie Farmer Vanilla Sauce (Cottage Pudding Style)

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 cup boiling water
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Dash of salt and nutmeg (optional)

Instructions: In a small saucepan, mix the sugar and cornstarch.

Gradually add the boiling water, stirring constantly to prevent lumps.

Bring to a boil and cook for 5 minutes until the mixture is clear and slightly thickened.

Remove from heat, and then stir in the butter, vanilla, and seasoning (nutmeg/salt) until smooth. ☞



Photo submitted by Fran Milliken

Contemporary Paintings at Pinney Gallery

By Fran Milliken,
Suffield Arts Council

The Pinney Gallery of the Kent Memorial Library will feature a collection of contemporary paintings in acrylics by West Warren artist Terrence J. Kiernan during the month of June. Terrence attended the Boston School of the Museum of Fine Arts, and paints in an impressionistic style.

A member of the Quabbin Arts Association, he is the art curator of Lost Towns Brewing.

The show will be open from June 1 through June 30, with a “Meet the Artist” reception planned for Thursday evening, June 11 from 6 – 8 p.m.

This event is made possible through the joint efforts of the artist, the Suffield Arts Council, and the KML staff. ☞

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Book Review

By Jane Shipp



How to Read a Book

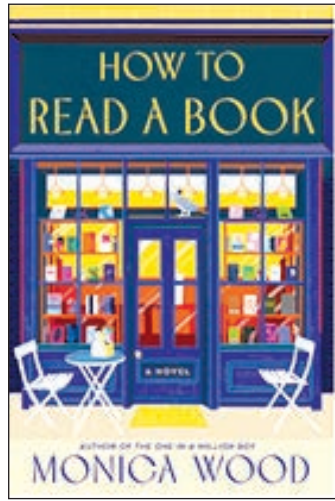
By Monica Wood

280 pgs. Mariner Books 2024

In a sense this is another feel-good book, but one with raw edges. The main character is a young woman newly released from prison, trying to recover the good person she considers herself to have once been. Gradually the readers come to understand the event that caused the prison sentence, and we sympathize with Violet's struggle to recover her confidence and her sense of self. There are negative influences on her behavior, but also two individuals who come to her rescue.

Because Violet has been a member of a book group in prison, she has come to know and love the volunteer who leads the group of women in discussions of the kinds of literature which are timeless in nature. In particular the women become especially fond of the poetry of William Butler Yeats. Although many of the women are cynical, and all of them are fond of vulgar language, the book discussions give them pleasure and clearly have a positive effect on their limited lives.

Violet's return to daily life in "the Outs" is not easy. She experiences victories but also defeats. Her family has abandoned her, her boyfriend has cut all



ties even though he was to a large degree responsible for the event that sent her to prison, and a subsequent lover turns out to be an enormous disappointment. Nevertheless, the two older adults who ultimately provide comfort and support for Violet are believable characters with believable motives.

One side effect of the novel, written from several points of view, is the picture of prison life: drab, impersonal, boring, punitive in small cruel ways that reduce human beings to numbers. Violet is made to feel worthless--not only by the prison system, but also by the people she had expected would love her in spite of her fall from grace. Of course, the reader sympathizes with her ordeal and cheers her on at every turn! In the end goodwill wins out over nastiness. Redemption can come from unexpected sources. There is love to be given and received; it is worth the struggle. Violet will survive, and she may even thrive! ☘

Bus Driver Appreciation Day



Photo by Patti Uricchio

In celebration of National Bus Driver Appreciation Day on April 28, a brunch was organized to honor and thank our bus drivers, van drivers and bus monitors.

The event provided a wonderful opportunity to recognize and express gratitude for their hard work, commitment, and the care they show to our students each and every day. Their role is essential in ensuring that students arrive safely to and from school, often serving as the first and last friendly face our children see during the school day.

The morning was filled with appreciation, laughter, and a strong sense of community. We are grateful to everyone who helped organize this special event and to all our drivers and monitors for the vital role they play in our school district. ☘

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A Hidden Gem in Our Own Backyard

By Ray A. Dalrymple

The minute you walk into the New England Air Museum (NEAM), you know you are in for a visual, historical and educational treat. Greeting you in the museum's spacious new lobby are hundreds of commercial and military aircraft models suspended overhead, along with an Apollo-era spacesuit made by our own Hamilton Standard — now Collins Aerospace — back in the day. NEAM is the seventh largest air and space museum in the country (and the largest in New England), with more than 100 aircraft, numerous engines, and acres of aviation and aerospace artifacts.

I have to admit, I had not been to the museum since my kids were young, and we came for an open cockpit day. On this return visit, I was fortunate to receive a private tour from Scott Gentry, Vice President of Development.

From the lobby, you enter the military hangar, a 37,000-square-foot space — just shy of an acre — housing more than a dozen military aircraft as well as historical engines. One of the engines is the fastest ever produced, pushing the SR-71 Blackbird Spy Plane to more than 3.5 times the speed of sound. The museum's collection is too large to fit inside the current hangars, and at least another dozen aircraft are stored away. NEAM rotates its displays so that new aircraft are featured on a regular basis.

Two of the military aircraft would be especially familiar to lifelong Connecticut residents such as me: an



Photo by Ray A. Dalrymple
Docents Vincent Wu, Terry Fogarty and NEAM Vice President of Development, Scott Gentry

F-100 Super Sabre, stationed with the Connecticut Air National Guard from 1971 to 1979, and an A-10 Thunderbolt, which served from 1979 to 2008. What truly blew me away, however, was the sheer size of the F-15 on display. Also featured are helicopters designed and built right here in Connecticut by Sikorsky and Kaman.

Docents are stationed throughout the hangar, eager to answer questions and share their deep knowledge of the aircraft and the people behind them. Docents such as Terry Fogarty and Vincent Wu help bring the collection to life for visitors. "We're not an aircraft zoo," said Scott Gentry. "We are truly a historical and educational museum of aircraft and the amazing people that designed and flew them."

