

Local
Postal Customer

The Suffield Observer

Vol XXVIII, No. 8

A Watchful Messenger

October 2026

The Heart of a School: Building a Community of Readers at Suffield Middle School

By Kenneth M. Smith,
SMS Principal

During Suffield Middle School's recent Open House, one parent stepped into the school library while following his sixth-grade student's schedule and stopped to take in the space. Surrounded by colorful book displays, student work and areas designed for students to read, learn and gather, his reaction was immediate.

"Wow...what an incredible library," the parent said. "My library was nothing like this when I was growing up. It's so inviting."

Creating that type of welcoming and engaging environment has been a central focus for Tori Barrette, now in her second year as the school librarian at Suffield Middle School. Her goal is to make the library the heart of the school -- a place where students come not only to find books and learn, but also to explore, create, connect and feel that they belong.

Barrette joined the middle school at the start of the 2025-2026 school year after spending four years working alongside another school librarian at Middletown High School and two-and-a-half years as a children's librarian at the Southington Public Library. That combination of school and public library experience has helped shape her vision for a middle school



Photo provided by the author

Suffield Middle School librarian Tori Barrette with a display celebrating the district event with author, Kwame Alexander.

library that extends well beyond maintaining shelves and checking out books.

As part of her role at the middle school, Barrette teaches Digital Literacy, a sixth-grade Unified Arts course designed to help students learn how to navigate research, evaluate online resources and think critically about the information they encounter.

"The goal is to help students better understand what is a reliable source, what's helpful and what is not helpful to them," Barrette said.

Barrette said students are often surprised to discover how much of the information they encounter online and through social media is designed to advertise or influence rather than simply inform.

"I try to get them to think, 'Why does the website want me to go there?'" Barrette said.

That work is expanding beyond the dedicated sixth-grade course. This year, Barrette is collaborating with Social Studies teachers on the use and evaluation of primary sources, particularly in eighth-grade American History, while also working with English teachers to connect independent reading opportunities to themes students encounter through the school's new Amplify ELA curricular program. As a member of the district's AI Committee, she is also working with colleagues to consider how students can eventually be taught to use artificial intelligence appropriately

and ethically; as a tool to support their thinking and learning rather than replace it.

Even as the role of the library expands to address an increasingly digital world, Barrette has remained equally focused on something decidedly less digital: getting books into students' hands.

During the 2024-2025 school year, students checked out 1,393 books from the SMS Library. In Barrette's first year at the school, that number increased to 3,119 -- a 123 percent increase in circulation.

Some of that growth has come through finding creative ways to make selecting a book an experience. Last February, Barrette personally wrapped books in brown paper bags for a "Blind Date

with a Book" event. Students could see a brief description but not the title or cover before deciding whether to check out their mystery selection. Approximately 200 books circulated through the activity during February alone. The following month, an "I'm Feeling Lucky" event offered students a similar surprise with a St. Patrick's Day theme.

"It's like a surprise -- something unexpected," Barrette said. It added a level of fun to picking out books."

Barrette has also reinstated book fairs at the middle school, scheduling one around the school's winter concerts and another in the spring to coincide with the launch of summer reading.

"I wanted to find ways to get more families in the building," Barrette said. "Tying the fairs to other school events made them so much more successful."

Creating connections throughout the school has extended into the hallways leading to the library as well. Throughout the year, Barrette develops displays recognizing celebrations such as Hispanic Heritage Month, Native American Heritage Month, Black History Month, and Women's History Month Corresponding book displays inside the library encourage students

Continued on Page 4

Suffield Police Department – ALPR Technology

By Chief James Canon Jr.

In light of recent events throughout Connecticut, and the country, regarding the use of Flock Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras, I thought it best that the Suffield Police Department provide information on the technology and what we have here in town. First, Flock cameras are designed to be stationary and placed at various locations in a town or city. The camera will read each license plate that crosses in its path and

subsequently check it with the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database to determine if the vehicle or registered owner may be wanted in connection with criminal activity, as well as be a missing person or involved in an Amber Alert, or if it is stolen. In speaking with the public, their primary concerns have typically been the feeling of an invasion of privacy (police state/big brother), misuse of the system, who has access to the data captured by the cameras

and where that information is stored. As a result of those concerns, many towns have pulled Flock cameras from use until some of those questions can be answered. The Town of Suffield does NOT use Flock cameras. Suffield PD did ask for funding for Flock cameras back in FY 23 and FY 24 through the budget process, however the funds were never approved.

In 2020 Connecticut passed the Police Accountability Bill, which required that each Police Department

have body worn and dash-mounted cameras. Additionally, the Department is required to maintain a policy outlining the use of the cameras and access to the information. As a result of those requirements, Suffield Police entered into an agreement with Axon, a law enforcement vendor for training, tasers and body and dash-mounted cameras. Our contract was renewed late in 2024, which provided for new cameras in January 2025. The new dash-



mounted camera has ALPR technology, meaning that as an Officer drives their patrol vehicle through Town, the camera is reading all of the

Continued on Page 12

The
Suffield Observer

Editorial

Let's Reduce Our Waste

According to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), the average Suffield resident produces 765 pounds of household waste annually, compared with the state average of 749 pounds.

Moreover, towns like Mansfield and Stonington have reduced their annual residential waste to 500 and 390 pounds per person, respectively. More on them later.

Connecticut is in a solid waste crisis. The state operates four polluting trash-to-energy plants that can't handle all our waste. The DEEP says we truck about 40 percent of it to landfills in other states. That's expensive and polluting, not a long-term solution.

Suffield can do more to help alleviate the crisis.

Take food scraps. The DEEP says it's the largest single component of Connecticut's waste stream, comprising about 22 percent. Suffield has two dumpsters for voluntary food waste disposal. One is behind town hall, and the other is at the Ebbs Corner fire station. Currently, we collect about 2,100 lbs. monthly from both combined.

But scientists estimate that a town of 5,300 households like Suffield generates at least 67,000 pounds of food scraps monthly.

If you're not composting at home, the town provides free biodegradable food scrap collection bags at the library circulation desk and outside the First Selectman's office. Countertop food scrap collection bins cost \$5 through Ellie Binns in the Planning and Zoning Department at town hall.

Our food scraps go to anaerobic digesters on New England farms, where they're combined with cow manure to produce methane, which is captured to generate electricity. Conversely, food scraps trucked to landfills decompose and spew methane, a potent greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere.

Using a garbage disposal connected to a sewer is not eco-friendly. Your food waste travels to Suffield's wastewater plant, where the solids are processed with other solids into sludge. Once dried, it's trucked to Hartford for incineration. The remaining toxic ash is dumped into regulated, lined landfills to protect against leaching.

Diligent recycling also helps reduce waste. If you're uncertain what is recyclable, Sustainable Suffield offers a free recycling guide. See Ellie Binns in the Planning and Zoning Department for a copy or check the USA Waste & Recycling "Can I Recycle It" page at usarecycle.com/learning-center.

Finally, towns like Mansfield and Stonington have cut their waste by implementing Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) programs. Residents don't pay a flat annual rate for trash disposal as we do through our property taxes. They pay based on the amount of waste they generate, just as you and I pay for the electricity we use. Communities like Suffield that have curbside trash pickup replace the 95-gallon carts we now use with smaller ones, such as 35-gallon carts. Residents who need larger carts pay an annual premium. Their incentive is to increase recycling and food-scrap collection to lower their trash costs or they compost.

Many variables would need to be considered if Suffield were to convert to PAYT.

Meanwhile, please boost your recycling and consider more eco-friendly food scrap disposal if you're not composting.

Tony Peterson
Editor of the Month

The East Coast Offroad Jeepers Of Connecticut
and
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along with
Suffield Police, Fire, and Ambulance
proudly present:

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CPL. NOLAN P. MOORE

With "Honor, Courage and Commitment", you made a personal sacrifice, dedicating time to serving your country which did not go unrecognized during your 4-year commitment. We are so proud of you and thank you for protecting the freedoms of our country we so often take for granted!
With all our love,
Mom, Dad and Kyle

Letter to
the Editor

Write to
Inbox@TheSuffieldObserver.com

Community
Comes Together

Dear Editor,

The 13th Annual Bald Eagle Golf Tournament was once again a tremendous success, bringing golfers, sponsors, friends and supporters together for a great day on the course while raising important funds for The Friends of the Farm at Hilltop, a local nonprofit dedicated to preserving and supporting Hilltop Farm and its community programs.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who participated, sponsored, volunteered and helped make this year's tournament possible. A special thank you goes to all of our sponsors: Dirats Laboratories, Tartsinis LLC, Windsor Federal Bank, Markowski Dental, Hilltop Farm Store and Creamery, Howie and Ann Orr, Robert and Roberta Perry, Bill and Eileen Moncrief, The Banak Team, CT Valley Development, The Froning Family, Roger Ives and Christine and Paul Davidson for their generous support. Your contributions directly benefit Hilltop Farm and help us continue our mission for years to come.

We would also like to thank the local businesses that generously donated raffle prizes: Suffield Cordial Shoppe, Suffield Village Market, Cafe Barista, Tosca's, Spare Time Entertainment, Shag Bark Hickory Farm, Tavern 1927 and Suffield Country Club. Your generosity helped make the day even more enjoyable for our participants and is a wonderful example of the continued support from local businesses and organizations that makes this event such a special part of our community.

We are incredibly grateful for the community's continued support and look forward to seeing everyone again at next year's tournament!

Crystal Siemienkowski

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TOWN GOVERNMENT

October Commission Meetings

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

Conservation Comm. Tues., Oct. 13 & Tues., Oct. 27 7 p.m., Town Hall	Parks & Rec. Comm. Wed., Oct. 14 7 p.m., Town Hall
Economic Dev. Comm. Thur., Oct. 15 8:30 a.m., Town Hall	Perm. Bldg. Comm. Thu., Oct. 15 6 p.m., Town Hall
Education, Board of Mon., Oct. 5 & 19 6:30 p.m. SHS	P&Z Commission Mon., Oct. 19 7 p.m. <i>Location changed to SMS Auditorium</i>
Finance, Board of Tue., Oct. 13 7 p.m., Town Hall	Police Commission Wed., Oct. 28 6 p.m., SPD
Fire Commission Tues., Oct. 13 6:30 p.m. <i>Location change: SPD</i>	Selectmen, Board of Wed., Oct. 7 & Oct. 21 7 p.m., Town Hall
HBS Tree Fund Comm. Thur., Oct. 15 3 p.m., SVAA	Sustainable Suffield Thu., Oct. 15 7:30 p.m., Zoom only
Historic District Comm. Mon., Oct. 5 7:30 p.m. <i>Location change: SPD</i>	WPCA Tues., Oct. 13 7 p.m. 844 East St. South
KML Commission Tues., Oct. 13 7 p.m., Town Hall	Zoning Board of Appeals Tue., Oct. 27 7 p.m. Town Hall

First Selectman's Update



Colin Moll

Our police department often fields questions regarding electric bikes and what the rules are regarding owning and riding these in town. They have modified the chart below for Suffield parents and citizens to better understand the laws regarding e-bikes. Please take some time to check out this resource. Violations of these laws can result in tickets, which include fines, and the towing/removal of the e-bike if necessary.

SUFFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

CONNECTICUT E-BIKE LAW GUIDE

Motor Powered ?

750 Watts or Less

Max Speed ?

20 MPH or Less

21 – 28 MPH

Class 1 or 2 E-Bike

Class 3 E-Bike

750 Watts To 3700 Watts

More than 3700 Watts

Motor-Driven Cycle

Motorcycle

Age Restriction	None	16 Years or Older	
License	Not Required	Required	Required With a "M" Endorcmnt
Registration	Not Required		Required
Helmet	Required (All Ages)		Required Under 21 Years Old
Eye Protection	Not Required		Required
Restrictions	Class 1 (pedal assist) Trails Allowed Class 2 (no pedal) Trails Prohibited Both: No Limited Access Highways	No Limited Access Highways or Trails	No Limited Access Highways, Sidewalks, or Trails No Sidewalks or Trails

CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 14-286, 14-288 AND 14-289



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SMS Library

Continued from page 1

to explore the people, cultures, and history represented, while monthly resources shared with staff provide opportunities to extend those topics into classrooms across disciplines.

“I want to make sure that everyone in the school community feels celebrated and seen,” Barrette said.

That vision will continue to expand this year. Beginning this fall, student access to the library during the school’s 30-minute FLEX block will become more structured, with each day offering a different opportunity -- from independent reading and book previews to puzzles, crafts, and hands-on creation. The library’s new “Maker Monday” will also receive a significant boost through a recently awarded \$6,000 grant from the Suffield Foundation for Excellent Schools, which will provide tools, technology and supplies to help establish a makerspace within the library.

She hopes students increasingly see it as a welcoming and engaging space they choose to visit -- to read, explore, create, and connect with others.

That effort to build a community of readers and learners at SMS is also extending beyond the walls of the middle school.

Throughout the spring and summer, librarians from Suffield’s four public schools partnered with Kent Memorial Library to launch Suffield Reads!, a community-wide initiative designed to bring students, families, and residents together around reading. McAlister Intermediate School librarian, Joy Tierney, helped spearhead the project, which this year has centered on the work of bestselling author Kwame Alexander.

Alexander, whose more than 45 books span picture books, poetry, graphic novels, fiction, and nonfiction, was selected in part because his work offers an entry point for readers across a wide range of ages. Since May, Kent Memorial Library has hosted book groups around Alexander’s work, while the school libraries have introduced his books to students through displays, book talks, and related reading, writing, and art activities.

The months-long initiative will culminate on Thursday, October 1, when Alexander visits Suffield for a free community event in the Suffield High School auditorium. The evening will feature student art and writing from across the district and a presentation by Alexander focused on writing and the creative process, followed by a book signing. The event was made possible through financial support from the Suffield Foundation for Excellent Schools, The Suffield Library Foundation, The Friends of the Library, and the Meghan Voisine Kindness Matters Foundation. Organizers hope the collaboration can continue to grow, eventually including local businesses and creating additional community literacy experiences throughout the year.

That larger partnership reflects much of the same work taking place inside the Suffield Middle School library: creating opportunities for students to connect with books, ideas, and one another.

For Barrette, all of these efforts come back to the vision she has had for the library since arriving at the middle school.

“I want the library to be the heart of the school,” Barrette said, “a place where there is something for everyone.” ☿

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TOWN OF SUFFIELD PUBLIC WORKS – SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Public Works Maintenance Crew Member

Summer grounds maintenance duties include mowing, landscaping, athletic field and playground maintenance, pothole patching, and general maintenance. \$20.00/hour for full-time seasonal work, with flexible part-time opportunities available.

Snow Plow Contractor

The Town is also seeking experienced Snow Plow Operators for the 2026–2027 winter season. This is a seasonal, part-time, on-call position requiring availability November 2026 through April 2027, including nights, weekends, and holidays. \$35.00/hour. Applicants must have a valid driver’s license, clean driving record, and at least one year of snow plowing experience operating a ¾-ton pickup or equivalent with plow and sander.

YOUTH SERVICES

Youth Services Program Assistant

Temporary, part-time position supporting youth programs and activities. Duties include assisting with youth supervision, program implementation, preparation of materials, and maintaining a safe and welcoming environment.

Hours: 5 hours/week, including one required shift from 2:00–5:00 p.m., plus an additional 2 hours based on program needs.

Pay: \$16.94/hour. Grant-funded; no benefits.

Applications and full job descriptions:

www.suffieldct.gov/departments/hr

Submit applications and resumes to koriola@suffieldct.gov or Town of Suffield, Human Resources Dept., 83 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT 06078.

FOFAH Open House

By Eileen Moncreif

The Friends of the Farm at Hilltop (FOFAH) are excited to invite you to an Open House on Sunday, October 4, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.! We’re celebrating two special occasions: George Hendee’s 160th birthday (October 2, 1866) and the 125th anniversary of his Indian Motorcycle.