Our next stop was the New England Women in Aviation Exhibit, which was completed in 2022. It explores the inspirational stories of trailblazing women whose contri-

butions were integral to our region's aerospace history. It is well worth taking the time to read each display. Visitors of all ages will come away impressed by what these women achieved, and I suspect many young people — especially young girls — will leave feeling newly inspired. According to Stephanie Abrams, President and CEO, "we want young people, both girls and boys, to move through these galleries and see not only the remarkable achievements of those who came before them, but the possibilities that may lie ahead for them as well."

Being half Polish, I especially appreciated our next stop: The Tadeusz Kosciuszko Squadron, Defenders of Freedom, 1919–1946. Tadeusz Kosciuszko (1746-1817) was a Polish military engineer, statesman, and military leader who became a national hero in Poland, the United States, Lithuania and Belarus. He fought in the struggles of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and also on the American side in the Revolutionary War. The exhibit tells a story many visitors may not expect to find here, a story of international alliance, courage and a shared fight for freedom. It brings

well-deserved attention to unsung heroes whose role in the battle of Britain, and in the broader defense of liberty, is too often overlooked. In doing so, it adds a deeply human and global dimension to aviation history, reminding us that the story of flight is not only one of machines, but of ideals, service and sacrifice.

We next made our way into the Civil Aviation Hangar. There, I had the chance to step inside a Douglas DC-3, the workhorse of the early commercial airline industry. I have to admit there was more legroom and the seats were more comfortable than on some of the modern aircraft I have flown on lately. In addition to the DC-3, the hangar includes many other aircraft, including the impressive VS-44A Excambian flying boat and a striking new Sikorsky exhibit.

The Sikorsky Exhibit is one of the museum's standout experiences and a particular point of pride for Connecticut. Through artifacts, interpretive displays, and immersive media, it celebrates the genius, daring, and innovation of Igor Sikorsky, whose work changed aviation history and helped establish Connecticut as a center of aerospace achievement. Mike

Thornton, curator and director of interpretation, said, "our goal is not just to display great Sikorsky products, but to help people feel the scale of the ideas, the risks, and the human brilliance behind them."

The most impressive stop on our tour may well have been the Restoration Building. Scott explained that the New England Air Museum is powered by volunteers, approximately 150 people who donate more than 31,000 hours of their time each year. NEAM is dedicated to preserving and presenting historically significant aircraft, aircraft engines and aviation artifacts, and it has one of the finest restoration programs in the country. The restoration hangar, completed in 1989, encompasses 11,200 square feet and is organized into workstations for machining, sheet metal fabrication, engine restoration, welding and storage of aircraft parts and materials. At the moment, the museum has three active restoration projects underway: a Navy E1-B Tracer, an Air Force A-7 Corsair II, and a Coast Guard HU-16 Albatross.

Our final stop was the B-29 Superfortress and Tus-

Continued on Page 25



Photo by Ray A. Dalrymple
The B-29 Superfortress.

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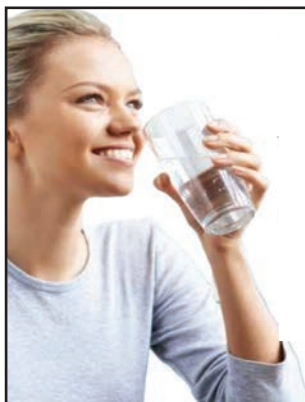
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New Bandstand Coming to the Heart of Suffield

By Stephanie Salerno

The Suffield Rotary Club is proud to announce plans for a new community bandstand on the Suffield Town Green, creating a welcoming space designed for music, gatherings, celebrations, and community connections for generations to come.

The new structure will replace the 1976 Bandstand. It has been thoughtfully designed to honor the character and history of Suffield while improving accessibility and functionality for future community events. Features of the new design include an improved gathering space and a more accessible layout with ground-level access on one side to better accommodate all members of the community.

Built by Community.

For Community.

The project is being fund-

ed entirely through private donations and the generosity of community supporters, with no taxpayer funding involved. The Suffield Rotary Club hopes the project will become a lasting symbol of what can be accomplished when a community comes together with a shared vision for the future.

"This project represents so much more than a structure," said Natalie Donais, President of the Suffield Rotary Club. "Built by community, for community truly became the foundation of this project from the very beginning."

For decades, the Town Green has served as a gathering place for concerts, celebrations, holiday traditions, and community events. The hope is that the new bandstand will continue that tradition while creating an updated and wel-

coming space for future generations to enjoy.

Community members and local businesses are invited to become part of the project through donations and sponsorship opportunities. Contributions of all sizes will help bring the vision to life and leave a lasting impact on the community.

The Suffield Rotary Club would like to thank the many volunteers, supporters, donors and community partners who have already contributed time, ideas, and enthusiasm to the project. Rotary hopes to have the bandstand ready by July 3, 2026, a date that holds special meaning in the history of the original bandstand.

To learn more about the project, view renderings, or make a donation, visit: www.BuiltBySuffield.org ☞

Hidden Gem

Continued from page 24

kegee Airmen exhibit. The B-29 alone is worth the visit. It is enormous — so large, in fact, that one comes away understanding why it deserves its own hangar. The Boeing B-29 Superfortress was a four-engine heavy bomber designed by Boeing and flown primarily by the United States during World War II and the Korean War. It is a remarkable aircraft and is in fact the finest restoration of its kind in the world.

But it was the Tuskegee Airmen exhibit that stayed with me most deeply. The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African American military aviators in the United States Armed Forces. What these men endured, and what they gave of themselves, is truly remarkable and inspiring. One quote from a Tuskegee Airman that I will not

soon forget was this: "I felt safer overseas at war than I did at home." A sad and sobering commentary on the racism and discrimination of the time.