Join us as you tour the Farm and walk inside the 100+ year-old dairy barn at 1616 Mapleton Ave. We’ll be offering tours of the barn and gardens, along with a birthday cake and ice cream. Hopefully, the riders of some vintage motorcycles will join us.

We’re looking forward to welcoming you, as we are proud to share the restoration of this beautiful outdoor space. Hilltop Farm is a landmark where you can enjoy the views, walk around a historic farm and relax within this pastoral gem. See you at Hilltop Farm. ☿



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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Captain's Corner

Lithium - Ion Batteries : Use and Charging
By Suffield Fire Department Captain Ron Carlson
“Charge into Fire Safety, Safe Charging is a SUPER-POWER” is the 2026 National Fire Protection Association FIRE PREVENTION WEEK (October 4-10) theme. Lithium-ion batteries store a lot of energy in a small space. These batteries can overheat, start a fire, or explode if over-charged or damaged. **Safe charging means making smart choices every time you plug in.**

- Consider the Following:**
- Use the cord and charger that came with your device or one approved by the manufacturer. Using the wrong charger can damage the battery and increase the chance of fire. Cheap or off-brand chargers may not meet important safety standards. Buy products listed by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as UL, ETL or CSA.
 - Charge on a hard, flat surface like a table, desk, or bare floor. Devices and chargers create heat during normal charging. Soft surfaces like beds, pillows, and couches can trap heat and block airflow, which can cause a battery to overheat.
 - Stop using your device if it feels very hot, starts to swell, smells strange, leaks, smokes or makes popping or hissings sounds. A damaged battery can overheat and start a fire.
 - Unplug your device when it is fully charged. Leaving a device plugged in can increase heat and stress on the battery.

SUFFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT INCIDENT LOG AUGUST 2026		
PRIMARY INCIDENT TYPE	INCIDENTS	
Accidental alarm	4	
CO alarm	1	
Citizen assist/service call	8	
Electrical power line down	1	
Fire/smoke alarm	13	
Gas alarm	1	
Lift assist	3/1	
Malfunctioning alarm	6	
Medical response	1	
Motor vehicle collision	2	
Motor vehicle collision extrication	1	
Odor investigation	3	
Other alarm	1	
Other false call	2	
Other outside fire	1	
Person in distress	1	
Structural involment	2	
Unknown problem (medical)	1	
Well person check	1	
Grand Total	53/51	

- Charge large items like e-bikes, scooters, and power tools outside when possible. Do not block exits when charging. These batteries are larger and store more energy. Fires can grow quickly if the battery fails.
 - When on a plane, keep devices where you can see them while charging. Do not charge e-cigarettes or vapes on the plane. Tell a flight attendant if you notice a problem with your device, such as if it feels very hot, starts to swell, is smoking, or has a strange smell. If a battery overheats or fails, it is important for the flight crew to be able to respond quickly.
- Also Remember:**
This month is Halloween. Please consider fire safety when decorating and pedestrian safety while driving. ☹

Maple Trees for Mapleton

By Sue Mayne
One of the most common questions we on the Tree Committee hear is “When are you going to plant new maple trees on Mapleton Avenue?” and the answer is, starting in Spring 2027. An initial survey of Mapleton Avenue revealed approximately 25 locations where new trees are needed.
If you reside on Mapleton and would like a tree, or you’ve noticed a stake in front of your


home and want to know more, reach out to us at: TreesfoSuffield@gmail.com. We’re just beginning the process for finding suitable locations and getting all the necessary approvals from DOT. ☹

SUFFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT AUGUST 2026	
REASONS	# OF CALLS
911 Hang-Up	16
Abandoned Vehicle	0
Animal Complaint	83
Animal Impound	0
Arson	0
Assault/Fight	1
Assist Citizen	34
Assist Motorist	25
Background Investigation	2
Breach of Peace	0
Burglar Alarm	18
Burglary	0
Car Seat	1
Cell Block Check	0
Civil Matter	1
Community Policing - School	11
Community Policing Contact	46
CVS Drop Box	1
Death Investigation	0
Directed Patrol	540
Disorderly	4
Domestic Disturbance	4
Drone Use	2
DUI/Erratic Operation	14
Escort Transport	1
Fingerprints	27
Fire Dept. Box/Hazmat/Still/Confirmed/Structure	24
Firearms Surrender	3
Follow Up	0
Fraud	3
General Information	16
Harassment	1
Hazardous Condition	19
Identity Theft	0
Indecent Exposure/Sex Offense	1
Intoxicated Person	1
Juvenile Matters	3
Larceny	0
Lost/Found Property	7
M/V Accident No Injury/Injury/Evading	30
Medical	134
Mentally Disturbed Person	5
Missing Person/Runaway	2
Motor Vehicle Pursuit	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0
Motor Vehicle Violation	129
Narcotics Violation	0
Noise Complaint	5
Notification	0
Occupational Accident	1
Outside Assist	18
Overdose	0
Parking Violation	2
Property Check	428
Pursuit Review	0
Robbery	0
Sexual Assault	1
Subpoena Service	0
Suicide Attempt	0
Suspicious Activity	20
Suspicious Person	8
Suspicious Vehicle	19
Threatening	1
Town Ordinance	0
Traffic Control/School Traffic	181
Training	26
Trespassing	7
Use of Force - Admin	0
Vandalism	0
Warrant Service	1
Welfare Check	19
TOTAL:	1,946



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P & Z Votes “No” On Text Change

The result was a 6-0 vote by the Commission not to change the text. The meeting adjourned about 10:15 p.m. ☿

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Food For Thought

Compiled by Beth Chafetz
World Habitat Day
October 5

“The Earth is all we have in common.”

– Wendell Berry

“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.”

– Robert Swan

American Bandstand pre-
miered – October 6, 1952

“American Band-stand premiered locally as Band-stand on October 6, 1952, on WFIL-TV in Philadelphia hosted by Bob Horn. It made its national network debut on ABC on August 5, 1957, hosted by Dick Clark. The first song danced to on the national television debut of American Bandstand on August 5, 1957, was *That’ll Be the Day* by Buddy Holly and the Crickets.” It broadcast for 32 years until 1989, becoming an icon of American teen culture.”

– History.com

Eleanor Roosevelt born
October 11, 1884

“I believe that democracy is based on the ability to make democracy serve the good of the majority of the people. If it can’t do that, then it should not survive.”

–ER

“Where after do human rights begin? In small places, close to home-- so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any map of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person: The neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice,

equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.”

– ER

Farmer’s Day – October 12

“Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness.”

– Thomas Jefferson

“I sympathize with weeds perhaps more than with the crop they choke, they express so much vigor.”

– Henry David Thoreau

“Held together with twine and a prayer. The official diagnosis for any piece of machinery that refuses to die.”

– google.com

Dictionary Day
October 16

New dictionary additions:

- “Side quest: An extra goal or task outside of a main objective.
- Copium: Slang for self-delusion used to cope with a loss or failure.
- Nanoplastic: Tiny plastic particles measuring



“It’s pronounced ‘Fronk-en-steen.’” – Dr. Frederick Frankenstein, Young Frankenstein

Adopt a Shelter Animal
Month

“Rescued is my favorite breed.” – Unknown

“Our perfect companions never have fewer than four feet.” – Sidonie Gabrielle Colette

Family History Month

“Knowing your generational story firms the ground upon which you stand. It makes your life, your struggles, and triumphs, bigger than your lone existence.”

– Cicely Tyson

“Family faces are magic mirrors. Looking at people who belong to us, we see the past, present and future.”

– Gail Lumet Buckley

National Dessert Month

“We must have pie. Stress cannot exist in the presence of a pie.” – David Mamet

“I don’t share blame. I don’t share credit, and I don’t share dessert.”

– Beverly Sills

Polish American
History Month

“October marks Polish-American Heritage Month, a time for our nation to celebrate the critical role and many important contributions by members of the Polish-American community today, and over hundreds of years of American history.”

– Rep. Jan Schakowsky

1,000 nanometers or less.”

– dictionary.com

World Food Day
October 16

“We know that a peaceful world cannot long exist, one-third rich and two-thirds hungry.”

– Jimmy Carter

“Being a chef is about feeding people, which is part of the story of all humanity.”

– Dominique Crenn

Black Poetry Day
October 17

“Hold fast to dreams, For if dreams die, Life is a broken-winged bird, That cannot fly.”

– Langston Hughes

“You think your pain and your heartbreak are un-precedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, who had ever been alive.”

– James Baldwin

Mother-in-Law’s Day
October 25

“The best thing about having you as my mother-in-law is my children having you as their granny.”

– Unknown

“A mother-in-law’s praise says more in a woman’s favor than anything else in the world.”

– Caroline Pafford Miller

International Red Cross
organized – October 26, 1863

“The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.”

– Redcross.org

Halloween – October 31

“In masks and gowns, we haunt the street and knock on doors for trick or treat.”

– Jack Prelutsky

“Last night you were unhinged. You were like some desperate, howling demon. You frightened me. Do it again.” – Morticia, The Addams Family

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Repair Cafe October 17

Senior Center, 10 am to 2 pm

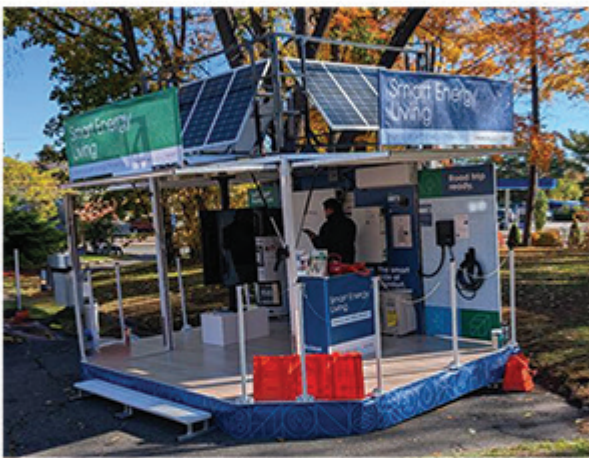
Gather your ripped jackets, broken lamps and dull knives for another day of free repairs at Sustainable Suffield’s Repair Cafe on October 17 at the Senior Center from 10 am to 2 pm. On hand will also be computer, bicycle, and woodworking/ ceramics repair experts, called fixers.

If your broken items require gluing, try to come early to allow the glues to set up before we close.

Free coffee, muffins and treats all day.

Eversource’s Energy Efficiency Experience Exhibit

Senior Center parking lot, October 17



Also at the Senior Center on October 17 will be Eversource’s Energy Efficiency Experience Exhibit.

After getting your household items repaired, visit to learn more about heat pumps, induction stove tops, solar panels, insulation, smart thermostats and meters, Level 2 electric vehicle chargers and more.

Sustainable Suffield appreciates Eversource’s support of our conservation efforts.

Street Side Realty Opens New Office in Suffield

By Chad Kuzontkoski
Suffield’s business community continues to grow with the opening of Street Side Realty LLC, a full-service real estate brokerage that has established its new office at 133 Mountain Road, Suite 9.

Street Side Realty provides residential and commercial real estate services to clients in Suffield and the surrounding area. The brokerage works with home buyers and sellers, including first-time buyers, as well as commercial clients, offering assistance throughout the buying, selling and real estate consultation process.

The company emphasizes a client-first approach built around local market knowledge, clear communication and personalized service.

“We are thrilled to establish our physical presence right here in Suffield,” said Chris Piccoli of Street Side Realty. “Our goal is to provide our neighbors and clients with an accessible, welcoming environment where they can receive trustworthy



John Kissel, Chris Piccoli, Chad Kuzontkoski and Tami Zawistowski at the ribbon-cutting on September 2.

advice and top-tier service for all their real estate needs.”

The new Mountain Road location gives the brokerage a convenient presence near the center of town and provides clients with a local office where they can meet with the Street Side Realty team, discuss the real estate market and learn more about available properties and services.

The opening is another welcome addition to Suffield’s growing collection of locally based businesses and professional services. Maintaining a strong mix of restaurants, retailers, service providers and profes-

sional offices helps support a vibrant Town Center while giving residents more opportunities to do business locally.

Street Side Realty held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 2 at its new Suffield location.

Residents interested in learning more about Street Side Realty, its current listings or its real estate services can visit the new office at 133 Mountain Road, Suite 9, visit streetside-realty.com or call 860-816-4557.

Please join us in welcoming Street Side Realty LLC to the Suffield business community! ☘

Field of Flags

By Kacy Colston, Volunteer
Be a part of the Suffield Field of Flags this Veterans Day. Honor the dedication of those who have served and are serving our country. Veterans, first responders and personal heroes can be recognized with an Honor-ee tag.

Sponsor one flag at a cost of \$30, or four for \$100. Pro-

ceeds to benefit veterans’ initiatives. In 2025 Field of Flags was able to make a donation of almost \$1,800 to Soldier On in Agawam, to provide supportive housing and social services for homeless and low-income veterans.

Deadline to sponsor is November 1. Please email FieldofFlags@suffieldct.gov for details. ☘



Photo by Karen A Jason





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“Working with people who care about trees”

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 Finance and Facilities Subcommittee—September 3, 2026

Director of Facilities Larry Plano outlined the status of projects throughout various buildings. Most projects are being completed within acceptable timelines and on budget. Longer term projects such as a potential photovoltaic roof at Suffield High School and exterior work at Spaulding School are still in progress.

Superintendent Matt Dunbar discussed findings related to the Suffield Middle School Building Project new building site selection, as well as options associated with “Renovate as New.” There is a proposed meeting in the future between the Suffield Permanent Building Commission and the Board of Education to discuss these options in greater detail.

Board of Selectmen—September 2, 2026

Facilities Project Updates:

- Lee Corbert, Director of Public Works, provided an update on the Suffield Street culvert, which was closed after an inspection revealed a large crack and movement of the sidewall. The Town is pursuing a temporary bridge, estimated at \$225,000–\$250,000, to reopen the roadway while

the permanent replacement proceeds. Installation is targeted for September 21, subject to utility coordination. The permanent project has been prioritized for engineering and permitting, with construction anticipated next spring. Mr. Corbert also reviewed the required engineering, soil testing and state and federal permitting involved in bridge and culvert replacements.

- Director Corbert also updated the Board on the High School/Bruce Park bridge project. He explained that the project is awaiting materials, with construction expected to begin in December and be completed by the end of January.

- He reported that the Copper Hill Road culvert and Hickory Street Bridge projects are progressing through design and permitting, with bidding anticipated in November and construction next spring or summer. Phelps Road work is also progressing, with roadway milling and reconstruction anticipated to begin by the end of September.

- Kevin Goff, Chairman and Glenn Neilson, Vice Chairman of the Permanent Building Commission provided an update on the Facilities Master Plan and school projects. The High School HVAC rooftop project is progressing, with exterior work completed and controls being installed, followed by commissioning to evaluate the overall system. The High School roofing project is moving forward, with a contractor recommended and materials expected to require a 60-day lead time, followed by ap-

proximately 120 working days of construction. The PBC is also seeking a special inspector for the project, while the solar portion is still being evaluated.

- The Middle School planning process has been delayed after soil conditions, wetlands, setbacks and vernal pools limited the previously considered expansion site. The PBC is working with the architects, consultants and other stakeholders to develop an alternative campus configuration that would avoid land acquisition, improve on-site bus and vehicle circulation, and increase capacity. Updated and independent cost estimates will be obtained, with the planning process now expected to extend into the spring. December 1 remains an important deadline for establishing the overall project budget and preparing bond information.