The Tuskegee Airmen Exhibit is an official stop on the Connecticut Freedom Trail, recognizing its importance in telling the story of African American history, service, and sacrifice. The museum's theater videos are award-winning, adding another powerful dimension to the visitor experience by bringing these stories to life through film and first-person voices.

Amanda Goodheart Parks, Director of Education, said, "By connecting the past, present, and future of aerospace, our goal as a museum is to spark curiosity, expand understanding, and inspire the next generation of young people to pursue their dreams, just as the innovators

and pioneers featured in our exhibits, collections and programs once did."

The New England Air Museum offers far more than extraordinary aircraft displays. In a setting unlike any other in the region, the museum features educational programs for students and families, flight simulators, open cockpit opportunities, special events throughout the year, and venue rentals for private and corporate gatherings. Whether you are an aviation enthusiast, a history lover, or a family looking for an unforgettable day out, the museum offers something special.

For information on hours, admission, memberships, educational programs, private events, and special experiences, visit www.neam.org or call 860-623-3305. The New England Air Museum is located just behind Bradley International Airport, in Windsor Locks. ☞

SHS Students Selected for Rotary Youth Leadership Award

By Natalie Donais

Each year Suffield Rotary Club invites Suffield High School sophomores to apply for the Rotary Youth Leadership Award. This year our club and town was represented at Rotary's Youth Leadership event by Taylor Abbiatti, Payten Benito, Annalise Boucher, Alexandra Eddy and Ella Kettles. Rotary District 7890 includes clubs from across Connecticut and Western Massachusetts.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is a program for young people that was officially adopted by Rotary International in 1971. Conducted at the 7890's District level, RYLA offers our local clubs a special opportunity to take part in developing leadership qualities and good citizenship among our young adults.

The Suffield Rotary Club's sponsored sophomores spent the day at Springfield College on May 30. After registration and an overview of the day's events, students divided into smaller groups to begin the program. Throughout the day, instructors and the RYLA Committee observed and assessed their leadership skills. The training also included a motivational speaker, a Rotary roundtable, and a seminar on the benefits of teamwork in accomplishing goals.

A selection process took place whereby all students involved selected students who best displayed leadership characteristics within each group, several of which will attend the World Affairs Seminar at Carroll University, Wisconsin in June of the following year. Alternates are chosen to replace those who cannot attend. The RYLA program of Rotary District 7890 pays for transportation, meals and admission to this week-long event where students from all over the world gather to discuss global affairs.

Our District can be proud of its RYLA Program because it achieves all these objectives:

1. To demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth.
2. To encourage and assist young adults in methods of effective leadership by providing them with training experience.

3. To publicly recognize the high qualities of many young adults who are serving their communities as youth leaders

After the students return from RYLA, they will join us at one of our upcoming Suffield Rotary meetings and share their experiences and the impact it has had as they grow in leadership and service. Please join us in congratulating Taylor, Payten, Annalise, Alexandra and Ella on this achievement. ☞

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Kent Memorial Library

Director's Corner



By Amy Vessella,
Library Director

Are you looking for something fun to do this summer?

Check out all the exciting programs and resources the library has to offer!

Adult Summer Reading Program

Runs June 15 to July 30. Sign up at the front desk and earn a raffle ticket each week you read for a chance to win an awesome basket! Some program highlights include:

- Make a Classic Macramé Plant Hanger
- Learn How to Make Tiramisu
- Sound Healing
- Paint like Picasso

Children's Summer Reading Program

Runs June 18 – August 2. No formal sign-up or reading tracking is required! Each week your child reads, they can visit the library to spin the prize wheel and fill out a raffle ticket (one spin and ticket per week, per person). Exciting activities include:

- Secret Agent Training Camp
- Cyanotype Art for Teens
- Cartooning with Rick Stromoski: Sharks and Other Ocean Animals
- Rhyme Time with Miss Wendy
- Giant Family Game Night

- Adventure Story Time
- KML Kids' Room Mystery

But that's not all the library has to offer...

Did you know that you can borrow a telescope from the library? Yes, you can! Observe some of summer's celestial events like the strawberry moon or the Milky Way with our fabulous telescope.

Planning a trip near or far? We've got travel guides to help you map out your adventures.

Need a cool place to relax? The library is the perfect place to spend some time. Enjoy newspapers, magazines, books, and the art gallery installation in our air-conditioned space.

So come explore, learn, and have fun with us this summer—we can't wait to see you!

Library Activities

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

General Programs

Adult Programs

KML Summer Reading Program!

Starting June 15 for adults and June 18 for kids and teens, come in to register for Summer Reading and join in the fun! This year's theme is Plant a Seed, Read! We have a fun lineup of library programs scheduled for kids, teens, and adults along with fabulous raffle prizes. Thank you to the Friends of the Kent Memorial Library for their support.

Movies at the Library

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

Reading 9-5: A pop-up

Dolly Parton Book Club: Water for Elephants

Monday, June 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Dolly Parton, beloved American treasure and literacy hero, has released her top 5 reads of all time. Join us as we read and discuss Dolly's favorite works of literature. You can choose to do just one or join them all. You'll get a different member of staff for each book discussion. Copies of the books are available at the

library. The June book is *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen led by Reference Librarian Anna.

Rise to the Challenge Book Group

Monday, June 15 at 6:30 p.m.

A book group for adults to read and discuss books that have been challenged and/or banned. June's book will be *Crank* by Ellen Hopkins. Copies of the book will be available at the library. Facilitated by Reference Librarian Anna Cierocki. *Registration is not required.* Please be aware that this group discusses books which may include sensitive topics.

Rabble Readers

Tuesday, June 16 at 7 p.m.