- Regarding the Firehouse 1 project, the PBC recommended constructing a new facility at the annex property, which would provide space for up to four bays and a drive-through garage. Additional evaluation of site grading and related improvements will be required. The PBC also reviewed approximately 670 responses to the community survey, noting that while the results were not statistically representative, respondents generally favored new construction over renovation. The Board and PBC agreed that updated construction estimates and continued public outreach will be important as the Facilities Master Plan progresses. ☘

Bandstand Dedicated

By Tony Peterson

During Suffield on the Green, leaders of the privately funded community bandstand initiative turned it over to the town in an official ribbon-cutting ceremony. Suffield's Social Services Commission Chair, Robin Zatony, who spearheaded the 18-month project, and Natalie Donais, president of the Rotary Club and a major supporter and promoter, spoke about the impetus and process of building the new 20-foot bandstand, which replaced the rickety 15-foot bandstand, built in 1976.

Suffield's First Selectman Colin Moll praised the two women, along with the more

than 50 residents who Zatony named as donating services or funds. She thanked major donors Florence & Warren Packard and family, Elzear Roy and family, the Suffield Rotary, the Casighino family, and the Suffield Woman's and Garden Clubs. Those names, along with Zatony and her husband, another major donor, were inscribed on a bronze plaque that will be affixed to a large boulder next to the bandstand. The last line on the plaque reads, “Built by Community, for Community.”

The Barnyard in Ellington built the new \$180,000 bandstand. The late builder Elzear Roy donated the foundation, stamped flooring and sidewalk. ☘



Photo by Tony Peterson

With their hands on the scissors, Natalie Donais (L) and Robin Zatony cut the ribbon, dedicating the new community bandstand on the town green as other community leaders watched on September 12.

Christmas Bazaar

By Catherine Napski
It's that time again!

Come to the West Suffield Congregational Church's Christmas bazaar on Saturday, November 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We will be offering a variety of homemade soups and fresh bread for lunch along with hot and cold drinks. Our bake sale, which offers an

amazing assortment of goodies for the sweet tooth, is always a must for dessert! Eat in or take out is available.

Raffle baskets! Attic treasures for sale! Jewelry for sale! Photo op with Santa...free!

Please follow our Facebook page West Suffield UCC for more information and updates as we get closer to the bazaar date. ☘

I will walk by
FAITH
Even when i cannot see
2 Corinthians 5:7

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Sacred Heart News

By Fr. Joe Keough

I have never been a fan of pumpkin spice, I lean toward cinnamon apple and truth be told, regular coffee black is hands down my year-round favorite. Hopefully, we can still be friends! One of the blessings of October is that nature gives us much to ponder. The green leaves of summer change into an assortment of colors from vibrant yellows, oranges and reds to dusky browns and tans as they are swept to the ground noting the coming of the winter season.

In his classic book, *The Fall of Freddie the Leaf*, Leo Buscalia reminds us of the seasons of life in constant transition. As people of faith we look for and hope for not the last thing but the transition to the next thing—the fullness of life in eternity. We often speak of the “autumn of life” in terms of just waiting for the end but the beauty and the dramatic changes of October offer many opportunities to live life to the fullest all the time. At every age.

At Sacred Heart Parish, we are doing all of the “things” of living our lives completely. We are celebrat-

ing new births and baptisms and welcome our young families to join us the first Tuesday of the month, October 6 at 6:30 p.m. to join us for a baptism prep class in the church. Parents, and if possible, Godparents should attend to learn about the steps of the ceremony but most importantly the significance of their child’s first steps in the life of faith. We continue the high energy and excitement of faith-filled learning with our monthly “Pray Date” for parents with young children. In addition to our Religious Education Program for kindergarten through grade 9, we have a newly formed Youth Ministry for our high school aged students and their friends.

Members from all “seasons of life” are welcome to dance the night away at our annual Barn Dance on October 24. A family-friendly event where generations come together and share some good food and fellowship.

We will have opportunities to pray together, as well as sharing talents through the Music Ministry or Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Taking the time to remember and grieve the “fallen leaves” through our Jesus Wept Ministry. Finding quiet time in the church for your personal prayer during the day, enjoying the warm autumn afternoon in our Prayer Garden or reflecting on the outdoor Stations of the Cross, or in the Mary Garden.

There truly is something for everyone at every season. For more information about any of the ministries and programs available for you at Sacred Heart Parish this autumn, please visit us online at www.sacred-heartct.com, or stop by our campus at 446 Mountain Road here in Suffield.

Just as the leaves fall to the ground so do many seeds; the little “helicopters” from the maple trees, pinecones and acorns, nature replenishes for future seasons. We are secure in our hope for future generations! We seek ways to share our gifts and knowledge from one generation to the next. Not fearing the next transition but savoring the moment life that warm cup of cinnamon apple cider or pumpkin spiced latte.

Enjoy the season! God bless! ☙

West Suffield
Congregational News

By Pastor Denise Peterson

Traditionally, October is a fairly quiet time at WSCC. We settle into the familiar rhythms of worship and service and take some time to appreciate the changing of the seasons. This year, however, we have a little extra excitement coming.

Toward the middle of the month, we will be starting a junior high youth group. (We’re still working on finding the most convenient day and time).

Our kids are busy, I know that. Sometimes I wonder how they manage to fit everything into their schedules. Between school, sports and homework, it might seem a little crazy to suggest adding one more thing. But perhaps what the youth group offers is different enough that it is worth making room for.

So much of a young person’s world is about measuring up. How well did you do on the test? Did you make the team? Where do you fit in? What do other people think of you? Church has the opportunity to offer something very different. Here, we can tell our young people that be-

fore they accomplish anything, before they prove anything, before they figure out exactly who they are, they are already known and loved by God.

That is really what Christian fellowship is about. It is learning to see one another through the eyes of Christ.

It is discovering that the person who thinks differently from me, looks differently from me, or has experiences I don’t understand is still my neighbor. It is learning not simply to tolerate our differences, but to recognize that each of us carries gifts, struggles, hopes, fears and a story worth hearing.

Certainly, we are planning on games and laughter and probably more noise than we are accustomed to around here. I certainly hope so.

But underneath all of that, our hope is that we will be creating a place where our young people know they belong.

A place where they can ask questions, be themselves, make mistakes, laugh together, and discover something about what it means to follow Jesus.

We often talk about young people as “the future of the church.” I’ve never particularly liked that expression. They are not the future of the church. They are the church, right now. And perhaps one of the most important things we can do is give them a place where they can discover that for themselves.

Blessings on your day. ☙



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Fall Fellowship Service

Join us for our Fall Fellowship Service on
October 25 sponsored by First Baptist Church

10 a.m.: Discuss “How you can be sure of Heaven.”
11 a.m.: “How Christianity Influenced
the West, and Your Life.”

Stay for smoked, pulled pork for lunch.
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Holy Hour: Monday 6-7 PM and Friday 7:30-8:00 AM

New or returning member?
Sign up on line or in person,
Contact the Parish Office 860.668.4246 or
SacredHeartCT@gmail.com

Sacred Heart Parish
446 Mountain Road
P O Box 626 Suffield, CT 06078
Rev. Joseph F. Keough, Pastor

Second Baptist Church News

From a press release

Second Baptist Church is hosting many events that we invite the Community to attend during the month of October.

Join Second Baptist for a **free Community Shred and E-Recycling Day** at on Saturday October 10 from 9 a.m. to noon (or until truck is full). There will be a two-box limit of shredding per vehicle. The items that are brought to be shredded will be placed in the back of the truck from Infoshred and brought to their facility to be destroyed along with the e-recycling items. This is a free event, but we would appreciate a freewill offering of either nonperishable food items (which will go to Suffield Community Aid) or gently used clothing (which will be given to "It Takes a Village").

At our **Fall Kids Party** on Friday, October 9 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, we will be learning about Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), a Mexican tradition usually celebrated Nov 1-2. This is a joyful cultural celebration rooted in All Saints and All Souls Day, when families remember loved ones with photos, stories, favorite foods, marigold flowers, and thank God for their lives. We will talk about how Christians remember with gratitude, celebrate life and find hope in heaven. We will make a "Memory Table" to thank God for special people and pets. Our crafts (paper flowers, colorful banners, decorated sugar skulls) are happy and kid friendly. Lunch will be provided. We are excited to learn about another culture with respect and joy!

On Saturday, October 10 at 5 p.m. we will host a **Community Open Mic Night** – A Celebration of Local Talent and Creativity. All styles of expression are welcome including singing, music, poetry, comedy, etc. Come share your talents and support others as they share their talents!

On Tuesday, October 13 we will host an **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – Noon-5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For an

appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Finally, on the evening of **Saturday, October 31 (Halloween)**, don't forget to stop by the Common Room. Congregants will participate in trick-or-treating with children and families strolling Main Street.

During the month we have several on-going ministries where we would like to invite you to join:

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Friday, October 9 and 23 – 10 a.m. This recently revived ministry gives individuals the opportunity to come together for a time of prayer and fellowship while creating shawls that are intended to provide love and comfort to their recipients.

Soup Kitchen Ministry – Saturday, October 10. Serving a meal for anyone in need at the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen at South Congregational Church in Springfield, MASS has been a ministry at Second Baptist for around 35 years! If you would like to participate, please call the church office at 860-668-1661.

Special Needs Fellowship – Monday, October 12, 6:30 p.m. This is another long-standing monthly outreach program for our friends in the Suffield community with cognitive limitations to give them a safe environment for crafts, singing, and fellowship. "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40.

Contact the church office (office@secondbaptistsuffield.org or 860-668-1661) if you are interested in participating

in any of the above opportunities. Additional information for these and other activities/opportunities at the church is available on secondbaptistsuffield.org, along with our NEW Facebook and Instagram sites. On the website, there are links for the Sunday morning bulletin and "Weekly Wednesday Write-Ups" with upcoming events and updates on the various ministries in the congregation. There is also a link to the church's YouTube channel for you to participate in past Sunday services. ☞

First Church News

By Amber Bigley

First Church of Christ, Congregational UCC welcomes all to join in weekly Sunday worship at 10 a.m., in-person or virtually through the church YouTube livestream. Following a wonderful return to worship last month, the congregation continues its spiritual journey under the leadership of Pastor Chris Hart, what Church extends an extravagant welcome to friends, neighbors, and newcomers alike. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at First Church of Christ.

October at First Church brings worship, community outreach, and autumn activities! Following a wonderful return to worship in September and a great time at Suffield on the Green hosting science demos, chalk art masterpieces, a prayer tree and other fun faith activities, the church welcomes all to join us in worship on Sunday mornings!

Open to all neighbors under the principle of "take what you need; leave what you can," the church encourages the public to donate shelf-stable food and basic hygiene items at any time.

The Chancel Choir has returned and is welcoming new members! High School age and above are welcome to join for one rehearsal, or all of them, and make a joyful noise! For musicians who used to play, the Dusty Orchestra offers a fun space for anyone who has ever played an instrument to dust it off and make music again. Additionally, the Congregational Choir provides an easy, all-ages opportunity where you can simply show up that morning, rehearse briefly and sing during worship. If you are interested in any of these musical opportunities, contact the church and let us know.

Pastor Chris' open office hours are Tuesdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. He will also host pub hours on Tuesday, October 6 at 6 p.m. at Tavern 1927 at the Suffield Country Club. Contact Pastor Chris directly to set-up an appt or to arrange an alternate time, if needed PC@pastrchris.faith or (774) 318-6006.

The community outreach at First Church continues outside its doors. The Blessing Box at 81 High Street remains available 24/7 for non-perishable donations. Open to all neighbors under the principle of "take what you need; leave what you can," the church encourages the public to donate shelf-stable food and basic hygiene items at any time.

First Church serves as a vital meeting space by hosting Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous groups in the building on a weekly basis. Neighbors and

In Memoriam

James C. Kimmett
June 11, Age 66

Leonard M. Weiss, Jr.
June 23, age 69

Nathaniel Richard Kaplan, MD
August 11, Age 79

M. Lee Hunihan
August 18, Age 66

Florence W. Egan
August 19, Age 96

Jane M. Sheridan
August 24, Age 92

Jonathan Kyle Hansen
August 16, Age 44

Lapheris Powers
August 28, Age 87

Fred Marinone
September 7, Age 72

Rejean Reggie Roberge
September 10, Age 67

Elzear P. Roy
September 11, Age 86

members can stay connected to these support meetings and autumn events by visiting the church website.

For details and schedules, visit www.firstchurchsuffield.org. God bless! ☞





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Town Information at Your Fingertips

By Gayle Demko

The newly installed public information kiosk located outside the library entrance provides Suffield residents, students and visitors with convenient, one-touch access to timely and reliable community information. By linking directly to relevant pages on the Town of Suffield website, this kiosk makes existing resources easier to find for users seeking local events, services, activities, public meetings and visitor information. The touch screen buttons include the town calendar and



Town Kiosk

events, historic walking tours, police updates, library and senior center programs, school and recreation activities, a local business directory, things to do, social services, community aid and crisis support. The kiosk can accommodate additional categories as com-

munity needs evolve. The Crisis Support button provides access to trusted prevention and crisis resources, providing dependable information for young people and others seeking help for themselves or a friend. Located near the library and accessible after school, the kiosk serves as both a community convenience and an important public-safety resource. On your next visit to the Suffield Village center, stop by the new kiosk and discover town information at the touch of a button. ☼

Suffield Police

Continued from page 1

license plates that it passes. Our cameras are being run in the NCIC database against only the following records: Missing Person, Stolen Plate, Stolen Vehicle, Arrest Warrants. Should there be an alert, the Officer will be notified by the computer inside the patrol vehicle, and they will confirm if the plate in the alert is the same on the vehicle they see. If so, a motor vehicle stop will be conducted, and appropriate enforcement action will be taken. If the plate does not match the alert, then the alert will be removed, and everyone continues on with their day. Our Officers are trained in the use of the system and our policy (which can be found on our website), which provides the parameters for searching data in the system. The data obtained from the ALPR cameras is held in the Axon cloud, as maintaining our own server would be

costly. The data remains with Axon and is not provided to any third party without the consent of the Suffield Police Department. Based upon changes in Connecticut statutes in 2026, specifically to the statute governing the use of the cameras, the data and retention periods beginning October 1, we have made the appropriate changes to our policy. It should be noted that our policy is very clear in that access to the ALPR data is authorized only for investigative purposes and that the data is only held for 21 days. Audits are conducted every 30 days to ensure that the policy is being adhered to. Our policy can be found on our website. I would also note that should there be a misuse of the system, not only would it result in an Internal Affairs investigation and disciplinary action, but it would also constitute the elements of 53a-254 Computer Crimes in the third degree – a class D felony which carries potential imprisonment for

up to five years. This criminal statute applies to all computer systems used by the Suffield Police Department. The ALPR technology employed by the Suffield Police Department is intended to assist Officers in locating wanted/missing persons (inclusive of runaways) and stolen/wanted motor vehicles. Often times, stolen vehicles are used in the commission of crimes and many of these suspects have criminal records. The hope is that if a vehicle alerts, we are assisting in the prevention of criminal activity taking place here in Suffield. Additionally, we would be in a better position to return stolen property and ensure the well-being of any missing or endangered person. We are always available to answer any questions that you may have regarding ALPR technology, and I hope that this information is helpful in demonstrating how we use it to benefit the residents in Suffield. ☼



Suffield Observations

By Andy Sauer

Everyone is Watching

A couple of years ago, I was on a plane heading home. A flight attendant pulled my bag from the overhead bin and asked to whom it belonged. I stood up and answered. She instructed me to put it under the seat to make room for another passenger's larger bag. I protested. She insisted. As I was about to initiate a spirited defense, I noticed another passenger lifting his phone. It was then I heard my better angels whisper: "You are about to go viral for all the wrong reasons."

I took the bag, jammed it under the seat and flew home with my knees practically in my chest. I bring this up because of the debate surging around Flock cameras – automated license plate reader cameras used by law enforcement agencies that capture vehicle data in real time. Have you seen them? There are none in Suffield, but there are several in neighboring towns. They've created quite a stir. More than 200 municipalities, counties and states have defunded or banned the technology. Connecticut slapped several restrictions on its use last spring.

While there are legitimate privacy concerns over a technology that can track up-to-the-second movements of our vehicles, the debate obscures the growing reality of living in a world under constant surveillance. There are cameras everywhere: airports, train stations, subway stations, highways, stores, gyms, front doors, driveways, stadiums, schools and even churches. If there's an angle that isn't covered by a camera, there's always a freelance videographer ready to record the actions of someone behaving badly.

We can fight every privacy battle we choose, but history has demonstrated it is impossible to stuff technological genies back into the bottle. We need to operate as if the world is watching and listening to our better angels.

I was recently driving to an appointment, for which I was late. After exiting the highway, there was a driver who appeared, based on his hand gestures, to be unhappy with my driving. He tailed me all the way to a very busy and public area. I decided to choose peace. I got out of my car. He popped out and launched into a tirade. I apologized. He kept yelling. I kept apologizing. When I was able to speak, I asked where this infraction occurred? He said at the highway exit. It didn't ring a bell. I apologized and approached in total contrition.

"Stay away from me!"

Dude, you followed and confronted me! I looked at his dashboard to see if I was being filmed for a social media stunt. No, this was a minor incident of road rage that would be lost to time. He admonished me one last time and left.

As I reconstructed my drive, I did recall coming in hot off the highway. I had a green left turn arrow and sped through the turn. There was a car coming out of the parking lot into the intersection that may have been intending to turn right on red without coming to a full stop, which is illegal.

I wasn't in the wrong, he was! If only I had a camera to record the incident!



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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.*

Oct 1

Samuel R. Spencer, one of the town's leading citizens, was signally honored...at the Republican senatorial convention held in Hartford, when he was nominated for state senator from the seventh senatorial district. Mr. Spencer's nomination was made by State's Attorney Hugh M. Alcorn. Mr. Spencer, who has been town treasurer since 1900, was graduated from Yale University in the class of 1893. He is president of the Suffield Savings Bank, president of the firm of Spencer Bros., Inc., and has represented the town in the Legislature in the years of 1915 and 1917.

The transfer has been made of property from E. N. and C. C. Austin to the town of Suffield, calling for a lot adjoining the school property on South street, with a 100-foot front and 190-foot depth. Work of enlarging the present school building or of building a new one will be started in the spring. The newly acquired property has been felt as necessary on account of the small facilities at the school and with the large increase of school children from year to year.

Oct 8

An experiment is being tried at the Center school this term of furnishing for sale pasteurized milk for children who appear to be under weight. The milk is brought to the school every morning and sold to these children during recesses.

Oct 15

Nine automobile tires and other merchandise valued at \$250 were stolen...from the garage of Arthur L. Bessett on Depot street. Entrance was gained by breaking a window in the front door and springing the door fastenings.

The annual chicken pie supper and fancy sale held in the [Congregational] church parlors...was a decided success, despite the rain at the hour set for the supper.

Oct 22

That a fire truck and pump-er should last longer than one year

when it represents an investment of \$6,000, is the opinion of people of this town. They, through their special committee of citizens, intend to see that the truck which they have at present is either placed in first-class condition or else replaced by its makers...Three times during the short period it has been in use it has broken down, putting it out of service during repairs and materially lessening the efficiency of the fire department. On another occasion it was necessary to send it out of town for a week to undergo repairs. Shortly after its return it was necessary to install a new clutch, and recently it was found necessary to tear the pump down and replace several of its parts. Members of the village committee...said that they intend to insist that the makers either replace the truck with a new one or repair the old one in such fashion that it will do all that is represented as capable of doing.

The tobacco crop is now cured sufficiently to permit being taken from the poles and stripped, after which it will be placed in bundles for assorting. The farmers are awaiting a moderately warm rainstorm so that this work can be taken care of before cold weather sets in. At the plantations where the leaves are picked off the stalks when placed in the curing sheds this work is nearly completed. The tobacco is now in the company warehouses undergoing bulk sweating, after which it will be sorted.

Oct 29

The new fire pumper truck now owned jointly by the town and the center district has been ordered returned to the makers in Providence for a new pump to be installed... The makers will now correct these faults and bring the machine up to the guarantee.

The town clock has been undergoing repairs this week. The numerals and hands are being trimmed with gold leaf, making a large improvement over what it had been for some time.

A Moment in Time

Old Photos Invited from Our Readers



Photo by Art Sikes

You may have seen many pictures taken by Roger Loomis. This is one of Roger Loomis (on right) and Julius Drenzek getting his Eagle Scout Award in Troop 160 in 1963. Troop Master of Troop 160 was just one of Roger's titles. Others included World War II Veteran, lifelong resident of Suffield, Town Photographer, first Superintendent of Sunrise Park, Jessie Smith Town Forest Committee Chair and President of the Suffield Historical Society.

Suffield Historical Society Upcoming Events

By Jackie Hemond

Sunday, October 4 at 2 p.m. at Old Center Cemetery (behind First Congregational Church): Old Center Cemetery Tour. Explore gravestone artistry and Suffield history with Jefferson Lockwood, photographer and cemetery enthusiast. RSVP required at rsvphistory@gmail.com

Wednesday, October 7 at 10 a.m. at Suffield Volunteer Ambulance: Polish Heritage Society Meeting.

Wednesday, October 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Academy Hall: Native American Author's Perspective on the American Revolution. Professor Chris Newell, Director of Native American Cultural Programs

at the University of Connecticut & Co-founder of the Akomawt Educational Initiative, will discuss and read from his new book, *If You Lived During the American Revolution*. Copies will be available for purchase.

Saturday, October 17 at 9 a.m. - Noon/Rain date: Saturday, October 24

King House Museum & Barn Work Day. Bring gloves and work tools.

Saturday, October 31 - 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the King House Porch: Halloween Candy Give-Away

Sunday, November 8 at 1-4 p.m. at Academy Hall: Sew a Holiday Ornament with The Pioneer Valley Chapter of

the Embroiderer's Guild of America Workshop. Design is a 4" round ornament worked and finished in a hoop with 1776-2006 in a star charm in red and blue on white fabric. Free! RSVP required at rsvphistory@gmail.com

Saturday, November 14 at 1 - 4 p.m. at Academy Hall: Craft a Wooden Connecticut Rose with Anne Marie Elder and Bob Ferris from Colonial Crafts. They will guide participants in carving a 5" x 5" CT Rose which is an architectural feature of the beautiful woodwork at the King House Museum. Cost is \$25 per person. Eight people maximum.

RSVP required at rsvphistory@gmail.com ☞

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Suffield Trivia

By Jackie Hemond

Questions derived from “It Happened in Our Town” edited by Paul G. Sander-son, Jr.

1. The Rev. Jonathan Ed-wards, a famous minister from Northampton, Mass., was a central figure in the First Great Awakening, a re-ligious revival which swept through the American colo-nies in the 1730s and 1740s. Edwards preached one of his most famous sermons in Enfield. What did he do in Suffield?

a. He was an interim minister at Suffield’s Con-gregational Church when Rev. Ebenezer Devotion, the church’s second minis-ter, died.
b. He stayed at the Rev. Ebenezer Gay’s house. Gay was the third minis-ter of the Congregational Church.
c. He was on the selection committee which chose Rev. Gay to become min-ister in Suffield.

2. John Eliot from Windsor was one of three entrepre-neurs of Suffield’s First Iron Works, which was erected at the turn of Stony Brook on Boston Neck. The other en-trepreneurs were John Pyn-chon, who founded Suff-ield, and Joseph Parsons of Northampton. John Eliot was the grandson of John El-iot of Roxbury, Mass. Who was the Roxbury John Eliot?

a. The son of George El-iot, a famous writer.
b. He founded Harvard University.
c. He was known as the Apostle of the Indians.

3. In the 1700s, many of Suffield’s well-known men were part owners in Suffield iron works including Luther Loomis, Shem Burbank, Samuel Hatheway and Da-vid Tod. Tod was the origi-nal owner of the large house built on the corner of South Main and South Street. The Tods moved from Suff-ield, eventually settling in Youngstown, Ohio. David Tod’s grandson, also David, became a governor of Ohio during the Civil War. But he was also

a. Related to Mary Todd Lincoln.
b. The person upon whom Sweeney Todd was based.
c. A leader in Ohio’s iron and steel industry.

4. The Connecticut West-ern Reserve was land most-ly in Northeast Ohio. In the colonial charter granted by King Charles II of England, Connecticut was given land from “sea to sea” which overlapped with land grant-ed in other colonial char-acters. After the Revolution-ary War, in 1786, Connecti-cut and other states relin-quished their western lands but Connecticut retained a large tract of land. Why?

a. Oliver Phelps who was Deputy Commissary of the Colonial Army in the Revolutionary War under George Washington, per-suaded Washington that Connecticut had a right to the land.
b. It was a way to repay Connecticut for loss-es in the bloody Penna-mite-Yankee War.
c. Because of a survey mistake, Congress did not realize that the land was not ceded by Connecticut.

5. What were the Firelands?

a. A term for fires that Native Americans inten-tionally started to restore land and control wildfires.
b. Ridges like the Meta-comet Ridge which fea-ture basalt rock, remnants of fiery lava flows.
c. Lands set aside for res-idents whose towns were burned by the British in the Revolutionary War.

6. Choose who were spec-ulators in the Western Re-serve from the following names.

a. Timothy Swan, a Suff-ield resident, hat maker and an important com-poser.
b. Pierpont Edwards, son of Jonathan Edwards and ancestor of Aaron Burr and J.P. Morgan.
c. Moses Cleaveland, law-yer and surveyor, who served in the Revolution-ary War.

7. In the late 1700s, Seth Pease from Suffield was called a Mathematician.

8. Suffield has a namesake town called Suffield, Ohio. It was a part of the Connecti-cut Western Reserve and was settled by Suffield residents Benejah Kent and Royal Pease, brother of Seth Pease. What was the year that Suff-ield, Ohio was organized?

a. 1818
b. 1800
c. 1810

9. Ralph Waldo Emerson called one Suffield-born person “a poet of bran and pumpkins.” Who was he?

a. Oliver Phelps
b. Sylvester Graham
c. Timothy Swan

1. All three answers are cor-rect.
2. c. He was known as the Apostle of the Indians. He converted many Native Americans to Christianity, established schools for them and translated the Bible into the Algonquian language.
3. c. He was a leader in Ohio’s iron and steel indus-try. I don’t think he was re-lated to Mary Todd Lincoln although Abraham Lincoln did ask him to be his Secre-tary of the Treasury. It is in-teresting to note that both David Tods participated in the iron industry.
4. b. It was a way to repay Connecticut for losses in the Pennamite-Yankee Wars.
Connecticut and Pennsylv-ania had overlapping land claims which led to bloody battles during 1769-1784.
5. c. Lands set aside for Connecticut residents whose towns (Danbury, Ridge-field, New London, Fairfield, Greenwich, Groton, New Haven and Norwalk) were burned by the British in the Revolutionary War. This land was the western portion of the Connecticut Western Re-serve which was not sold to



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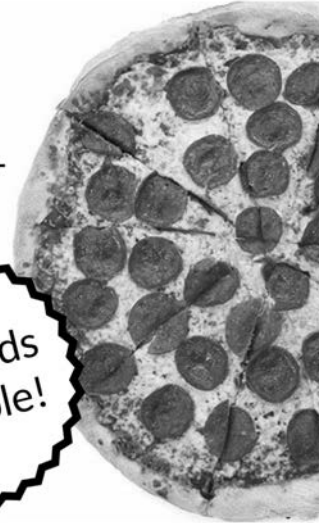
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Suffield’s Gubernatorial Election November 3

By Darlene Burrell,
Registrar of Voters

Voters Have Several Options for Casting Their Ballot and for Registering to Vote

Suffield voters have several convenient options for casting their ballots in the upcoming election. Voters may vote in person on Election Day, vote early in person, or vote by absentee ballot. Residents who are not yet registered also have several opportunities to register to vote.

Ways to Cast Your Ballot

1. Vote in Person on Election Day

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Suffield Middle

School.

2. Vote Early in Person

Connecticut’s 14-day Early Voting period will run from October 19 through November 1, including weekends.

Early voting will take place at Suffield Town Hall in the Meeting Room from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with extended hours on October 27 and October 29, when polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

3. Vote by Absentee Ballot

Absentee ballots are now available to every voter, with no excuse required.

Voters can visit MyVote.CT.gov/absentee to apply online or download



an absentee ballot application in English or Spanish. Applications are also available in person at the Town Clerk’s Office.

Completed absentee ballot applications and ballots may be returned by mail, drop box, or directly to the Town Clerk. All completed ballots must be received no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Ways to Register to Vote

Residents who are eligible to vote but are not yet registered have several options:

1. Online Registration

Register online at VoterRegistration.CT.gov by October 16.

2. Mail-In Registration

Obtain a voter registration application through the Secretary of the State’s online portal at portal.ct.gov/sots/election-services/register-to-vote. Completed applications should be mailed to the Registrars of Voters at: 83 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT

Applications must be postmarked by October 16.

3. In-Person Registration

Voters may register in person at Town Hall during normal office hours, during the special voter registration session on October 16 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., during the Early Voting period, and on Election Day.

Voters are encouraged to review their registration status and make a plan for how they will cast their ballot before Election Day.

For additional information about voting, registration, Early Voting or absentee ballots, voters may contact the Suffield Registrars of Voters or Town Clerk’s Office. ☎

STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE										
State of Connecticut	Suffield, Connecticut	November 2026 State Election				November 03, 2026				
								Congressional District 2	Senatorial District 7	Assembly District 61
								Probate District 3		
OFFICE PARTY	1 Governor and Lieutenant Governor Vote for One	2 Representative in Congress Vote for One	3 State Senator 7 Vote for One	4 State Representative 61 Vote for One	5 Secretary of the State Vote for One	6 Treasurer Vote for One	7 Comptroller Vote for One	8 Attorney General Vote for One	9 Judge of Probate 03 Vote for One	10 Registrar of Voters Vote for One
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A Ned Lamont and Susan Bysiewicz	2A Joe Courtney	3A David W. Kiner	4A James Mol	5A Stephanie Thomas	6A Erick Russell	7A Sean Scanlon	8A William Tong	9A Daniel N. Mara	10A Darlene Fahey Burrell
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B Ryan Fazio and Matt Corey	2B George Patrick Austin	3B John A. Kissel	4B Tami Zawistowski	5B Peter Lumaj	6B Fred Wilms	7B Jennifer S. Tooker	8B John Bolton	9B Mark E. Blackaby	10B Laura Brady
WORKING FAMILIES PARTY	1C Ned Lamont and Susan Bysiewicz	2C	3C David W. Kiner	4C	5C Stephanie Thomas	6C Erick Russell	7C Sean Scanlon	8C William Tong	9C	10C
INDEPENDENT PARTY	1D Ryan Fazio and Matt Corey	2D George Patrick Austin	3D John A. Kissel	4D Tami Zawistowski	5D Stephanie Thomas	6D Fred Wilms	7D Sean Scanlon	8D	9D	10D

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Suffield Community Aid

By Mary Curtin, MSW
Director
860-668-1986

Do you need help with understanding Medicare? Open Enrollment for Medicare is October 15 through December 7. If you would like to better understand your options, SCA's trained, unbiased volunteer is available by appointment to help! Please give us a call to schedule your appointment: 860-668-1986.

What SCA is
Spotlighting this Month:
In-Person Bereavement Support Group Starts October 2:

Masonicare is partnering with Suffield Community Aid to offer a six-week, in-person support group for people who are grieving the loss of a loved one. The group will meet at SCA, 450 South Street, Suffield, beginning Friday, October 2 from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. This program is offered at no cost. Registration is required. Please call SCA for more information, 860-668-1986.