Rabble Readers is an Escapist Lit book club at KML for adults. We'll read fantasy, sci-fi, and horror, anything that takes us away! We will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. Copies of the books will be available at the library; no registration required. The June title is *The Tainted Cup* by Robert Jackson Bennett.

Books & Beyond with author Janelle Brown

Thursday, June 18 at 7 p.m. via Zoom

Join us for a live discussion with the author of the book *What Kind of Paradise*. Copies of the book will be available for pick up at the library. *Registration is required.* A teenage girl breaks free from her father's world of isolation in this exhilarating novel of family, identity, and the power we have to shape our own destinies—from the New York Times bestselling author of *Pretty Things* and *Watch Me Disappear*. In this sweeping, suspenseful novel from bestselling author Janelle Brown, we see a young woman on a quest to understand how we come to know ourselves. It is a bold and unforgettable story about parents and children; nature and technology; innocence and knowledge; the losses of our past and our dreams for the future.

Thursday Readers Book Discussion Group

Thursday, June 25 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 June title is *The Keeper of Happy Endings* by Barbara Davis.

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.*

Evening Mahjong Beginner Basics

Wednesdays, June 3 & 10 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Are you curious about the ancient game of mahjong? Join experienced players Tracy and Sabine for a two week beginner-friendly session, and learn the basics of this classic tile-based game. We will be playing American Mahjong. Game supplies will be provided. Space is limited. *Registration is required.* Ages 18 and up **You are signing up for a two week session (June 3 & 10)*

Adult Summer Reading Program - Make a Classic Macrame Plant Hanger

Wednesday, June 17, 5 – 8 p.m.

Bring nature indoors by crafting your very own macrame plant hanger. In this class, you will learn how to build your hanging planter.

At the end of class, you will have created your very own plant hanger to take home with you! All supplies are provided, *registration is required.*

Adult Summer Reading Program - Learn how to make Tiramisu

Monday, June 22, 5 – 8 p.m.

Give your sweet tooth a treat with a class that brings you through all the steps in creating a "pick me up" of your own. Our instructor brings you step by step through creating a perfect custard, using the Italian moka pot, how to soak a lady finger, and finally assembling a tiramisu of their own. *Registration is required.*

Adult Summer Reading Program - Sound Healing

Wednesday, June 24 at 6 p.m.

Sound bath offers a deeply immersive, dream-state experience, using crystal bowls, gongs, rattles and chimes with layers of soft percussion to create vibrational frequencies that relax the mind and body. Please bring a yoga mat or something comfortable to sit on. *Registration is required.*

Celebrating America 250: Revolutionary Libations

Thursdays, June 18 or 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Have you ever wanted to party like it's 1776? Join us either June 18 or 25 for a true colonial tavern experience at Three Figs! Enjoy authentic colonial fare and cocktails, while the historical society's Jackie Hemond and Tim Casey entertain the crowd with



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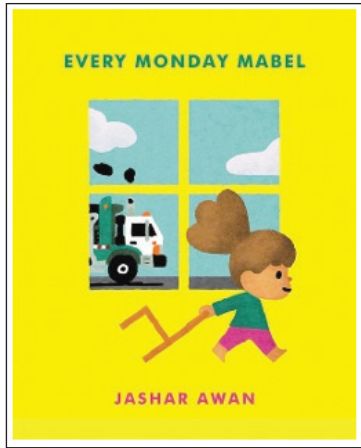
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What Makes Your Day Fun?

By Wendy Taylor

Sometimes it's hard to get your day started. Especially on a Monday. But if you are Mabel, every Monday is a joy. Mabel *loves* Monday because her favorite thing happens every week on Monday morning.



You'll have to read *Every Monday Mabel* a 2026 Caldecott Medal Honor Winner by Jashar Awan to find out what Mabel's favorite thing is. In the

meantime -- what is *your* favorite thing? What can

you do to start your day off right? Try one of these other kids' books for inspiration:

- The Word Collector*
by Peter H Reynolds
- The Floating Field: How a Group of Thai Boys Built Their Own Soccer Field*
by Scott Riley
- 100 Things to Make You Happy*
by Lisa Gerry
- Bridget's Beret*
by Tom Lichtenheld

Atrium Grand-Reopening

The Kent Memorial Library is thrilled to unveil our newly renovated atrium, a space designed to inspire connection and community.

Please join us for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate this exciting transformation.

June 3, 2026
6:00pm

We look forward to sharing this beautifully refreshed space with you and exploring all the opportunities it brings to our community.

Light refreshments will be served.

KML Programs

Continued from page 26

stories and trivia about Suffield life in 1776. Food and Libations will be provided by Three Figs and sponsored by The Friends of the Library. **Registration will open June 4 and is required.**

Kids and Teens Programs **Kwame Alexander Books**

Are you coming to the Suffield Reads -- Kwame Alexander author visit in the fall? Come on over to the library and read his books this summer! We'll be bringing in extra copies of his books all summer for all ages. Stop by!

Nutmeg Books

The 2027 Nutmeg Book Award Nominee lists were released in May! The Friends of Kent Memorial Library help us buy multiple copies every year. Did the book you liked the most win the award this year? Come check out the new lists and start your reading now! Summer is the perfect time for reading.

McAlister Visits

June 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9
Miss Wendy will be visiting grades 3-5 at McAlister Intermediate school to promote Summer Reading.

Happy Pride!

June 8-13

There will be giveaways and free raffles! Be sure to check out the library lights Monday night, too! Sponsored by the Friends of Kent Memorial Library.

Rhyme Time

Fridays, June 12, 19, 26 at 10:30 am

Ages 0-5, older siblings welcome. We'll sing, dance, blow bubbles!

Drop in.

SUMMER READING

STARTS:

Plant a Seed, Read!

Thursday, June 18
Ages 3 to grade 12.