Stay Warm This Winter! – We Have Started Taking Applications for the CT Energy Assistance Program:

This government program helps to offset the winter heating costs for financially eligible households. Please contact SCA to apply at 860-668-1986, or email Beth at beths@suffieldcommunityaid.org to learn more.

Food Drive for People and Pets at the Polls to benefit the SCA Food Pantry:

SCA volunteers will hold a benefit drive at the election polls (Suffield Middle School) on Tuesday, November 5 from 8

a.m. - 5 p.m. We are especially in need of paper towels, toilet paper, canned pasta, condiments, spaghetti sauce, coffee, lunch box snacks, personal care items and cleaning sup-



plies. Cash and grocery store gift cards are also welcome donations at this time of year.

The Friendly Visitor Program is growing! The program helps reduce isolation and boost well-being of adults who are homebound or feeling alone. Volunteers are matched with an individual for weekly visits/calls. Volunteers are asked to commit to one hour/week, for a minimum of six months, and must be 21 or older. Contact SCA for more information on participating in the program as a volunteer or participant.

Some Ongoing Programs and Updates:
Parkinson's Peer Support Group at the Suffield Community Aid: The next meeting is scheduled for October 13 from 10:30 a.m. – noon at 450 South St. (Suffield Community Aid) and will include a pizza lunch. Call Mary at SCA 860-668-1986 to register your attendance.

Housing Repair Assistance Program: Suffield Community Aid's Hous-

ing Repair Assistance Program was created to help low-to-moderate income residents obtain necessary home repairs. Applications are open. Please contact SCA to apply at: 860-668-1986 or email Mary at maryc@suffieldcommunityaid.org.

Social Services Consultations: Need help with elder care planning or applying for benefits? Meet with Lauren Marino, LMSW, for free social services consultations, to schedule a time, please call Suffield Community Aid at 860 - 668-1986.

Are there Places You Want to go, but Transportation is not Available? In conjunction with Nutmeg Senior Rides, SCA can help financially qualified seniors, age 65 and older or people with disabilities, get to where they want to go when the Suffield Mini-Bus is not available. Nutmeg Senior Rides provides door-to-door transportation, for any purpose, 365 days a year. Call SCA 860-668-1986 to see if you qualify. ☘



Photo provided by the author
Thanks to our amazing Garden Volunteers, we had an impressive bounty for our Food Pantry.

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.
• \$6 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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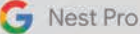
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Observed

Spectacular Saturday, Soggy Sunday

Photos by Ron Kirschbaum



Modern Design Salon of West Suffield shows up rain or shine! Pictured are Taylor Tucker (makeup artist and stylist), Aimee Chapman (salon owner and stylist), Maddie Tseka (stylist), Tippy (Aimee's dog) were among the few brave souls who weathered the heavy rain on Sunday.



Middle School teacher Sarah Marino is about to get dunked!



Saturday's celebration draws a crowd.



Troop 260 rope challenge is popular.



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WHAT'S HOT & WHAT'S NOT

Thinking about selling your home someday (or making updates now to enjoy)? Consider how buyers will see it. They will view it objectively, but still want to feel a connection. You can help by paying attention to "What's Hot and What's Not."

- HOT

 - Warm, neutral colors – creams, beige, soft greens, natural tones
 - Natural wood – flooring, cabinets, and accents
 - Simple, timeless kitchens – clean cabinets, quality countertops, understated tile
 - Updated bathrooms – clean, spa-like, well-lit
 - Good lighting – modern fixtures and plenty of natural light
 - Functional spaces – home offices, mudrooms, storage, and flexible rooms
 - Strong curb appeal – landscaping, entryway, and exterior condition
 - Flooring – Hardwood or Pergo
- NOT

 - All-gray interiors
 - Overly stark white kitchens
 - Heavy farmhouse or industrial themes
 - Very trendy tile or finishes
 - Overly personalized renovations
 - Carpeting

Most buyers (of any age) want to simply move in. If your resources are limited, focus on the kitchen, primary bedroom, and where you watch TV. Aim for warm, clean, timeless, and functional rather than chasing the latest trend.

And perhaps most important of all is make sure your house if super clean and clutter free (like that deep spring cleaning) including everything from windows to light switches covers and that it smells clean. If you'd like help, give us a call.

Robin, Melanie and Cyndie

Schools of Thought

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Suffield Athletic Hall of Fame Announces 2026 Induction Class

By Bret Lynch

The Suffield Athletic Hall of Fame (SAHOF) is pleased to announce a 2026 induction class consisting of eight individuals and one team. An induction ceremony and dinner will be held at the Crestview Country Club on Saturday, November 21. For additional information and to purchase tickets for this event, please visit <https://sahof.org/induction-ceremony>.

The eight outstanding Suffield athletes being inducted to the hall of fame this year are the following (with brief highlights):

- * **Katelyn Corr** – All-State softball player at Suffield High School (SHS), competed collegiately at Stony Brook University
- * **Susan Graves-Persio** – pioneering multi-sport athlete at SHS and Hanover College
- * **Robbie Hitt** – All-State baseball player at SHS, played for Quinnipiac University and in the Milwaukee Brewers’ minor league organization
- * **Dan Moroney** – cross-country and track star at SHS and the University of



Vermont

- * **Jack Patterson** – multi-sport athlete at Suffield Academy, played baseball at Bryant College and for the Chicago Cubs’ minor league organization
- * **Bob Quaqliaroli** – multi-sport athlete and long-time local sports coach, organizer, and umpire
- * **Austin Rupp** – State champion in golf and All-State in hockey at SHS; standout golfer at RPI
- * **Sarah Wilson** – cross-country and track star at SHS and Stonehill College

The team being inducted is the **1991-92 Suffield High School Boys Soccer team**, who were the Class M state co-champions.

Congratulations to all of the inductees!

For additional information about SAHOF please visit www.sahof.org or e-mail info@sahof.org.

Understanding the Facility Needs at Suffield Middle School

By the Suffield Board of Education

Many residents have reasonably asked: Why does the Suffield Middle School facility need such significant attention? And why now? The answer is not simply that the building is old. The Town and Board of Education have been studying the middle school for several years, and the conclusion is clear: the building has reached a point where a major, long-term investment is necessary.

The Town’s 2023 Facilities Master Plan, prepared by Tecton Architects after an extensive assessment of Town buildings, identified Suffield Middle School as a Tier I, highest-priority facility. The assessment examined the building’s physical condition, infrastructure, educational needs, accessibility, health and safety and long-term operational considerations.

The middle school was not prioritized simply because of its age. Both A. Ward Spaulding and McAlister Intermediate have portions of their buildings that are older than the middle school. However, Tecton’s comprehensive assessment ranked both elementary schools as Tier II pri-

orities. The assessment found that the greatest overall facility need exists at the middle school.

What is wrong with the building? Most of the middle school dates to 1964, with additions in 1965 and 1972, and a conversion from a high school to a middle school in 2002. While Suffield has continued to maintain the building and make individual improvements, many of its underlying systems are now aging at the same time.

The Facilities Master Plan identified concerns with the roof and building envelope, accessibility, bathrooms, electrical infrastructure, plumbing and mechanical systems. Many of these major systems have reached or exceeded their expected useful life and require comprehensive replacement or modernization.

The challenges are not always visible from the outside. The building does not have centralized cooling, much of its mechanical infrastructure is aging, and a significant portion of its plumbing dates back to the original 1964 construction. The building also has accessibility gaps that would need to be addressed as part of a comprehensive renovation.

Student Learning

The challenge goes beyond infrastructure. A school designed in the 1960s was built around a very different educational model. Today, students need flexible learning environments, spaces for collaboration

and small-group instruction, modern science and technology facilities, appropriate spaces for intervention and student support and learning environments that can adapt as educational practices change. The Educational Specifications developed for the project help define those needs and provide a framework for what a modern middle school should be able to support.

Next Steps

The Town has moved beyond the question of whether Suffield Middle School needs significant investment. The work now is focused on determining the best way to address the established facility and educational needs.

The Permanent Building Commission and Board of Education are working with the project architects to develop and evaluate an approach for a future project. As this work continues, residents will have opportunities to learn more about the building’s condition, the educational needs, the proposed approach, and the financial considerations.

The goal is to have a well-developed project ready for community consideration in a spring 2027 referendum.

This is a significant investment for Suffield, and it deserves thoughtful consideration. We look forward to keeping the community informed and providing opportunities for residents to ask questions and participate as the project moves forward.



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Suffield Historical Society

By Sara Zak

The Suffield Historical Society prides itself on helping people discover their Suffield roots, no matter where they live now. Here's the story of Dennis Kent from Lykens, Penn., who came to town a year ago to learn about his ancestors. He knew little more than that one of his ancestors was Sidney Albert Kent, who founded Kent Memorial Library (KML) in 1897, and that his relatives arrived in the Suffield area from England in 1643.

Dennis and his wife, Bonnie, eagerly reached out to the Suffield Historical Society and the library for information. They were welcomed in the classic small-town manner, a gesture that made them feel instantly at home. While they waited for responses, the Kents entertained themselves by exploring other leads about their family connections. First, they headed out to explore an old family farm in Kent, Conn. Then they embarked on a self-guided tour of Suffield, driving by the historic home of Henry Phelps Kent on South Main Street and the Kent farm on Halladay Avenue. They visited the Kent Legare Library on the Suffield Academy campus, the Old Center Cemetery (searching for family gravestones), and the Town Hall (seeking land records). Meanwhile, the small-town connections worked to help them learn about their ancestors.

Wendy Taylor, children's librarian and genealogist extraordinaire, was not working when the Kents stopped by the library. Still, her colleagues met the curious out-of-state visitors and told Wendy about their interest. Wendy then reached out to me for assistance. I called Bonnie, introduced myself as a member of the Historical Society and KML archive room monitor, and offered to meet them the next day. Collaboration between the library team and Society



members is key to connecting visitors with resources, records, and residents who may share a family history. In response to their question about possible relatives in town, I immediately thought of James Kent, an active member of the Historical Society. James and his wife ultimately invited Dennis and Bonnie to the Kent Farm, which they had driven by previously.

The following day, Dennis and Bonnie spent several hours in the archive room at the KML learning about their ancestors. Bonnie asked if there was somewhere she could purchase a memento of their visit to Suffield made by a local artist. I immediately thought of the late Peggy McKinnon, whose watercolors are available for purchase through *The Suffield Observer*. A quick call to Beth Chafetz, the paper's editor, connected me with someone who opened the office to help Bonnie purchase a picture. Their visit was complete.

In just three short days, they uncovered more about his ancestry than they had ever thought possible. Several days after their return to Pennsylvania, Wendy shared her discovery that Dennis and James are ninth cousins!

The Suffield Historical Society welcomes requests for help finding ancestors. Art Sikes, Society Vice President, genealogist, and old house expert, is a valuable resource, as is Anne Borg, the Society archivist. Contact us at suffieldhistorical-society@gmail.com with your questions about your ancestors or house. ☘

Tuesday Morning Music Club Events

By Kara Noble

This fall, the Tuesday Morning Music Club (TMMC) celebrates its 125th season of bringing professional and amateur musicians together to perform for the music lovers of the region. Their concerts include music ranging from classical and opera to jazz, musical theater, folk, world music, and sometimes even rock and pop—all at an affordable price. The TMMC's 2026-2027 season begins on October 6 at 10:30 a.m. in Asbury Hall at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield.

The TMMC's season includes 12 performances that take place every other Tuesday. The fall portion of their season runs from October 6 to December 1, 2026. They take a winter break in January, then hold bi-weekly Tuesday morning concerts February 9 to May 4, 2027.

Club members can attend all 12 concerts for the season membership fee of just \$40; the only requirement for membership is being a music lover. People who would like to attend just one concert may do so for a general admission fee of \$10.

"Since it was founded in 1902, the mission of the TMMC has been to bring talented musicians together with an enthusiastic audience to share their love of live performances, and to do it at a price that is affordable for as many people as possible," said TMMC president Kara Noble. "We feature soloists and ensembles from most of the local college music faculties and from many of the most highly regarded performing organizations in the region. They all love playing for our warm and welcoming audience."



**TUESDAY MORNING
MUSIC CLUB**
125TH ANNIVERSARY

TMMC is a great bargain and a real treat for performers and music lovers."

More information about TMMC's 2026-2027 season and details about how to join the Club are available on its website at <https://www.tuesdaymmc.org/> or on its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TuesdayMMC>.

TMMC 2026-2026 Concert Season Details

All concerts begin at 10:30 a.m. and take place in Asbury Hall at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield unless otherwise noted below.

October 6

Hannah Berube, clarinet; Karl Knapp, cello; Clifton Noble, piano. All-Brahms concert: *Trio in A-minor, Op. 114*; *Sonata in E-minor for cello & piano, Op. 38, mvt. 3*; *Sonata in E-flat major for clarinet & piano, Op. 120, no. 1, mvt. 1*.

October 20

Quartetto Mosso – Ronald Gorevic and Beth Welty, violins; Delores Thayer, viola; Yoonhee Ko, cello; Todd Fruth, tenor; Clifton Noble, piano. All Vaughan-Williams concert: *String quartet no. 1 in g minor*; *On Wenlock Edge* for tenor and string quartet.

November 3

Meadow Flutes - Lynn Winsor, Andrea Taupier, Nancy Miller, Kimberley Figueroa; String Trio – Beth Welty, violin;

Carol Hutter, viola; Boris Kogan, cello.

November 17

Kate Saik-Delugan, mezzo-soprano; Clifton Noble, piano; and Aaron Packard, violin & viola; Sara Wilkins, cello.

December 1

Holiday Concert – at First Congregational Church, 16 Broad St. Westfield, MA @ 10:30 a.m.

Allan Taylor, conductor; The Choir of First Congregational Church, Westfield; Emily Baker, soprano; Liam Shannon, baritone. For information on their winter/spring season, check the website. ☘

Ecology Explorers Program

By Justin Kaput

Suffield Public Schools is hosting its third ever Ecology Explorers Program on October 13 and 14, and we need your help!!

For students in 2nd, 5th and 7th grade students, it's a day of outdoor learning at the beautiful John and Madeline McLean Outdoor Learning Preserve. While they're out there, they'll rotate through seven stations meant to inspire wonder and curiosity about this incredible world we all share. In so doing, we hope to plant the seeds that sprout into futures full of exploration, connection, and stewardship.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We are currently short on volunteers to lead student groups. If you - or someone you know - has a passion for the natural world and love inspiring the next generation, we would love to have you join us! ☘

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Suffield Steps Up, Again

By Gregory Sparzo

The weather cooperated, which by the standards of this tournament counts as tradition breaking rather than tradition holding. The Shute Family’s Annual Golf Outing for the Tunnel to Towers Foundation has been played in 45-degree drizzle and 100-degree heat, and this year, on September 11, at St. Anne’s Country Club in Feeding Hills, Massachusetts, it drew another full field of golfers, another lineup of sponsors and another round of proof that a small Connecticut town can move real money toward a national cause.

“The generosity and support of the people of Suffield never ceases to amaze me,” said Dave Shute, the tournament’s founder and organizer. “The farmers, the shop owners, private citizens, the golfers rain or shine, are incredible.” He pointed to the same instinct showing up elsewhere in town: when Suffield residents raised money and packed three trailers of supplies for Hurricane Helene victims. “We are blessed to have such great support from such a great community.”

Shute would know something about instinct and com-

munity both. He served with the United States Navy Seabees for more than twenty years, retiring in 2016 as a Senior Chief Petty Officer, and saw duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. That background is not incidental to the tournament; it’s the reason the tournament exists. Shute has said plainly that he is driven by not forgetting the families of America’s fallen, and the families of those who care for the catastrophically wounded. The Tunnel to Towers Foundation, which builds mortgage-free homes for Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children, and specially adapted smart homes for cat-

astrophically injured veterans and first responders, was, in his words, “the perfect match for the Shute Family Foundation.” Dave and his wife Kim live in Suffield with four children and five grandsons.

Looking at this year’s tournament in isolation, it’s easy to miss how small it started. The first outing, in 2021, was just family and friends: 38 golfers played the day after Thanksgiving in weather that never rose above 45 degrees. It raised \$1,800, which the organizers still describe as a surprise. Whatever that first year proved, it proved enough that people came back.



Another successful Tunnel to Towers event!

The growth since has been close to linear, then not. In 2022, 120 golfers played through a 100-degree day and raised \$5,000. In 2023, the tournament moved to September 11 for the first time, a decision that gave the event its shape going forward, and drew a full field of 144 golfers, raising \$13,400. By 2024, the Suffield Fire Department was bringing a ladder truck to suspend a Tunnel to Towers banner over the course, and four police departments—Hartford, Agawam, Connecticut State Police and Suffield’s own—sent representatives. That year’s total was \$26,500, and Dan DeLeon, a representative of the national foundation, attended for the first time.

Then came 2025, another sold-out field, a new Platinum sponsorship tier, and an anonymous donation of \$100,000, which the organizers attribute, in their own words, to grace rather than growth curves. The cumulative total crossed \$137,500. DeLeon returned to accept the ceremonial check.

This year’s tournament, by the organizers’ account, has cemented something less quantifiable than the dollar figures: a regional reputation. The event is

now recognized across central Connecticut and western Massachusetts as one of the more effective Tunnel to Towers fundraisers in the area, in part because of a structural choice that outsiders often don’t notice. All tournament expenses, greens fees, the dinner, the sponsorships that pay for signage and staffing, are covered separately, which means every dollar raised in donations reaches the foundation. That is a rarer arrangement in charity golf than most participants realize, and it is the reason a relatively modest-sized event in a small town has managed to move six figures to a national cause. The entire team was thrilled to have raised over \$70,000 this year, exceeding their \$50,000 goal, meaning this community has generated over \$250,000 for a very worthy cause.

None of this required a headline year or a single dramatic gift. Mostly it required the same farmers, shop owners and private citizens Shute keeps thanking, showing up again, in whatever weather Friday in September decided to bring, because the tunnel and the towers are not history to this town. They are neighbors. ☿

“Just Chai,” Much More

By Karen A Jason

We are so fortunate to have so many creative, artistic, entrepreneurial people living and working in Suffield.

I met one recently while I attended a Suffield High School (SHS) graduation party for Olivianna Wells. Congratulations!

When I walked into the kitchen, I thought it was a pho-

to shoot for a food magazine. Every person that walked into the kitchen remarked on just how beautiful the presentation of assorted foods was and how delicious it was.

The owner of the catering business is Deepa Anand, a Suffield resident. Deepa’s background was in Human Resources, but she loved to cook for

friends and family. She decided to follow her dreams and in January 2026 started her business. She named her business “Just Chai.” It is so much more than “just chai.” Her menus include but are not limited to sandwiches, salads, hot bites, charcuterie board, Mediterranean board, desserts and specialty cakes for your celebrations. The list goes on.

Deepa has already catered for corporate business parties, birthdays, graduations and weddings. She caters for small events as well as up to 100 guests.

Deepa will work with the



Food Presentation

client on developing a menu that represents what they want for their event and loves a challenge if the client has their own vision of something she has not done before, resulting in making the event successful and memorable.

If you are planning an event or want to plan a gathering where you don’t have to cook and can enjoy spending all your time with your guests, you can contact Deepa at info@justchai.net or Instagram @justchai. ☿



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Friends of the Library Book Sale

By Beth Chafetz and Kerry White, Friends of KML

The Friends of Kent Memorial Library are pleased to report that we have had another successful book sale this year. The proceeds from the three-day sale will be used to support Kent Memorial Library programs throughout the year.

The wet weather that forced the closing on Sunday of many booths at Suffield on the Green brought more shoppers to the book sale. At noon on Sunday, 52 people were busy shopping for book bargains. Many took advantage of our Sunday special of \$5/bag. As a result, we sold 70% of our massive number of books – an all-time record.

Many “hands” go into making this sale happen. First, thanks to Second Baptist Church for providing us space which permits us to sort and store the thousands of books that are donated to us during the year. Second, is Sacred Heart Church’s generosity allowing us to use Father Ted Hall for our sale for the eleventh year! Without this space, we would be hard pressed to find another suitable location, and this is definitely “suitable.” The handicapped accessibility of the building, the clean, convenient rest rooms, and the spacious hall are very much appreciated. Suffield schools loaned, delivered and picked up 20 extra tables we requested. We are so appreciative of the Town’s continued support.



Photo from Facebook
Books for sale at Father Ted Hall

And then we have all our generous book donors and loyal volunteers. **This sale could not happen without them.** Volunteers sort donated books on the first Saturday of each month at the library-all year! Volunteers move hundreds of boxes of donated books to our storage location during the year. They sort, label, clean and organize the books into the 60+ categories you have to choose from, putting in thousands of hours.

This was the second year we needed to move our 30,000 books from Second Baptist to Sacred Heart on Labor Day. While moving on a holiday weekend can present a volunteer problem, over 40 volunteers showed up, some with pickup trucks or vans and one with a trailer, and we moved all those books in two hours – a new record!

Volunteers also set up the books and work the book sale, act as cashiers and help us break down after the sale. Kerry and Bob White, Nancy

Book Review

By Jane Shipp

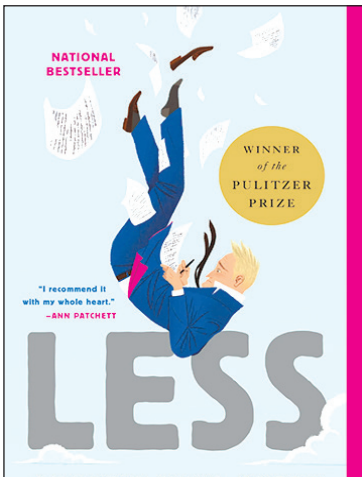


LESS

By Andrew Greer
2017, 273 pgs., Kindle
Won 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

Arthur Less is a gay writer who is about to turn 50; the very thought sends him into mild depression. In addition, his lover Teddy has departed and is about to be married. And to top it all off, his publisher has refused his latest book and his income is drying up. He has become a “minor novelist.” He continues to be invited to speaking engagements, most of which turn out to be badly attended and fairly meaningless. He is desperate and he is lonely. Life holds no joy for him, and his future looks grim.

All of this misery is related by the author in wonderful prose, funny and tongue-in-cheek, but also poignant. Arthur decides to take a trip around the world, an itinerary arranged by his agent, with stops and funded appearances in New York, Mexico City, Turin, Berlin, Marrakech, an Indian retreat center and Kyoto. Arthur is pleased with this prospect, because he will have an excuse not to attend Teddy’s wedding. So, he packs his bags and heads off to new adventures, hoping also to find inspiration for a new book.



Arthur’s experiences on this journey give the reader an insight into the life of a gay middle-aged man. Some of them are hilarious, some touching, some sad, as he makes his way from country to country and from audience to audience. He often despairs of the whole idea of love, of its possibility and especially of its sustainability. He remembers his first long lasting love affair with an older man, a famous poet who left his wife for Arthur. Although Arthur remembers the man with great

fondness, he is also filled with guilt for having destroyed the man’s marriage.

Still, Arthur meets many interesting people on his trek and begins to see ways to revise his failed novel; he is told that it is not “gay enough.” The gay characters all come to a bad end, when they deserve better. So, he begins to rewrite, and his spirits slowly begin to lift. *LESS* has a happy ending; if you enjoy puns, you could say “Less has more.” Arthur experiences a restoration of confidence, a new faith in the value of love, good progress in the novel he is rewriting, and pleasure in life. He returns home in much better shape than when he left, even though he has to deal with the fatal illness of the aging poet whom he still admires. But he has developed the resilience he needs to cope with difficulties, and he looks forward to his future. This turns out to be a book of hope, a book of unexpected optimism, and a glimpse into the trials and tribulations of an important but often misunderstood segment of our population. ☘

Smith, Kristin Allard, Ruth Zimmerman and Anne Borg are the core of the volunteer effort, and each put in hundreds of hours each year. Without our many, many dedicated volunteers, the

book sale would be history! Thank you, thank you for all your help.

And we begin again. Monthly book collections, the first Saturday of each month, will begin on Sat-

urday, October 3 from 9:30 a.m. – noon at the library on Main Street. The Friends’ book cart will again be stocked with books for sale at that time. Stop in and browse! ☘

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Kent Memorial Library

Director's Corner



By Amy Vessella,
Library Director

Let's Talk Programming!

In this third installment of my series highlighting the many services our library provides, I am shining a spotlight on our fantastic programming. Did you know that the library offers a wide range of programs for all ages that goes far beyond book discussion groups? Programming here at KML is often an all-hands-on-deck affair! Every full-time staff member (and sometimes other staff members, too) plans and conducts programs, while our library assistants and clerks contribute countless hours of support by assisting with the necessary preparation and behind-the-scenes

work needed to help make each program a success. Speaking of behind the scenes, there is a flurry of activity leading up to every program that our patrons don't see – from coming up with the initial idea and researching costs and logistics, to booking artists or performers, purchasing the supplies, preparing materials and getting the space ready. All of that hard work eventually comes together to create all the seamless and fun experiences we strive to provide for our patrons and community! Here are just a few examples from October that showcase the breadth of programming we offer here at the library:

For Children, Young Adults, and Families:
Fall, Winnie the Pooh, and Halloween-themed story times
Rhyme Time
Book Clubs
KML Kids' Scary Story Contest
Dungeons & Dragons Group

Giant Family Game Night
All About Daffodils with the Suffield Garden Club
Suffield Reads Kwame!
For Adults:
Reading 9-5: Oral History by Lee Smith Book Discussion
Mahjong at the Library!
Ron Farina Book Launch
Craft Night for Adults
BJ Smith Book Discussion
Fall Fitness
Stress Reset: Rest, Restore, Renew
Of course, this list is by no means exhaustive. Programming changes every month, and before we know it, the Winter Reading Program will be upon us. (Where did summer go?!)
So as the weather turns colder, continue to keep us in mind when you are looking for something fun to do. You can register for programs on our website, in person or by phone. We hope to see you soon!

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

KML will be closed Monday October 12 for Indigenous Peoples/Columbus Day
Movies at the Library
KML is showing movies again! Visit our website at www.suffield-library.org for showtimes.
Reading 9-5: A pop-up Dolly Parton Book Club
Saturday, November 21 at 1:30 p.m. - *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexander Dumas
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. Copies of the books are available at the library. *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexander Dumas is a big book so we are giving a two-month period to complete it.
Rise to the Challenge Book Club
Monday, October 19 at 6:30 p.m.
A book group for adults to read and discuss books that have been challenged and/or banned. Diverse opinions are welcome. October's book is *Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Sa-

linger. Copies of the book are available at the library. Facilitated by Librarian Anna Cierocki. Registration is not required. Please be aware that this group discusses books which may include sensitive topics.
Rabble Readers
Tuesday, October 20 at 7 p.m.: *Memorials* by Richard Chizmar
An Escapist Lit book club at KML for adults. We read fantasy, sci-fi, horror, anything that takes us away! Copies of the books are available at the library, no registration required
Thursday Readers Book Discussion Group
Thursday October 29 at 1 p.m.
Get together with other readers to discuss *Migrations* by Charlotte McConaghy. Books are available at the library. No registration required
KMLHosts B.J. Smith's Farewell Book Discussion Series
Wednesday, October 28 at 2 p.m.- *The Women* by Kristin Hannah
KML invites readers to the final book discussion for the series, *Women in War*, led

by beloved discussion leader B.J. Smith. This is a fitting opportunity to thank B.J. for the years of insight, enthusiasm, and friendship she has brought to readers. Registration required. Books are available at the library.
Books & Beyond
Thursday October 22 at p.m. via zoom.
The Road to Tender Hearts with Author Annie Hartnett
A virtual author interview with Pinki Shah, bringing readers face to face with the author. Tune in for candid conversations, creative insights and stories that go beyond pages.
A darkly comic and warm-hearted novel about an old man on a cross-country mission to reunite with his high school crush—bringing together his adult daughter, two orphaned kids, and a cat who can predict death. Registration required, copies of the book are available at library.
Morning Mahjong or Evening Mahjong
Every Thursday morning from 10 a.m. – noon
Every Wednesday evening

from 6 to 7:30 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
Adult Craft Night
October 29 at 6:30 p.m.
Keep an eye on our website or weekly newsletter for details as they emerge. Registration is required.
Total Body Fitness HITS & KICKS
Tuesdays, starting October 6 at 10:30–11:15 a.m.
4-week session
Instructor: Kimmy Uzar
Get moving this fall with a fun, energizing fitness class designed for all levels!
Bring your yoga mat and get ready to move, strengthen, and feel your best!
Embrace the transformative power of FitBarre, a unique blend of Pilates, yoga, and strength training. This low-impact workout helps sculpt and lengthen muscles, improve posture, and increase flexibility. Registration required.
Ron Farina Book Launch
Saturday October 3 at 1 p.m.
Join us for the launch of Ron Farina's newest nonfiction book, *"In Sha Allah: If God*

Wills It, the real-life story of an Afghan Combat Interpreter. Ron will read and discuss excerpt from his book, and take questions from the audience. Registration encouraged. The first ten registrants receive a free copy of the book. Additional books can be purchased at the event.
Stress Reset: Rest, Restore, Renew
Thursday October 15 at 6 p.m.
A restorative, hands-on workshop to reduce stress, calm the nervous system, and build everyday resilience. Designed for adults navigating busy lives, ongoing stress, and the demands of caring for others, this restorative workshop offers a meaningful opportunity to step out of daily pressure and experience calm and renewal. Participants will leave feeling more grounded, refreshed, and equipped with practical tools to support ongoing wellbeing. Registration required.
Giant Family Game Night
Thursday October 22, from 5 - 8 p.m.
Come with your friends or family for Giant Family Game Night! This is a full building takeover, giant versions of

Continued on Page 23



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Ravens: Big Birds with Bigger Personalities

By Abby Wolcott

I have a thing about crows. These highly intelligent birds are very social, and they roost in large groups and then fan out during the day. We have a trio that arrives in our yard most winter mornings, and we suspect that they spent the night roosting in Springfield with a few thousand of their friends living the “safety in numbers” motto. The trio is no longer anchored to our piece of property but believe me I am looking for them any time I drive through town. Sometimes I hear them harassing a bird of prey on the top of a tree or I catch them in flight as the sun gets low in the sky. And when the crows are not to be found, I think of their larger cousin the Raven who is also seen in town. Both crows and ravens are part of the *Corvidae* family and share many characteristics. It can be hard to tell the two species apart. The raven is larger, usually pairs up with just one partner, and his call is deeper than the cawing of

the crow, sounding more like a one syllable “gronk.” So, keep your eyes peeled when you see these large birds. Ravens are known to hold territories, are intelligent and use teamwork to solve problems or to find food. And if that is not impressive enough, according to my research they are acrobats in flight. One was even documented as flying upside down for over a half mile. An activity like that is not for the faint of heart. Over the years I have been amassing a collection of crow artwork done by artists here in Suffield. I purchased the last one at an open arts night at the studio on Burbank Avenue. The crow in that frame seems pleased to be reunited with other crows on my walls. I have several which hang near my desk, and when I am in the throes of writer’s block these crows peer at me from their canvases hoping that I will resume the clickity clack on the typewriter. They and their big personalities are egging me on. Sometimes I just stare back contemplat-

ing all things *Corvidae*. And as Halloween approaches, there is something about both crows and ravens that ties into the spooky ambiance of the last days of October. My most recent crow artwork has quite a prominent shadow lurking which really promotes that feeling. His is



Photo by Joan Heffernan

Remembering Lester Smith

a stunning shadow, but shadows can be creepy. Although I suppose Halloween is as good a time as ever to bring that creepiness on. So, it is time to cue in the “Monster Mash” and go out and buy bag after bag of Kit Kats to prepare for Halloween. And when I do this, I find myself thinking of

ghosts, Frankenstein and of course our favorite *Corvidae* birds, especially the raven. I am reminded of my dear friend Lester Smith and his rendition of Poe’s version of *The Raven*. He won the award as top orator in his high school class and had committed much of the poem to memory. When Lester was on his last lap, I spent Mondays with him as he was a good audience, a good storyteller and so much more. Those hours spent together were a gift and one with a lasting impact. With a little prompting, I could get him to launch into *The Raven* in the king’s English and it made

all the limericks and simple poems that I had committed to memory seem lame. I can still hear him starting with “once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary...” Seems like Lester was pretty good at setting the scene, with a little help from Poe and the image of a raven dancing in our heads. I was all ears when Lester started his recitation and couldn’t help but wonder if he remembered me as a little girl when he used to come to our house with his boys for a Guides meeting. I was hiding behind the couch as I had been known to do and completely tongue tied. And here I was, decades later sharing my morning with the ultimate orator. He may have lost a few words, and I may have gained some, but he still had the upper hand. To prove I was listening to Lester’s recitation from start to finish, I tried to make Poe’s raven and Lester proud by adding “Nevermore” to my daily vocabulary, but I just couldn’t pull that off. ☹

General Programs

Continued from page 23

popular games will be set up throughout the building. From giant Yahtzee to giant Candyland, Uno, Clue, Monopoly and many, many more. Drop-in anytime between 5 and 8 p.m. No registration necessary. Come play!