Each week that you read and visit the library, you can spin the wheel for a prize! Also, be sure to get your weekly free raffle ticket for a bigger prize given out at the end of the summer reading program. Sponsored by the Friends of Kent Memorial Library.

Kids Summer Reading

Sticker Mosaics

Come to the library to help us put together our mystery sticker mosaic! The first mosaic will go up in June. Stickers will be available at the children's

desk. Just ask us! All ages can participate.

Kids Who Read Books

Book Club

Thursday, June 18 at 3:30 p.m.

Join us for the next meeting of the KML Kids Who Read Books Book Club! We'll eat snacks and discuss our next read. Books will be available to check out at the library. Open to all people in grades 5-12. **Registration is not required.**

Kids Summer Reading

Secret Agent Training Camp Level One

Wednesday, June 24 at 10:30 a.m.

Ages 6-12 Do you have what it takes to be a secret agent? Our popular spy training camp returns! We'll learn about secret codes, the art of disguise, and more! **Space is limited; registration is required.** After registration is complete, attendees will receive

a secret password to allow them entry to the camp. This training camp is for new agents only; graduates of previous training camps should consider attending Training Camp Level Two.

Kids Summer Reading

Story Time: Surf's up by Kwame Alexander

Wednesday, June 24 at 10:30 a.m.

Age 3 to Grade 2

Registration Required

When you go to the beach, do you swim, or read a book? Find out what these two frogs do when they go to the beach! Join Ms. Wendy for a book and a craft. Read his books this summer and attend the Suffield Reads -- Kwame Alexander author visit in the fall! Sponsored by Friends of Kent Memorial Library.

Kids Summer Reading

Cyanotype printing for Teens

Saturday, June 27 at 11 a.m.

Ages 12+ Join us to create stunning personal cyanotype prints! This historic, camera-less photographic method uses UV light and chemistry to produce striking blue images that become permanent after rinsing. All materials will be provided, each teen will have the opportunity to make two prints, one artistic and one using a favorite photo. **Registration is required.**

Kids Summer Reading

Guest Librarian

Monday, June 29 at 11 a.m.

Grades K and up.

Registration Required

Be a Guest Librarian and create a book display with Ms. Sandy! Learn how to pick a theme, find the books and make a display with Ms. Sandy! We can't wait to see your display! ☘

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Sixth Annual T2T Golf Tournament

Flowers of the Season

By Ray A. Dalrymple

The Shute Family is pleased to announce we will once again hold our Annual Golf Outing to benefit the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. The date is Friday September 11, 2026, at St. Annes Country Club in Feeding Hills, Massachusetts.

Dave Shute, the founder, served with the United States Navy Seabees for over twenty years. He retired in 2016 as a Senior Chief Petty Officer (E8). As a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, he is passionate about not forgetting the families of America's heroes and the families of those who care for the catastrophically wounded. The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is the perfect match for the Shute Family Foundation. Dave and Kim reside in Suffield. They have four children and



QR Code

In 2021, at our first Golf Outing with family and friends, we had 38 golfers. We played the day after Thanksgiving, the weather was 45 degrees and drizzling, and we ended up making a surprising \$1,800! Everyone had a great time and were eager to do it again in 2022.

In 2022, we had a 120 golfers enduring a steaming hot 100-degree day in May, raising \$5,000.

In 2023, for the first time, we held the outing on September 11 in honor of those who lost their lives on 9/11/2001. We had a full field of golfers (144) and a lot more sponsors; we raised \$13,400.

In 2024 we again had a full field of golfers and even more sponsors. Our local Suffield Fire Department brought their ladder truck to suspend a large T2T banner. We had four police departments representing Hartford, Agawam, Connecticut State Police and our own Suffield Police Department.

We raised \$26,500! It was incredible! Mr. Dan Deleon, a representative from the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, joined us for the first time in 2024.



Photo by Joan Heffernan

Dogwood on Main

2025 was an amazing year with another sold out event. We added another sponsorship level, Platinum. By the grace of God, we received a \$100,000. anonymous donation, bringing our total to \$137,500 donated to the Tunnel to Towers foundation. Dan Deleon again was on hand to receive the "Big Check". Our goal for 2026 is \$50,000.

As of today, we have raised \$184,000 for Tunnel to Towers Foundation T2T.org.

Our tournament has experienced significant growth and is now widely recognized for its strong support of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation throughout central Connecticut and western Massachusetts. We invite you to participate with us. For those seeking to maximize

the impact of their charitable contributions, our organization offers a highly effective opportunity. All tournament expenses are covered directly, allowing 100% of net proceeds to be fully allocated to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.

We invite you to consider our foundation for your charitable giving. The Shute Family Foundation is a Non-Profit/Tax Exempt Organization. The Tunnel to Towers Foundation receives 100% of the proceeds from our annual golf tournament. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

Scan the QR code if you'd like to donate or for more information on sponsorships. Please call Dave Shute at 413-896-1122 or Ray Dalrymple at 860-668-7711 for more information.☞

Ripe and Ready for Pie



Photo by Joan Heffernan

Blueberries waiting to be picked

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The Final Hoot



Organizations

Typewriters and Turtles

By Abby Wolcott

I have a big hulking typewriter that lives near my desk. It is a black manual Remington Rand, and it belonged to my mother-in-law. I acquired it a few years back when I was participating in a writer's group at KML. There, around the marble table I had a chance to write and to have my writing critiqued. At times I experienced some writer's block as I had been used to writing as a solitary affair. One day I brought my typewriter in and it was empowering to peck away at the big keys and make that steno-pool sound instead of scribbling on a legal pad. However, I wasn't really getting anywhere, the sound was distracting and eventually I made sure my typewriter stayed at home.

It, like many of my old artifacts, is a big hit with the grandchildren who use it as a cash register and get their fingers all over the typewriter ribbon while mimicking the transaction at the local grocery store. I am equally entertained by hammering away on its keys on a cloudy afternoon trying to sell myself on my efficiency thanks to the typewriter's soundtrack. That brought back memories of



Photo by Joan Heffernan

Newly emerged from her water home, with duckweed camouflage still on her shell, this snapping turtle laid her eggs in some freshly turned soil in my garden.

my foray into typing class "back in the day." My peers readily adopted the home position and were like lightning as they plinked away on repeat the story of the quick brown fox jumping over a lazy dog or whatever it was, we were supposed to type. I was not very speedy and the girl in front of me decided to refer to me as turtle. But that memory has not stopped me from hammering away on my antique typewriter and the click of the keys.

I love this old stuff, and much to the chagrin of my trail

mates, it is one of my topics as we traipse through the woods every Tuesday. Land line telephones, old-fashioned thermometers, popcorn poppers, playpens, pencil sharpeners, canteens, hair dryers that sat on our heads, carpet sweepers, shoeshine kits. These all occupy space in my mind, and I feel compelled to share stories of them as we put one foot in front of the other. That was my topic of choice when we came across a snapping turtle the other day. Fitting right in the category of old stuff with her

ancient looking shell, she lumbered across the field ready to lay her eggs. Witnessing that is one of the highlights for me here in New England, and her drive gives me great perspective on the challenges of life. I usually make a mental note to hang around in the fields a couple months later hoping to see baby turtles hatch but I have never been able to see that. I tell myself that is good. It is good, I suppose, not to check off every item on your bucket list.

And snapping turtles are rather amazing. They have

been the subject of great exaggeration over the years when folks talk about their jaws snapping branches in two or pulling duckling after duckling from the surface of the pond with their stealth movement. Yes, that can happen, but my reading tells me those turtles also eat vegetation and fish and worms and spend much of their time scavenging. They have been swimming in our ponds for around 90 million years, seeing the dinosaurs come and go. They are aquatic turtles who leave the water to lay their leathery eggs in sandy soil in June. The eggs rest hoping not to be unearthed by a skunk or a raccoon family. If they are left undisturbed, they will hatch in a few months. The temperature of the soil determines the sex of the baby turtle with warmer summers leading to more female turtles. And if that factoid doesn't warm your heart about turtles, I don't know what will.

All these snapping turtle facts seem to be a good reason to get my typewriter out and make a racket. And I will think about my fleeting turtle nickname proudly when I encounter these amazing reptiles that share the earth with us. ☘



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Senior Center & Mini Bus News

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

Senior Center Lunches

Lunches are \$6 and include tea, a cold beverage, and dessert. Please make reservations by noon the day prior. Please bring your own container for leftovers. Menu is subject to change.

Tues, June 2 - Egg, sausage and cheese with an everything bagel, yogurt and fruit parfait

Wed, June 3 - Breaded chicken cutlet with white gravy, mashed potato, vegetable

Thurs, June 4 - Turkey sandwich with bacon, lettuce and tomato, cucumber salad

Tues, June 9 - Cheeseburgers on a roll with lettuce and tomato, baked beans, coleslaw

Wed, June 10 - Cranberry citrus pork, baked potato, vegetable

Thurs, June 11 - Spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, roll with butter

Tues, June 16 - Pastina soup, chicken Caesar salad

Wed, June 17 - Cheese ravioli with meatballs, salad, roll with butter

Thurs, June 18 - French toast casserole, sausage patty, fruit cup

Tues, June 23 - Mushroom and barley soup, egg salad on a roll with lettuce

Wed, June 24 - Cheesy broccoli chicken bake, salad, roll with butter

Thurs, June 25 - Amish beef and noodles, vegetable

Tues, June 30 - Chicken and white bean chili, zucchini cornbread

Mini Bus Trips

Mini Bus trips require five passengers and are weather permitting. Reservations for June trips opened on May 20. Call 860-668-3844 to make a reservation.

Shopping at Trader Joe's

Tuesday, June 2 - Pickups begin at 8:30 a.m. Lunch at Longhorn Steakhouse

Friday, June 5 - Pickups begin at 11:30 a.m.

Lunch and Shopping at Belvedere

Tuesday, June 9 - Pickups begin at 10:30 a.m.

Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Foxwoods Casino

Thursday, June 11 - Pickups begin at 8:15 a.m. Note: Museum ticket is \$20

Clinton Crossing and Lenny & Joe's

Tuesday, June 16 - Pickups begin at 8:15 a.m.

Lunch at Three Figs

Friday, June 19 - Pickups begin at 11:30 a.m.

Brunch at Sunny Side Up

Tuesday, June 23 - Pickups begin at 10:30 a.m.

Ice Cream at Hilltop Creamery

Friday, June 26 - Pickups begin at 11:30 a.m.

Marylou's Retirement Party

Wednesday, June 3 - 2-3 p.m.

Free! Must sign up ahead of time so that Bethany has enough dessert! We are hosting a retirement party for a woman who has dedicated the past 18 years to the Suffield Senior Center. Marylou Brewster has slept in her office to care for people when the center was used as a place of refuge, cooked and packed lunches for delivery through the pandemic and has served more meals to more people than any reasonable person would be willing to do. Marylou has been vital to the existence of the senior center and has done so much more than just provide delicious food; she has been the heart of our team. While we will miss her presence (and her meatloaf), we want to thank her for the years of dedicated service and wish her a joy-filled retirement. Thank you, Marylou, for the foundation you are leaving us with and the love you have poured into every meal.

English High Tea

Friday, June 5 - 1-3 p.m.

There are only a few \$12 tickets left for Terry's High Tea Fundraiser! Remember your hats and raffle money!

Art Hour

Thursdays 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Free!

June 11 — Sugar Scrub

June 18 — Gift Bags

June 25 — 4th of July Bracelet Making

Card Making Class

Tuesday, June 9 - 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Hosted by Kare-

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

Cut the Cord Presentation

Tuesday, June 9 - 12:45—1:15 p.m.