Kids and Teen Programs

Story Time with local Student Authors Tessa Spong and Josephine Bernier

Wednesday October 14 at 10:30 a.m.

Local 10 and 11 year old co-authors, Josie and Tessa will read a chapter of their new book about a young witch, Sparta and the Creaky Cauldron, while kids color pages of the characters. Next they will all make potions

using magical vinegar and baking soda. Lastly, they will all dance to the Dance of the Reed Flutes. See you there!

Ages: 3-5
Register, or Drop in.

The Kids Who Read Books Book Club

Thursday, October 15 at 3:30 p.m.

Join us for the next meeting of the Kids Who Read Books Book Club! We’ll eat snacks and discuss *The Brightest Night* (Wings of Fire Book 5) by Tui T. Sutherland. Books are available to check out at the library. Open to grades 5-12. Registration is not required.

Dino-rama Competition

Sign Up (and Dino Distribution)

Begins Monday, October 26

All Ages

To celebrate Dino-vember, we invite you to participate in our Dino-rama competition. We’ll provide entrants with a selection of random dinosaur figures for the creation of a diorama; no other materials will be provided. See our website and socials for further details.

All About Daffodils! with the Suffield Garden Club

Saturday October 10 at 10 a.m.

Do you know how to grow daffodils? Do you know how deep to plant daffodil bulbs, which end faces up, and when to plant them? Get answers—and a free bulb—at a daffodil bulb giveaway in the Children’s Section of the Kent Memorial Library.

Sponsored by the Suffield Garden Club in partnership with KML, this free educational workshop will feature club members demonstrating how to plant daffodil bulbs and answering questions. While supplies last. Help brighten Suffield with beautiful daffodils next spring! No registration required.

Fall Story Time

October 1 or 7, and 14 or 15 at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Ages 2-5

Register or Drop in.

Diwali Sensory Time

October 21 and 22 10 a.m. to noon

Ages 1-5

We’re celebrating the festival of lights! Decorate a

diya, draw designs in colored sand, and take home some cookies!

Drop in.

Candy Corn Raffle

Starts: October 23

Ends: October 30 at Noon

Guess the correct number of candy corn in the jar and win a Halloween Octopus Squishmallow!

Halloween Story Time

October 28 or 29, at 10:30 a.m.

Ages 2-5

Enjoy some Halloween fun!

Registration required.

Rhyme Time

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 10:30 a.m.

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

Drop in. ☹

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Artists of Indian Orchard Mill Featured

By Patricia Jenks

The Artists at Indian Orchard Mills (IOM) will be exhibiting artworks at the William Pinney Gallery in Kent Memorial Library during the month of October. Viewers are encouraged to consider the enduring power of place as a catalyst for creativity and connection.

Millworks II: Inspirations presents the artists of IOM who work within the historic 19th-century textile mill in Springfield, Massachusetts. The exhibition explores the intersection of place, history, and artistic practice and explores how a site once defined by industry still inspires creative production today.

Featuring painting, fiber art, and mixed media, the works reveal the individuality of each artist's vision and a shared dialogue that emerges from a collective practice. Techniques include abstraction, expressionism, realism and the physically tactile. Themes range from landscape, still life, portraiture and social/cultural concepts.

By situating these contemporary works in the context of a former industrial site, Mill Works II emphasizes the continuity of making: from textiles to ideas,



from machinery to artists. The exhibition demonstrates themes of resilience, reinvention, and community engagement, illustrating how art can transform and sustain spaces and the people who inhabit them.

By bringing this exhibition to the Kent Memorial Library, the Artists of IOM hope to highlight a connection between these two communities united by shared histories of industry and transformation. Viewers are invited to experience the mill not only as a historic structure, but as a living source of inspiration where production continues.

The Artists at IOM are from Springfield, Massachusetts and the surround-

ing towns as well as from Northern Connecticut. Many have achieved recognition and awards and are active in multiple organizations within New England.

This event was made possible by the Artists of Indian Orchard Mills and the Kent Memorial Library staff.

Member Artists participating include: Yeukai Chiroodza-Imeh, Nancy Evans, Tara Hengeveld, Minoo Khanbabai, Sue James, Patricia Jenks, Joan Nelson, Ellen Pollock and Jeff Wrench.

Millworks II opens on Thursday, October 2. Members will host a Reception on Thursday evening, October 8 from 6-8 p.m., open to the public, to meet the artists. The show closes on Friday, October 29. ☿

A Suffield Family in Need

By Beth Chafetz

The Scott family's world recently changed when their son Lincoln was diagnosed with T-cell lymphoblastic lymphoma. At just seven years old, he is now facing a long treatment journey that is expected to last at least two years.

Lincoln is an incredibly sweet, funny, loving little boy who loves being a kid. He loves spending time with his family, playing, dressing up, and making people laugh. Seeing him go from being a happy, active seven-year-old to spending time in a hospital bed has been heartbreaking for the entire family.

They have started a GoFundMe to help the family manage the unexpected financial challenges that come with a long-term childhood cancer diagnosis. The hope is to be able to focus as much of their energy as possible on Lincoln and his treatment without constantly worrying about the financial burden this journey will bring.

Their initial goal was \$6,500, and through the incredible generosity of their family and friends, they have already raised approximately \$5,900. They are just \$600 away from



Lincoln Scott

reaching that first goal.

However, because Lincoln's treatment is expected to continue for at least two years, they have set a longer-term goal of \$15,000 or more to help the family throughout his journey.

They are incredibly grateful for everyone who has already donated, shared, prayed for Lincoln, checked on them, or simply let them know that they are thinking about him. They have learned very quickly how much a community can mean during a time like this.

Suffield Volunteer Ambulance, Suffield Fire Department and Suffield Police have stepped up to help raise funds. If you are interested and you can help in any way, go to [GoFundMe/help-lincoln-through-treatment](https://www.gofundme.com/help-lincoln-through-treatment). ☿

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Organizations

Hurricane Helene Benefit Concert

By Don Ledoux, DC

You may recall Hurricane Helene causing catastrophic damage to Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee in late September, 2024. A small group of friends who later became known as the Suffield Samaritans sprang to action on October 4, 2024. Their goal was simply...to aid as many people as possible whose lives were forever changed by this disaster. The Samaritans started a collection at the Suffield Hardware Store and the VFW and in two days filled a 16 foot utility trailer, a 20 foot utility trailer and third 24 foot utility trailer with food, water, diapers, children's winter coats, hats, gloves, toilet paper, etc... Six men volunteered their time to drive these overloaded trailers to the hardest hit regions of Cocke County Tennessee and the Ashville region of North Carolina.

The devastation they witnessed was beyond description and they described their trip as extremely emotional. Seeing a need for continued help, the Samaritans put a team of three members together and on December 12-14, they flew down to the same regions. They met with Pastor Mark Renner of

Parrottsville, Tennessee, and the previous two-term mayor of Cocke Country, Crystal Large. Together, they scoured the region looking for families who needed help and after nearly two days of painstaking travel in a region where most roads were washed out, they narrowed their search down to three families.

The first family had clean, dry shelter but the entire home heating system had to be replaced. Donations obtained by the Samaritans took care of that. The other two of the three families had no home to live in...Samantha and her 10-year-old son, Korbin, needed to have their home totally rebuilt and the Alford family of five could no longer live in their badly damaged shack by the river. Longview RV of Windsor Locks donated two camper trailers for these two families, and it was up to the Samaritans to deliver them! On December 27-30, 2024, four volunteer Samaritans pulled the two trailers using trucks supplied by Enterprise Truck Rentals of Windsor Locks down to Eastern Tennessee for these two families to have dry, warm shelter for the pending winter.

The Samaritans were committed to helping the three families as much as possible. The Alford family needed a new home, and thanks to a number of generous donors, plans for a new home including a new septic system began. With the aid of Tennessee Community Assistance Corporation and significant planning and donor financing from Suffield Samaritans as well as the Suffield Knights of Columbus and Sacred Heart Church parishioner donations, a brand new, three-bedroom home was built and awarded to the Alford family on June 15, 2026!!

All the while, many donations in excess of \$60,000.00 have been sent to Samantha to help purchase materials to rebuild her home. Unfortunately, it's still not complete! Once again, the Suffield Samaritans are asking for your help to raise as much money as possible to help Samantha complete her home before winter this year!!!

Thus, the Hurricane Helene Benefit Concert scheduled for October 16, 2026!! We have put together an exciting group of professional

HURRICANE HELENE
BENEFIT CONCERT

PRESENTED BY:
Suffield Samaritans
Don Ledoux & Friends
Music of the 60's & 70's

Friday, October 16
VFW Post 9544
972 Sheldon St, Suffield, CT 06078
7:00 pm, Doors open at 6:30 pm

Tickets \$40

Available at:
VFW Post 9544
Suffield Hardware
Turning Point Wellness Center
Or call: Lisa Pepe 860-965-9305

Sponsorship opportunities available
Raffle items gratefully accepted



musicians to wow you at this concert! The players include Rick Sylvester, also known as "Acoustic Rick," guitarist Dave Boudah, base player Rudi Weeks, keyboard player Rick Handville, sax player Mark Legault, drummer Tom De Sena and sound engineer Matt Sylvester! This will be a show you don't want to miss!! Tickets are \$40.00 and are available at the VFW, Post 9544 on Sheldon St., Suffield Hardware on Mountain Rd. and Turning Point Wellness Center, LLC at 1 Mountain Rd. You can also call 860-254-5888 or 860-965-9305. Sponsorships are avail-

able and raffle items are also encouraged and welcome!

The proceeds from this concert will fund yet another trip tentatively scheduled for early November this year to send five eager, hammer-swinging, Suffield Samaritans along with the necessary materials to Eastern Tennessee to help complete Samantha and Korbin's home before winter. Thank you for your generous support and God bless the Suffield Samaritans and all the donors for making a huge difference in the lives of these families!

Making a difference, one family at a time. ☸

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PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

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

Parks & Rec's 46th Annual Road Race Celebrates Another Record-Breaking Year

The Suffield Parks and Recreation Department's 46th Annual 10K Road Race, 22nd Annual 5K Road Race, Free 2-Mile Walk and Kids Fun Run, presented by Peoples-Bank, was held on Saturday, September 12 starting at Suffield Middle School.

It was another record-breaking year, with over 250 participants coming out to enjoy this annual Suffield tradition! The beautiful weather provided the perfect morning for runners, walkers, families, volunteers and supporters to come together for fitness, fun and community spirit. The event also served as the official kickoff to the Suffield on the Green weekend.

This year brought an exciting change to the event with the introduction of our new 5K course. We received very positive feedback from runners who enjoyed the new route and the opportunity to experience more of Suffield along the course. The continued enthusiasm and support from our runners helped make the new course a great success.

Another highlight of this year's race was our expanded prize offerings. More than \$1,000 in cash prizes was awarded, along with gift card prizes from Fleet Feet of West Hartford. In addition, thanks to Fleet Feet, the top male and female finishers in both the 5K and 10K received a pair of



Suffield Road Race Prize: Line up of winners accepting awards!

Photo by Donna Carney-Bastrzyck

HOKA sneakers. These exciting prizes added to the competitive spirit of the races and gave our top finishers even more to celebrate.

Participants enjoyed the picturesque Suffield courses, while families cheered on runners and children took part in the free Kids Fun Run and 2-Mile Walk. This year's event was also part of Suffield's celebration of America's 250th anniversary, making the morning even more special.

We would like to thank everyone who helped make this event possible. A special thank you goes to our dedicated volunteers, the Suffield Parks and Recreation Commission and staff, Suffield Police Department, Suffield Fire

Department, Suffield Ambulance, Department of Public Works, Senior Center volunteers, First Selectman's Office, Suffield Public Schools and everyone who devoted their time and talents to make this a memorable and safe event for all participants.

A very special thank you goes to our generous sponsors and partners:

Presenting Sponsor: **PeoplesBank**; Children's Awards Sponsor and Emcee: **Stephanie Salerno Team**; Hospitality: **Suffield Village Market**; Lead Vehicle Sponsor: **Artioli Dodge**; Lodging Sponsor: **The Lily House**; Bounce House Sponsor: **Wilcox Rental**; Water Sponsor: **Total Body Fitness**; Awards Partner: **Fleet Feet of West Hartford**.

We are extremely grateful to all of our sponsors and partners for their continued support of Suffield Parks and Recreation and our community events.

Race Results 10K Road Race

1st Place Male: **Mark Rodriguez**
1st Place Female: **Juliana Cancellieri**
2nd Place Male: **Joseph Harris**
2nd Place Female: **Laura D'Amico**
3rd Place Male: **Joshua Slocum**
3rd Place Female: **Gabby MacLure**
1st Town of Suffield Finisher: **Jack Silva**

5K Road Race

1st Place Male: **Jake Ireland**
1st Place Female: **Linda Spooner**
2nd Place Male: **Grant Fecinta**
2nd Place Female: **Julia Moore**
3rd Place Male: **Farren Mol**
3rd Place Female: **Jeanne Michaels**
1st Town of Suffield Finisher: **Jason Neely**

Congratulations to all of our 2026 Road Race participants! Whether you ran the 10K or 5K, participated in

the Kids Fun Run, completed the Free 2-Mile Walk, volunteered, sponsored the event or came out to cheer on family and friends, you helped make this year's Road Race another record-breaking and memorable Suffield tradition.

Register for Fall Events and Programs for the Whole Family

Suffield Parks and Recreation has so many exciting fall events and programs for the whole family! There is something for everyone, from seasonal celebrations and creative programs to opportunities to enjoy music, entertainment and community together.

Be sure to register for these upcoming special events:

Spooktacular Halloween Bash at the Senior Center For All Ages and Abilities!

Join us for a festive fall celebration filled with Halloween fun and community spirit! Enjoy a thrilling evening with delicious pizza, tasty snacks, music, crafts, and a trick-or-treat adventure with the Suffield Housing Authority.