Free! Bill Rogers will be presenting on a way to potentially save money by using streaming services instead of cable.

Armchair Travel to Spain

Monday, June 15 - 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Free! We will be virtually traveling to Spain while trying Spanish food.

Floral Design Classes with Bob Whitney

Tuesday, June 23

Morning class 9-10 a.m. Evening class 7-8 p.m. \$45/class. Registration required.

250th Tea Tasting

Monday, June 29 - 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Free! Come taste test different teas while learning about the Boston Tea Party.

4th of July Celebration

Thursday, July 2 Included with lunch sign up on this day. We will be having a baked potato bar with toppings and patriotic activities!

AARP Safe Driver Courses

Upcoming Classes: July 22, Sept 9, Nov 8, 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.

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

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PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

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

Bowling Buddies Group Celebrates Another Incredible Season

By Donna Carney-Bastrzycki, Director of Special Programs, Suffield Parks and Recreation Department

The Parks and Recreation Department's Jimmy Deren Memorial/Bowling Buddies Program wrapped up another outstanding season with a fun-filled end of season banquet held at beautiful Sunrise Park Pavilion on May 5. Following an exciting thirty-week season at Spare Time Lanes, bowlers, volunteers, families and friends gathered together to celebrate a year filled with friendship, teamwork, sportsmanship and unforgettable memories.

The Sunrise Park Pavilion was transformed into a festive luau-themed celebration complete with music, dancing, food, awards and plenty of laughter. The beautiful spring weather made the evening even more special as everyone enjoyed a fantastic BBQ, tropical decorations, limbo contests, conga lines and dancing throughout the night.

The many accomplishments of the Bowling Buddies athletes and volunteers during the season, including their participation in Special Olympics tournaments and league play, were recognized at the banquet. Every athlete received a personalized trophy



Bowling Buddies Group

Photo by William Shea

engraved with their High Game Score, while Special Partners and volunteers were also recognized for their dedication and support throughout the year.

This year's overall league champion team was the "Huskies," who earned the top spot among ten competitive teams. Team members included Brendan Burns, Gabe Segool, William Leroux and Diane Leroux. Special individual awards were also presented throughout the evening recognizing outstanding achievements, perseverance, sportsmanship, and high scores from the season.

Amanda Rabideau earned the Overall Female High Game Score with an impres-

sive score of 198, while James Mark received the Overall Male High Game Score with a score of 200. Congratulations also go out to Declan Eagan, recipient of this year's Outstanding Sportsmanship Award for demonstrating exceptional kindness, teamwork and positivity throughout the season.

Special Partner awards were also presented during the banquet. Nick Miller received the Overall Male High Game Score Special Partner Award with a tremendous score of 229, while Vanise Shea earned the Overall Female High Game Score Special Partner Award with an excellent score of 185. Bob Howe was also specially recognized with a High Game 200 Club Award after rolling a whopping score of 204 during the season.

A special thank you goes out to the many volunteers, Special Partners, and families who help make Bowling Buddies such a successful and meaningful program each year. Appreciation is also extended to Spare Time Lanes for their continued support throughout the season and to Dinn Brothers of West Springfield for their excellent trophy engraving work. Special thanks also go to Kevin Landolina for spinning all of the wonderful music throughout the evening and helping create such a fun atmosphere for everyone. Additional thanks go to Chad Kuzontkoski, Parks Superintendent at Sunrise Park, for helping ensure the park, pavilion and grills were all perfectly set and ready for the celebration. The department would also like to extend sincere appreciation to Margo and Tom Burns for

their tremendous help preparing and serving the wonderful BBQ enjoyed by the group.

The evening's banquet and festivities were made possible thanks to the efforts of many wonderful volunteers and supporters who helped create such a memorable celebration for everyone involved. It was truly a fantastic evening filled with smiles, friendship, and community spirit.

The Suffield Parks and Recreation Department is always looking for new athletes and volunteers to join the Bowling Buddies Program. If you are interested in becoming involved as a bowler, volunteer, or Special Partner for the upcoming season, please contact Donna Carney-Bastrzycki, Director of Special Programs, at dcarney@suffieldct.gov or 860-668-3862. The group also participates in

many enjoyable activities and outings throughout the year.

Register for Summer Programs with the Suffield Parks and Recreation Department

Summer in Suffield is going to be unforgettable! The Suffield Parks and Recreation Department is excited to offer an incredible lineup of summer camps, community events, concerts, movies in the park, sports programs, family activities, and exciting celebrations all summer long in honor of America's 250th. From special community gatherings and family events to Suffield Night at the Yard Goats, this summer will be filled with opportunities to celebrate our nation's history while enjoying time together as a community.

This wide variety of programs and events are for residents of all ages. Whether you are attending a concert, enjoying a movie night under the stars, participating in a recreation program, or joining one of our many special community celebrations, there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

From youth camps and recreational programs to outdoor entertainment and community-wide festivities, #SummerInSuffield is sure to be a hit and one of the most memorable summers yet!

For a complete listing of programs, events, and registration information, please visit suffieldrec.com. ☘



Photo provided by Parks & Rec

Donna (holding a bouquet of flowers) and her husband, Stephan, with his parents (left) and Parks & Rec Director Peter Leclerc (right).

Suffield Honors 25 Years of Service

From a press release

Suffield honored a long-time Parks & Rec staff member, Donna Carney-Bastrzycki, who is marking her 25th work anniversary with the Town. Her signature Bowling Buddies Program has been renamed Donna's Bowling Buddies Program in recog-

nition of her many years of service.

Donna has made a strong impact on the community, helping to create meaningful recreation opportunities for people of all ages. Thank you Donna for your dedication, creativity and years serving local families. ☘

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

Founder, Sam Fuller

The Observer is delivered free to all Suffield households.