What to Expect:

- Yummy pizza and snacks
- Music and Halloween crafts
- A guided Trick-or-Treat Adventure through Maple Court, Broder Place and Laurel Court, in partnership with the Suffield Housing Authority

Don't forget to wear your favorite costume. Nothing too spooky, keep it family-friendly and bring your best Halloween spirit! Kids with food allergies? No problem! Let us know when you register, and

Continued on Page 29

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Senior Center & Mini Bus News

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

By Bethany Sullivan
Director's Corner

Starting October 5, every Monday is Pizza Day. Just like a normal lunch, you need to sign up ahead of time and the cost is \$6. You will always get pizza, chips, and a drink. SCA is not covering this meal for those on the lunch subsidy list. No shows will be charged.

UR Community Cares has received a grant from the Suffield Community Fund at the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation for a series of free tech help appointments and free tech help workshops here at Suffield Senior Center. UR Community Cares follow AARP's trusted technology education curriculum and will be here on the second Tuesday of every month for eight months starting in November. From 8:30 - 10 a.m., there will be one-on-one tech help appointments available that you can sign up for with Bethany. Then from 10-11:30 a.m. there will be a tech help workshop open to all. The schedule of topics is as follows:

- November 10** - Smart-phones at a Glance
December 8 - Is that AI?
January 12 - MyChart
February 9 - Understanding Fraud & Scams
March 9 - Google Maps
April 13 - Protecting Your Personal Info Online
May 11 - Banking & Finance Apps at a Glance
June 8 - Passwords, Passkeys, & More
- Be sure to bring your device!
- 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.
- Thurs, Oct 1** - Italian sandwich with salami, mortadella, ham and provolone, pasta salad
Tues, Oct 6 - Chicken vegetable soup, egg salad sandwiches
Wed, Oct 7 - Marry-Me shrimp with pasta, vegetable
Thurs, Oct 8 - Amish beef

- with noodles, salad, roll
Tues, Oct 13 - Turkey sandwich with bacon, cheese, lettuce and tomato, onion rings
Wed, Oct 14 - Glazed pork chop, broccoli with cheesy orzo
Thurs, Oct 15 - Shepherd's pie, green beans, roll
Tues, Oct 20 - French toast, sausage patty, yogurt fruit cup
Wed, Oct 21 - Chicken breast with spinach and lentil rice
Thurs, Oct 22 - Pasta with meat sauce, salad, roll
Tues, Oct 27 - Cheeseburger, baked beans, French fries
Wed, Oct 28 - Caprese baked chicken, pesto pasta
Thurs, Oct 29 - Baked potato with pulled pork and cheese, cooked onions and peppers, cornbread
- Mini Bus Trips**
- Mini Bus trips require five passengers and are weather permitting. Reservations for October trips will open on Sept 20. Call 860-668-3844 to make a reservation.

- Reminder! Starting in October, you MUST give Marzena your ride information by 8 a.m. the day before.
- Shopping in Manchester**
Tuesday, October 13 - Pickups begin at 9 a.m.
- Lunch at Zanto's**
Friday, October 16 - Pickups begin at 11:30 a.m.
- MGM Casino in Springfield**
Tuesday, October 20 - Pickups begin at 9 a.m.
- Lunch at Red Robin**
Friday, October 23 - Pickups begin at 11:30 a.m.
- Shopping at Walmart**
Thursday, October 29 - Pickups begin at 8:30 a.m.
- Lunch at Three Figs**
Friday, October 30 - Pickups begin at 11:30 a.m.
- Senior Center Activities Picnic at Sunrise Park**
Friday, October 9 - 11:30 a.m.
- FREE! Must pre-register with Bethany.
- Armchair Travel to Germany**
Monday, October 19 - 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- FREE! Virtually traveling to Germany while trying German food. Time has been moved to 10:30 to accommodate the new Monday lunches.
- Chinese Mahjong**
Wednesdays 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- American Mahjong**
Wednesdays 1 - 3 p.m.
- Floral Design Class with Bob Whitney**
October 20, November 17 and December 15

- Morning class 9-10 a.m.
Evening class 7 - 8 p.m. \$45/class. Registration required. Bring your own shears.
- Marylou's Meatball & Spaghetti Fundraiser**
Sunday, October 18 - 1 p.m.
- Missing Marylou's cooking? Pre-register for \$15 to attend our fundraiser for the kitchen. Price includes a meatball and spaghetti lunch and one bingo card. Additional bingo cards available for \$5/card. Prizes, music, and all your favorite people will be there!
- Fairytale Castles of King Ludwig II Documentary**
Monday, October 26 - 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- FREE! Popcorn! Learn more about King Ludwig's castles in Germany.
- Halloween Lunch**
Thursday, October 29 - 12 p.m.
- Included with lunch sign up on this day. We will have a Sweet Apple Station where you create your own dessert by topping apple slices with caramel, M&Ms and other fun toppings.
- Stateline Medicare Workshops**
Tuesday, October 20 and 27 and November 3 - 10—11:30 a.m.
- Stateline Senior Services is providing information on Medicare options during open enrollment. Free class, no registration required.
- For more information visit suffieldseniorcenter.com or call 860-668-8830. ☞

Suffield Athletic Hall of Fame Event

By John Kulas

The Fran Aniello Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Friday October 16 at the Crestview County Club.

The main purpose of the event is to raise funds for annual scholarships given to Suffield residents who are graduating student athletes at Suffield High School or Suffield Academy. Proceeds also help to defray the costs of the Hall of Fame induction ceremony that honors Suffield's finest athletes and coaches. It will be a four-person scramble with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start at Crestview Country Club. For more information, including tournament entry and sponsor forms, please visit sahof.org/golf-tournament or email info@sahof.org. The deadline for players to register is October 8.

The tournament serves as a tribute to Fran Aniello, a member of the Hall of Fame who

passed away in 2015 after over 30 years as a basketball/golf/soccer coach and Athletic Director at Suffield High School.

Fran was also on the SAHOF committee and was the primary organizer of the golf tournament for the first several years it was held. ☞



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Suggestions: We are a volunteer organization and we truly welcome suggestions that would improve the newspaper.

Grant Recipients Announced

From a press release

The Suffield Community Fund at the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation has awarded grants in its most recent grant cycle totaling just over \$54,000 to twelve different groups that support the Suffield community. The funds awarded are intended to enhance the quality of life or otherwise contribute to solving a direct need of the Suffield community.

Through its 2026 grant cycle, the Suffield Community Fund proudly supported the following organizations and projects:

- *Boy Scout Troop 260* – Camping/canoeing equipment
- *Generation Power of Connecticut* – Fuel and water assistance for Suffield residents
- *Renaissance Charitable Foundation* – Support for the Bowling Buddies program
- *Sibbil Dwight Kent DAR* – Gravestone repair
- *Suffield Elementary Parent Teachers Organization* – Digital wellness project
- *Suffield Lacrosse Association* – Replacement of goals and nets

- *Suffield Middle School* – New reading series
 - *Suffield Players* – Parking lot repairs
 - *Suffield Public Schools* – Eco-Lab at Spaulding School
 - *Suffield Volunteer Ambulance Association* – EMS Simulation trainers
 - *Suffield Youth Services* – Suffield Sidekicks Program
 - *UR Community Cares* – Technology training for seniors
- Since launching Community Funds in 2019 in each of the 29 towns it serves, including Suffield, Greater Hartford Gives has supported more than 1,000 grants totaling more than \$4 million (through the end of 2025) - funding projects that directly benefit town residents and reflect community priorities and lived experience. The program began with a \$100,000 investment per town in 2019 and has continued with additional investments in 2021 and 2025, including funds available for immediate grantmaking and long-term endowment.
- Organizations that support the Suffield community are encouraged to apply for a

grant in the next cycle in 2027. To be considered, an organization must be registered as a non-profit organization (NPO) with a 501(c)(3) designation as a public charity or must obtain a fiscal sponsor registered as a 501(c)(3). Municipalities and other local government agencies seeking funding for purposes not typically funded by public revenue sources and religions organizations seeking support for non-religious purposes may also be eligible to apply. Full eligibility requirements will be listed in the Request for Proposal (RFP).

The Suffield Community Fund Committee is a group of volunteer residents who help identify local needs, shape grant priorities and review proposals for projects that enhance quality of life in Suffield. The committee makes grant recommendations to the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation.

The Suffield Community Fund is a program of the Greater Hartford Gives Foundation. For more information on the Fund, the volunteer committee, the Foundation, and the grant

application process, please visit <https://greaterhartfordgives.org/about-the-community-funds>. General inquiries may also be sent to mailto:suffield@greaterhartfordgives.org

Greater Hartford Gives Foundation is a community foundation, a hub for community-driven change. We fuel impact throughout Greater Hartford and beyond by making connections, providing funding, and sharing knowledge. Our goal is to create an

inclusive region where everyone prospers. Together, with a powerful network of change-makers, we identify our neighbors' most pressing needs and invest resources in initiatives that dismantle racial and economic barriers and improve quality of life. In our 100-year history, we have invested more than \$1 billion throughout the region. Join us in building a Greater Hartford full of opportunity. Learn more at greaterhartfordgives.org. ☞

Parks & Rec

Continued from page 26

we'll have a special non-food treat bag ready with stickers and surprises instead., It will be a night to remember—full of laughs, treats, and community fall magic!

Date: *Wednesday, October 28*
Time: *5–7:30 p.m.*
Ages: *All ages*
Fee: *FREE*
Location: *Suffield Senior Center, 145 Bridge Street*

Open Mic/Talent Coffee House Night – October Halloween Edition

Get ready for a howling good time as we bring back our very popular Open Mic Night with a Halloween twist! The Senior Center will be transformed into a Halloween scene and decorated for a night of fun. Calling all poets, singers, magic acts, actors, writers, photographers and artists of all kinds! Join the Suffield Parks and Recreation Department, and the Senior Center for this Halloween-themed Open Mic/Talent Coffee House Night. The event will be held in the Suffield Senior Center's decorated Lounge area,

which was funded by the Suffield Rotary and Knights of Columbus.

Now is your chance to share your work with the community in a welcoming and supportive environment or simply come out and join the audience to support local artists. We are looking for all kinds of talent to present at this super fun night. The time limit for all performances is five minutes, and the theme for the evening is Fall/Halloween related.

This is a family-friendly, inclusive environment, and all talent must keep material family-friendly. A selection of pizza, coffee, tea, apple cider, cocoa and desserts will be available. Donations to the Parks and Recreation Department are kindly accepted.

Date: *Wednesday, October 21*
Time: *6–8 p.m.*
Ages: *All ages are welcome*
Fee: *FREE*
Location: *Suffield Senior Center, 145 Bridge Street*

Come share your talent, enjoy some treats, or simply support your friends and neighbors! For a full listing of programs and events, visit suffieldrec.com. ☞

SFES Donation



Photo provided by Johanne Presser

Dr. Sean Willcutts of Treehouse Orthodontics stands with his wife Gina, daughter Gabriela, SFES President Keith Woodsand and the fourth grade student representatives at the dedication of a handicap accessible picnic table he donated to the McAlister Intermediate School through a SFES fundraiser.

10% discount to Suffield residents at our Enfield location



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Suffield Garden Club

www.SuffieldGardenClub.org



Suffield Garden Club

Daffodil Education Event



Photo by Erin Calender

Suffield Garden Club volunteers welcome SOTG visitors with blooms and beaming smiles. L to R: Mary Gagnon, Kimberly Calender, Sally Peters, Rosalie Calender and Rita Chmura.

By Lisa Parker
The Suffield Garden Club in collaboration with the library, will host a daffodil bulb education and community event from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday, October 10 at the Kent Memorial Library. The Garden Club will offer free bulbs to attendees while supplies last. ☿

Suffield Players' New Season

From a press release
The Suffield Players are just a few weeks away from opening their 2026-2027 season of Mystery, Mirth, and Miracles. Opening night is October 9 to help you get in the Halloween spirit. Patrick Hamilton's legendary psychological thriller, *Angel Street (Gaslight)* directed by Krystle Bernier is one show not to miss. This season will continue to have selected performances with subtitles, ensuring greater accessibility for all theatergoers. Mark your calendar for these must-see shows:

Fall Show:
Angel Street (Gaslight)
Dates: October 9, 10, *11, 16, 17, *18, 23, and 24, 2026 at 8pm (*2pm Matinee). A suspenseful Victorian mystery.

Holiday Benefit:
Hershel and the Hannukah Goblins along with Happy Hollandaise!
Dates: December 4, 5, *6 2026 at 8pm (*2pm Matinee). Get into the festive spirit with this delightful holiday benefit performance.

Winter Show: Play On!
Dates: February 12, 13, *14, 19, 20, *21, 26, and 27, 2027 at 8pm (*2pm Matinee). A hilarious theatrical comedy.

Spring Show:
Kimberly Akimbo
Dates: May 7, 8, *9, 14, 15, *16, 21, and 22, 2027 at 8pm (*2pm Matinee). A dark comedy about a 16-year-old girl in a race against time to experience her first romance, outsmart her chaotic family, and discover what it truly means to live.

With this exciting lineup, be sure to grab your 3-show season subscription. For more information, be sure to check out our website regarding our season, our subscriptions, and other events. Select performances throughout the season will feature subtitles. Specific dates and details can be found on the website. All performances will be at Mapleton Hall, 1305 Mapleton Ave. Suffield, Connecticut. www.suffieldplayers.org ☿

Garden Club Announces

Educational Programs

By Lisa Parker
Interested in picking out pollinators? Ogling owls? Babying bonsai? If so, the Suffield Garden Club has a lineup of special programs for you, including:

- *The Art of Bonsai* by Vincent Tanner, October 5
- *The Secret Lives of Owls* by Mary Beth Kaeser, November 2
- *Intro to Growing Herbs: Seed, Grow Harvest* by Rebecca Thompson, March 1, 2027
- *Pollinator Gardening for Any Size Space* by Jess McCue, April 5, 2027

These programs are free and open to interested guests. All presentations begin at noon following the Garden Club's business meeting.

The Garden Club meets in Fellowship Hall, lower level, Second Baptist Church, Suffield.

Mark your calendars and watch the Observer for information about other programs available through the Garden Club.

The Suffield Garden Club, organized in 1934, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the beautification of Suffield and West Suffield. New members are enthusiastically welcomed! To see updates and photos, follow us on Facebook. To become a member or see the full calendar, visit www.SuffieldGardenClub.org. ☿



Star Award goes to

Anthony Hernandez

Windsor Federal Bank is proud to share that Anthony Hernandez, AVP and Commercial Portfolio Manager at the Bank's Suffield office, has been named a 2026 honoree of the 13th Annual 100 Men of Color Black Tie Gala & Awards.

Working from Windsor Federal Bank's Suffield office, Hernandez builds relationship with local business owners and helps provide financing solutions tailored to their goals and unique needs. Alongside his banking career, Hernandez serves as an Aircraft Maintenance Officer in the U. S. Air Force Reserve, helping oversee operations and personnel at Westover Air Reserve Base.

Hernandez's recognition reflects Windsor Federal Bank's commitment to developing leaders who serve with purpose and help strengthen the communities the Bank calls home. His advice to others is simple: "Be willing to work hard. Never lose belief in yourself. At the end of the day, you only have to prove it to yourself."

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Where in the World is the *Observer*?



The Cetto Chambers Singers stand with the *Observer* in front of La Caverne du Point Neuf in Paris. Pictured are Evelyne Battle, Mary Ann Grant, Kathryn Roberts, Jim Grant, Martha Sandefer, Andrea Marcavitch, Karen Santi, Kristen King and Susan Hastings.



Joan and Tom Heffernan holding the *Observer* at Godafoss Waterfall in Northern Iceland celebrating their 50th anniversary. Congratulations!



Carol Kaput and her daughter, Erica Clapp, shared the *Observer* while visiting the Three Brothers buildings in Riga, Latvia. They were built in 1490 and are examples of three separate styles of Baltic architecture.



James and Grace Foley holding the *Observer* at the Statue of Liberty on a recent trip.



Ben Sarno with the *Observer* at Kruger National Park in South Africa. He just finished running a marathon on all seven continents and Africa was his last one. Congratulations Ben!!!



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