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The Suffield Observer

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

Suffield Garden Club

www.SuffieldGardenClub.org



The Sun Shone on May Market this Year!

All photos by Garden Club members



The patriotic pair, in red, white and blue, are May Market co-chairs, Dave Witkins and Myron Marshaus.



Selling perennials donated by members, the major source of revenue for our fundraiser, are, (left to right): Jean Egan, Kelly Knight, Betty Gilbert, Emily Grand and Erin Calender.



Cheri DeMaria shows her creative works in concrete.



May Market booths line the Green on this beautiful Saturday.



The children are learning from Marie Gauthier about tracking animals based on their footprints.



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By Kathy Werth

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Rotary Golf Tourney Coming Up

By Paul Muska

The 35th Annual Glenn T. Packard Golf Tournament has been scheduled for Friday August 14, 2026, at Crestview Country club. For more than a third of a century, this tournament has benefited Suffield's student athletes and community. Raising over \$800,000 in the past 34 years, these proceeds have provided construction of the "Rotary Hut" at SHS, new Little League batting cages, Athletic Field Emergency Defibrillators, baseball and softball dugouts at SHS, Babb's Beach improvements, the PTO Playscape, a scoreboard for the SHS swim team, the lacrosse scoreboard, a track timing system at SHS and much more.

Registration and a continental breakfast will begin at 8 a.m. The Shotgun tournament begins promptly at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided at the end of the round. At the end of the "golf day" there will be an hour of open bar and appetizers, followed by a brief ceremony and selection of raffle prizes.

The tournament honors Glenn T. Packard, the son of Warren and Flo Packard. Glenn grew up in Suffield where he was an outstanding three-sport (soccer, basketball, and baseball) athlete at Suffield High. He was an All-State player on the state championship soccer team in 1978. Moreover, by all accounts he was as great a person in high school as he was an athlete, displaying maturity and compassion for oth-

ers well beyond that typically demonstrated at that age. After attending the University of Notre Dame, Glenn returned to his hometown and, with his wife Sandy, began to raise his new family, with daughters Marissa and Rachel and son Colin. True to his values, he was a volunteer coach for soccer and basketball and volunteered assisting inner-city children.

In 1992, at the age of 31, Glenn was tragically killed in a fluke motor vehicle accident on I-91. Within weeks, his long-time friends Mark and Karlene Sullivan decided that his life needed to be memorialized. They created a foundation in Glenn's name and started a golf tournament to raise funds for it. The objective was, is, and has always been, "to enhance the quality of educational sports and recreational programs in the community" and "... to achieve these goals by employing the integrity, determination, enthusiasm and charitable spirit that Glenn demonstrated throughout his life."

What started as a simple conversation many years ago by Glenn's brother Rob and his friends, blossomed into the annual tournament. Mr. and Mrs. Packard were concerned about a one and done tournament. We think that concern has been put to bed.

Every year this tournament marks a time in the summer for many Suffield High School Alumni to get together and reconnect with classmates, teammates and former teachers and administrators. Mr. C still re-

members many of us who walked the halls of Suffield High School. As the years have moved on, we have lost teachers and fellow classmates but the tournament goes on, not just in Glenn's name but in the names and memories of all that have followed him to the great golf course. Thus, the reason to switch to the new name of: Suffield Rotary Memorial Golf Tournament.

Four ways to get involved:

1. Email Paul Muska @ muskafamily425@gmail.com to request a registration form or become a sponsor
2. GTP 2026 Team Registration form
3. 2026 GTP Suffield Rotary Golf Tourney Sponsorship form
4. Visit <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/6939> ☞

Cemetery Tour and Birthday Party

By Judy Hanmer

Sibbil Dwight Kent Chapter of the United States Daughters of the American Revolution will celebrate their 130th birthday with a birthday party on June 6 starting at 10 a.m. on the Middle Green. After birthday celebrations, including a cake cutting, a tour of the Old Cemetery will begin at about 10:30. Revolutionary War Patriots are buried there, and we honor all those who fought for freedom 250 years ago. Among those who will be highlighted will be Captain Kent, Nathaniel Remington, Gideon Granger, Consider Williston and Thomas Archer along with others with in-



Photo provided by the author

Flags decorate graves at the Old Cemetery behind First Church in Suffield.

teresting stories.

Our Chapter invites all those who wish to help us celebrate to join us that Saturday morning, and all who would enjoy a tour of this ancient burial place. ☞



Photo by Agnes Schulte

(l-r) Talan Gauthier, Marie Gauthier, Sheilyn Brown, Zoe Brown, Jean Eagan and Nathan Shenoy pose with their new trees.

McAlister Fourth Grade Students Celebrate Planting Trees

From a press release

Since 1965 The Suffield Garden Club has sponsored an Arbor Day Program for the fourth-grade students of Suffield. Each student re-

ceives a tree to plant in their yard. This year they were given Cup and Saucer Magnolia trees, which were donated by the Bartlett Tree Service of Simsbury. The 4th-grade

teachers of McAlister Intermediate School taught the students the value of planting a tree, and provided a wonderful slide program for the students and their parents. ☞

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Where in the World is the *Observer*?



The Park family is enjoying the *Observer*, the sun and the beach in Palm Beach, Aruba.



Greg and Kathy Werth, with the *Observer*, visit Glen Garioch Distillery, one of the oldest operating distilleries in Scotland. Glen Garioch has been making its mighty malt in the quaint and historic market town of Oldmeldrum, near Aberdeen in Northeast Scotland, since 1797.



Tammy and Jim Nason are seen with the *Observer* at Stonehenge in October of 2025 during their bus tour of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.



SHS' Concert Choir and AP Human Geography group with the *Observer* in Germany at the 1972 Olympiapark in Munich.



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